

The Indian Express- 25- April-2023

# Quarter of water bodies in city are encroached: Census shows

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

OF THE 893 water bodies in Delhi, 216 or 24.19% are encroached, according to the findings of the recently released water bodies census report by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Of the water bodies that were found to have been encroached, 132 were more than 75% encroached, the report shows. This is out of the 158 water bodies for which the encroached area could be assessed.

The report counts 525 ponds (small water bodies) in the city, of which 66 were found to have been encroached, while out of the 14 lakes, (larger and deeper than ponds) that it identifies, none was encroached. The category of 'others' had the highest number of encroached water bodies — 149 out of 349. The report does not specify what sort of water bodies fall in the 'others' category.

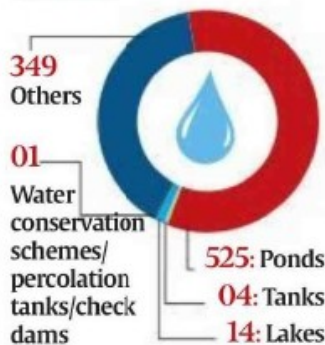
The report defines water bodies as natural or man-made units that are bound on all sides and are used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes like groundwater recharge, religious, and industrial purposes. Most water bodies counted in Delhi have a water spread area of less than 0.5 hectares, while one was found to be in the 10- to 50-hectare range, and many water bodies (398 of the total water bodies) have a storage capacity of 0 to 100 cubic metres, which is the smallest storage capacity range that the report considers.

A total of 176 of the water bodies in Delhi have a much larger storage capacity of over 10,000 cubic metres.

On the encroached water bodies, environmentalist Diwan Singh, said, "We did a survey in 2011-12 in Southwest Delhi and

## IN NUMBERS

**893** Total number of water bodies



**44**

Privately owned water bodies

**887**

Natural water bodies

**06**

Man made water bodies

**216**

No. of encroached water bodies

## WATER BODIES BY WATER SPREAD AREA

Less than 0.5 hectares:	818
0.5 hectares to 1 hectare:	38
1 hectare to 5 hectares:	29
5 hectares to 10 hectares:	1
10 hectares to 50 hectares:	1

found that 80% of encroachment was by government bodies... schools, parks. There is little effort to revive these water bodies. Involvement of the local communities is important in preserving and maintaining these water bodies, but the agencies that own these water bodies do not allow community work or participation. There is a scheme now to release treated water from sewage treatment plants into water bodies, but that water does not always meet quality standards," he said. He pointed out that smaller water bodies like ponds are also important since they are spread out and can trap rain water, particularly run-off from paved areas. The status of water bodies in Delhi reported by a High Court-appointed committee after inspections from 2007 to 2012 had also found parks on encroached water bodies.

For the recently released census, enumerators collected the data and entered it into a mobile app that was developed for the census. The census was launched in 2018-19. On the use of these water bodies in Delhi, the report said: "Out of 893 water bodies, 26.5% (237) water bodies are in use while 73.5% (656) are reported 'not in use' on account of drying up, industrial effluents and other reasons. Among 237 'in use' water bodies, 27.8% (66) water bodies are used for ground water recharge purposes whereas the remaining water bodies are used for recreation, religious and other purposes."

A total of 77 water bodies were marked as 'not in use' on account of having dried up, while 90 are not in use due to 'construction', and one was found to have been 'destroyed beyond repair'.

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# India's first water bodies census: why, and what it says

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

THE MINISTRY of Jal Shakti has released the report of India's first water bodies census, a comprehensive data base of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs in the country. The census was conducted in 2018-19, and enumerated more than 2.4 million water bodies across all states and Union Territories.

## How is a 'water body' defined?

The Water Bodies: First Census Report considers "all natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes (e.g. industrial, pisciculture, domestic) drinking, recreation, religious, ground water recharge etc." as water bodies. The water bodies "are usually of various types known by different names like tank, reservoirs, ponds etc.", it says.

According to the report, "A structure where water from ice-melt, streams, springs, rain or drainage of water from residential or other areas is accumulated or water is stored by diversion from a stream, nala or river will also be treated as water body."

## So did the census cover all water bodies that fit this definition?

No. Seven specific types of water bodies were excluded from the count.

