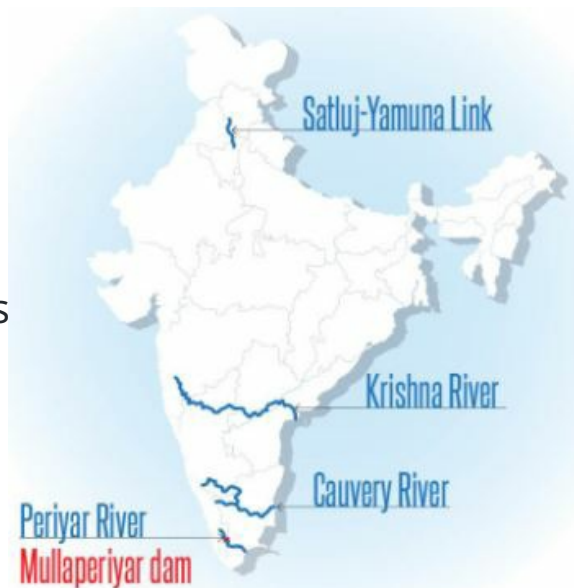




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Mullaperiyar Dam

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/mullaperiyar-dam



Why in News

The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has constituted a **three-member Supervisory Committee** to settle the issue of **Mullaperiyar dam** between **Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.

- The tension between the two states over the issue has persisted since the **1960s**, with Kerala citing concerns regarding the **dam's safety** and arguing for the reduction of the dam's water levels.
- But with the water from the dam being diverted to five districts in Tamil Nadu and its importance in the state's irrigation and power production practices, Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed this.
- The Mullaperiyar dam is located on the **confluence** of the **Mullayar and Periyar rivers** in **Kerala's Idukki district**.
- It is **operated and maintained** by the **Tamil Nadu** for meeting the drinking water and irrigation requirements of five of its southern districts.
According to a 999-year lease agreement made during the British rule the operational rights were handed over to Tamil Nadu.

- The dam intends to divert the waters of the **west-flowing river Periyar** eastward to the arid rain shadow regions of the Tamil Nadu.

Periyar River

- The Periyar River is the **longest river in the state of Kerala** with a length of 244 km.
- It is also known as '**Lifeline of Kerala**' as it is one of the few **perennial rivers** in the state.

A perennial river is a channel that has continuous flow in parts of its stream bed all year round.

- Periyar River **originates** from **Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats** and flows through the **Periyar National Park**.
- The **main tributaries** of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, Perinjankutti.

Source: PIB