

## **K R S Dam**

The practice of constructing dams across rivers is existent from ancient times. Dams have always been beneficial for the existence of civilization. KRS or **Krishana Raja Sagar Dam** is an epoch-making dam in South India. Here is an exciting case study on this engineering marvel.

KRS Dam is a gravity dam of stone masonry with a height of 130.80ft built in 1938. It has a gross storage capacity of 49.452 TMC. A mortar known as “**surkhi**” was used in place of cement, as the latter was not manufactured in India at the time and importing would prove costly for the state.

KRS stands proudly as a testament to a humble king, brilliant engineer and the toil of thousands of men and women who made it an architectural wonder that it is. But above all, it has played a key role in converting a draught area into an economic zone. The sophisticated canal system from KRS to ‘Shivana Samudra’ has enabled mother earth to deck herself in lushest of green. This area is called the green gold of Karnataka state. KRS is a major drinking water source for one of the biggest city Bangalore (12 million population).

The Brindavan Gardens is a show garden that has a botanical park, with fountains, as well as boat rides beneath the dam. KRS Dam was the first to install automated Crest gates during 1920, which was initiated by Sir. M Visveswaraya. Display items include a musical fountain. Various biological research departments are housed here. The landscape of the area represents a complexity of agricultural land, rural habitation, sparingly spread trees and patches of original vegetation at the close by **Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary**, which attracts wide varieties of local and migrant birds. Nearly 220 species of birds have been recorded here in large numbers.