

Governors can't sit over Bills endlessly: SC judges

Three judges say that Governors could neither delay indefinitely the legislature's wisdom nor impede Constitution's functioning; T.N. says Governors 'cannot assume to be royalty in a Republic'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Three of the five judges on the Presidential Reference Bench on Tuesday orally observed along with the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal that Governors could not sit endlessly over Bills placed before them for assent.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justices Vikram Nath and P.S. Narasimha separately remarked that Governors could neither delay the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely nor impede the functioning of the Constitution. "No organ can impair the functioning of the Constitution," Justice Narasimha said.

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocates



No organ can impair the functioning of the Constitution
JUSTICE P.S. NARASIMHA
Supreme Court judge



Governor cannot sit over the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely
JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH
Supreme Court judge

A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, said Governors "cannot assume to be royalty in a Republic". Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal, submitted that high offices under the Constitution must work collaboratively and not combatively with each other.

"When the Constitution is clear that a Governor

should act with immediacy, why should he hold back Bills? There is a sense of urgency associated with the Governor's assent. Legislation is a sovereign act. It cannot wait," Mr. Sibal emphasised.

Mr. Singhvi said that Bills were meant to realise the felt necessity of the times.

Arlekar moves SC against CM's role in selecting V-Cs

NEW DELHI

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to exclude the State Chief Minister from the process to select the Vice-Chancellors for two State-run universities.

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Mr. Sibal argued that "absurdity" would follow if the court agreed with the Centre's argument that Governors had absolute power to withhold State Bills under Article 200 (Governors' power to assent to Bills).

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Governors can't sit over Bills endlessly: SC judges

Countering the Centre, he said States cannot go in search of political solutions to coax Governors' assent. Gubernatorial delay thwarts the constitutional scheme, he said. "This Constitution has its genesis in history, but its alignment is with the future... And who decides the future of this country? You five in this case. The future of India is at stake if you give such absurd powers to the Governor," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The Bench is hearing a Presidential Reference of May questioning time limits placed on the Governors and the President to deal with State Bills.

The Reference followed an April 8 judgment pronounced by a two-judge Bench of the apex court in the case of the Tamil Nadu Governor, who had delayed assent to 10 State Bills since 2020. The Division Bench had imposed a three-month deadline for the President and Governors to decide the fate of the Bills. If the Bills were left pending beyond three months, they would be "deemed" to have received assent and become laws.

The Bench, however, expressed doubts about the court imposing "general" time limits on the President and Governors and granting "deemed assent" to Bills. "What happens if the time limit of three months set by the Supreme Court [in the TN Governor judgment] is not followed by the President or Governors," Justice Nath asked. He queried why it was "deemed assent" alone. "Why cannot the other options – withholding assent or reference to the President – also be "deemed".

Justice Narasimha said time limits could be prescribed in individual cases after considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of each.

Chief Justice Gavai said a broad brushstroke of a "general" timeline applicable to all cases of delay may amount to overreaching by the judiciary. "Timelines help in maintaining discipline and immediacy. This dispute began with individual cases. Kerala and Tamil Nadu came with their own cases. However, the problem [gubernatorial delay] has proven to be endemic and repetitive," Mr. Singhvi said explaining the reason for the Tamil Nadu Governor case judgment fixing a "general" three-month deadline.

Mr. Sibal said the sovereign act of the legislation cannot be impaired by a recalcitrant Governor. "He cannot say 'I choose to sit back and do nothing'. The Governor is not a postman. He has certain play in the joints. If he feels a Bill requires consideration by the President, the Governor can consult lawyers, etc, and refer it...," he said.

Kerala Governor moves SC on CM role in selecting V-Cs

Arlekar says the State Universities Act does not envisage role for CM in choosing Vice-Chancellors; says UGC rules vest authority in Chancellor/Governor; plea seeks to implead the UGC in the case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to exclude the State Chief Minister from the process to select the Vice Chancellors (V-Cs) for A.P.J Abdul Kalam Technological University and Digital University Kerala.

The Governor, who is also the Chancellor of the two State-run universities, said neither the A.P.J Abdul Kalam Technological University Act nor the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act envisaged a role for the Chief Minister in the selection of V-Cs.

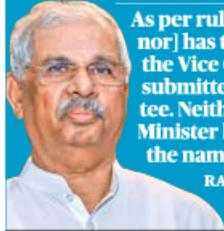
He further indicated that the Chief Minister's involvement in the process would amount to a person judging his own cause, which was barred by the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations.

'No role for CM'

"The Chief Minister being the Executive Head of the State is connected with the number of government colleges, managed by the government and affiliated to the university. Therefore, as per UGC regulations he cannot have any role whatsoever in the appointment of Vice Chancellors," the Governor said in an application filed in his capacity as Chancellor.

The application sought modification of parts of the

The UGC regulations highlight the independence and autonomy of the universities by excluding any role to the State Government. The CM cannot have any role whatsoever in the appointment of Vice Chancellors



As per rules, the Chancellor [Governor] has the prerogative to select the Vice Chancellor from the list submitted by the search committee. Neither the State nor the Chief Minister had any role in finalising the name

RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR
Kerala Governor

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Supreme Court's August 18 order, which had appointed former top court judge, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, as chairperson of the search-cum-selection committees for the appointments. The order had been intended to break the impasse between the State government and the Governor over the issue.

The order had also allowed members of the search panel to be drawn from names suggested by both the Kerala government and the Chancellor.

While clarifying that he had no objections to Justice Dhulia, the Governor opposed the inclusion of State nominees on the panel. The application said the UGC regulations required search committee members to be "persons of eminence in the sphere of higher education and not connected in any manner with the University concerned or its colleges".

