

Water Storage Caution by Bhakra Beas Management Board

Why in News?

Recently, <u>the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)</u> advised its member states to project their water demands cautiously, citing **low water storage levels** and forecasts of below-normal rainfall.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts that North India will receive 86% below the long-period average rainfall from January to March 2025.

Key Points

- Bhakra and Pong Dam Levels:
 - Bhakra Dam on the Sutlet is at 43% of its total capacity.
 - Pong Dam on the Beas is at 30% of its total capacity.
 - According to <u>the Central Water Commission (CWC)</u>, both levels are below the 10-year average.
- Advisory to Member States:
 - The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) informed Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan about the low water availability.
 - BBMB advised these states to adjust their water demands accordingly to address the situation.

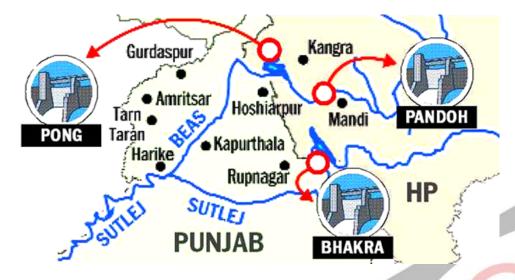
Bhakra Nangal Dam



 Bhakra Dam is a concrete gravity dam across the Sutlej River and is near the border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in northern India.

- It is India's second tallest at 225.55 m high next to the 261m Tehri Dam.
- Its reservoir, **known as the "Gobind Sagar"**, stores up to 9.34 billion cubic meters of water.
- **Nangal dam is another dam** downstream of Bhakra dam. Sometimes both the dams together are called Bhakra-Nangal dam though they are two separate dams.

Pong Dam



- In 1975, Pong dam was built across the Beas River. It is also called the Pong reservoir or the Maharana Pratap Sagar.
- In 1983, the entire reservoir was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government.
- In 1994, the Government of India declared it a "Wetland of National Importance". Pong Dam Lake was declared as Ramsar Site in November 2002.

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