

The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Dam, an engineering masterpiece, has played a crucial role in Karnataka's development and prosperity for nearly a century. Recently, heavy rainfall in the catchment area of the river has led to the water level crossing the 100-ft mark, bringing much-needed relief to the region.

### History of KRS Dam

The KRS Dam holds a rich history dating back to the rule of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV of Mysore. It was during his reign that the idea of constructing the dam was conceived to address the water scarcity challenges in the region. The construction of the dam commenced in 1911 and was completed after two decades in 1931, showcasing the engineering expertise and dedication of the people involved.

The dam's design and planning were entrusted to the renowned Indian engineer, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who crafted a structure that not only served practical purposes but also stood as an architectural marvel.

### Salient Features of KRS Dam

The Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is a gravity dam, a type of dam that relies on its weight and mass to withstand the force of the water it holds back. It is strategically located below the confluence of the river Kaveri with its tributaries, Hemavati and Lakshmana Tirtha, in the district of Mandya, Karnataka.

One of the primary functions of the KRS Dam is to facilitate irrigation in the regions of Mysore and Mandya. The dam's reservoir serves as a lifeline for farmers, ensuring a steady supply of water for agricultural activities, which are the backbone of the state's economy.

Moreover, the dam plays a vital role in supplying drinking water to the cities of Mysore, Mandya, and Bengaluru. These urban centers heavily rely on the KRS reservoir for meeting their water needs, especially during dry seasons when groundwater levels deplete.

Another significant function of the dam is to generate electricity. It provides a consistent supply of water to the Shivanasamudra hydroelectric power station, thus contributing to the state's power requirements.

### Interstate Water Sharing

The river Kaveri, originating in Karnataka, flows through various states, including Tamil Nadu. The water released from the KRS Dam flows downstream into Tamil Nadu and is eventually stored in the Mettur Dam located in the Salem district. Water sharing between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been a topic of contention over the years, and managing this resource fairly remains a challenge.

### Brindavan Gardens - Beauty alongside Utility

The Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is not just about functionality; it also adds beauty to its surroundings through the enchanting Brindavan Gardens. This ornamental garden, attached to the dam, has become a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from far and wide. The perfectly manicured lawns, vibrant flowerbeds, and

musical fountain shows make it a delightful retreat for people of all ages.