They were: 1) oceans and lagoons; 2) rivers, streams, springs, waterfalls, canals, etc. which are free flowing, without any bounded storage of water; 3) swimming pools; 4) covered water tanks created for a specific purpose by a family or household for their own consumption; 5) a water tank constructed by a factory owner for consumption of water as raw material or consumable; 6) temporary water bodies created by digging for mining, brick kilns, and construction activities, which

## MAIN FINDINGS

**24,24,540**

water bodies in India

**7.47 lakh**

West Bengal has largest number

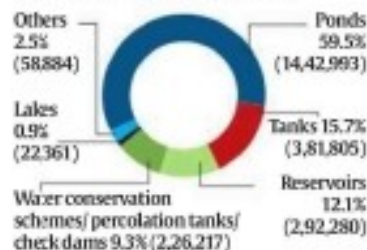
**3.55 lakh**

South 24-Parganas in West Bengal is the district with the most water bodies

## MOST IN THE COUNTRY

Ponds, reservoirs	West Bengal
Tanks	Andhra Pradesh
Lakes	Tamil Nadu
Conservation Schemes	Madhya Pradesh

## TYPES OF WATER BODIES



## 1 LAKH+ (BESIDES BENGAL)

Uttar Pradesh	Assam
2.45 lakh	1.72 lakh
Andhra Pradesh	Jharkhand
1.90 lakh	1.07 lakh
Odisha	Tamil Nadu
1.81 lakh	1.06 lakh

may get filled during the rainy season; and 7) pucca open water tanks created only for cattle to drink water.

## But what was the need for a water bodies census?

The Centre earlier maintained a database of water bodies that were getting central assistance under the scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies.

In 2016, a Standing Committee of Parliament pointed to the need to carry out a separate census of water bodies. The government then commissioned the first census of water bodies in 2018-19 along with the sixth Minor Irrigation (MI) census. The objective was to collect information "on all important aspects of the subject including their size, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, status of filling up of storage etc.", according to the census report.

## How were the census data collected?

According to the report, "traditional methodology, i.e. paper-based schedules, were

canvassed both for rural and urban areas. A "village schedule", "urban schedule" and "water body schedule" were canvassed, and a smart phone was used to "capture latitude, longitude and photo of water bodies", the report says.

## What does the census reveal about encroachment of water bodies?

The census found that 1.6% of enumerated water bodies — 38,496 out of 24,24,540 — had been encroached upon. More than 95% of these were in rural areas — which is logical because more than 97% of the water bodies covered by the census were in the rural areas. In almost 62% of encroached water bodies, less than a quarter of the area was under encroachment; in about 12% water bodies, more than three-quarters of the area was under encroachment.

Uttar Pradesh accounted for almost 40% (15,301) of water bodies under encroachment, followed by Tamil Nadu (8,366) and Andhra Pradesh (3,920). No encroachment was reported from West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh.



# Ministry Report Paints Grim Picture Of J&K's Water Bodies

## 'Over 23% Water Bodies In J&K Have 'Dried Up, Beyond Repair'

Augib Javed

**Srinagar:** The maiden survey released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti has presented a dismal picture of the water bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, revealing that over 23 percent of them have 'dried up and are beyond repair'.

According to the first Census of Water Bodies released by the Ministry, there are over 24 lakh water bodies across the country, and over 9,700 water bodies in J&K, of which over 76



per cent are 'in use'.

As per the census, a total of 9,765 water bodies have

been enumerated in J&K, out of which 99.2% (9,687) are in rural areas and the remaining

0.8% (78), are in urban areas, noting that the majority of the water bodies are ponds.

The water bodies include 5256 ponds, 179 tanks, 37 lakes, 441 reservoirs, 29 water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/ check dams and 3832 others.

"Out of 'in use' water bodies, a major proportion of water bodies are used for domestic/ drinking purposes followed by irrigation purposes," the report says.

The report further revealed

that the "state" has reported encroachment in 103 water bodies out of all the enumerated water bodies, out of which 95 are ponds.

Out of all water bodies, 1.2% (122) are covered in the District Irrigation Plan/State Irrigation Plan.

Among these 44.3% (54) are reservoirs, 31.1% (38) are ponds and the remaining 24.6% (30) are tanks and water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams. Out

of 'in use' water bodies, 93.0% (6,968) are benefitting one (01) city/town, 6.8% (510) water bodies are fulfilling requirements of 2-5 cities/ towns and the remaining 0.2% (15) water bodies are benefitting more than five (05) cities/towns.

The census was launched under the centrally sponsored scheme, "Irrigation Census" in convergence with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census in order to have a comprehensive national database of all [More on P6](#)

### Ministry Report

water bodies.

It provides a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like ponds, tanks, lakes, and more, and to collect data on the encroachment of water bodies.

The census also highlighted disparities between rural and urban areas and varying levels of encroachment and revealed crucial insights into the country's water resources.

The census has cited that out of 2036 ponds that are not in use, 974 are dried up, 21 have turned into construction, 19 because of salinity, 193 are destroyed beyond repair, one each is affected due to industry and salinity, and 827 are others.