"The UGC regulations

highlight the independence and autonomy of the universities by excluding any role to the State Government. The State Universities Act, in the present case, also contemplate the independence and autonomy of the two Universities. Both the University Acts do not provide any role for the Minister or the Chief Minister in the matter of selection and appointment of the Vice Chancellors," the Governor/Chancellor contended.

'Bring UGC onboard'

The Governor also filed a separate application seeking a judicial direction to implead the UGC in the case.

He said there was a mandatory requirement to include a nominee of the UGC chairperson in the search panels. The Supreme Court had itself held that V-C appointments had to strictly follow the UGC Regulations of

Minister says plea in SC 'regrettable'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Higher Education Minister R. Bindu said the LDF govt. does not want to turn universities into "conflict zones". Things should be dealt with by consensus, she said, adding that the Governor's plea is "utmost regrettable". Any attempt to keep the CM away from the procedures of the university is "very childish". PTI

2018. The regulations provide that the list of names of prospective V-C candidates should be placed before the Chancellor by the search committee. Neither the State nor the Chief Minister, the application said, had any role in finalising the name.

"As per UGC Regulations the Chancellor is having the prerogative to select the Vice Chancellor from the list submitted by the search committee," it said. The list provided by the committee should not be a "rank list" of candidates, the Governor argued, as this would violate the discretion vested in the Chancellor. The panel should instead provide three to five names, all deemed suitable, leaving the final choice to the Chancellor.

The application argued that while the Chancellor is also the Governor of the State, he is not expected to act on the advice of the Cabinet in V-C appointments.



India sets eyes on \$1-trn semiconductor market; PM promises faster approvals

Saptaparno Ghosh

NEW DELHI

India will soon hold a significant share in the global semiconductor market, which is set to reach \$1 trillion in size, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, adding that the government is working to ensure faster approvals to reduce the time it takes to start manufacturing semiconductors in India.

He added that work was “under way” on the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission.

Speaking at the 2025 edition of Semicon India, the annual semiconductor



Focus area: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the gathering at the Semicon India 2025 in New Delhi. PTI

conference, the Prime Minister noted that India had achieved a GDP growth rate of 7.8% even as the rest of the world was mired in

“self-interest”, adding that this growth had come from across sectors.

“In 2025, we gave clearance to five more projects

to bring the cumulative count to 10 projects,” Mr. Modi said. “These projects have drawn a combined investment of \$18 billion or ₹1.5 lakh crore. This is reflective of the world’s confidence in India.”

‘Key economic drivers’

Semiconductor chips are the “digital diamonds” and the most important economic drivers of the 21st century, the Prime Minister said, in much the same way as crude oil drove growth in the previous century.

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India sets eyes on \$1-trn semiconductor market

“The shorter the time from file to factory, and the lesser the paperwork, the sooner wafer work can begin,” Mr. Modi said, explaining the government’s approach. In this regard, the national single window system enables access to all approvals from both the Centre and States on a single platform, he said.

It is time for “execution with precision” and delivery on scale, the Prime Minister said. He emphasised that the government’s policies were not directed at “short-term signals but long-term commitments”, assuring the semiconductor ecosystem in India of his full support.

“The days are not far when the world will take note of [chips] designed in India, made in India, and trusted by the world,” he said.

‘Global economies driven by self-interest’

Speaking amidst global trade uncertainties triggered by new U.S. tariffs, Mr. Modi praised India’s growth in challenging times.

“There is concern in economies around the world, there are challenges created by economic self-interest,” Mr. Modi said. “In that environment, India has achieved a growth of 7.8%.”

Last Friday, the government released data showing that India’s gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.8% in the first quarter of the current financial year.

“And this growth is in every sector... The enthusiasm is visible everywhere,” Mr. Modi added. “New energy is being infused in our countrymen. It is certain that India will move rapidly towards becoming the third-largest economy.”

PM Modi receives first Made in India Vikram 32-bit chip

Utilised for space flights, it is an advanced, refurbished version of the indigenously designed 16-bit VIKRAM1601 microprocessor, used in the Avionics system of ISRO's launch vehicles

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi a memento containing the 'Made in India' Vikram 32-bit Processor Launch Vehicle Grade chip at the Semicon India 2025 on Tuesday.

The microprocessor chips were designed and developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh.

Utilised for space flights, it is an advanced refurbished version of the indigenously designed 16-bit VIKRAM1601 microprocessor, which has been used



Moment of pride: Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presenting the memento to the PM at the Semicon India 2025 on Tuesday. PTI
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in the Avionics system of ISRO's launch vehicles since 2009.

Other than the 'Made in India' chip, the memento also contained 31 more prototype chips created by academic institutions including IIT Jammu, IIT Roorkee, IIT Dhanbad, NIT

Durgapur, NIT Calicut and IIT Ropar, among others.

In his address at the annual semiconductor conference, the Union Minister overseeing technology observed that in the three-and-a-half years since the inauguration of the Indian Semiconductor Mission

"the world is looking at India with confidence".

Elaborating on India's progress in the realm, Mr. Vaishnaw said construction of five semi-conductor units was going on at a rapid pace, with the pilot line of one unit completed.

Two more units are expected to start production "in a few months from now", he said. "Overall, foundation of the foundational industry is laid very well," he observed.

Pitching India as a potential manufacturing hub to the participants from the semiconductor ecosystem on Tuesday, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "In these uncertain times, you should come to India because our policies are stable, we have attempted to cover all important aspects of the manufacturing sector."

COP-30 to focus on known solutions, says its President

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

Instead of big-ticket announcements, the forthcoming edition of the UN climate summit is expected to focus on “well-known solutions”, with the host country, Brazil, moving to cleave the “negotiations” aspect of climate talks from the “implementation” of agreements.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will hold its 30th Conference of Parties (COP-30) in November, in the Brazilian port city of Belem, a gateway to the Amazonian rainforest.

