

Lendi Irrigation Project & Babhali Dam

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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 <u>between</u> <u>Maharashtra & Telangana</u>, 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 <u>Godavari River</u> in the Nanded district of <u>Maharashtra</u>, approximately 30 km from the <u>Telangana border</u>.
- 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

