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Deccan Chronicle - 18- January-2024

# Sagar, Srisaillam handed over to KRMB

SAMPAT  
G. SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 17

The Andhra Pradesh government has agreed to hand over the Nagarjunasagar project's control to the Krishna River Management Board. The decision was announced after a meeting of the Union ministry of Jal Shakti in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The Jal Shakti ministry held the meeting between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State, at which water resources principal secretary Shashi Bhushan and engineer-in-chief Narayana Reddy from AP took part.

The meeting was called by Jal Shakti secretary Debashree Mukherjee following a tiff between AP and TS on control and water

sharing from Nagarjunasagar project.

Both AP and TS agreed to hand over the Nagarjunasagar project to KRMB for its control and regular maintenance, officials stated.

Similarly, the control of 15 offtakes like reservoirs and other components of both Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam projects - AP has six and TS has nine - is also

to be handed over to KRMB.

Water resources secretaries from the two states will meet in the next 15 days to chalk out further course of action and ensure the regular maintenance of these projects.

AP water resources principal secretary Shashi Bhushan said, "We have agreed to hand over both Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam projects to KRMB

for their regular maintenance."

Notably, tension had mounted between AP and TS on the issue of having their access and control on Nagarjunasagar project. AP took control of the dam gates from 14 to 26, in protest against the TS move to deny AP the rights on Krishna waters in both Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam projects.

The Statesman - 18- January-2024

## 30pc of India's districts saw high deficient rain years, 38 pc were in excess: Study

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 17 JANUARY

Almost 30% of India's districts witnessed a high number of deficient rainfall years, while 38% saw a high number of excessive rainfall years, an analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) said on Wednesday.

The analysis was done by CEEW for a period of 40 years. CEEW is among the world's top climate think tanks.

It also showed that of these, 23% of districts such as New Delhi, Bengaluru, Nilgiris, Jaipur, Kutch and Indore, witnessed both a high number of deficient as well as excessive rainfall years.

The agency said that by decoding these trends at an even more granular level, it was found that 55% of tehsils wit-



nessed an increase in southwest monsoon rainfall in the past decade (2012-2022) by more than 10% compared to the climatic baseline (1982-2011).

The northeast monsoon rainfall increased by more than 10% in the past decade (2012-2022) in approximately 80% of tehsils in Tamil Nadu, 44% in Telangana, and 39% in Andhra Pradesh, respec-

tively. On a monthly basis, it was found that nearly 48% of tehsils in India saw an increased rainfall in October by more than 10%, which could be due to the delayed withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from the subcontinent.

"While the decreasing trends in southwest monsoon were not statistically significant continuously over forty years, we found that these tehsils are

in the Indo-Gangetic plains, which contribute to more than half of India's agricultural production, northeastern India, and the Indian Himalayan region. These regions also host fragile but highly diverse ecosystems," the report said.

Of these tehsils, approximately 68% experienced reduced rainfall in all months from June to September, while 87% showed a decline during the initial monsoon months of June and July, which are crucial for the sowing phase of Kharif crops. As per the latest data released by the National Statistical Office, retail inflation rose to a four-month high of 5.69% in December 2023 due to a rise in food prices.

Food inflation data on a sequential basis was underpinned by the seasonal contractionary behavior seen in December.

**Rashtriya Sahara - 18- January-2024**

## समुद्र के जलस्तर में वृद्धि पर उच्च स्तरीय बैठक का प्रस्ताव

**संयुक्त राष्ट्र ।** संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने समुद्र के जलस्तर में वृद्धि से उत्पन्न अस्तित्व संबंधी खतरों से निपटने के लिए उच्च स्तरीय बैठक बुलाने का प्रस्ताव रखा है। प्रस्ताव के अनुसार यह उच्च स्तरीय बैठक 25 सितंबर को महासभा की सामान्य बहस के इतर आयोजित की जाएगी। प्रस्ताव में महासभा के अध्यक्ष से संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सदस्य देशों के साथ खुले, पारदर्शी और समावेशी परामर्श के माध्यम से संभावित परिणाम दस्तावेज सहित उच्च स्तरीय बैठक के लिए संगठनात्मक व्यवस्था को अंतिम रूप देने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

