

Lendi Irrigation Project & Babhali Dam

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Infrastructure

Why in News?

Recently, the Minister of State for Jal Shakti has provided an update regarding the Lendi major irrigation project and Babhali dam.

Lendi Project

- **Location** - It is an interstate major irrigation project **between Maharashtra & Telangana**, with headworks in Maharashtra's Nanded district.
- **Agreement** - Signed in 2003, to implement the project as a **joint venture**.
- **Purpose** - To provide irrigation for 49,000 acres, with 22,000 acres in Telangana and 27,000 acres in Maharashtra.
- **Status** - The project has experienced **significant delays**, with works being slow to complete, leading to increased costs.
- **Financing** - Maharashtra is responsible for dam and headworks construction, with a payment from Telangana as per the 2003 agreement.
- **Water allocation** - Total water storage capacity is 6.36 Thousand Million Cubic (TMC), with 2.43 TMC allocated to Telangana & remaining 3.93 TMC for Maharashtra.
- **Overseen by** - An **Interstate Board for Joint Irrigation Projects** was set up to oversee planning and construction.

Babhali dam

- **Location** - It is a *controversial reservoir project* on the **Godavari River** in the Nanded district of **Maharashtra**, approximately 30 km from the **Telangana border**.
- **Purpose** - Primarily intended to provide drinking water and irrigate around 8,000 hectares of land in Maharashtra's drought-prone

Marathwada region.

- **Capacity** - Maharashtra is authorized to store up to 2.74 tmc of water at the barrage for its use.
- **Dispute** - Telangana complained that the barrage would interfere with the water flow to the **Sriram Sagar Project (SSP)**, located downstream in Telangana.
- **Current status** - Gates are now opened and closed by mutual agreement, with the gates opened in July 2024 to ensure downstream water supply.
- **Regulated by** - A **Supervisory Committee** with officials from the Central Water Commission, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

References

1. [PIB | Lendi major irrigation project and Babhali dam](#)
2. [Telangana State Portal | Lendi Project](#)
3. [Indian Express | Babhali dam](#)

