

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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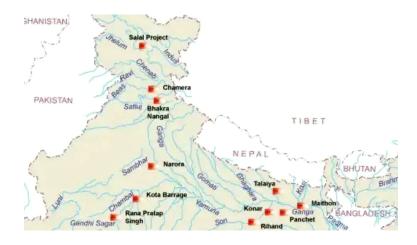
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Bhakra Nangal Dam



- 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.

The Vision

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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