# Mahadayi River Dispute

## Why in news?

*Karnataka's decision to go ahead with the Kalasa Banduri Nala water diversion project on river Mahadayi has escalated its long-standing water dispute with its neighbor Goa.*

## What is the story behind?

- Karnataka had received clearance from the Centre for two Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on the Kalasa-Banduri Nala on the Mahadayi.
- The state government has decided to go ahead with the project, after securing a go-ahead from the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- But, a clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) is still awaited.
- Goa immediately announced that it would take an all-party delegation to Prime Minister and meet other Union ministers to block the project.

## What is the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project?

> *River Mahadayi originates from the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka and flows into the Arabian Sea in Goa. Kalasa and Banduri streams are tributaries of Mahadayi.*

- The Kalasa Banduri Nala project aims to divert water from River Mahadayi to satisfy the drinking water needs of Karnataka's parched districts (Belagavi, Dharwad, Bagalkot and Gadag districts).
- As per plans, this project aims to build barrages against Kalasa and Banduri streams of River Mahadayi.
- Though the project was first proposed in the early 1980s, it has remained on paper owing to a dispute between Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

## Why is there a dispute?

- Since the proposal in 2002, Karnataka government during the tenure of SM Krishna as chief minister (2009-2012) decided to implement the project, after the Centre cleared it.
- Goa, under its then CM Manohar Parrikar (2000-2002), approached the Centre, urging it to assess the available resources in the river and allocate water to the three basin states — Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Due to the protests in Goa and also due to concerns over ecological damage, the project was put on hold by the then Central government.

- **Tribunal** - In 2006, Goa approached the Supreme Court, seeking the creation of a Tribunal to settle the water sharing dispute.
- The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) was finally set up by the Central government in 2010.

## What did the Tribunal say?

- In 2018, the Tribunal awarded 13.42 TMC water from Mahadayi river basin to Karnataka, 1.33 TMC to Maharashtra and 24 TMC to Goa.
- In Karnataka's share, 5.5 TMC was to meet drinking water needs and 8.02 TMC was for hydro-electricity generation.
- Of the 5.5 TMC, 3.8 TMC was to be diverted to Malaprabha basin through Kalasa and Banduri Nalas (canals).
- This was notified by the Central government in February 2020.

## What happened after the notification?

- After the Tribunal award, Goa filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court in July 2019, challenging the quantum of allocation.
- In 2020, it filed a contempt petition before the SC, accusing Karnataka of illegally diverting water from the Mahadayi basin.
- Civil appeals were also filed by Maharashtra over the dispute.

**Reference**

1. Indian Express | Mahadayi water sharing row between Goa, Karnataka

## Quick Facts

## River Mahadayi

- River Mahadayi spreads across the districts of **Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.**
- It rises in the **Western Ghats**, from the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Belagavi district of **Karnataka**.
- Flowing westward, it enters Goa. Over two-thirds of the river's stretch lies in Goa (76km).
- It is known as **River Mandovi** in Goa.
- River Mahadayi joins the **Arabian Sea at Panaji, Goa**.
- **Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary,** an estuarine mangrove habitat, which is declared as the bird sanctuary, and located on western tip of the Island of Chorao along the Mandovi River, Goa.
- Tributaries of Mahadayi include, Kalasa Nala, Surla Nala, Haltar Nala, Poti Nala, Mahadayi Nala, Pansheer Nala, Bail Nala, Andher Nala, etc.
- The variations in the terrain has led to formation of various water falls such as the **Doodhsagar falls,Vajra poha falls**, *etc.*



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
*Information is Empowering*