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PRANAHITA CHEVELLA

Pranahita Chevella lift irrigation scheme is a lift irrigation scheme to harness the water of Pranhita tributary of Godavari river for use in the Telangana state of India. Under Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award agreements, Maharashtra state earlier agreed for construction of barrages by the undivided Andhra Pradesh state across the Pranhita river which is forming common boundary between the two states.

Pranahita-Chevella link, also called as Dr. B.R Ambedkar Pranahitha Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project, has been in limelight for many reasons for many years. The project was proposed by former united Andhra Pradesh Government (and is now a part of Telangana State) and has been a part of the infamous Jalayagnam project launched by the then-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh late Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. The project envisages utilising 160 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic Feet, to be lifted in 90 days) of water from River Pranahita which is a major tributary of Godavari River, for a number of purposes. Part of Pranahita water will also be transferred into the Krishna Basin too.

The Pranhita-Chevella project will be submerging significant portion of the Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary which spreads on 139.44 sq km along right bank of Pranhita River in Gadchiroli District. As told by the Range Forest Officer at Alapalli this sanctuary is also an important corridor for tiger movement. The sanctuary is home to the Giant Indian Squirrel which is the State animal of Maharashtra that is dwindling in number along with variety of wild animals such as wild boar, chital, jackal, langur, peacock, jungle cat, hare, wolf, owl, sloth bear, wild dog, black buck and mongoose

S.No	Canal	Canal Length (KM)
1	From Barrage on Pranahita near Tummididi Hatti to Sripada Sagar Reservoir at Yelampalli on Godavari main river	116.00
2	From Sripada Rao Sagar Reservoir at Yelampalli to Mid Manair Reservoir on Maner River	36.63
3	From Mid Manair Reservoir to Upper Manair Reservoir	44.15
4	From Mid Manair Reservoir to Thipparam Reservoir	70.60
5	From Thipparam Reservoir to Chaitalya	125.70
6	From Thipparam Reservoir to Chevella	327.95
7	From Sripada Sagar Reservoir to Nijamsagar Canal From Sripada Sagar Reservoir to Masani-Manachi	333.87
	Total length of Canal	1054.70

The project plans to lift 160 TMC water from Pranahita River to irrigate a command area of a whopping 16,40,000 acres in seven districts in Telangana including Adilabad, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Warangal, Karimnagar and Rangareddy Districts using 124 TMC water for irrigation, provide 10 TMC water to en route villages, 30 TMC drinking water to Hyderabad & Secunderabad and 16 TMC water for industrial use. Project involves at least 19 lifts

According to the CAG's Performance Audit report of 2012 for Andhra Pradesh Jalayagnam project, the project cost was Rs 38,500 crores as per Dec 2008 prices and Rs 2205 crores were already spent at the time of public hearing. Project required 34,000 ha of land as per the CAG report and about 1100 ha of land was acquired. The CAG report says (Chapter 5): "The DPR was submitted in April 2010 while the project works were awarded during May 2008 to May 2009. While most of the agreements stipulated completion period as four years, the DPR, which was prepared later, stipulated the completion period of the project as eight years... As per the DPR of Pranahita Chevella, a total extent of 6140 acres will be submerged due to this project, out of which, 5247 acres (85.45 per cent! 2123.4 hectares) falls within Maharashtra.

Inland fish production and fisher population of the districts affected by Pranhita-Chewella Project

Sr. No.	District Name	Inland fish and prawn production (Tonnes)	Fisher population	Members of the fishing community (Including marketing, repair of fishing instruments etc.
1	Rangareddy	5,827	6,000	7,500
2	Medak	16,669	18,000	36,248
3	Nizamabad	23,669	50,000	26,422
4	Adilabad	23,741	42,120	20,138
5	Nalgonda	33,525	40,081	40,081
6	Karimnagar	27,048	3,000	39,228
7	Warangal	22,687	34,513	38,655

Is the project feasible?

Feasibility of the project is questionable for multiple reasons. Project proposes to lift water from Pranhita River and crossing the ridge line of Godavari Basin near Narsapur village in Medak District of Telangana release it in Krishna Basin in a proposed barrage at Chevella. Elevation of Pranhita River at Tummididi Hatti is 150 mts and the level at Chevella is 600 mts[15]. In between, water has to be lifted at many elevated places.

Average pumping head of the project is 530 mts and total pumping head for the project is 1270 mts. The project requires an unbelievable 3,466 MW of power which is about one third of total installed capacity of the state. Annual electricity requirement is of 7.5 billion KWhr. According to Forum for Action Research and Policy Analysis (FARPA) the project is technically and economically unviable.

Conclusion

Pranahitha Chevella Project is being pushed violating environmental laws and with a complete disregard of its social and environmental impacts. Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change needs to take a serious note of this, ask for its immediate stoppage and set up an enquiry as to how the project work has been going on without any of the statutory clearances and take action against those responsible.

