



## Mekedatu Project

[Source: TH](#)

Karnataka Chief Minister(CM) has highlighted the [Mekedatu balancing reservoir project](#) as a key solution to address water-sharing issues with Tamil Nadu during monsoon distress years, asserting that the project would benefit both states, particularly in times of water scarcity.

- The Mekedatu multi-purpose project aims to build a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura to provide **drinking water to Bengaluru and generate 400 MW of power.**
  - Mekedatu is a deep gorge at the confluence of the **Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers.**
- The [Supreme Court](#), has settled the sharing of Cauvery water, with Karnataka **required to release 177.25 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet**, but only during a normal year, not in a year of deficit rainfall. Tamil Nadu has a right to 177.25 tmc ft, but **only during a normal monsoon.**
  - Karnataka Chief Minister(CM) emphasises that the Mekedatu reservoir will help meet Bengaluru's drinking water needs and enable Karnataka to release water to **Tamil Nadu during a distress year, as 65 tmc ft** of water can be impounded, which would otherwise end up in the sea.
- However, Tamil Nadu, the lower riparian state, opposes the project as it argues that the **Mekedatu dam would significantly reduce the water flow downstream**, negatively impacting the state's agricultural activities and water supply, and the **Cauvery tribunal and Supreme Court order** require the **lower riparian state's no-objection for any project on the Cauvery river.**

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**MEKEDATU PROJECT**  
**KARNATAKA**

- Mekedatu is **Rs 9,000-cr** project proposed at **Ontigondlu** in Karnataka.
- Project site is at confluence of Cauvery & its tributary Arkavathi.
- Reservoir aimed at ensuring **drinking water** to Bengaluru & adjacent areas.
- Project also envisioned to generate **400 MW** of power.

Cauvery river near Mekedatu

MAP NOT TO SCALE

ThePrint

The infographic features a map of the Cauvery river basin, showing the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers. A red location pin marks the 'MEKEDATU VIEW POINT' on the Cauvery River. A circular inset provides a closer view of the 'PROPOSED RESERVOIR PROJECT' site. The map labels the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. A photograph at the bottom shows the Cauvery river near Mekedatu.

Read more: [Mekedatu Project](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/mekedatu-project-3>