With U.S. President Donald Trump having withdrawn his country from the UNFCCC’s Paris Agreement for the second time and casting global trade into flux with his tariffs, diplomats and seasoned climate



Andre Corrêa do Lago

like the UNFCCC are designed for negotiation - from that of implementation.”

The typical process of climate negotiations in most COPs focusses on creating a “text”, said Mr. Lago, noting that it was “horribly difficult” to assemble all countries and have them agree on one.

COP-21 Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement ironed out at COP-21 in 2015 is considered historic as it

With U.S. President Donald Trump having withdrawn his country from the UNFCCC’s Paris Agreement for the second time and casting global trade into flux with his tariffs, diplomats and seasoned climate negotiators said that this was a “difficult year and things could go bad” for the COP process. However, COP-30 president André Corrêa do Lago, a Brazilian Minister, insisted that there are also “grounds for optimism”. Addressing a conclave organised here by the Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW), he said: “In the run-up to COP-30, we are trying to decouple the process of negotiation - and agreements

“horribly difficult” to assemble all countries and have them agree on one.

COP-21 Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement ironed out at COP-21 in 2015 is considered historic as it committed all countries, not just developed countries, to take action to contain greenhouse gas emissions to keep the increase in average global temperatures from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius and “as far as possible below 1.5C” by the turn of the century. However, scientific assessments suggest that the impact of all countries’ current commitments, even if implemented, will still lead to an increase of more than 2.6 C.

COP 30

- 2025
- Belem, Brazil

COP 29

- 2024
- Azerbaijan

COP 28:

- in 2023:
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates

COP 27:

- in 2022:
- Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

COP 26:

- in 2021:
- Glasgow, United Kingdom

COP 25:

- in 2019:
- Madrid, Spain (hosted by Chile)

COP 24:

- in 2018:
- Katowice, Poland

Banking industry plays a key role in India's growth story, says President

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

President Droupadi Murmu said here on Tuesday that the Indian economy was among the world's fastest-growing large economies, and the banking industry played a pivotal role in its growth story.

Addressing the 120th foundation day celebrations of City Union Bank (CUB) in Chennai, she said banks could play an important role in transforming MSMEs into engines of growth, and urged them to prioritise empowerment of farmers and the rural economy.

Ms. Murmu said that by providing timely and affordable credit, promoting financial literacy, and supporting agri-tech initiatives, the banking sec-



President Droupadi Murmu, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and City Union Bank Managing Director N. Kamakodi at the 120th foundation day celebrations of the bank in Chennai. RAGU R.

tor could make agriculture sustainable and profitable. The MSME sector was important for the economy, as it generated employment and drove innovation.

She said the role of banks had expanded beyond financial transactions and they offered a variety of financial services,

playing an instrumental role in inclusive and sustainable development. One of the critical pillars of the country's development was financial inclusion. In a developing country such as India, a large population still lived in rural and semi-urban areas with limited access to formal banking. "I am happy to note that Ci-

ty Union Bank has made remarkable progress in the field of financial inclusion. Out of its total network of branches across the country, over 50% of them are in rural and semi-urban areas," she said.

The Government of India has launched several key initiatives to boost financial inclusion. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) enabled the opening of over 56 crore zero-balance bank accounts. Through schemes such as direct benefit transfer, subsidies and welfare benefits reached beneficiaries without leakage and intermediaries. Mobile banking and Unified Payments Interface had facilitated digital transactions and strengthened the digital economy, Ms. Murmu said.

Onam festivities soar in Malappuram despite caution from Islamic scholars

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

In a delightful twist, myth met reality as King Maveli, the legendary ruler banished to the netherworld, made a dramatic comeback in Malappuram's Onam celebrations, defying expectations in multiple ways across the district.

Creativity soared to new heights as two Mavelis made a dramatic entrance: one descending from the skies in a helicopter, courtesy of GEMS Arts and Science College students, and another rising from the depths of a well in a thrilling pulley-assisted



Star entry: Students of a private college in Malappuram welcoming their high-tech Maveli as he lands from a helicopter. SAKEER HUSSAIN

performance at Malappuram Fire Station's Onam festivities.

The people, especially the youth, have been seeking ways to be uniquely different in their celebrations

of Onam.

However, Islamic scholars from both traditional and reformist backgrounds cautioned the Muslim community against participating in Onam celebrations.

Kanniyan Mohammed Kutty, a senior scholar, pointed out that Onam was a festival tied to Hindu faith, not Islam. "By celebrating Onam and Vishu alongside our Hindu brothers and sisters, our youth may unintentionally compromise the monotheistic principles of Islam," he said.

Several scholars criticised Indian Union Muslim League State president Syed Sadikali Shihab Thangal for singing Onam songs, implying it compromised his Islamic stance.

However, the youth unfazed by the cautionary voices enthusiastically embraced Onam traditions.

SEBI unveils new framework for monitoring intraday position in index options

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

SEBI has come out with a new framework for monitoring intraday positions in equity index derivatives, a move aimed at preventing risks caused by large exposures.

The net intraday position has now been capped

at ₹5,000 crore per entity in index options as against the end-of-day limit of ₹1,500 crore, the Securities and Exchange Board of India said in a circular.

The gross intraday position has been restricted at ₹10,000 crore, the same as the existing end-of-day limit. This applied separately to long and short posi-

tions, it added. The framework, effective from October 1, “would facilitate market-making activity on all trading days while putting a check on creation of outsized intraday position on the expiry day for orderly trading.” Additionally, it provides predictability, operational clarity, and a fair balance

between ease of trading and risk management, SEBI said. The framework will be restricted to index options only, which generally dominate the derivatives landscape. In simple words, SEBI’s new rule would oversee large trading positions held by individual entities during the trading day.

