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**Hindustan Times - 01 March-2024**

## **MTDC would develop world-class water tourism centre at Koyna (Shiv Sagar)\***

\*– Chief Minister Eknath Shinde\*

\*MoU between MTDC and MKVDC\* An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) and Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC) for developing world-class water tourism at Shiv Sagar water reservoir in Munawale (Tehsil Javli, District Satara). Chief Minister Eknath Shinde graced the ceremony of signing the agreement. The MoU signing ceremony held at Vidhan Bhavan was attended by deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, state excise minister and Satara district guardian minister Shambhuraj Desai, additional chief secretary to the water resources department Deepak Kapoor, secretary to the department Jayashree Bhoj, MTDC managing director Shraddha Joshi-Sharma, deputy secretary to water resources department Atul Kapole, MTDC advisor Sarang Kulkarni. It was informed during the ceremony that this project would provide direct indirect employment to more than five thousand persons and would result in turnover of more than 100 crores through tourism. \*Area blessed with natural beauty\* There is a big opportunity for developing water tourism at Shiv Sagar reservoir and the Koyna backwater and Javli area is blessed with Sahyadri ranges along with dense forest, virgin river banks and rich bio-diversity. The water tourism facility would be developed with an aim to provide employment opportunities to the local people along with overall development of the area. MTDC is expected to spend around Rs. 45.38 crores for this project. Maharashtra has a coastline of 720 Kms with pollution-free river banks and small as well as big water reservoirs at many places. There is big scope to develop water tourism which would result in employment opportunities for the local people coupled with increasing the local economy size. The Scuba diving project of international standards was started at Sindhudurg by MTDC which resulted in attracting tourists in a big way. Nashik Boat club would be run by the MTDC and boat club is popular amongst the tourists. It also increased the number of tourists from Gujarat to Nashik as well as to Mumbai, Pune, Thane as well. Taking this experience in account, the state government has taken a policy decision of implementing innovative and world-class water tourism projects.

As a result of this project, the tourists visiting Mahabaleshwar, Wai and Panchgani would turn to Koyna water reservoir which would lead to increasing the stay of the tourists boosting the rural economy. It was also informed during the ceremony that it would give employment opportunities to local people which would be of permanent nature and would also create business opportunities. \*First ever Scuba diving centre in river water in the country\* This project would include various infrastructure facilities and water tourism facilities. A huge pavilion, conference hall, swimming tank, first scuba diving facility in river water in the country, big cruise boat in sea ferrying ride which can house more than 100 tourists and can enjoy breakfast as well as meals on this cruise would be created. During the sea ferry ride, the tourists would be able to enjoy Sahyadri ranges, green forests and forest life.



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Indian Express- 01 March-2024

## Shahpur-Kandi dam project almost complete, will benefit J&K, Punjab: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 29

THE SHAHPUR-KANDI dam project is nearing completion and will benefit four districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. He also criticised the previous governments for ignoring the project for four decades. On September 8, 2018, J&K and Punjab signed an agreement for resuming work on the Shahpur-Kandi dam project, which has been hanging fire for the last 40 years.

The project once completed would help reduce the quantum of India's share of Ravi waters flowing into Pakistan. "What is the importance of this project? The story begins in 1960 when the Indus Water Treaty was signed between the then Pakistan president Mohammad Ayub Khan and the then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru under which three (eastern) rivers – Ravi, Sutlej and Beas – were given to India and three (western) rivers – Sindhu, Jhelum and Chenab – were given to Pakistan. "That means we got the

biggest river that was Ravi and there was a need to construct a dam to utilise the water for irrigation of land in Kathua and Samba districts in Jammu and Kashmir and Gurdaspur and Pathankot in Punjab," the minister told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He said it will be a topic of debate why the project, which was conceptualised in 1990, was not taken forward for completion. "Probably it was because of vote bank politics or the ruling parties were not willing to develop the Kandi belt. Today, when the project is nearing completion, it will irrigate 3,500 to 4,000 hectares of land in this belt." "Why we deliberately and for unknown reasons deprived ourselves of the benefits of the projects, which will transform the entire belt," he said, adding the time will come when the coming generations will ask questions from their parents about why their area is called Kandi belt.



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Deccan Chronicle- 01 March-2024

# Jal shakti adviser warns against hasty Medigadda barrage use

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

No foolhardy decisions should be taken at Medigadda barrage until the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) completes its study as sought by the state government, and provides its interim report on the way forward, said Sriram Vedire, adviser to the Union jal shakti minister.

