

Neyyar Water Sharing: 68 Years of TN-Kerala Inter-State Hydrological Ties

The 68th anniversary of CM K. Kamaraj inaugurating the Neyyar Left Bank Canal Scheme highlights the history of water sharing between Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The Neyyar Left Bank Canal Scheme is an inter-state irrigation system conveying water from Kerala's Neyyar river to Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **K. Kamaraj** inaugurated the **Neyyar Left Bank Canal Scheme** at **Kaliyakkavilai** in **Vilavancode** taluk.
- Kerala provided water from its southernmost river, the **Neyyar**, to Tamil Nadu based on an unwritten agreement for over **40 years**.
- The Neyyar canal system was designed to meet the agricultural irrigation requirements of **Vilavancode taluk** in **Kanyakumari district**.
- The inter-state water sharing arrangements originated post-independence as a symbol of bilateral cooperation between **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala**.
- Subsequent disputes emerged when **Kerala** stopped water supply through the canal citing local water scarcity.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Neyyar Dam** was constructed across the Neyyar River in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala in **1958**.

The **Neyyar River** originates from the **Agasthyamala peak** in the Western Ghats.

Vilavancode taluk became part of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu under the **States Reorganisation Act of 1956**.

K. Kamaraj served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu from **April 13, 1954** to **October 2, 1963**.

Kanyakumari district was officially merged with Tamil Nadu from Travancore-Cochin on **November 1, 1956**.

Article 262 of the **Indian Constitution** empowers Parliament to adjudicate inter-state river water disputes.

The **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act** was enacted by Parliament in the year **1956**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Neyyar Left Bank Canal Scheme was inaugurated by CM K. Kamaraj at Kaliyakkavilai in Vilavancode taluk.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Unit 3 (Geography of India & TN - Rivers), Unit 8 (TN History & Culture), and Unit 9 (TN Administration).

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