Sickle cell: The battle for disability justice

In March 2024, the Indian government issued revised guidelines under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. These guidelines provide a framework for assessing the extent of disability of people with two copies of the sickle cell gene, or with both sickle cell and beta thalassaemia, or Hb D.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a painful, progressive, and disabling blood disorder, disproportionately affecting marginalised communities. Recognition under the Act was expected to provide reservations in the allotment of agricultural land and housing, poverty alleviation and development schemes, and education, work, and healthcare for those with the disease. The RPWD Act, 2016 extends reservations in public sector employment under the 4% quota for persons with vision and hearing loss, locomotor disabilities, and intellectual disabilities. However, individuals with SCD and other blood disorders are not included in the quota. This decision has sparked disappointment and criticism.

Gargi Mishra

works on public health, gender, disability and sickle cell disease

Sarojini Nadimpally

works on public health, gender, disability, and sickle cell disease

Lila Shriram

works on public health, gender, disability, and sickle cell disease

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government employment.

However, this 40% threshold excludes many individuals with disabilities whose assessed impairment falls below this mark. Community experiences show that the disability percentage is far from an objective measure. Different hospitals, medical boards, and doctors can assign different percentages to the same person, depending on their personal judgment. As a result, disabling conditions that significantly impact an individual's life may still fail to qualify as a benchmark disability.

SCD is not always visibly disabling, but it is debilitating. Individuals with SCD experience recurrent episodes of intense pain, fatigue, anaemia, organ damage, and frequent hospitalisations, often starting in early childhood. These episodes can disrupt schooling, diminish employment and livelihood opportunities, and drastically reduce life expectancy. Stigma and discrimination compound these barriers, particularly for Adivasi and Dalit communities.

The RPWD Act was intended to move away from a medicalised,

To claim this benefit and many other government schemes, individuals must obtain a disability certificate, issued under Section 58 of the Act.

The major barrier lies in the certification process. A medical authority, including the chief medical officer, evaluates and certifies disability. Diagnosis reports of confirmatory tests must be from a government or standard lab. Further grading of disability beyond the baseline of 40% is based on a scoring system that assigns points to a range of complications, such as pain, blood transfusion requirements, and neurological complications. This system often fails to capture the full extent of the condition's impact, especially when the symptoms are invisible or episodic. This approach misses the socioeconomic and emotional toll on people with SCD. A young person may miss school due to hospitalisation or lose jobs due to debilitating pain – all without qualifying for a 'higher' score. Worse still, the certification process is largely inaccessible for the people who need it most. For Adivasi and Dalit patients in rural

Decoding the SC order on regulatory assets

What are regulatory assets and how are they used by DISCOMS to defer costs? What is the difference between a DISCOM's Annual Revenue Requirement and Average Cost of Supply? Do regulatory assets prevent DISCOMS from modernising the grid? What should be the way forward?

EXPLAINER

Rishu Garg

The story so far:

The Supreme Court recently directed State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) and distribution companies (DISCOMs) to clear existing regulatory assets within four years and liquidate any new assets within three years. The court also advised capping the regulatory asset at 3% of a DISCOM's Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) and instructed regulators to set out transparent roadmaps for recovery, along with conducting intensive audits of DISCOMs that continue without recovering these assets.

What are regulatory assets?

Regulatory assets constitute the unrecoverable revenue gap due to the



the additional interest.

For DISCOMs, the persistence of large regulatory assets results in significant cash flow pressures. Because revenue doesn't cover current costs, DISCOMs often struggle to pay power generators on time. Many DISCOMs borrow to bridge the gap, increasing their debt burden. With so much money tied up in unrecovered costs, their ability to invest in modernising the grid, integrating renewable energy, and in better consumer services becomes limited. The result is a vicious cycle in which financially distressed DISCOMs face greater operational challenges, which in turn make it harder to improve efficiency and recover costs on time.

How can ACS-ARR gap be bridged?

One important step is to ensure tariffs are aligned more closely with costs, while using targeted subsidies to protect vulnerable consumers. This ensures the burden is shared transparently rather

THE GIST

Regulatory assets constitute the unrecoverable revenue gap due to the difference between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS), the expense incurred by a DISCOM to deliver a unit of electricity to consumers, and the ARR, which is the revenue collected by the DISCOM as consumer tariffs and subsidy payments from the government.

For DISCOMs, the persistence of large regulatory assets results in significant cash flow pressures. Because revenue doesn't cover current costs, DISCOMs often struggle to pay power generators on time.

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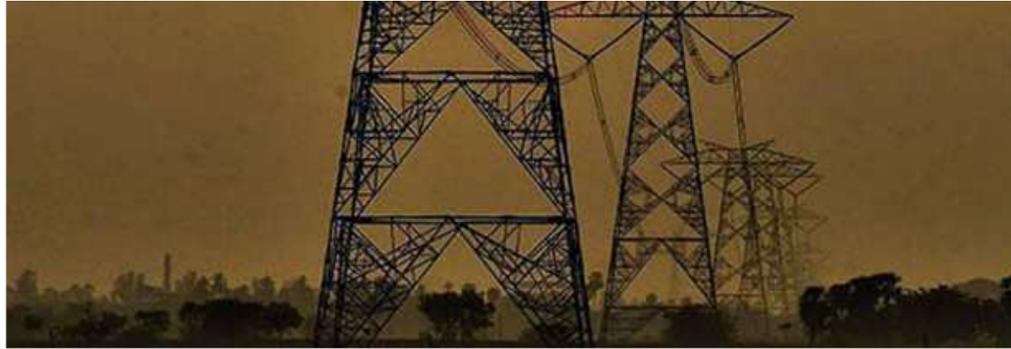
What are regulatory assets?

