



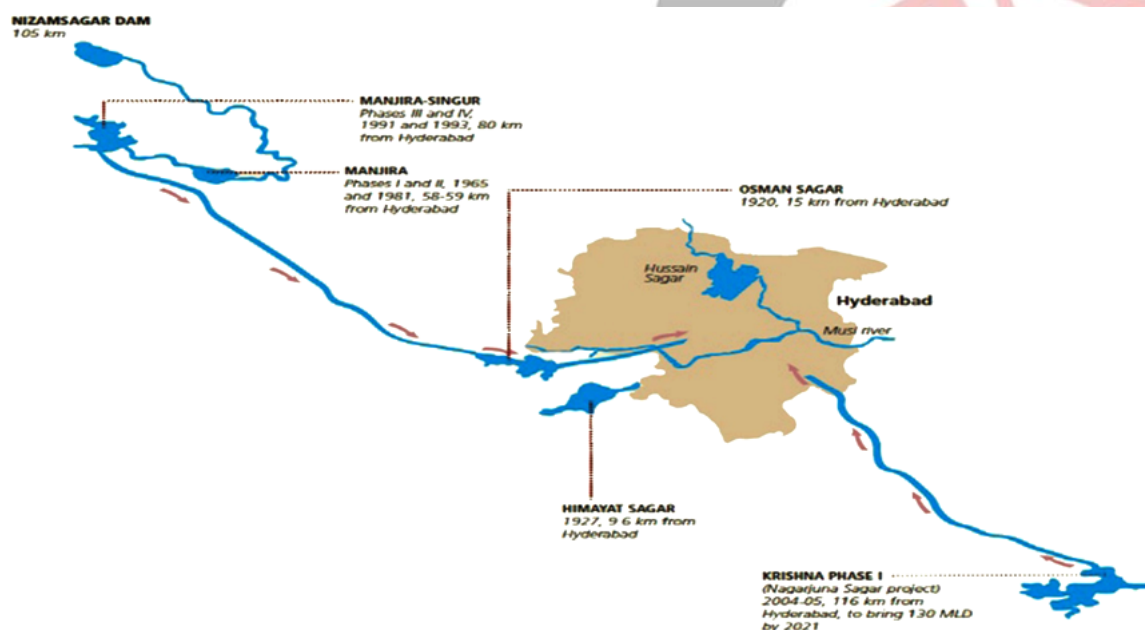
GO 111

For Prelims: Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs

For Mains: GO 111, Conservation

Why in News?

Environmentalists and activists are criticizing the Telangana government for withdrawing an over 25-year-old government order (GO) 111 protecting the historic Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs in Hyderabad, which they say will destroy the fragile surrounding ecosystem.



What was the government order that protected the two lakes?

- On 8th March, 1996, the government of erstwhile (undivided) Andhra Pradesh had issued **GO 111 prohibiting development or construction works in the catchment area of the Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar lakes** up to a radius of 10 km.
- The GO prohibited the setting up of industries, residential colonies, hotels, etc. which cause pollution.
- The aim of the restrictions was to **protect the catchment area, and to keep the reservoirs pollution-free.**
 - The lakes had been supplying water to Hyderabad for nearly 70 years and were the main source of drinking water for the city at the time.

When and why were these reservoirs constructed?

- The reservoirs were created by **building dams on the Musi** (also known as Moosa or Muchkunda) river, a **major tributary of the Krishna**, to protect Hyderabad from floods.
- The proposal to build the dams came after a major flood during the reign of the sixth nizam Mahbub Ali Khan (1869-1911) in 1908, in which more than 15,000 people were killed.
- The lakes came into being during the reign of the last nizam, Osman Ali Khan (1911-48). Osman Sagar was completed in 1921, and Himayat Sagar in 1927. The nizam's guesthouse at Osman Sagar is now a heritage building.

Why has the government withdrawn GO 111?

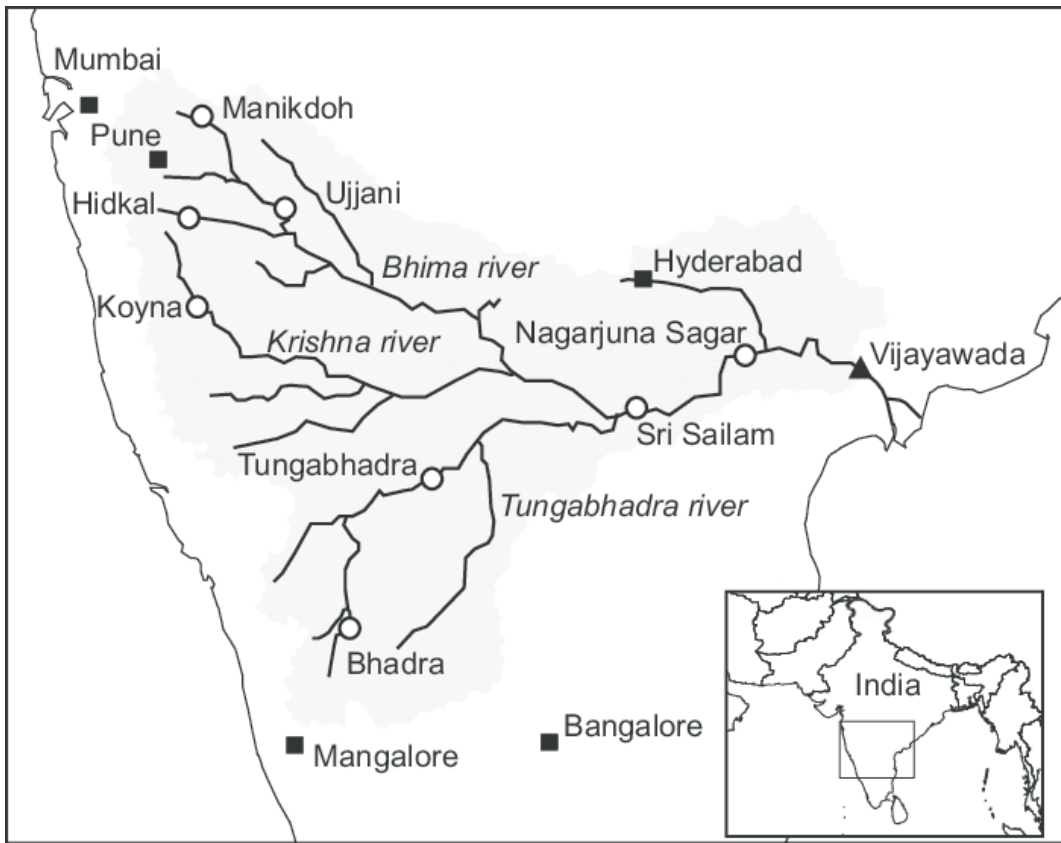
- The city **no longer depends on these two reservoirs** for water supply, and there was no need to continue with the restrictions on development in the catchment radius.
- Hyderabad's drinking water **requirement has increased to more than 600 Million Gallons per Day (MGD), which is being drawn from other sources** including the Krishna river.

What are environmentalists and activists saying?

- They are still an **important water source for the city**.
- A huge concrete jungle will come up around them. It seems the powerful real estate lobby put a lot of pressure.
- There are already over 10,000 illegal constructions around the two lakes.
- The reservoirs, located in the southwest direction of the city, also **provide quality wind during the southwest monsoon**. Any kind of pollution in those areas would affect the wind quality.
- The **Murugavani National Park** between the twin reservoirs and the entire area acts as a heat absorption unit for the city and if that is allowed to get concretised, the city would become a furnace.

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.



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