

Indian Express- 15- November-2021

# Centre proposes setting up new body for river-linking projects

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 14

THE CENTRE has set in motion the process of creating the National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA), an independent autonomous body for planning, investigation, financing and the implementation of the river interlinking projects in the country.

NIRA, to be headed by a Government of India Secretary-rank officer, will replace the existing National Water Development Agency (NWDA) and will function as an umbrella body for all river linking projects. The new body will coordinate with neighbouring countries and concerned states and departments and will also have powers on issues related to environment, wildlife and forest clearances under river linking projects and their legal aspects.

According to sources, a proposal for the constitution of NIRA was deliberated in a meeting of

EXPLAINED



## Broader mandate than existing body

NIRA WILL have the power to raise funds and act as a repository of borrowed funds or money received on deposit or loan given on interest. Besides, it will also have a mandate to coordinate with neighbouring countries "as directed" by the Ministry of Jal Shakti or the Ministry of External Affairs. It will also have the power to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for individual link projects.

the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers, chaired by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday. The meeting was attended by state water resources ministers, senior Central officials and experts.

A source privy to the deliberations said, "It was discussed and agreed upon in the meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers. However, the minutes of the meeting are yet to be finalised. It may take 3-4 days."

The ministry will soon send

a note to the Union Cabinet for approval, the source said. "Constitution of NIRA through a notification of approval by the Cabinet would be a preferred route for its early constitution," the source said, adding that the Ministry of Law and Justice has already given its green signal for the establishment of the new body.

The Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) has already deliberated on the proposal of the constitution of the NIRA on October 22.

The Hindu- 15- November-2021

# Karnataka objects to violation of water tribunal awards

Centre urged not to give clearances to such projects

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Reiterating the demand for Karnataka's rightful share in Cauvery, Krishna and Pennar basins in the Godavari-Cauvery link project, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday urged the Centre not to give statutory clearances to large-scale permanent projects planned for utilising surplus waters in violation of water tribunal awards.

"Though the shares of co-basin States have not been decided in the Godavari-Cauvery link, Tamil Nadu has been going ahead with the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar

link which is inadmissible in law. The Karnataka Government has urged the Centre not to approve the proposal of Tamil Nadu for taking up the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar link as an advance action in anticipation of the realisation of the Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar link project," Mr. Bommai said in his address at the 29th Southern Zonal Council meeting at Tirupati on Sunday.

The Chief Minister sought the rightful share for Karnataka as was done in the case of Godavari diversion to Krishna river under the Polavaram project.

With respect to construction of Rajiv Gandhi Sangama Banda barrage by Telangana, he said that Karnataka opposed the project as it will utilise the remaining water in the guise of savings which will come for review in 2050. Karnataka also urged the removal of inter-State differences in renewable energy tariffs for creating a level playing field. The CM said though Karnataka is the only State to achieve the renewable purchase obligation targets of the Centre, it's not able to exploit great potential because of low tariffs that make it unviable for investors.

The Hindu- 15- November-2021

# Shutter of Cheruthoni dam opened

Water level at Mullaperiyar dam touches 140.15 ft, shutters likely to be opened

A CORRESPONDENT  
IDUKKI

The number 3 shutter of the Cheruthoni dam of Idukki reservoir was opened by 40 cm to release 40 to 50 cusecs of water in the wake of increased inflow following rains on Sunday. The shutter was raised at 2 p.m.

However, the water level continued to rise and it reached the red alert level at 6 p.m. The red alert level is 2,399.03 ft with the upper rule level at 2,400.03 ft (The full reservoir level is 2,403 ft). The water level was 2,399.04 ft at 6 p.m.

Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine said the shutter was opened even before the water reached the upper rule level so as to regulate the water level in view of the increased inflow. The shutter was opened when the water level reached 2398.90 ft.

"If needed, 100 cusecs of water will be released," he said, adding that it depended on the rainfall in the catchment area and the inflow into the reservoir.

## Generator repaired

According to the Minister, one generator which was under repair will function from Sunday evening. It will help raise power generation at the Moolamattom power house and regulate the water level in the reservoir.

Meanwhile, the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam on the upstream was also rising despite Tamil Nadu in-



**A necessity:** Water gushes out of the Idukki reservoir when a shutter of the Cheruthoni dam was opened at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

creasing the tunnel discharge from 556 cusecs to 1,867 cusecs on Sunday morning. There was an average inflow of 3,262 cusecs. The water level at 4 p.m. was 140.15 ft. The upper rule level till November 20 is 141 ft. The maximum water level is 142 ft.

Tamil Nadu issued the first flood warning when the water level reached 140 ft at 9 a.m. Idukki Collector Sheeba George said the spillway shutters of Mullaperiyar dam could be opened and water released to the Periyar.

Ms. George said those living close to the river bank should take precautionary measures.