Regulatory assets constitute the unrecoverable revenue gap due to the difference between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS), the expense incurred by a DISCOM to deliver a unit of electricity to consumers, and the ARR, which is the revenue collected by the DISCOM as consumer tariffs and subsidy payments from the government. If the ACS is greater than the ARR, the DISCOM effectively makes a loss on the sale of every unit of electricity. For instance, if a DISCOM's ACS is ₹7.20/unit and ARR is ₹7.00/unit, the gap is ₹0.20 per unit. If the DISCOM supplies 10 billion units, the total shortfall is ₹2,000 crore. To avoid suddenly burdening consumers with an immediate tariff increase to recover the gap, SERCs allow the DISCOM to record the gap as a regulatory asset. This is essentially a deferred cost that the DISCOM is entitled to recover from consumers in the future, usually with interest.

What explains the ACS-ARR gap?

Non-cost reflective tariffs, delays in the release of subsidies (for agriculture or low-income households) by State governments, and sudden increases in

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FILE PHOTO

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fuel prices (leading to increased power purchase costs) are some of the reasons that contribute to this gap.

The Punjab SERC provides one of the earliest documented cases of regulatory assets in India when it identified a revenue gap of ₹487.10 crore. Of this, ₹150 crore was converted into a regulatory asset, to be recovered over two years: FY 2004-2005 and FY 2005-2006. The remainder, ₹337.10 crore, was allowed to be recovered immediately via tariffs in FY 2003-2004. The Delhi ERC's true-up of FY 2022-23 and ARR for FY 2024-25 order mentioned a regulatory asset of ₹36,057 crore for BSES Rajdhani and ₹22,040 crore for BSES Yamuna, apart from a closing revenue gap (including carrying cost) of ₹8,226.87 crore for Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. In Tamil Nadu, regulatory assets reported in FY 2021-2022 were ₹89,375 crore, indicating

the issue is systemic, reflecting financial pressures across many State DISCOMs.

How are consumers affected?

If the regulatory assets reported by BSES Rajdhani, BSES Yamuna, and Tata Power, the DISCOMs operating in Delhi, are to be recovered within the four-year window set by the Supreme Court, they need to recover about ₹16,580 crore a year. With Delhi's annual electricity consumption of 30 billion units, this works out to an additional ₹5.5 per unit on average.

Since consumers can't be burdened with such high and immediate tariff increases, the State employs regulatory assets. However, the immediate benefit of stable tariffs for consumers is eventually offset by steeper increases when the deferred costs are recovered. Since these assets also attract carrying costs, consumers pay the original gap as well as

turn make it harder to improve efficiency and recover costs on time.

How can ACS-ARR gap be bridged?

One important step is to ensure tariffs are aligned more closely with costs, while using targeted subsidies to protect vulnerable consumers. This ensures the burden is shared transparently rather than hidden in deferred recoveries.

State governments also need to release subsidies on time so that DISCOMs aren't left carrying the financial gap on their books. Automatic fuel cost adjustment mechanisms, such as the fuel and power purchase cost adjustment mechanism, can help tariffs respond quickly to sudden changes in input costs. Regular annual true-up exercises, where projected and actual expenses are reconciled, can prevent the build-up of large backlogs.

Finally, regulatory commissions play a critical role in maintaining discipline. By enforcing limits, ensuring transparency in accounting, and setting clear timelines for recovery, they can ensure regulatory assets remain an exceptional tool rather than a recurring feature. The Supreme Court's intervention is therefore a call for coordinated action and greater financial discipline across the sector, so that electricity remains both affordable for households and sustainable for utilities.

Rishu Garg is a senior policy specialist and heads the Energy Policy and Regulations group at CSTEP.

For DISCOMs, the persistence of large regulatory assets results in significant cash flow pressures. Because revenue doesn't cover current costs, DISCOMs often struggle to pay power generators on time.

State governments need to release subsidies on time so that DISCOMs aren't left carrying the financial gap on their books.

Why has IndiGo damp leased from Turkish Airlines?

Why did the Directorate General of Civil Aviation direct IndiGo to end the partnership with Turkish Airlines?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

IndiGo received a third extension from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to lease two Boeing 777-300ER aircraft and crew from Turkish Airlines, after previously facing a directive to end the partnership amid heightened anti-Turkey sentiment related to its support for Pakistan during border tensions with India. The move comes as a sizeable number of IndiGo's aircraft remain grounded even as the global industry faces a shortage of planes.

What does the latest DGCA order say?

The DGCA has given IndiGo a third extension to lease aircraft and crew (also known as damp leasing) from Turkish Airlines, reversing its earlier ultimatum to end the partnership. The original request was for a period of three months from December 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025.

In May, the DGCA said it was granting a "one-time, final extension" for three months upto August 31, 2025 to avoid passenger inconvenience due to flight disruptions when IndiGo's damp lease permission was due for a review. The DGCA's rules allow airlines to wet or damp lease foreign registered aircraft for a period of 12 months that is extendable once by further six months.

IndiGo started using the B777 aircraft to provide connectivity from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul in February and May of 2023. "This extension comes at a crucial time and will help mitigate losses to Indian aviation due to geopolitical restrictions, and greatly benefit Indian travellers during the peak travel season by ensuring a seamless, direct connection to Istanbul and points beyond," IndiGo said in a statement.

Why are leases important for IndiGo?

The damp leasing of B777 from Turkish

Airlines is not the only tie up where IndiGo has loaned aircraft along with its crew from foreign entities. As on June 30, 2025, of the total 416 aircraft in its fleet, IndiGo has six Boeing 737s from Qatar Airways, two A320neos from Latvian entity Smartlynx and one B787 from Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic. The DGCA has also approved SpiceJet's plan to wet lease five Boeing 737 aircraft from Turkish carrier, Corendon Airlines.

