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Context: A new inter-state water dispute has arisen between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh regarding the Banakacherla reservoir project, with Telangana accusing the other state of breaching the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.



About Banakacherla Project:

- The Banakacherla Reservoir Project is an irrigation initiative proposed by the Andhra Pradesh government, designed to redirect surplus water from the Godavari River to mitigate drought conditions in Rayalaseema.

Location:

- Ø Banakacherla, Nandyal district, Andhra Pradesh
- Ø The project intends to channel water from the Godavari through the Krishna River system.

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States Involved: Andhra Pradesh (the state implementing the project) and Telangana (the state opposing it).

Project Features:

River Diversion Plan:

- Increases the capacity of the Polavaram Right Main Canal (from 17,500 to 38,000 cusecs).
- Boosts the Thatipudi Lift Canal capacity (from 1,400 to 10,000 cusecs).
- Establishes a reservoir at Bollapalli to lift and direct water to Banakacherla via a tunnel through the Nallamala forest.

Lift Points:

- Five significant lift stations: Harischandrapuram, Lingapuram, Vyyandana, Gangireddypalem, and Nakirekallu.

Linking Rivers:

- Links the Godavari to the Krishna and Penna rivers, facilitating water transfer to Rayalaseema.
- Key Issues Raised by Telangana:
- **Violation of the Reorganisation Act:** Telangana asserts that the project contravenes the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, which requires prior approvals for inter-basin projects.
- **Lack of Regulatory Approvals:** The project has not obtained clearance from the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), Godavari River Management Board (GRMB), or the Central Water Commission (CWC).



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- **Godavari Tribunal Allocation Ignored:** Telangana was allocated 968 TMCft out of 1,486 TMCft by the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal, and the surplus estimation has not been formalized.
- **Threat to Telangana Projects:** Telangana is concerned that the diversion will adversely affect its irrigation schemes and reservoirs that rely on Godavari water.