



Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)

For Prelims: Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Bhakra Nangal Dam, Indus Water Treaty.

For Mains: Indus Water Treaty and related issues, Government Policies & Interventions.

Why in News?

Recently, the Central government has decided to adopt a **new criterion for selecting members of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)**.

What Changes have been made to the BBMB rules?

- A notification has been issued to amend the **BBMB Rules 1974**, thereby **changing the criteria for the selection** of whole-time members of the Board.
 - As per the **BBMB Rules, 1974**, the member (power) in BBMB was from Punjab and the member (irrigation) was from Haryana but the requirement has been removed in the amended rules.
- New rules **specify technical qualifications for the appointments** and pave the way for appointment of the **members from across India and not only Punjab and Haryana**.
- The new rules have been **opposed by the engineers' fraternity, farmers** as well as the **political parties of Punjab**.
 - The engineers have pointed out that **hardly any engineer would qualify for appointment as per the new specifications**, which appear to be tailor-made for some personnel to be appointed from outside Punjab and Haryana.
- On the other hand, officials have argued that the changes have been made in **pursuance to a judgement of the Punjab and Haryana High Court** in the case of **Jagmohan Singh Vs Union of India**.

What is the Genesis of the BBMB?

- The genesis of BBMB lies in the **Indus Water Treaty** signed between **India and Pakistan in 1960**.
 - Under the treaty, waters of three eastern rivers— Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — were allotted to India for exclusive use while Indus, Chenab and Jhelum rivers were allocated to Pakistan.
- In India, a master plan was drawn to harness the potential of these rivers for providing assured irrigation, power generation and flood control.
 - **Bhakra and Beas projects** form a major part of this plan and were established as a joint venture of the then undivided Punjab and Rajasthan.
- Following the reorganisation of Punjab on 1st November 1966, and the creation of the state of Haryana, the **Bhakra Management Board** was constituted under Section 79 of the **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**.
- The administration, maintenance and operation of Bhakra Nangal project was handed over to **Bhakra Management** on 1st October 1967.
- The Beas Project Works, on completion, were transferred from **Beas Construction Board (BCB)**

to **Bhakra Management Board** as per the provisions of Section 80 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966.

- Pursuant to this **Bhakra Management Board was renamed as Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** w.e.f. 15th May 1976.

- Since then, **BBMB regulates supply of water and power** to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Chandigarh.

What is the Constitution of the BBMB Management?

- It includes a **chairperson and two whole time members** who are from the partner states of Punjab and Haryana.
 - They are designated as **Member (Power) and Member (Irrigation)** from Punjab and Haryana, respectively.
- There is representation from **each member state including Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh** as nominated by the respective state governments.
- The total strength of BBMB is about **12,000 employees** and out of these 696 are Group A officers and are posted from the partner states.

What is the Beas Project?

- The Beas-Satluj link scheme **consists of a 76.2 m high rockfill diversion dam at Pandoh on Beas River in Mandi district (HP).**
- **Pong is a multipurpose earth & rockfill dam on Beas River**, 40 km from Mukerian, Mukerian District, Himachal Pradesh. It is **located in the Himalayan foot-hills downstream of Pandoh dam.** BBMB commissioned the project in 1978-83.

What are the Features of the Bhakra Nangal Dam?

- Bhakra Dam is a **concrete gravity dam across the [Sutlej River](#) and is near the border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** in northern India.
- It is **India's second tallest at 225.55 m high next to the 261m Tehri Dam.**
- Its reservoir, **known as the "Gobind Sagar"**, stores up to 9.34 billion cubic meters of water.
- **Nangal dam is another dam** downstream of Bhakra dam. Sometimes both the dams together are called Bhakra-Nangal dam though they are two separate dams.



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