Wet and dry (aircraft sans crew) leases are increasingly being adopted by airlines in order to overcome the shortage of new aircraft globally that has grown acute since the pandemic because of supply chain challenges. Airlines worldwide, including IndiGo, are also being forced to retain and sometimes revamp old and less fuel-efficient aircraft to overcome the shortage. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), aircraft deliveries are currently running 30% below their previous peak levels, leading

to a record-high backlog of 17,000 aircraft. Based on IATA's analysis, if this backlog increase is attributed solely to delivery delays, airlines are effectively short by 5,400 aircraft, representing approximately 18% of the active global fleet. With annual production anticipated to remain around 2,000 aircraft per year, IATA projects that it could take between three and five years for the industry to resolve this shortfall.

In IndiGo's case, which is the country's largest airline by fleet as well as by market share of 65%, the shortage is made more severe by the grounding of 60-70 aircraft due to Pratt and Whitney related engine issues.

How has the industry responded?

"From a business standpoint, restricting cooperation with Turkish Airlines would be counterproductive. Indian airlines benefit from code-shares and partnerships that expand their global reach, and passengers gain from greater connectivity and competitive fares. Aviation should remain a driver of growth and opportunity, while political differences should be managed through diplomacy, not by limiting the commercial potential of our airlines and travellers. If India wants its carriers to compete globally, it must enable access, not restrict it," says Alok Anand, founder of aviation assets management company Acumen Aviation.

THE GIST

▼ The DGCA has given IndiGo a third extension to lease aircraft and crew (also known as damp leasing) from Turkish Airlines, reversing its earlier ultimatum to end the partnership.

▼ IndiGo started using the B777 aircraft to provide connectivity from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul in February and May of 2023.

▼ Wet and dry (aircraft sans crew) leases are increasingly being adopted by airlines in order to overcome the shortage of new aircraft globally that has grown acute since the pandemic because of supply chain challenges.

On call 24/7: a spotlight on gig workers who are running the new economy

The digital marketplace today cuts across different professions. Here is a reading list that helps to dive into the gig economy and understand the emotional and economic complexities of the wondrous and diabolic new world of e-commerce while offering an insight into the lives of gig workers

Soma Basu

The 2022 Hindi movie *Zwigato* directed by Nandita Das sensitively captures the impact of the changing business landscape in the country. Through the life and job of a food delivery agent, the film delves into the harsh realities of the gig economy underlining the pressures of gig workers to meet targets, their low wages and job insecurity.

Struggles and courage that characterise the gig economy make compelling narratives. Today we can get a cab at our doorstep in five minutes, groceries arrive in 10 and pizza in 20. Behind each of these promised deliveries are real humans racing against time and struggling to stay afloat against the algorithm.

If Das mirrors the tough life of a gig worker, author Vandana Vasudevan in her breezy book, *OTP Please: Online Buyers, Sellers and Gig Workers in South Asia* (Penguin Random House, 2025) splits the narrative by showcasing the emotions of multiple stakeholders across the Indian subcontinent.

The movie and the book highlight problems that lay bare corporate greed, disparity of income, the anger, anxiety and frustration of millions of people who have

are over and many unemployed may have found jobs.

Precarious existence

But behind the dazzle of the digital, the author writes, much is opaque. She surveyed 5,000 gig workers living a precarious life and internet retailers who cope with the oppressive rules of global behemoths. As a consumer, she wonders if there are consequences to instant gratification in the extraordinary digital age we live in. If after the 1990 liberalisation, Indian economists declared consumerism as the new god, Vasudevan says online consumerism is now much more than that, and is actually swallowing human connections.

There must be way more people in the gig economy than governments realise. NITI Aayog's 2022 report on India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy projects the workforce to expand to 23.5 million in 2029-30 from 7.7 million in 2020-21. Indians are expected to continue buying online at the same pace or even faster, making the Indian digital economy worth \$1 trillion in the next five years, it says.

Given the addiction to 'order now' with the click of a phone button, Vasudevan's book nudges you to slow down and go behind the screen of your OTP screen. This

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prospect of work in future. He explains not all gig economy roles are based around a digital and online platform but the title also works for many traditional businesses that hire independent professionals, consultants and workforces in diverse segments, from IT automation to food, retail, social media and creative fields.

While a rapid growth in the gig workforce in India's economy is visible, Ghosh gives an interesting take on jobs that require no close supervision, where time and place are by choice and preference. He says that gig work is a perfect tool for maintaining work-life balance as it aligns with Gen X-Y-Z who seek flexible work hours, an atmosphere of freedom and a vision to engage themselves in multiple options of earning on platform work. The COVID-19 outbreak helped them to accentuate the leaning towards Artificial Intelligence-based digitised gig jobs.

The Gig Economy in India: Start-Ups, Infrastructure and Resistance by Pradip Ninan Thomas (Routledge, 2025) explores the relationship between entrepreneurs, State governments, and platform providers, and the Indian government's perception of its problems and opportunities. Thomas examines the critical dimensions of the gig economy

early comprehensive overviews on how the gig economy came to be, how it works and what it's like to work in it. The authors mention that though it has facilitated innovative new services and created jobs for millions, it is not without cost.

While the phenomenon of workers being hired without any guarantee or benefits is rapidly becoming a permanent part of the labour market now, few talk about the effects of disruption the big start-ups bring to the industries they overturn and the impact it has on the largely millennial workforce carrying it out.

Gigged: The End of the Job and the Future of Work by Sarah Kessler (St. Martin Press, 2018) weaves together voices and experiences of tech entrepreneurs, economists, and workers to raise a pertinent question: can jobs be both flexible and pay a sustainable wage? One in every three American is a freelancer and the concept of a full-time job is disappearing in the new American Dream, she writes. Her book provides a nuanced look at how the gig economy is playing out in real-time as she wades through the hype to answer multiple thought-provoking questions, including whether the millennial generation will be able to do so.



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Over 1,000 killed and village wiped out in Sudan landslide

Associated Press

CAIRO

A landslide wiped out an entire village in Sudan's western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country's recent history, a rebel group controlling the area said late on Monday.