Answering questions at a press conference here on Thursday, Vedire said the NDSA team, constituted on Thursday, would visit the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages next week. Asked if the Jal Shakti ministry was aware of the crises, he said they came to know only after the cracking up and sinking of a portion of Medigadda barrage came to light on October 21, 2023.

It (BRS government) was keeping things hidden. It was the jal shakti ministry that took the lead and rushed a team of NDSA officials to Medigadda immediately afterwards, Vedire noted.

“When they came, they could not inspect the damaged portion as the then government claimed that there was water in the river and that the section of the barrage could be reached. All they had to do was to provide a boat, but they did not do that,” Vedire said. He said the BRS government did not give all the reports that the NDSA sought, including geotechnical reports that would have provided critical information on the strata on which the barrage was built. Without that, nothing much could be done. Now, NDSA is ready to do these studies on its own, Vedire said. The government should give NDSA all the reports sought, so the team can get to work immediately. If this is done, NDSA can give a preliminary report in one month, he said.

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The Hindu Business Line- 01 March-2024

# Water storage in 60% of reservoirs below 50% of capacity

**Subramani Ra Mancombu**

Chennai

The El Nino weather pattern, likely to dissipate by June 2024, is having a telling effect on the storage in India's 150 major reservoirs with the water level declining for the 21st week in a row on Thursday.

But, more disconcertingly, nearly 60 per cent of them have water less than 50 per cent of their capacity, data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) show.

According to CWC's weekly bulletin on live storage status of reservoirs this week, the level in 14 States is below normal. Of the 89 reservoirs where the storage is less than 50 per cent, the level in 66 is below 40 per cent. A majority of these are in the southern region. Per the

bulletin, the storage in the major reservoirs declined to 77,399 billion cubic metres (BCM), which is 43 per cent of the 178,784 BCM capacity. During the same period, the storage was 83 per cent and the average in the last 10 years was 94 per cent.

The situation in the northern and southern regions is worrisome with the storage dropping to 37 per cent and 28 per cent of the capacity, respectively.

## RESPITE FOR NORTH

What is offering hope to the northern region is the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast that an intense spell of rain, set to begin on Thursday night, will continue till Sunday with peak intensity on Friday and Saturday. This is on account of western disturb-

ance turning into a cyclonic circulation.

According to the IMD, at least 63 per cent of 711 districts, which share weather data, experience deficit, large deficit or no rainfall since the beginning of 2024.

While standing rabi crops especially in the South, due for harvest around April, face threat, questions now hang over the *zaid* (summer) crop as well as timely kharif sowing if the South-West monsoon does not set in on time this year.

## EL NINO IMPACT

While El Nino will likely dissipate by June, La Nina, which will bring more rain leading to floods, is predicted to emerge during June-August by various global weather models.

In the southern region, 31 of the 42 reservoirs were filled be-

low 50 per cent of capacity. The storage was 14,991 BCM, which is 28 per cent (30 per cent last week) of the 53,334 BCM capacity.

Among the States, only Kerala had 2 per cent above normal level, while Telangana joined Tamil Nadu (-20 per cent), Karnataka (-28 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (-49 per cent) among the States with lower than normal storage.

In the northern region, 9 of the 10 reservoirs were filled less than 50 per cent of the capacity. The storage level was 7,222 BCM, which is 37 per cent (40 per cent) of the 19,663 BCM.

All three States — Punjab, Himachal and Rajasthan — had storage below normal with the level in Punjab and Rajasthan being 16 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, below normal.

In the eastern region, 10 of the 23 reservoirs had storage lower than 50 per cent of the capacity. The region also has the two reservoirs in the country that are filled to capacity. The level this week was 54 per cent (56 per cent) of the 20,430 BCM at 11,024 BCM.

Of the 49 reservoirs in the western region, the storage in 22 was less than 50 per cent of the capacity. The level this week was 53 per cent (55%) of the 37,130 BCM capacity at 19,731 BCM. The storage in Maharashtra was 11 per cent below normal.

In the central region, the level in 17 of the 26 reservoirs was below 50 per cent of the capacity. The reservoirs' status in March will hinge on how the weather pans out. The IMD will likely issue its forecast for March on Friday.