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The Times of India - 18- January-2024

# HC Holds Haryana To Word, Ends 11-Yr Case

## 'Continue Supplying 1k Cusecs Of Water To Delhi'

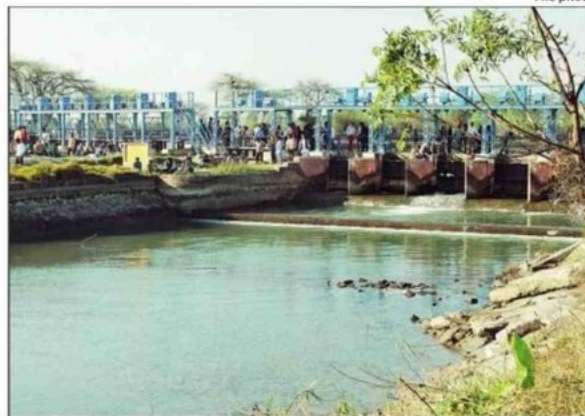
Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court, while binding Haryana to its assurance of supplying 1,041 cusecs of water to the capital, has ended proceedings on a PIL that it was hearing since 2013.

The court has passed directions over time to ensure that there is no shortage of water supply from Haryana via the Munak canal and other waterways to Delhi. It was hearing a PIL moved by advocate SB Tripathi arguing that the population in Delhi was increasing each day, while raw water available had stayed the same or was decreasing.

Earlier this week, acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Manmeet PS Arora said that construction work on the Munak Haiderpur Carrier Lined Canal (CLC) was complete and was commissioned. Since the main relief sought in the PIL stood satisfied, the bench disposed of the matter after Delhi Jal Board agreed, saying that if it has any grievance on water supply, it will approach National Green Tribunal or Supreme Court.

The court, however, recorded an undertaking by Haryana that "Delhi has an allocation of 719 cusecs network of Haryana. Haryana is supplying nearly 1,041 cusecs by diverting nearly 321 cusecs from the share of citizens of



File photo

The court has passed directions over time to ensure that there is no shortage of water supply from Haryana via the Munak canal to Delhi

Haryana to Delhi. It may be pointed out here that till date Haryana has never said anything about reducing the present supplies of 1,040 cusecs."

It had also appointed senior advocate Rakesh Khanna as amicus curiae after the petitioner sought a concrete lining for the Delhi Sub-Branch (DSB) Canal, similar to the Munak canal. He said that due to seepage in the DSB canal, 50% of the 330 cusecs water released into it by Haryana was lost. The PIL said that wastage can be brought down to 5% by making the concrete lining.

DJB receives around 630 cusecs from the CLC and 330 cusecs of water from the DSB Canal.

Last year, DJB had approached the high court alleging

that despite an order in May 2019 directing removal of "illegal bundhs or blockades" from the river, images "clearly showed" such structures were blocking water flow to Delhi. DJB raised doubts over the quality and flow of river water from Haryana. In response, Haryana said the issue of polluted water had been dealt with by other fora, including Supreme Court, and the high court should first adjudicate regarding maintainability of the petition.

"We are getting around 1,000 cusecs of water from the Munak canal. The petition that was filed was based on Supreme Court's decision earlier. We accept the decision of the high court," a DJB officer said.

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Telangana Today - 18- January-2024

# Solution to river water disputes

**Due importance to the concept of river basin in adjudication is vital for deciding equitable apportionment of water resources**



**SALLA VIJAYA KUMAR**  
Secretary,  
Telangana Engineers IAC

**S**haring of international or inter-State river waters has always been one of the most contentious issues. Further, whenever a new country or a State is formed, one of the most sensitive issues is the division of water resources. There is every possibility that vested political interests deteriorate the inter-State water division issues for their selfish agenda. Hence, a rational and reliable basis is vital for deciding equitable apportionment of water resources. The river basin concept provides such a base.

