Concerns in Kishanganga Dam Project

What is the issue?

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In providing security for the Kishanganga dam sabotage is a major concern rather than shelling by Pakistan.

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What is the significance of Kishanganga dam?

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- Kishanganga dam is located in the Gurez Valley of Bandipora district, north of Srinagar and lies to the north of Wular Lake.
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- It is a 330 MW power project, and is expected to generate 1,713 million units per annum by diverting water from Kishanganga River to an underground powerhouse.
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- The project is operated by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), will benefit several north Indian states and will provide 12% of its generated power to J&K.
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- The presence of this dam in LOC shows India’s confidence in handling any challenge posed by Pakistan.
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Why India is confident about the security of the Dam?

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- The biggest defence for the dam is its proximity to the villages in Pakistan occupied Kashmir which are located only 10kms downstream of the river,

right after the LoC.
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- Therefore, any act to destroy the dam would actually pose the greatest danger to Pakistan.
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- And with the respect to the Indian villages downstream Kishanganga in Gurez, all six villages were shifted uphill while constructing the dam.
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- However, even if the dam is targeted, shelling from across the LoC does not pose any real danger as the dam is located in a gorge and not in the direct line of fire.
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- In the event that a shell does hit the dam, it can withstand shelling as it’s a very heavy structure.
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What are the concerns of security in the Kishanganga project?

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- There is a serious concern of sabotage in the dam by individual or groups, which too would pose same dangers of flooding downstream.
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- The river is wide enough to cause huge flooding at a discharge of about 2,000 cumec (cubic metres per second).
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- But the extent of damage to the structures and how it will affect the region and consequent power supply are unclear now.
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Source: The Indian Express

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