The report further reveals that there are 36% (3,519) natural and 64% (6,246) man-made water bodies. Out of 3,519 natural water bodies, 99.5% (3,502) are located in rural areas whereas the remaining 0.5% (17) are located in urban areas.

"Out of 6,246 man-made water bodies, 99% (6,185) water bodies are located in rural areas and the remaining 1% (61) are located in urban areas. Most of the man-made water bodies have original cost of construction up to Rs.50,000/," it noted.

As per the census, out of 9765 water bodies, 3519 are natural, and 6246 are man-made.

According to the census, 9209 water bodies in J&K, and Ladakh have never been repaired. Only 115 water bodies were repaired before 2009. In 2009, 11 water bodies were repaired; 51 in 2010; 20 in 2011; 34 in 2012; 71 in 2013; 38 in 2014; 59 in 2015; 24 in 2016; 54 in 2017; 34 in 2018, and 45 were repaired after 2018.

The census further reveals that over 2272 not-in-use water bodies in J&K and Ladakh, including 2026 ponds, 29 tanks, 6 Lakes, 26 reservoirs, 6 water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/ check dams, and 169 others. Further, out of 9765 water bodies, 5016 are public owned, and 4749 are privately owned.

As per the census, 7431 water bodies are in use in rural areas, out of which 718 are used for irrigation, 12 for industrial, 97 for pisciculture, 5935 are for domestic/ drinking, 19 are recreation, 49 are for religious, 129 are for ground-water recharge, 472 are others.

In the urban area, 62 water bodies are in use, one for irrigation, 51 for domestic/drinking, 7 for religious, and 3 for others.

The information on all important aspects of the water bodies including their type, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, status of filling up of storage, etc was collected. It covered all the water bodies located in rural as well as urban areas that are in-use or not in-use.

The census also took into account all types of uses of water bodies like irrigation, industry, pisciculture, domestic/ drinking, recreation, religion, ground water recharge etc. Census has been successfully completed and the All India and State-wise reports have been published.

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Rajasthan Patrika- 25- April-2023

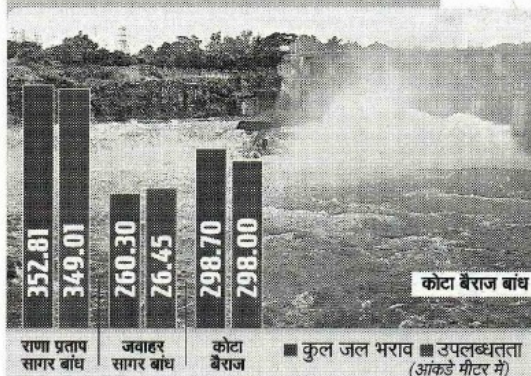
# बांधों की जल ऑडिट : जयपुर संभाग के बांधों में 39.11 फीसदी पानी प्रदेश के 367 बांध आए रेड जोन में, कोटा के बांधों में सबसे ज्यादा पानी

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कोटा. मौसम विभाग की ओर से इस साल मानसून कमजोर रहने का पूर्वानुमान जारी किए जाने के बाद प्रदेश के बांधों में पानी की उपलब्धता की ऑडिट की गई है। इसमें सामने आया कि 367 बांध पानी की उपलब्धता की श्रेणी में अप्रैल में ही रेड जोन में पहुंच गए हैं। जल ऑडिट में कोटा संभाग अव्वल है, जबकि जोधपुर के बांधों में सबसे कम पानी है। ऑडिट में एक अप्रैल तक प्रदेश के सभी छोटे-बड़े बांधों की कुल जल भराव क्षमता, पानी की उपलब्धता और गर्मी में कितना जल वाष्पीकरण से उड़ेगा, इसके आंकड़े दिए गए हैं।

जयपुर संभाग के बांध 39.11 फीसदी, उदयपुर संभाग के बांध 38.98 फीसदी और जोधपुर के बांधों में 13.13 फीसदी पानी बचा है। कोटा संभाग के बांधों में 66.16 प्रतिशत पानी है। चम्बल नदी में पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानी उपलब्ध है।

## चम्बल के बांधों में पानी की स्थिति



## संभागवार बांधों की जल भराव क्षमता

संभाग	कुल बांध	पूर्ण जल भराव	उपलब्धता (1 अप्रैल)	प्रतिशत में
जयपुर	268	2845.87	1112.97	39.11
जोधपुर	121	975.34	128.03	13.13
कोटा	82	4164.90	2755.33	66.16
उदयपुर	245	4622.17	1785.65	38.63

(पानी की आंकड़े मिलीयन क्यूबिक मीटर में)