## Indus Water Treaty

The efficacy of the application of the river basin concept in the international/inter-State river water disputes is remarkably visible in the successful finalisation and implementation of the Indus Water Treaty (1960) between India and Pakistan. The draft plan proposed by the Indian side which was founded on the concept of a river basin became the basis of the treaty whereas the draft plan proposed by Pakistan was based on myopic political agenda which was discarded.

Eminent engineer ND Gulhati, who was the key person from the Indian side, observed that the Indus Water Treaty was the first-ever attempt at basin-wide planning and it ignored the new political boundaries between India and Pakistan. Because of its engineering base, the treaty has been a success story for over 60 years and survived even wars and tense relations between the two countries.

## Adjudication in India

In India, jurisdiction over the inter-State river water disputes lies exclu-

sively with the tribunals which are constituted by the union government based on the complaints of the river basin States as per the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. These tribunals are entrusted with specialised tasks of adjudicating water resources between the party States and are assisted by expert engineers and hydrologists.

Besides, party States also hire experts as witnesses and as standing technical personnel to guide and facilitate their advocates in explaining and presenting their cases before the Tribunals. The newly proposed amendment to the Act comprised one technical member in the Tribunal. Hence, the process of adjudication of water resources is broadly a technological process.

## National Water Policy

The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal observed that there is no mechanical formula of equitable apportionment applicable to all rivers. Each river system has its peculiarities and the river basin reflects them. The concept of 'drainage basin' or 'river basin', well-known by the 1930s and crystallised only in 1966 by Helsinki Rules, became widely influential in India by the 1950s itself.

National water policies have stressed the importance of the river basin. The NWP, 2014, stated "All the elements of the water cycle, ...are interdependent and the basic hydrological unit is the river basin, which should be considered as the basic hydrological unit for planning." ND Gulhati explained, "The water resources of a river basin are directly related to the area within the wa-

tershed. The volume of surface flow into the river is a direct result of the rainfall within the limits of the watershed... In case of scarcity of water in relation to requirements, the watershed boundary provides a definite area within which to ration the waters; otherwise, there would be no end to the claims that may be made on the scarce resource." He cautioned: "Any irrigation use outside the basin, ignoring the claims of the basin itself, must sooner or later lead to undesirable complications. The farther the waters of a river are taken away from it, the greater will be the difficulties that will have to be encountered."

The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I (1969-76) protected the prescriptive rights of existing uses of the party States up to September 1960. But, while adjudicating their future projects, it has considered the allocation of water only to the uses within the river basin.

## Basin Areas, States

As per the ISRWD Act, the riparian States (ie, basin States) are the parties before the water disputes tribunals. In Latin, 'ripa' means a river 'bank'. A State is designated as riparian if the ri-

parian area of the river lies in that State irrespective of the extent of the riparian area. If a riparian State diverts water from riparian areas (basin areas) to non-riparian areas while riparian areas are deprived of their genuine water requirements, it would lead to serious social, political and economic consequences.

The Andhra State formation in 1953 and the Telangana State formation in 2014 resulted mainly from such neglect of the riparian areas of Krishna River by the then governments of the riparian States namely, erstwhile Madras and erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

Krishna is an inter-State river and its drainage basin is a deficit basin, ie, the available water is not enough to meet the demands of the riparian States. However, if the realistic requirements of riparian areas are only considered, there will not be such an acute deficit situation in the basin. It means diversion to outside the riparian areas by the riparian States is the main reason for Krishna becoming a deficit basin.

## Terms of Reference

Recently, based on the complaint of the Telangana government in 2014 under Section-3 of the ISRWD Act, 1956, the union government referred further terms of reference to the Krishna River Water Disputes Tribunal-II to give necessary scope for adjudicating the issues holistically.

The tribunal should give due importance to the river basin concept in their adjudication, to provide an engineering and pragmatic basis which would upkeep the federal spirit of the nation.

(Views are personal)



**The Indus Water Treaty was the first-ever attempt at basin-wide planning; has been a success story for over 60 years and survived even wars**