

NEERI Signs Agreement for Kalpasar Project

Government of Gujarat, Narmada, Water Resources, Water Supply & Kalpasar Department has proposed to create a freshwater reservoir by closing the Gulf of Khambhat across Ghoga in Bhavnagar district and Hansot in Bharuch district through construction of 64 km long dam. It is envisaged to create a fresh water basin of more than 2000 km² which will receive water from twelve rivers flowing into Gulf including excess water from Narmada, Mahi, Sabarmati and Dadhar. Gujarat Govt. is determined to ensure long term water security in Gujarat in the new millennium by giving concrete shape to Kalpasar project. The area of Gulf of Khambhat proposed to be closed, harbours some major and minor ports catering to various industries and trade. Ports of Hazira and Pipavav will be outside the domain of Kalpasar whereas Dahej, Bhavnagar, Dholera will be inside the Kalpasar lake.

This mega project, Kalpasar may have both positive and negative impacts on the existing ports within and outside the Kalpasar as well as may also affect future development of ports along the coastline in Gulf of Khambhat. Some other options are being worked out to keep the alignment of dam in such a fashion so that some of the ports can be kept outside the Kalpasar lake. With a view to assess the potential impact of Kalpasar project on the existing and proposed port activities in the vicinity of Gulf of Khambhat, Kalpasar Department retained NEERI, NIO consortium as consultant. CWPRS will be associated in advisory role. An agreement was signed between the Kalpasar department and NEERI at Mumbai Zonal laboratory of NEERI on June 20, 2007 for initiating the project studies. Shri M.S. Patel, Secretary Kalpasar, Dr. Sukumar Devotta, Director NEERI and Dr. Satish Shetye, Director NIO besides senior scientists from NEERI, NIO and Sr. officers of Kalpasar department were present on this occasion. NEERI would be the nodal agency for this project and will conduct the studies in association with NIO over a period of 15 months. The scope of work includes:

- Collection of the details of the existing port facilities within the Kalpasar project area from the competent authorities
- Collection of the details of planned port facilities in the coming years within the Kalpasar Project area
- Study of the impact of Kalpasar Project on the existing and the proposed port facilities
- Advantages/disadvantages of the Kalpasar Project in respect of Ports
- Viability of maintaining Fresh water / Saline Water entities separately without getting mixed with each other while operating ship locks
- Suggesting remedial measures to be incorporated in the Kalpasar Project for

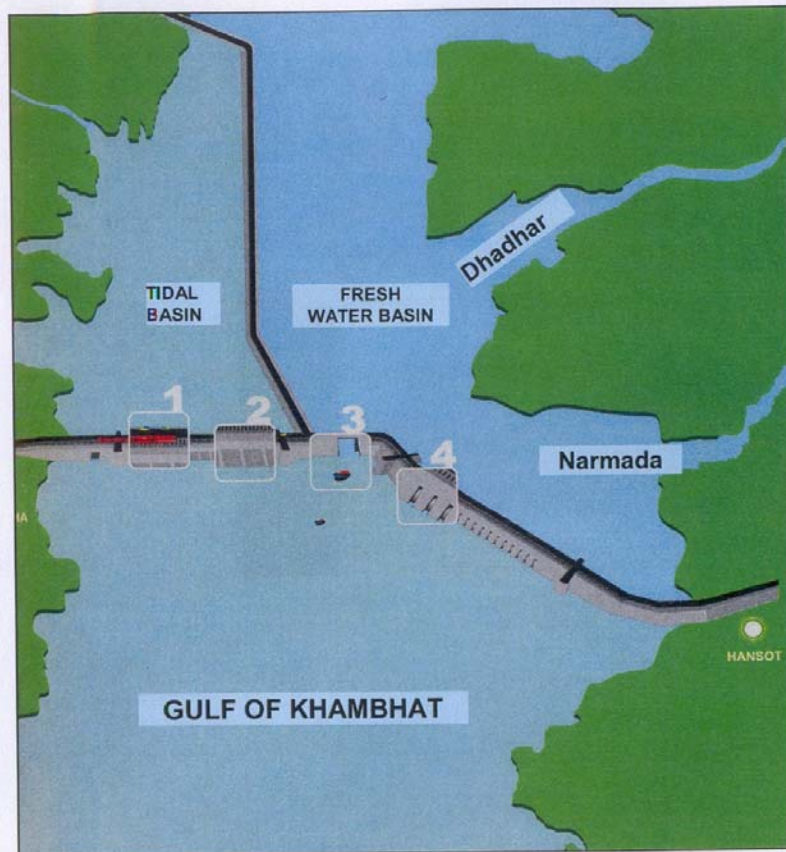
the sustainable continuation of the port facilities without compromising upon the envisaged benefits of the Kalpasar Project along with the estimated costs



Dr. Satish Shetye and Dr. Sukumar Devotta exchanging MOU with Mr. M.S. Patel, Secretary, Kalpasar; Dr. Zingde (extreme left) looks on



Pre-agreement discussions between Kalpasar, NEERI and NIO officials



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|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Rail & Road Transport | 2. Turbines |
| 3. Ship Lock | 4. Spillway |

Conceptual plan of Kalpasar project