



Water Sharing Issues

Why in News?

Punjab and Haryana clashed over water sharing after the [Bhakra Beas Management Board \(BBMB\)](#) decided to release water to Haryana.

Key Points

- **BBMB Decides to Release Water to Haryana:**
 - On April 30, the BBMB decided to release 8,500 cusecs of water to Haryana.
 - The decision followed Haryana's demand for drinking water amid rising summer needs.
 - BBMB manages water from **Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar dams**, supplying Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan for irrigation and other uses.
- **Punjab's Allegations on Water Share Misuse:**
 - According to Punjab Chief Minister, Haryana exhausted its annual water quota (May 21-May 20 cycle) by March 2025.
 - He accused Haryana of now trying to grab extra water at Punjab's expense.
 - He said Punjab holds a 60% stake in BBMB, and releasing water without its consent is "dictatorial and undemocratic."

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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.