

The Times of India- 04- October-2023

# Stick to existing water quota for AP & T: Centre to KRMB

## 66% Share For AP & 34% For T Will Continue

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**Vijayawada:** The Centre has directed Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to continue water allocation to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as per the existing agreement.

Andhra Pradesh will continue to hold 66% share of Krishna water while Telangana will get 34%. However, both states are worried over the poor reserves in Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar projects.

Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-I) made allocations to different projects when AP was undivided. The tribunal allo-

### WORRY OVER POOR RESERVE

● AP, T worried over poor reserves in Srisailem & Nagarjuna Sagar

● KRMB panel to meet in Hyd on October 5

● Will mull over allocations from available reserves

● Nagarjuna Sagar has only **23 tmc ft** of water left against total capacity of **312 tmc ft**

● AP wants release of **5tmc ft** water from right canal to meet drinking water needs

● It has requested KRMB to release 5tmc each in October, January 2024 & April 2024



cated about 512 tmc ft to different projects located in AP and 299 tmc ft to projects in Telangana. Based on the award, AP and Telangana made a temporary truce during bifurcation and agreed to share water on 66-34 ratio. The Centre mediated in the agreement, which has been in force for the last nine years.

Telangana has been insisting for reallocation of

Krishna waters with a demand to give 50% share in the total quantum allocation 811 tmc granted by KWDT-I to the undivided state. AP, however, has made it clear it will not go for any reallocation. Telangana then approached the Supreme Court but withdrew the case following an assurance by the Union Jal Shakti ministry to constitute a new tribunal.

Telangana Today- 04- October-2023

# KRMB seeks water indents from TS, AP

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

**A**s the scope to give water for irrigation has been ruled out, the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has asked both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to submit their indents for supply of water from the Krishna basin projects to meet only their irrigation needs.

The Board has convened a meeting of its three-member committee

on October 5 at Hyderabad to discuss the indents and plan the water releases till May 31, 2024. Board sources said both the States have agreed that due to shortage of water in the common reservoirs, the water available should be used only for meeting the drinking water needs.

But there was no consensus on the indents raised by them during the second meeting in August last. As a result the water release orders could not be issued. Since the first

four months of the water year were over, the board had called the meeting to discuss the water indents and plan releases for the remaining eight months of the year. Based on the indents, water management plans would be formulated till May 2024. The focus of the meeting would be on the releases mainly from the Srisailem and the Nagarjuna Sagar project. So far as Telangana was concerned, its actual requirement was put at 12.13 tmc from the NSP and 7.12 tmc

from Srisailem for the entire year. The priority of the State is drinking water supply to Hyderabad city and district headquarters centres including Nalgonda. The water level in the Nagarjuna Sagar project was alarmingly low. The present storage in Srisailem is 87.66 tmc as against the gross storage capacity of 215 tmc. The water storage in Nagarjuna Sagar Project is little over 157 tmc as against the gross storage capacity of 312.05 tmc.

Deccan Herald- 04- October-2023

## Pennar dispute: Centre to explore negotiation route

NEW DELHI, DHNS

**T**he Union government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it is trying to resolve the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with regard to Pennar river through talks.

The Karnataka chief minister had written to the prime minister, requesting the Centre to resolve the dispute through dialogue, instead of setting up the tribunal. So, the

Centre was exploring resolution of the dispute by negotiation, an advocate representing the Centre informed the Apex Court. The bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Sanjay Karol asked the Centre to file an affidavit.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had asked Jal Shakti Ministry to set up the tribunal to resolve the row. However, Karnataka was against it, saying quantity of water was small in river.

South Pennar or Ponnaiyar

or Pinakini originates in Nandi Hills near Bengaluru and flows into Bay of Bengal through Tamil Nadu after crossing Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

TN has objected to Karnataka's project to build a 0.5 tmcft storage facility along Markandeya river in Kolar district, which is a tributary of South Pennar in the district. The facility, which is around 80% complete, aims to supply water to Malur, Bangarpet, Kolar and 48 villages in ad-

joining areas.

Earlier, TN filed an interlocutory application in Apex Court seeking direction to Karnataka to restrain from building a reservoir on Markandeya river, alleging that since the river is tributary of Pennaiyar river, any construction of dam by Karnataka would obstruct natural flows downstream. The Centre earlier informed the SC that it was ready to constitute the tribunal to resolve it.



