

The Hindu- 24- May-2023

The Telangana- A.P. water dispute

How did the Bachawat Tribunal allocate water resources to the three riparian States? What did the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, state about water shares? Has the Union government intervened in the issue? Why is Telangana asking for a larger share?

EXPLAINER

B. Chandrashekhara

The story so far:

The nagging dispute over the water share of the Krishna river between Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) and Telangana remains unresolved, even nine years after the bifurcation of the combined State.

What is the origin of the Krishna water dispute?

The dispute dates back to the formation of Andhra Pradesh in November, 1956. Before the formation of Andhra Pradesh, four senior leaders each from different regions of Andhra, including the Rayalaseema Region and the Telangana region, signed a Gentlemen's Agreement on February 20, 1956. Among others, one of the provisions of the agreement was the protection of Telangana's interests and needs with respect to the utilisation of water resources with equitable distribution based on treaties followed globally. However, the focus of the combined dispensation with respect to irrigation facilities was on Andhra, which already had systems developed by the British at the cost of in-basin drought-prone areas in Telangana – a fact which was argued by the leaders of the latter region from the beginning.

Further on, in 1969, the Bachawat Tribunal (KWDT-I) was constituted to settle the dispute around water share among the riparian States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (before bifurcation). The Tribunal allocated 811 tmcft dependable water to Andhra Pradesh. The A.P. government later apportioned it in the 512:299 tmcft ratio between Andhra (including parts of Rayalaseema which comprise the Krishna Basin) and Telangana, respectively, based on the command area developed or utilisation mechanism established by then. The Tribunal had also recommended taking the Tungabhadra Dam (a part of the Krishna Basin) water to the drought-prone Mahabubnagar area



No agreement: The surplus water being discharged from the Prakasam Barrage across river Krishna in Vijayawada. BAO G. N.

of Telangana. However, this was not followed through, giving birth to discontent among the people. Telangana had time and again reiterated how it had been meted out with injustice in Andhra Pradesh when it came to the matter of distributing water resources.

What was the arrangement for water sharing after the bifurcation?

There is no mention of water shares in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, since the KWDT-I Award, which was still in force, had not made any region-wise allocation. At a meeting convened by the then Ministry of Water Resources in 2015, the two States had agreed for sharing water in the 34:66 (Telangana:A.P.) ratio as an ad hoc arrangement with the minutes clearly specifying that it has to be reviewed every year. The arrangement in the Act was only for the management of water resources by setting up two Boards, the Krishna River Management Board

(KRMB) and the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB).

The KRMB, however, continued the same ratio year after year in spite of the opposition by Telangana. In October 2020, Telangana raised its voice for an equal share, till water shares are finalised. At a Board meeting held earlier this month, Telangana put its foot down for an equal share and refused to continue the existing arrangement. Unable to convince the member States, the river Board has referred the matter to the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).

What does each State claim?

Telangana has been asking the Centre to finalise water shares from day one of its formation. Citing treaties and agreements followed globally in sharing river waters, Telangana has been arguing that as per the basin parameters, it is entitled for at least a 70% share in the allocation of the 811 tmcft. Besides, it has been highlighting

how A.P. has been diverting about 300 tmcft water to the areas outside the basin from fluoride-affected and drought-prone areas within the basin in Telangana.

On the other hand, A.P. has also been staking claim for a higher share of water to protect the interests of command areas already developed.

What is the stand of the Centre?

The Centre has convened two meetings of the Apex Council comprising the Union Minister and Chief Ministers of Telangana and A.P. in 2016 and 2020 without making any attempt to deal with the issue. Following a suggestion made by the MoJS in 2020, Telangana has withdrawn its petition over the issue in the Supreme Court as the Ministry had assured to refer the matter of water shares to a Tribunal. However, the Centre has been sitting over the issue for over two years now even as the two States continue to spar over the matter day in and day out.

THE GIST

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Telangana Today- 24- May-2023

KLIS Package-9 pump trial begins

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a significant development, the trial run of the first pump of one of two pump houses in Package-9 as part of the link-three of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), has been conducted successfully on Tuesday.

The pump house motors were activated, propelling

the Godavari River waters into the Malkapeta reservoir in Konaraopet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district at 7 am.