The Hindu- 15- November-2021

# State makes a pitch for Palamuru-RR project

Discusses projects at SZC meeting, says even Nakkalagandi LIS was taken up in line with allocation made to State

M. RAJEEV  
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has put up a strong defence against objections raised by Karnataka over the construction of two irrigation projects, Palamuru-Rangareddy and Nakkalagandi LIS, claiming that the two projects are taken up in line with the allocation made to the State.

## Counter argument

The government countered the neighbouring State's argument saying that "Karnataka has no concern in this matter and cannot object to the project as the two projects are taken up within the entitled share of Krishna waters." The issue of allocation of Krishna water between the two Telugu States was being dealt with by the Brijesh



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Home Minister Mohd. Mahmood Ali during the meeting of Southern Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah (not in this photo), in Tirupati on Sunday. •ARRANGEMENT

Kumar Tribunal (KWDT-II) and the Telangana government had assured that it would abide by the allocation made by the tribunal in respect of the two projects.

The ongoing and the pro-

posed projects in the State were discussed during the meeting of the Southern Zonal Council (SZC) chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Tirupati on Sunday. The meeting discussed the

detailed project reports of Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS and Nakkalagandi LIS proposed to lift water from the foreshores of Srisailem reservoir.

## Project reports

Based on the contention made by Telangana, the SZC resolved to ensure that the DPRs would be submitted to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) by January 15, so that the Central Water Commission would appraise the reports. The meeting also discussed construction of the Sangambanda barrage that could lead to submergence of villages in Karnataka.

The State government said that it had already addressed a communication to Karnataka asking the government to

conduct a joint survey to resolve the issue of submergence.

## Dues to Discoms

The State government has resolved that dues to AP Genco payable by Discoms was ₹3,442 crore. This assumes significance in the light of the fact that the government of the neighbouring State had been claiming that Telangana is due to pay ₹6,015 crore to AP. The Telangana government represented by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Special Chief Secretary (Finance) K. Ramakrishna Rao contended that ignoring the requests made by Telangana, the AP government preferred legal recourse by approaching the National Company Law Tribunal under Insolvency and Bank-

ruptcy Code 2016 (IBC).

The State in fact should get ₹4,457 crore from AP after setting off the power purchase dues.

Regarding the division of properties of AP Bhavan in New Delhi, the AP government had proposed two options in terms of Section 48 (1) of the AP Reorganisation Act 2014 and the matter has been under discussion between the CMs of the two States. Since there were certain differences between the two governments over the permitted floor space index among the two pieces of property, the Telangana government had informed the meeting that it was working on a third proposal that would be submitted to the AP government for expeditious redressal.

**Business Line 15- November-2021**

**CLEAN FACTS**

**On our water footprint**



Similar to **carbon** footprint, **water footprint** is the amount of **freshwater consumed** by **individuals**, communities, or **companies**.



A **water footprint** is measured by **dividing** the amount of **water used** during a **period of time** by the **amount** that became **polluted**.

The **water footprint** concept was **introduced in 2002** by AY **Hoekstra**, from **UNESCO-IHE**, as an alternative **indicator of water** use, with **demarcations** of green, **blue and grey**.



A **green water** footprint denotes **water** from **precipitation** that **is stored** in the **root zone** of the **soil and evaporated**, transpired, or **incorporated** by plants.

A **blue water** footprint is water **sourced** from a **surface** or **groundwater** resource and is either used **in a product** or **taken** from one **body of water** and returned **to another**.



A **grey water** footprint is the **amount** of **freshwater** required to **assimilate pollutants** to meet **specific** water **quality** standards. It **is associated** with the **production** of **goods and services**.

**In India**, water is **pumped up** for **agricultural** use at a **higher rate** than it can be **replenished**, leading to **groundwater** levels **plummeting** alarmingly.



The Pioneer- 15- November-2021

# केरल में भारी बारिश, मौसम विभाग ने एर्णाकुलम, इडुक्की और त्रिशूर में रेड अलर्ट घोषित किया

**भाषा। पथनमथिट्टा, दुक्की (केरल)**

केरल के विभिन्न हिस्सों में शनिवार रात से हो रही भारी बारिश के मद्देनजर भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने रविवार को मध्य केरल के एर्णाकुलम, इडुक्की और त्रिशूर जिलों में दिनभर के लिए रेड अलर्ट घोषित कर दिया। मुख्यमंत्री पिनराई विजयन ने एक फेसबुक पोस्ट में बेमौसम बारिश की वजह से भूस्खलन के खतरों और अन्य दिक्कतों के प्रति बेहद सतर्क रहने को



कहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि पश्चिमी हवाओं की वजह से केरल में भारी बारिश के मद्देनजर अधिकारियों और लोगों को बेहद सतर्कता बरतने की जरूरत है। विजयन ने कहा कि भूस्खलन और बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में रहनेवाले लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों या निकटतम राहत शिविरों में जाने की जरूरत है क्योंकि आनेवाले घंटों में भारी बारिश की संभावना है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि शिविर, भोजन और बीमार लोगों के लिए जांच की व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित की जानी चाहिए।