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Q3

**Water disputes between states in federal India.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

**Core demand of the question**

- **Stake:** rivers do not read state maps - water disputes are federal politics in a dry year
- **One stand:** manage as a basin and a compact, not as a TV war between capitals
- Move through law, politics, ecology, people. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a tribunal that works and a crop that matches the rain

**Revision summary**

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a canal gate. Stand:** basin + compact, not a capital war.
- **Headings:** law, politics, ecology, counter.

Peg **Art. 262** / one tribunal. Close on teeth plus a matching crop.

**Note**

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

**Anecdote**

A canal gate is a foreign policy between two Indian states. Farmers wait with a photograph of a god and a CM. Water disputes in federal India are not a geography quiz. They are a trust failure in a shared river.

**One stand**

- **Disputes:** Cauvery, a Krishna, a Punjab-Haryana file. Federal: **Article 262**, a tribunal, a Centre accused of a favourite child. Write the basin.

**Heading map****What the line is asking**

- **Water:** irrigation, a city, a hydro, a rite.
- **Disputes:** quantity, a timing, a new dam.
- **Federal India:** units that contest, a Union that must not only delay.

**Law**

- **Inter-State Water Disputes Act**, a tribunal, a Supreme Court that then must be obeyed.

**Politics**

- A vote-bank of a delta vs an upland. Language of 'our river'.

**Ecology / people**

- A monsoon that shrank. A crop that is too thirsty.
- A fisher, a delta, a groundwater cousin.

**The counter**

'Basin only' can ignore a historical pact. And the Centre as a neutral umpire is sometimes a player. Complexity is not an excuse for a summer of empty canals.

**Last paragraph**

- **Close:** compact, crop, a tribunal with teeth. Expand - this is only the map.

**Facts & figures****Art. 262**

The constitutional door for water disputes.

**ISWD Act / tribunals**

The file - then the canal that still waited.

**Cauvery / Krishna**

Name one basin as a case, not five.

**NITI / GW**

Groundwater as the silent dispute.

**Panchsheel cousin**

Peace between units - then a CM's rally.

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