This will facilitate the pumping of Godavari River water from the Mid Manair Dam to the Upper Manair Dam via Malkapeta reservoir and Singa Samudram tank from the ensuing water year. (SEE PAGE 2)

The Package-9 of the KLIS aims to lift 11.635 TMC ft of Godavari water in 120 days per year. This particular package encompasses a total new ayacut of 86,000 acres in Sircilla district. Upon the completion of the Malkapeta reservoir, around 60,000 acres of new ayacut will benefit from irrigation, while 26,150 acres of existing ayacut will be stabilised, providing a much-needed permanent solution to the longstanding irrigation challenges faced by farmers in the Vemulawada and Sircilla Assembly constituencies. With an estimated cost of Rs 504 crore, the Malkapeta Reservoir will soon be operational.

Engineer-in-Chief N Venkateshwarlu, elevation consultant Penta Reddy, and representatives of MRKER and WPL agencies oversaw the trial run operations, ensuring its seamless execution. Package-9 Executive Engineer Srinivas Reddy coordinated the trial run successfully.

Telangana Today- 24- May-2023

American engineers hail Kaleshwaram project

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) president Maria C Lehman said the world could learn from the success story of Telangana's Kaleshwaram project - the world's largest lift irrigation project.

Lehman, who handed over ASCE's plaque recognising Kaleshwaram as an enduring symbol of engineering progress and partnership to IT Minister KT Rama Rao, emphasized that they wanted to highlight game-changing projects like Kaleshwaram Project in the sustainability space.

"We will promote the videos and show it to others," she said. After speaking at the World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2023 held by the ASCE at Nevada, USA, the Minister had a chat with the ASCE top brass. During the meeting, ASCE representatives shared their thoughts and experiences of visiting the Kaleshwaram project last year. ASCE and Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI) president-elect Shirley Clark termed Kaleshwaram as a 'mind blowing and amazing project'. She said the project

had raised the quality of life of the residents in Telangana. "As a Hydraulic Engineer, lifting the water 500 meters blows my mind," Clark said, adding that she would share the video with her students to make them understand how the project was designed and executed. ASCE-EWRI Director Brian Parsons said the social aspects associated with the project were an extra checkmark for the success of Kaleshwaram. "It's a global challenge to optimize resources and Telangana is making a foray into that space which indeed is going to be an example for others," he said.

Dainik Jagran- 24- May-2023

जल संरक्षण में मप्र अव्वल, ओडिशा दूसरे नंबर पर

मनीष तिवारी • नई दिल्ली

मध्य प्रदेश ने जल संरक्षण, प्रबंधन और उसके महत्व के प्रति जनजागरूकता के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य का पुरस्कार जीता है। जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के अनुसार चौथे राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार 17 जून को दिए जाएंगे। उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ नई दिल्ली के विज्ञान भवन में 11 श्रेणियों में 41 विजेताओं को इन पुरस्कारों से सम्मानित करेंगे। मंत्रालय ने विजेताओं की सूची सार्वजनिक नहीं की है, लेकिन सूत्रों के अनुसार, मध्य प्रदेश को सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य चुना गया है। ओडिशा दूसरे और आंध्र प्रदेश तथा बिहार तीसरे स्थान पर रहे हैं।

सर्वश्रेष्ठ जिले का पुरस्कार ओडिशा के गंजम को मिला है। तमिलनाडु का नमक्कल दूसरे और तेलंगाना का आदिलाबाद तीसरे स्थान पर रहा। सर्वश्रेष्ठ ग्राम पंचायत पुरस्कार के लिए तेलंगाना की जगन्नाथपुरम ग्राम पंचायत (भद्रादी श्रेटागुडम जिला) को पहला स्थान

मिला है, जबकि तमिलनाडु के करूर जिले की कदावुर ग्राम पंचायत तथा केरल के तिरुअनंतपुरम जिले की मणिकल ग्राम पंचायत को संयुक्त रूप से दूसरा स्थान मिला है। तीसरे स्थान पर महाराष्ट्र के जालना जिले की कडेगांव तथा मेघालय के री भोई जिले की मंकीरडेप ग्राम पंचायत है।

सर्वश्रेष्ठ शहरी स्थानीय निकाय की श्रेणी में चंडीगढ़ नगर निगम ने बाजी मारी है। दूसरे स्थान पर इंदौर नगर निगम रहा, जबकि तीसरे स्थान पर संयुक्त रूप से सूरत नगर निगम तथा महाराष्ट्र की मलकापुर नगर परिषद (सतारा) है। जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा

संरक्षण विभाग के सचिव पंकज कुमार ने कहा कि यह समारोह सभी विजेताओं, प्रतिभागियों और विभिन्न संगठनों को एक मजबूत साझेदारी के साथ आगे बढ़ने और जल संरक्षण के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने का अवसर प्रदान करेगा। राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार 2018 में शुरू किए गए थे।