Maharashtra Government, on its part, needs to transparently and urgently share impacts of this project with the affected people as well as citizens at large. It also needs

to justify why it is supporting a project which will submerge two of its important protected areas, thousands of hectares of forests and unknown, uncounted tribal communities who have been facing enough hardships already.

Latest Development:

The Government of Telangana appears to have come to a conclusion on changing both the design and nomenclature of the Pranahita-Chevella project, suggested the name of Kaleshwaram, a place in Karimnagar district where river Pranahita confluences with Godavari, to the project and constructing barrage there to lift the intended 165 TMC of water so that it would not have any inter-State dispute with Maharashtra. In the existing design, a barrage has been proposed at Tummid-Hetti villages in Telangana-Maharashtra.

Maharashtra has been objecting to the 152-meter full reservoir level of the barrage proposed by the combined Andhra Pradesh Government (now Telangana) stating that it would submerge a large chunk of land (about 2,000 acres) in its territory.

It has not been agreeing to the offer of high compensation made by the Telangana Government on the premises that it had promised the people of the area that it would not accept the FRL of 152 meters. The Telangana Chief Minister, particularly after talks with his Maharashtra counterpart in Mumbai recently, has been insisting on changing the design of the project stating that another feasible alternative design was possible. He is of the opinion that the cost of construction to lift water from Tummid-Hetti to Yellampalli reservoir, a distance of 116-km, was Rs.18,800 crore while the alternative barrage would bring down the distance to 70-km and the cost to about Rs.11,000 crore in addition to avoiding inter-State dispute with Maharashtra.

In the review meeting, the Chief Minister said designs of irrigation projects of Telangana prepared in combined AP had a conspiracy to keeping them incomplete with inter-State disputes and Pranahita-Chevella was the best example.

Construction of a barrage at Kaleshwaram linking Pranahita and Godavari would avoid all sorts of disputes with Maharashtra, he noted.

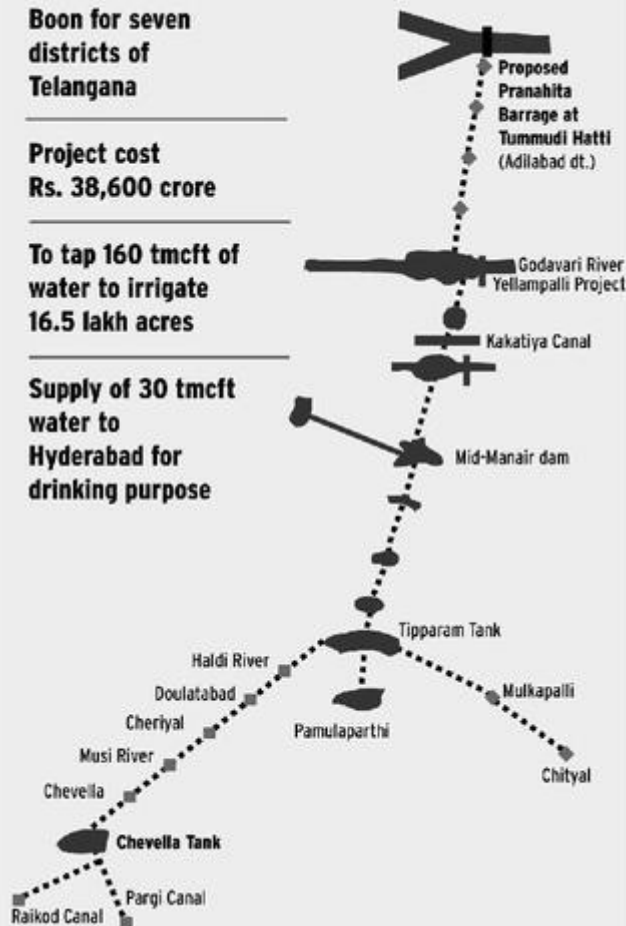
PRANAHITA-CHEVELLA PROJECT

Boon for seven districts of Telangana

Project cost
Rs. 38,600 crore

To tap 160 tmcft of water to irrigate 16.5 lakh acres

Supply of 30 tmcft water to Hyderabad for drinking purpose



PRANAHITA-CHEVELLA PROJECT

FROM MAHARASHTRA

Link-I: Pranahita River to Sripada Yellampally Barrage

Link-II: Sripada Yellampally Barrage to Mid Manair Reservoir

Link-III: Mid Manair Reservoir to Upper Manair Reservoir

Link-IV: Mid Manair Reservoir to Pamulaparthi Reservoir

Link-V: Tipparam Reservoir to Chityala

Link-VI: Tipparam Reservoir to Chevela Reservoir

Link-VII: SRSP Foreshore to Nizamsagar Canals and Nirmal & Mudhole Constituencies

