GEOGRAPHY & POLITY 17 October 2026

Supreme Court Queries Tamil Nadu on Cauvery Backlog Water Demand

The Supreme Court heard Tamil Nadu's application demanding the release of backlog Cauvery water following southwest monsoon failure.

An ongoing legal dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka before the Supreme Court regarding the sharing of Cauvery river water during deficit monsoon years.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- On **October 12, 2026**, the **Supreme Court** questioned Tamil Nadu regarding the viability of demanding water backlog when Karnataka faces scarcity.
- The current dispute arises primarily from the failure of the southwest monsoon spanning from **June to September**.
- **Tamil Nadu** contended before the court that it suffered a significant water shortage as of **October 6**.
- A Division Bench of the **Supreme Court** reserved its order on Tamil Nadu's application after hearing arguments.
- The court emphasized the need for cooperative and **basin-wide planning** to resolve recurring inter-state water disputes.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was established by the Union Government in **June 1990** under the **Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956**.

The **Supreme Court** delivered its landmark verdict on the Cauvery water-sharing dispute in **February 2018**, modifying the tribunal's allocation.

The **Cauvery Water Management Authority** (CWMA) was constituted by the Central Government in **June 2018** to implement the Supreme Court's 2018 order.

Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers or river valleys.

The **Inter-State Water Disputes Act** empowers Parliament to provide by law for the adjudication of any dispute with respect to inter-state river waters.

Mettur Dam (Stanley Reservoir), built across the Cauvery River, is one of the oldest and largest irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu, opened in **1934**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 262 of the Indian Constitution deals with the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for TNPSC Unit 2 (Current Events), Unit 3 (Geography of India - Rivers), and Unit 5 (Indian Polity - Article 262).

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