



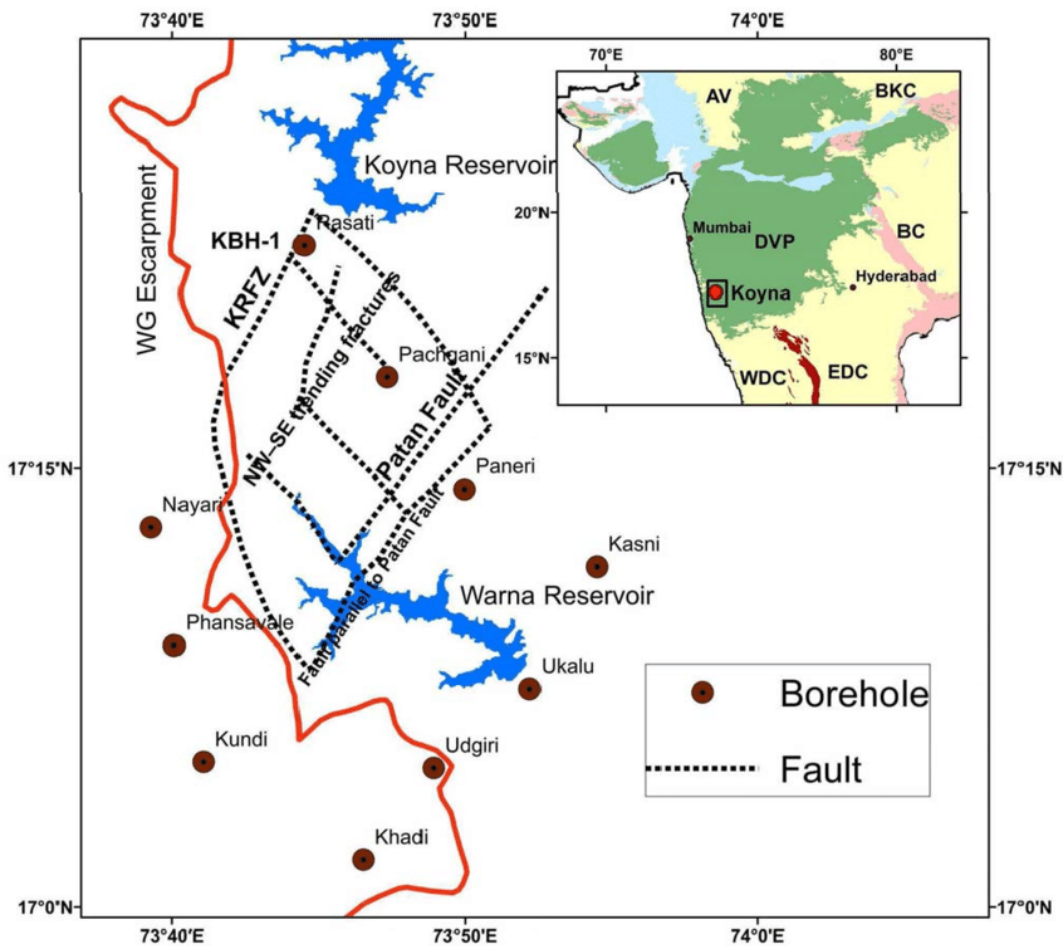
# Koyna Dam

## Why in News?

Recently, the [Comptroller and Auditor General \(CAG\) of India](#) informed about the **delay in the grant of Revised Administrative Approval to an incomplete hydroelectric project in Maharashtra**. The delay resulted in the **funds being blocked for more than six years**.

- The Water Resources Department (WRD) of the Maharashtra government accorded Administrative Approval for the construction of 2×40 MegaWatt (MW) hydroelectric project at Koyna Dam Foot on the left bank of the Koyna Dam **in 2004**.

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## What is Koyna Dam?

- The Koyna Dam is the **largest dam in Maharashtra**. The Dam is located in Koyana Nagar, Satara District.
- It is **nestled in the Western Ghats** on the state highway between **Chiplun and Karad**. Koyna

Dam is a rubble-concrete dam built on the Koyna River which rises in Mahabaleshwar, a hill-station in Sahyadri mountain ranges.

- The work on Koyna dam was initiated in 1951 and the first turbine **started working in 1962**.
  - At **present the stage V of Koyna Hydroelectric Power Project** is under construction.
- The main purpose of the dam is **to provide hydroelectricity with some irrigation facilities in neighboring areas**.
- The Koyna dam **supplies water to Paschim Maharashtra** as well as to the hydroelectric power to neighboring areas.
- The dam plays a vital role in flood control in **monsoon** season. The catchment area dams the **Koyna river** and forms the **Shivsagar Lake** which is approximately 50 km in length.
  - **Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary** covering an area of around 423.55 km<sup>2</sup> was notified in 1985.
  - In 2007 Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary along with Chandoli National Park was declared as a part of **Sahyadri Tiger Reserve** declared by **The National Tiger Conservation Authority**.
- It is **one of the largest civil engineering projects commissioned after Indian independence**. The Koyna hydro-electric project is run by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

### What are the Key Facts about the Koyna River?

- The **Koyna River is a tributary of the Krishna River** which originates in Mahabaleshwar, Satara district, Western Maharashtra.
- Unlike most of the other rivers in Maharashtra which flow East-West direction, the **Koyna River flows in North-South direction**.
- It covers an area of 2,036 km<sup>2</sup> in the Deccan terrain of the district of Satara in the state of Maharashtra.
  - With an elevation range of **550 - 1,460 m above mean sea level** it typically represents a physiographic setup characterized by the Deccan plateau in the Western Ghats region.
- It is dammed by the Koyna Dam at Koynanagar forming the Shivsagar reservoir.
- Koyna River is supported by four **tributaries**. They are **Kera, Wang, Morna and Mahind**. Among these rivers Kera, Wang and Morna are dammed.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaken? (2016)**

- (a) Cauvery and Tungabhadra
- (b) Godavari and Krishna
- (c) Mahanadi and Sone
- (d) Narmada and Tapti

**Ans: (b)**

**EXP:** The **Godavari - Cauvery link** comprises three components namely,

- The Godavari (Inchampalli/Janampet) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar),
- The Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) and
- The Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery.

**Source: TH**