**उम्र सिर्फ एक नंबर:** जल शक्ति मंत्रालय बोला-बांधों की उम्र से नहीं पड़ता उनकी सेहत पर असर, बशर्ते रखरखाव सही तरीके से हो

## 75 की उम्र के बाद भी जवान हैं ये बूढ़े बांध, छत्तीसगढ़ में भी ऐसे 13 बांध

देशभर में 327 ऐसे बांध जिनकी उम्र 75 वर्ष से ज्यादा है। एक्सपर्ट बोले- मिट्टी के बांध देते हैं संकेत, कांक्रीट में बरतनी पड़ती है सावधानी

जयंत कुमार सिंह  
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बिलासपुर. उम्र कुछ नहीं एक नंबर है इस बात को देश के या यूँ कहें प्रदेश के बांध धरिती कर रहे हैं। आम तौर पर 75 की उम्र के बाद चीजें जहाँ मुश्किल होने लगती हैं वहीं प्रदेश या देश के ये बांध जो 75 वर्ष पूर्ण कर चुके हैं या फिर इससे ज्यादा उनकी उम्र हो गई है आज भी जवान हैं, इनकी उपयोगिता आज भी वैसी ही है जैसे पूर्व में हुआ करता था। अब मुद्दे पर आते हैं जलशक्ति मंत्रालय के बड़े बांध रजिस्टर 2023 के अनुसार पूरे देश में 327 ऐसे बड़े बांध हैं जिनकी उम्र 75 वर्ष या इससे अधिक हो चुकी है। खास बात या आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि आज भी इन बांधों की सेहत पर कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ा है। अब प्रदेश के अनुसार बात करें तो छत्तीसगढ़ में ऐसे बांधों की संख्या 13, मध्यप्रदेश में 62 और राजस्थान में 28 है। एक्सपर्ट ये भी कहते हैं कि बांधों की आयु उनके संपूर्ण स्वास्थ्य की रीति से हानिकारक नहीं होती है।

अनोखा है प्रदेश का मुरुमसिल्ली बांध: प्रदेश के धमती स्थित मुरुमसिल्ली बांध अपने आप में अनोखा बांध है। यह



सबसे ज्यादा एमपी में

पूरे देश में 327 बांध 75 या इससे ज्यादा उम्र वाले हैं। पूरे देश में ऐसे बांधों की सबसे ज्यादा संख्या मध्यप्रदेश में है यहाँ 62 ऐसे बांध हैं। जबकि दूसरे नंबर पर महाराष्ट्र है जहाँ 47 ऐसे बांधों की संख्या है।

एशिया का फलत बांध है जिसमें एक्सपर्ट बताते हैं कि इसके साइफन बनाए गए हैं। यानि एक दो मीटर तो है। ऐसे बहुत ही कम होता है कि इसके सारे साइफन एक साथ चालू रहें।

इनकी उम्र जानकार हैरान होंगे आप

हमारे देश में ऐसे भी बांध हैं जिनकी उम्र आपको हैरान कर देगी। आंध्र प्रदेश का कुंभम बांध 1500 इस्वी में बना है जबकि राजस्थान में देश के सबसे पुराने बांधों की संख्या ज्यादा है। इसमें उदयसागर बांध 1565, राजसमंद 1676, बाँरो 1680, फतेहसागर 1687, जयसमंद बांध 1730 में निर्मित हुआ है।

ये हैं प्रदेश के 75 वर्ष से अधिक के जवान बांध

बांध	स्थापना
खापरी टैंक	1909
कुरुव टैंक	1909
पेंडरवन टैंक	1907
डेरिडोला टैंक	1910
धनरवा टैंक	1911
अमाकुवा टैंक	1917
तंदुला टैंक	1912
मुकुमसिल्ली	1923
गुन्धारी टैंक	1927
मनिपारी टैंक	1930
खारंग टैंक	1931
मरीवा टैंक	1909
इड़गहन टैंक	1905

बाँधों की उम्र का उनकी सेहत पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ता है। बांध हमारे जीवन ही नहीं हमारी सम्पत्ति के दृष्टि से भी महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं। आने आरंभ से देखा है कि मानव सभ्यता का विकास हमेशा नदियों के किनारे ही हुआ है। जहाँ एक बाँधों की मजबूती का प्रश्न है तो यह बात तब है कि वो हमारे द्वारा किए जा रहे रखरखाव पर निर्भर करता है। ये बात भी खात है कि मिट्टी के बांध हमेशा संकेत देते हैं जिससे आपको पता चल जात है कि इसमें सुधार या मटेरियल की जरूरत है। कांक्रीट के बांध में ऐसा नहीं होता हालांकि वे भी काफी टिकाऊ होते हैं ऐसे में इनके प्रीयर रखरखाव से हम इनकी उम्र को मानव सम्पत्ति के साथ समानांतर बढ़ा सकते हैं। हमारे प्रदेश के वो सभी बांध जो 75 की उम्र या इसे पार कर चुके हैं वो सुरक्षित हैं, बेहतर स्थिति में हैं।



अजय नरथानी, रिटायर्ड ईई, सिवाई विभाग

हो या इनसे पानी एक साथ निकल इसके सारे साइफन एक साथ चालू रहें।