



Water Storage Caution by Bhakra Beas Management Board

Why in News?

Recently, [the Bhakra Beas Management Board \(BBMB\)](#) advised its member states to project their water demands cautiously, citing **low water storage levels** and forecasts of below-normal rainfall.

- [The India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) predicts that **North India will receive 86% below the long-period average rainfall** from January to March 2025.

Key Points

- **Bhakra and Pong Dam Levels:**
 - **Bhakra Dam** on [the Sutlej](#) is at 43% of its total capacity.
 - **Pong Dam** on [the Beas](#) is at 30% of its total capacity.
 - According to [the Central Water Commission \(CWC\)](#), both levels are below the 10-year average.
- **Advisory to Member States:**
 - The **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** informed **Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan** about the low water availability.
 - BBMB advised these states to adjust their water demands accordingly to address the situation.

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.

Pong Dam



- **In 1975**, Pong dam was built across **the Beas River**. It is also called the Pong reservoir or **the Maharana Pratap Sagar**.
- **In 1983**, the entire reservoir was **declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government**.
- **In 1994**, the Government of India declared it a **“Wetland of National Importance”**. Pong Dam Lake was declared as **Ramsar Site** in November 2002.

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