The Statesman- 04- October-2023

## Monsoon woes

India's monsoon season, a natural phenomenon that defines the fate of its agriculture and economy, has taken centre stage once again. This year, the nation witnessed its lowest monsoon since 2018, triggering concerns about the implications for the \$3 trillion Indian economy. This meteorological downside is being blamed on the El Niño weather pattern, which rendered August the driest month in over a century. The monsoon, an elemental lifeline for India, contributes nearly 70 per cent of the nation's rainfall necessary to nurture crops, replenish reservoirs and aquifers. Given that almost half of India's farmlands lack irrigation, the monsoon rains assume an even greater significance for agricultural production. The rainfall deficit carries a domino effect that ultimately affects the common Indian's dinner plate. Staple foods such as sugar, pulses, rice and vegetables became more expensive, exacerbating overall food inflation. The repercussions could extend further, prompting India, the world's second-largest producer of rice, wheat and sugar, to impose further restrictions on exports of these commodities. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported that the June-to-September monsoon rainfall was just 94 per cent of its long-term average, a figure last witnessed in 2018. The IMD's initial projection anticipated a 4 per cent rainfall deficit for the season, assuming a limited impact from El Niño. This weather pattern, characterised by the warming of Pacific waters, typically brings drier conditions to the Indian subcontinent. This year, it caused erratic rainfall. The month of June started with a concerning 9 per cent rainfall deficit due to delayed arrival of the monsoon. However, July brought some relief with rainfall surging to 13 per cent above the long-term average. The twist in the plot came in August when the country experienced its driest month on record, suffering a daunting 36 per cent deficit. Fortunately, September offered a glimmer of hope as rainfall rebounded, delivering 13 per cent more rain than the norm. The erratic distribution of monsoon rains has pushed India, the world's largest rice exporter, to take defensive measures. Limits on rice shipments, a 40 per cent duty on onion exports and duty-free imports of pulses have become necessary steps to navigate these turbulent waters. Further, the Centre might even contemplate banning sugar exports to ensure domestic supplies remain stable.

The silver lining in this turbulent monsoon story is IMD's forecast of normal rainfall between October and December. This prediction offers a glimpse of respite for the agricultural sector and the economy. However, it comes with a caveat ~ above-average temperatures are expected across most of the country during October. The narrative of India's monsoon is a reminder of the delicate equilibrium that governs the nation's agriculture-dependent economy. While erratic rainfall patterns are indeed worrisome, they also emphasise the need for long-term solutions. Investments in irrigation infrastructure, drought-resistant crop varieties and climate-resilient agricultural practices are essential to mitigate the risks posed by increasingly unpredictable monsoons.

Business Line- 04- October-2023

# CEA to form panel to study geological surprises in hydropower projects

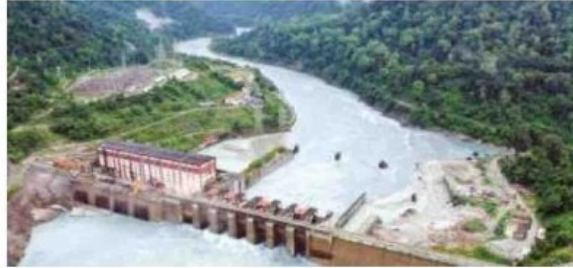
**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) will constitute a committee to study issues in the event of any geological surprise faced in hydroelectric projects and offer recommendations.

The authority pointed out that development of hydroelectric projects has been impacted due to various issues including geological uncertainties or constraints, resulting in significant time and cost overruns.

In this regard, the Techno Economic Concurrence issued by the CEA, in general, provides that a project developer shall systematically maintain a record of geological surprises, which are encountered and treatment provided.

At the same time, the developer shall request the Power Ministry to constitute an expert committee consisting of representatives from the state, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Central Water Commission (CWC) and CEA. Once this committee is constituted, the developer



**IN THE LINE-UP.** At present, around 42 hydro power projects with an aggregate capacity of 18,034 MW are under construction

will submit the proposal for enhanced cost to the committee, which in turn shall examine and recommend the cost thereof.

"In order to obviate the need for creation of separate expert committees for each such case, it is decided to constitute a Standing Technical Committee to study issues in the event of any geological surprise faced in hydroelectric projects and to vet/ examine and recommend the additional time/ cost involved," the authority said.

## POTENTIAL ASSESSED

The CEA carried out a reassessment study during the period 2017-23, which assessed India's hydro power

potential from major/ medium schemes (schemes having capacity above 25 MW) at about 1,33,400 MW.

India has an installed hydro power capacity of 46,850.17 megawatts (MW) as of August 2023.

At present, around 42 hydro power projects with an aggregate capacity of 18,034 MW are under construction and 30 hydro power projects with an aggregate capacity of 21,810 MW have received concurrence from the CEA, which can be taken up for construction.

## PROJECT ASSESSMENT

The main challenges in developing hydro power projects include remote location, un-

predictable geology, natural calamities, environment and forest, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R), law & order and inter-state issues.

The union government has framed a detailed procedure for assessment of environmental and social impacts for developmental projects, which is prescribed in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time.

Environmental clearances are issued only after detailed study and analysis of developmental projects listed in the schedule to the notification and subject to compliance of necessary environmental safeguards.

Project specific conditions related to safety measures such as installation of early warning telemetric system, implementation of emergency preparedness plan, disaster management plan, dam break analysis, catchment area treatment plan, stabilization of muck disposal sites, rim plantation, pasture development, nursery development, etc are also prescribed in the environmental clearances for hydro power projects.