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1. Why a dam in Karnataka bothers Tamil Nadu

- What is Mekedatu dam project?
- Why Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are into conflicts about the project?
- Why does it matter to Bengaluru?
- Why does Tamil Nadu object?

GS paper 2 (Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Arun Janardhanan. (2018, December , 04). Explained: Why a dam in Karnataka bothers Tamil Nadu. The Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/karnataka-mekedatu-dam-project-e-k-palaniswami-5475403/>

What is the context about?

- Last week, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister E K Palaniswami wrote to the Prime Minister urging him to stop the process of a feasibility study for the Mekedatu dam project in Karnataka.

- ❑ The study has been cleared by the Central Water Commission (CWC), which has also asked for a detailed project report.

What is Mekedatu dam project?

- ❑ Being set up by the Karnataka government, the project is near Mekedatu, in Ramanagaram district, across the river Cauvery from Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ Its proposed capacity is 48 TMC (thousand million cubic feet). Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the groundwater table in the region.
- ❑ In November 2014, the Karnataka government invited expressions of interest in the Rs 6,000-crore project. In its 2015 Budget, it allocated Rs 25 crore for a detailed project report.

Why Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are into conflicts about the project?

- ❑ Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court. Its main argument is that the project violates the final award of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal, and that the “construction of the two reservoirs would result in impounding of the flows in the intermediate catchment below the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoirs, and Billigundulu in the common border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu”.

- ❑ Karnataka says, the project will not come in the way of releasing the stipulated quantum of water to Tamil Nadu, nor will it be used for irrigation purposes.

Why does it matter to Bengaluru?

- ❑ Affluence and development has arrived in the city, hand-in-hand with uncontrolled urbanization. The result: global lists of cities likely to run out of water includes Bengaluru.
- ❑ An analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) found that the total number of extraction wells in the city had shot up from 5,000 to 0.45 million in the past 30 years. Consequently, recharge of ground water is minimal and the city only uses half of its treatment capacity for water, the report found.
- ❑ As per the plan, Bengaluru and other areas would get 16.10 TMC of potable water and experts believe that it would be able to help the city address its water woes.

Why does Tamil Nadu object?

- ❑ The state contended that “the proposed reservoir would affect the natural flows of the river Cauvery and nullifies the final adjudication” of the settlement of the centuries-long Cauvery river dispute through the formation of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.
- ❑ It argued that Cauvery was already a deficit basin and the construction of the project, or any other project “would drastically affect the lower riparian State in getting their

due share of waters as per the Final Order of the Tribunal as modified by this Hon'ble Court".