

Thalaiyar Falls, Location, Formation, Geographical Features, Significance

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Thalaiyar Falls, popularly known as **Rat Tail Falls**, is the **highest waterfall in Tamil Nadu** and among the highest waterfalls in India. **Located in the Palani Hills** of the Western Ghats in Dindigul district, it is formed by the **Manjalar River**, a tributary of the Vaigai River. The waterfall descends about 297 metres (975 feet) in a spectacular single drop, making it one of the most prominent geomorphological features of southern India.

Thalaiyar Falls Location

- Thalaiyar Falls is **located in the Palani Hills** of Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu.
- It lies in the **Western Ghats**, one of the major mountain systems of Peninsular India.
- It is situated in a rugged, mountainous region and is best viewed from Dum Dum Rock on the Batlagundu-Kodaikanal Ghat Road.

Thalaiyar Falls Formation

Thalaiyar Falls is formed where the **Manjalar River** flows down from the elevated Palani Hills and encounters a steep escarpment. The sudden change in elevation causes the river to descend almost vertically, forming a high waterfall. Over a long period, continuous river erosion has shaped the steep cliff and the valley below.

Thalaiyar Falls Geographical Features

- Thalaiyar Falls has a single vertical drop of **about 297 metres (975 feet)**, making it the highest waterfall in Tamil Nadu.
- It is a **horsetail waterfall**, in which the water maintains contact with the rock face during most of its descent.
- The waterfall is situated amidst the steep valleys and evergreen forests of the Palani Hills in the Western Ghats.
- Its flow is **seasonal**, with maximum discharge during the **Southwest and Northeast Monsoon seasons**.

Thalaiyar Falls Ecological Significance

Thalaiyar Falls is **formed by the Manjalar River, a tributary of the Vaigai River**. Downstream, the river feeds the Manjalar Dam, which provides irrigation to parts of southern Tamil Nadu. The waterfall is located in the Western Ghats, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the world's major **biodiversity hotspots**, known for its rich diversity of endemic flora and fauna.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/thalaiyar-falls/>

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