

## **Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards**

### **Why in news?**

The Centre (Union Ministry of Jal Shakti) has notified the jurisdiction of Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards (KRMB and GRMB).

### **What is the long-drawn dispute between A.P. and Telangana?**

- The dispute between the two States over project works and hydel generation at Srisailem, Nagarjunsagar and Pulichintals reservoirs was going on for long.
- Andhra Pradesh has been demanding notification of the boards' purview for long.
- But Telangana has been opposing it.
- It feels that handing over projects' operation without clarity on the States' share of water would be meaningless.
- Andhra Pradesh has been proposing a few projects, including a lift irrigation scheme for Rayalaseema.
- In turn, Telangana has been coming up with half-a-dozen projects of its own.
- It has been 7 years since the boards were constituted under the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- The Centre has only notified now the jurisdiction of Krishna and Godavari River Management Boards (KRMB and GRMB).

### **What does this mean?**

- The notification transfers to the Boards the operation of all projects in the two river basins in A.P. and Telangana effective from October 14, 2021.
- The operations include the generation of hydel power.
- The two river boards can now administer, regulate, operate and maintain 36 projects in the Krishna Basin and 71 in the Godavari.
- The Boards are empowered to operate the headworks of barrages, dams, reservoirs, regulating structures, part of canal network, transmission lines and the power houses at the projects.
- The notification authorises the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to assist the KRMB in the day-to-day management.
- This applies to the specified projects and other works related to security assigned by the KRMB.

## What are the challenges?

- The Centre's efforts are aimed at defusing the increasing tension between the two States over water sharing and power generation.
- But implementation is bound to face challenges as regulation of water is going to be a tough job.
- This is especially given the absence of clarity on water share of the two States as also the project-wise allocation.
- [Project-wise supply for irrigation and drinking needs as also hydel generation at projects]

## What lies ahead?

- The arrangement is expected to leave the working of Water Resources or Irrigation Department in the States intact.
- The Centre must now see to it that the empowered Boards function in a fair manner.
- Notably, the Union government's decision will be final with regard to matters concerning jurisdiction of the two bodies.
- Both States have their own justification to pursue new water and power projects as several areas await economic development.
- At the same time, the two States should instead focus on water and energy conservation.
- They should pay attention to improving the efficiency of irrigation schemes and hydel reservoirs.

**Source: The Hindu**