The village of Tarasin was "completely levelled to the ground," the Sudan Liberation Movement Army said as it appealed to the UN and international aid groups for help to recover the bodies.

The tragedy happened on Sunday in the village, located in Central Darfur's Marrah Mountains, after days of heavy rainfall.



Ground zero: Mud and debris following Sunday's landslide that devastated the village of Tarasin in Sudan's Jebel Marra area. AFP

"Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than 1,000 people," the rebel group said. "Only one person survived," it added.

Abdel-Wahid Nour, the group's leader, made an appeal on Tuesday for in-

ternational help. "The scale and magnitude of the disaster are immense and defy description," he said.

Footage shared by the Marrah Mountains news outlet showed a flattened area between mountain ranges with a group of people searching the area.

Death toll exceeds 1,400; search on for Afghan earthquake survivors

Rough terrain hampers rescue, forcing Taliban to air drop commandos to evacuate injured from places where helicopters cannot land; an aftershock of magnitude 5.2 strikes close to the epicentre of Sunday's earthquake, without causing damage

Associated Press

JALALABAD

The Taliban said the death toll from a major earthquake in eastern Afghanistan passed 1,400 on Tuesday, with more than 3,000 people injured, as the United Nations warned of an exponential rise in casualties.

The figures provided by Taliban were just for the province of Kunar.

Sunday night's powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck several provinces, causing extensive damage. It flattened villages and trapped people under the



Fraught beginning: Afghan boys injured during earthquakes receive treatment at a hospital in Jalalabad on Tuesday. AFP

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rubble of homes constructed mostly of mud bricks and wood that were unable to withstand the shock.

Rough terrain is hampering rescue and relief efforts, forcing Taliban authorities to air drop dozens

of commandos to evacuate the injured from places where helicopters cannot land.

An aftershock of 5.2 close to the epicenter of Sunday's quake rattled the country, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. There were no immediate reports of damage.

Indrika Ratwate, the UN's resident coordinator for Afghanistan, said rescuers are scrambling in a "race against time" to reach the mountainous and remote area hit.

Ms. Ratwate said that when the walls of wooden and mud homes collapse,

the roof falls on the occupants, causing injury or death. While the area was low-density, the earthquake struck when everybody was asleep.

The U.K. has pledged £1 million (\$1.3 million) to be split between humanitarian agencies rather than going to the Taliban government, which it does not recognise. The European Union is sending 130 tonnes of emergency supplies and providing one million euros (\$1.16 million). Other countries, including the UAE, India, and China, have pledged disaster relief support.

India and Nigeria in race to host 2030 Commonwealth Games

Sports Bureau

KOLKATA

India and Nigeria are in the race to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games after submitting their proposals by the August 31 deadline.

After Canada “decided to postpone its ambitions,” it has become a two-horse race for the centenary edition of the Games.

Following an approval from the Union Cabinet, a delegation, led by Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh

Sanghavi, submitted India’s formal proposal to Commonwealth Sport (CS) in London on National Sports Day, August 29. It positioned Amdavad (a local name for Ahmedabad) as the host city for the 2030 Games.

Both proposals will now be assessed by a six-member Evaluation Commission (EC), chaired by CS vice-president Sandra Osborne, at a meeting in London in late September. The EC will report its findings

to the CS Executive Board, which will recommend a host to the 74 member nations and territories for approval at the General Assembly in late November in Glasgow.

CS launched a new collaborative host selection process in January last, inviting countries to lodge their interest for 2030 and future editions of the Commonwealth Games by March. The CS 2023-2034 ‘Commonwealth United’ Strategic Plan, launched in

June 2023, and ‘Games Reset’ allow a move-away from a traditional host bidding process, enabling flexibility and offering potential hosts the opportunity to be innovative and work collaboratively.

There was uncertainty surrounding the CWG after the Australian state of Victoria withdrew from hosting the 2026 edition. Glasgow, the host of the 2014 Games, emerged as a substitute with a plan to organise a smaller event.

ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖାରେ ପୁଣି ବନ୍ୟା ଆଶଙ୍କା

ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର, ୨/୯ (ଇମିମ): ବଙ୍ଗୋପସାଗରରେ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଥିବା ଲଘୁଚାପ ପ୍ରଭାବରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଓ ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବର୍ଷା ଲାଗିରହିଛି। ଯେଉଁଥିପାଇଁ ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖାରେ ପୁଣିଥରେ ବନ୍ୟା ଆଶଙ୍କା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି। ତେଣୁ ଉତ୍ତର ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରବାସୀ ବର୍ଷ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ପାଇଁ ଏହିଭଳି ବନ୍ୟା ପରିସ୍ଥିତିର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇପାରନ୍ତି। ପୂର୍ବରୁ ୩ ମାସରେ ୬ଥର ବନ୍ୟା ହେବା ସହିତ ୨୦୨୫ ମସିହା ଉତ୍ତର ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରବାସୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅଭିଶପ୍ତ ବର୍ଷ ପାଲଟିଛି।

ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗର ପଶ୍ଚିମ ମେଦିନୀପୁର ତଥା ଏହାର ଆଖପାଖ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଗତକାଲିଠାରୁ ପ୍ରବଳରୁ ଅତି ପ୍ରବଳ ବର୍ଷା ଜାରି ରହିଛି। ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗରେ ବର୍ଷା ବିପାତ ଲାଗି ରହିଥିବା ଅଞ୍ଚଳଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା ଅବବାହିକା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆସୁଥିବାରୁ ନଦୀର ଜଳପତ୍ତନ ଆଜି ମଧ୍ୟାହ୍ନରୁ ଧୀରେ ଧୀରେ

