

Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The Supreme Court recently disposed of a writ petition filed by Telangana against the Union government and the state of Andhra Pradesh over the proposed expansion of the Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project.

- It is a proposal to divert surplus **Godavari River water** via the Polavaram dam to the **drought-prone Rayalaseema region** through the Krishna and Penna basins.
- It is also known as Polavaram-Nallamalasagar Link Project.

Godavari River originates in the Western Ghats, flows through Maharashtra, and drains into the Bay of Bengal.

- **Approved in** - 2009.
- **Aim** - To irrigate lands and provide drinking water.
- **Governed by** - The Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award.
- **Technical clearances issued by** - The Central Water Commission.
- **Legal Provision** - India's framework for resolving interstate river disputes is based on the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
- Under this law, when states fail to resolve water sharing disagreements, the Union government can constitute a tribunal, whose award is final and binding, with the force of a SC decree.
- It was under this law that the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) and the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) were constituted in 1969.
- **Initial Permission** - Polavaram was initially permitted to divert 80 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water from the Godavari to the Krishna River.
- **Telangana's opposition** - It faces strong opposition from Telangana, which argues it violates water-sharing laws from the AP Reorganisation Act.
- Andhra Pradesh has maintained that the diversion involves only "flood" or

“surplus” waters of the Godavari.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project](#)

