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TRANBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE, POLITICS AND ECOLOGICAL INSECURITY OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH: A STUDY ON FARAKKA BARRAGE AND TIPAIMUKH DAM

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to analyze water governance and geopolitics of India and Bangladesh in the case of Farakka Barrage and Tipaimukh Dam Project, in which ecological insecurity becomes a major concern. Reviewing the past transboundary water issues of Farakka Barrage, it is necessary to justify water governance by addressing the current water conflict and ecological insecurity of Tipaimukh dam. The construction of Farakka Barrage resulted in risk of biodiversity in Sunderbans wetland shared by both countries. In the present scenario, Tipaimukh dam remains a bond of contention between India and Bangladesh in terms of riparian water rights. The paper utilizes the Science and Technology Studies (STS) Perspective of Langdon Winner's work "Do Artefacts Have Politics" to identify the linkages of technology, politics and technocrats. In this connection, Farakka Barrage and Tipaimukh Dam as a form of technological artefacts is not only a physical massive entity but also political dynamics revolve around India and Bangladesh. A historical perspective of dam projects during the Nehruvi an Era including the development of Damodar ValleyCorporation (DVC) is an important part of this paper. Recently,