ଓ ବାଲିଆପାଳ ଆଦି ବ୍ଲକର ନଦୀକୂଳିଆ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଥିବା ୪୩ଟି ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ୧୫୪ଟି ଗାଁର ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଛନ୍ଦକା ପଶିଛି।

ଏଠାରେ ଉଲ୍ଲେଖଯୋଗ୍ୟ ଯେ ଗତ ଜୁନମାସରୁ ଅଦ୍ୟାବଧି ଉତ୍ତର ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରବାସୀ ୬ଥର ବନ୍ୟା ପରିସ୍ଥିତିର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି। ୩୦ରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତରେ ଅଢ଼େଇ ମାସ ହେଲା ବନ୍ୟା ପାଣି ଶୁଖିବାର ନାଁ ଧରୁନାହିଁ। ଏସବୁ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ଅଧୀନରେ ୬୩ରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ବନ୍ୟାପ୍ରବଣ ଗାଁରେ

୨୦୨୫ ପାଲଟିଲାଣି ଅଭିଶପ୍ତ ବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ୬ଥର ବନ୍ୟା ଆସିସାରିଛି

ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇବ ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଇଛି। ପୁଣି ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଗତକାଲି ରାତିରୁ ଆଜି ମଧ୍ୟାହ୍ନ ଯାଏଁ ଲଗାଣ ବର୍ଷା ହୋଇଛି। ଫଳରେ, ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗର ଉଦ୍‌ବୃତ୍ତ ବର୍ଷା ପାଣି ମଧ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ୟ ଛୋଟଛୋଟ ନାଳଦେଇ ଉତ୍ତର ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ମାଡ଼ିଆସୁଛି। ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା ଅବବାହିକାରେ ବର୍ଷା ଯୋଗୁଁ ବନ୍ୟା ଆଶଙ୍କା ରହିଛି ବୋଲି ଭାରତୀୟ ପାଣିପାଗ ବିଭାଗ ଓ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଜଳ ଆୟୋଗ ମଧ୍ୟ ସତର୍କ ସୂଚନା ଜାରି କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଫଳରେ ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର, ଭୋଗରାଇ, ବସ୍ତା

ଗମନାଗମନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ହୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଛି। ସ୍କୁଲ ଓ ଓ ଅଙ୍ଗନବାଡ଼ି କେନ୍ଦ୍ରଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ସପ୍ତାହ ପସ୍ତାହ ଧରି ତାଲା ଝୁଲୁଛି। ପାଖାପାଖି ୩୦୦୦ ହେକ୍ଟର ଜମିର ଫସଲ ଉଜୁଡ଼ି ଯାଇଛି ଏବଂ ୭ ହଜାର ହେକ୍ଟରରୁ ଅଧିକ ଜମିରେ ତାଷ କାମ ହୋଇନପାରି ପଡ଼ିଆ ପଡ଼ିଛି। ହଜାର ହଜାର ପରିବାର କିଏ ଆଂଶିକ ତ କିଏ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବାସହରା ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି। ଏପରି ସ୍ଥିତିରେ ପୁଣିଥରେ ବନ୍ୟା ଆସିଲେ ଲୋକେ ବଡ଼ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେବେ।

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Subarnarekha river originated from

- Thuamul Rampur
- Nagri Village
- Sinkaran Hills
- Lakhabahal



River Basins in Odisha

The area of the state falls in the catchment of the following 9 major river basins.

River	Origin	Out fall	Catchment Area inside Odisha sq.km	Length inside Odisha
Mahanadi	Nagri Town, Chhattisgarh	Bay of Bengal(Odisha State)	65,628	494
Brahmani	Vedvyas, Rourkela, Odisha	Bay of Bengal(Odisha State)	22,516	461
Baitrani	Dumuria Village, Keonjhar, Odisha	Bay of Bengal(Odisha State)	13,482	360
Rushikulya	Matabhari Village, Daringbadi hills, Kandhmal, Odisha	Bay of Bengal(Odisha State)	8,963	175
Vamsadhara	Tentulipadar(lanjigarh), Kalahandi, Odisha	Bay of Bengal(A.P State)	8,960	176
Nagavali	Lakhabahal, Kalahandi, Odisha	Bay of Bengal(A.P State)	4,500	125
Kolab	Sinkaran hills, Eastern Ghats, Koraput, Odisha	Godavari River	10,300	270
Indervati	Thuamul Rampur , Kalahandi, Odisha	Godavari River	7,400	167
Subernarekha	Nagri Village, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Bay of Bengal(Odisha State)	2,983	81
Budhabalasing	Similipal Hills, Mayurbhanj, Odisha	Bay of Bengal(Odisha State)	4,838	199

Dams and Rivers in Odisha

No.	Dams	Rivers	Districts
1	Baghalati Dam	Bahuda River	Brahmapur, Ganjam
2	Baghua Dam	Baghua River	Ghumasar, ganjam
3	Balimela Dam	Sileru River	Malkanagiri
4	Bankabal Dam	Bankabal River	Bamanghati, Mayurbhanj
5	Bhaluguda Dam	Bhalughai nalla	Gunupur, Rayagada
5	Hirakud Dam	Mahanadi River	Sambalpur
6	Jalaput Dam	Machkund River	Jalput Village, Koraput
7	Kanupur Dam	Baitarani River	Champua, Kendujhar
8	Mandira Dam	Sankh River	Sundargarh
9	Patora Dam	Jonk River	Nuapada
10	Rengali Dam	Brahmani River	Talcher, Anugul
11	Indrawati Dam	Indrabati River	Nabarangapur
12	Kalo Dam	Kalo	Kaptipada, Mayurbhanj
13	Jhumuka Dam	Jhumukanalla	Bhubaneshwar, Khordha
14	Salandi Dam	Salandi	Anandapur, Kendujhar
15	Pitamahal Dam	Pitamahal	Sundargarh