

TN Budget 2026: River Linking & Barrage Projects Expedited

TN Government announced measures to expedite the Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar river link project in Budget 2026.

An intra-state river interlinking initiative designed to divert surplus floodwaters from the Cauvery river to drought-prone southern districts.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Tamil Nadu **Budget 2026** announced the expediting of the **Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar** intra-state river interlinking project.
- Feasibility studies are proposed for constructing **barrages** across the **Cauvery River** to improve water storage capacity.
- The project aims to divert surplus water from the Cauvery river to water-scarce southern districts including **Pudukkottai**, Sivaganga, and **Ramanathapuram**.
- The government also proposed ecological restoration initiatives for the **Cauvery Delta** region.
- Farmers' organisations** applauded the river interlinking initiatives while demanding crop loan waivers and better procurement prices.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar project involves a **256.5 km** long canal connecting **Mayanur barrage** in **Karur** to Gundar river.

The foundation stone for Phase I of the Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar link project was laid in **February 2021**.

The Cauvery Delta Zone was declared a **Protected Agricultural Zone** under the Tamil Nadu **Protected Agricultural Zone** Development Act, **2020**.

Cauvery river originates at **Talakaveri** in the **Brahmagiri range** of Western Ghats in Kodagu district, Karnataka.

Grand Anicut (Kallanai), constructed by Chola King **Karikalan** in the **2nd century AD** across Cauvery, is one of the oldest water-regulation structures in the world.

Under National Water Development Agency (**NWDA**) plans, Peninsular River Interlinking is a key component under National Perspective Plan formulated in **1980**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar link transfers surplus floodwater from Mayanur barrage to dry southern TN districts.

Syllabus Relevance: Relevant for Group 1/2/4 Geography of TN, Water Resources, and State Administration (Unit 8 & Unit 9).

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