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Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Water Dispute

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Why in News

Amid escalating tensions, the Police forces were deployed at various hydel power projects in bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

- Andhra Pradesh has complained to the **Krishna River Management Board (KRMB)** about the drawing of water from the **Srisaïlam project** by Telangana for power generation.
- The KRMB, in its recent orders, had asked Telangana to stop power generation. The tension has emerged over defiance of orders of the **KRBM** by Telangana Government.

Key Points

- **About Dispute:**

- Telangana and Andhra Pradesh share stretches of the **Krishna and the Godavari** and own their tributaries.
- Both states have proposed several new projects without getting clearance from the river boards, the **Central Water Commission** and the **Apex Council**, as mandated by the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**.
 - **The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014** mandates for the constitution of an Apex Council by the Central Government for the supervision of the functioning of the **Godavari River Management Board** and **Krishna River Management Board**.
 - The **Apex Council comprises** the **Union Water Resources Minister** and the **Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The Andhra Pradesh government's proposal to increase the utilisation of the Krishna water from a section of the river above the **Srisailem Reservoir** led to the Telangana government filing a complaint against Andhra Pradesh.

The Srisailem reservoir is constructed across the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh. It is located in the **Nallamala hills**.
- The Andhra Pradesh government retaliated with its own complaints saying that **Palamuru-Rangareddy, Dindi Lift Irrigation Schemes** on the Krishna river and **Kaleshwaram, Tupakulagudem schemes** and a few barrages proposed **across the Godavari** are all new projects.

- **Inter-State River Water Disputes:**

- **Article 262** of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of **inter-state water disputes**.
 - Under this, Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
 - Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.
- The Parliament has enacted the two laws, the **River Boards Act (1956)** and the **Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)**.
- The **River Boards Act** provides for the establishment of river boards by the Central government for the regulation and development of inter-state river and river valleys.

A River Board is established on the request of state governments concerned to advise them.
- The **Inter-State Water Disputes Act** empowers the Central government to set up an **ad hoc tribunal** for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley.
 - The decision of the tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute.
 - **Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court** is to have jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act.

Godavari River

- **Source:** Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra and flows for a length of about 1465 km before outfalling into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Drainage Basin:** The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Union territory of Puducherry.
- **Tributaries:** Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri

Krishna River

- **Source:** It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra. It is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- **Drainage:** It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Tributaries:** Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

Source: TH