

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

What is the issue?

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The execution of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) is very significant for Telangana.

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What is Lift irrigation?

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- When the main source is at the lower level than the supply level, then water cannot be transported by natural flow.

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- So when water is supplied through some mechanical means, then it is known as lift irrigation.

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- Pumps are used to lift the water from canals or rivers at lower level to the area at higher level for irrigation purpose.

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What is Kaleshwaram project?

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- In 2007, when Andhra Pradesh was not divided Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme taken up to utilise the water of Pranhita tributary of Godavari river.

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- After the formation of Telangana in 2014, the present government redesigned the project.

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- The reason they stated for doing it was that the original plan had too many environmental obstacles and had very low water storage provision.

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- After conducting **Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey**, the government separated the project into two.
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- The original component serving the Adilabad area was called the Pranahitha project.
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- The rest was renamed as Kaleshwaram by redesigning the head works, storage capacity and the canal system.
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- The Kaleshwaram project has provision for the storage of about 148 tmc ft with plans of utilising 180 tmc ft by lifting at least 2 tmc ft water every day for 90 flood days.
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Why it is important?

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- It has the longest tunnel to carry water in Asia - 81 km between the Yellampally barrage and the Mallannasagar reservoir.
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- It has the estimated cost of Rs.80,500 crore, the costliest irrigation project to be taken up by any State.
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- The project is designed to irrigate around 7.4 lakh hectares lands.
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What are the problems?

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- The project requires a total of 32,000 hectares.
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- A section of farmers have been opposing the land acquisition.
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- Also it needs various clearances and permissions simultaneously from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest and the Central Water Commission.
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Source: The Hindu

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