## बड़े बांधों में 59.68% पानी

जल संसाधन विभाग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार प्रदेश में 22 बड़े बांध हैं। इन बांधों में पूर्ण जल भराव क्षमता 8104.66 के मुकाबले एक अप्रैल को इन बांधों में 4836.62 मिलीयन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी भरा हुआ है। जो 59.68 प्रतिशत है। इन बांधों में पिछले दिनों भीषण गर्मी के कारण 39.18 मिलीयन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी वाष्पीकरण के कारण उड़ गया है।

हाड़ौती अंचल में प्रदेश में सबसे अधिक नदियां हैं और मध्यप्रदेश की नदियां हाड़ौती से आकर मिलती हैं। इसलिए यहां के बांध बारिश में पूर्ण क्षमता से भर जाते हैं। इस कारण बांधों में प्रदेश के अन्य बांधों के मुकाबले अधिक पानी है।

-भारत रत्न गौड़, अधिशासी अभियंता जल संसाधन विभाग कोटा



Rajasthan Patrika- 25- April-2023

पहली बार करवाई गई जलाशयों की गणना में खुलासा

# शहरों में सिमट रहे हैं जलस्रोत, देश में बचे महज 2.9 फीसदी

पेयजल के लिए गांवों के मुकाबले शहरों में ज्यादा काम आते हैं जलाशय

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नई दिल्ली. आधुनिकीकरण की दौड़ में प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे देश के शहरों में पानी की मांग भले ही तेजी से बढ़ रही हो, लेकिन शहरों में जलाशयों की संख्या लगातार कम होती जा रही है। देशभर के शहरों में महज 2.9 प्रतिशत जलस्रोत बचे हैं, जबकि शहरों में 18.8 फीसदी जलाशय पेयजल के लिए काम आ रहे हैं, वहीं गांवों में 9.9 फीसदी से ही लोग पीने का पानी लेते हैं। जलशक्ति मंत्रालय की ओर से करवाई गई जलस्रोत गणना में पहली बार तालाब, टैंक व झील

आदि प्राकृतिक व मानवनिर्मित जल संसाधनों का एक उपयोगी ब्यौरा सामने आया है। देश के 24 लाख से अधिक जलस्रोतों की गणना के बाद जारी लगभग दो सौ पेज की रिपोर्ट में जलाशयों के प्रकार, मौजूदा स्थिति, उपयोग, भंडारण क्षमता व अतिक्रमण का ब्यौरा दिया गया है।

दरअसल, पहले जलशक्ति मंत्रालय के बाद उन्हीं वाटर बोर्डों का ब्यौरा ही रहता था, जिनके लिए केंद्र आर्थिक सहायता जारी करता है। जल संसाधन मामलों की स्थाई संसदीय समिति ने देश में जलस्रोतों की गणना किए जाने की आवश्यकता बताई तो पहली बार समग्र राष्ट्रीय डेटाबेस तैयार करने के उद्देश्य से सभी जलस्रोतों की गणना करवाई है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देशभर के 16.3 प्रतिशत जलस्रोत सूख जाने,

## मेरा पानी, मेरा गांव

गणना के दौरान सामने आया कि अधिकांश जलस्रोत स्थानीय लोगों के ही काम आ रहे हैं। देश के 86.6 फीसदी जलस्रोत एक ही गांव या शहर के लोग करते हैं, जबकि 10.6 प्रतिशत 2 से 5 और मात्र 0.8 प्रतिशत से 5 या ज्यादा गांव या शहरों-कस्बों की जरूरत पूरी होती है। संख्या के हिसाब से देखें तो 90.1 प्रतिशत

जलस्रोतों लगभग एक सौ लोगों की जरूरत पूरी करते हैं, जबकि 1.7 प्रतिशत से 50 हजार से ज्यादा लोगों के काम आते हैं। क्षमता के हिसाब से 41.4 प्रतिशत पूरे भरे हैं और 28.5 प्रतिशत में तीन चौथाई से ज्यादा पानी है, जबकि 6.9 फीसदी की भराव क्षमता नहीं के बराबर बची है।

खारापन, मिट्टी भराव, निर्माण कार्यों, औद्योगिक अपशिष्ट तथा रखरखाव की अनदेखी जैसी कारणों से काम के नहीं रहे।

## मरम्मत ही नहीं होती

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक देश के 45.2 फीसदी जलाशयों की तो मरम्मत तक नहीं होती। साल 2009 से पहले

15.7 और 2018 के बाद 3.6 प्रतिशत जलस्रोतों की ही मरम्मत हुई है। जबकि 62.9 प्रतिशत की मरम्मत में 50 हजार रुपए तक और 21.7 फीसदी की मरम्मत पर 50 हजार से एक लाख रुपए तक की खर्चा आया है। गणना किए जाने तक 24,486 जलस्रोतों की मरम्मत का काम चल रहा था।