

India's Water Storage at 10-Year Low

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Why in News?

India's reservoir storage fell to **70% of capacity**, below the **10-year average of 76.62%**, amid deficient monsoon rainfall and severe water stress in southern India.

Reservoir Storage Status

- The **Central Water Commission (CWC)** monitors live storage levels across **178 major reservoirs**.
- As of **24 September 2026**, these reservoirs contained **70% of their total designed capacity**.
- This storage level is lower than the following historical benchmarks:
 - **10-year average** - 76.62%
 - **2025 level** - 79%
- This reduced storage coincides with **drought declarations in Maharashtra and Karnataka**.

Regional Reservoir Storage

Region	Reservoirs	Current Storage	Previous Year
South AP, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu	92	50% (27.926 BCM)	87.25%
East Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura, WB	31	73% (16.157 BCM)	—
North Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan	11	62% (12.431 BCM)	92.3%
West Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa	58	84.61% (32.664 BCM)	95.79%
Central Chhattisgarh, MP, UP, Uttarakhand	28	85.55% (41.568 BCM)	91.89%



South India recorded the lowest reservoir storage at **50%**.



BCM – Billion Cubic Metres

• Unit used to measure the volume of water stored in reservoirs.

Rainfall & Monsoon Situation

- **Rainfall Deficit** - By September 28, India experienced a **12% below-normal rainfall**.
- South India recorded a **23% deficit**, while East and Northeast regions had approximately a **25% deficit**.
- **Southwest Monsoon** - Occurring from June to September, the southwest monsoon supplies over 70% of India's annual rainfall.
- This precipitation is essential for reservoirs, irrigation, drinking water, and hydropower generation.
- **El Niño** - This tropical Pacific Ocean-atmosphere phenomenon significantly influences the Indian monsoon.
- Strengthening El Niño conditions have been associated with **rainfall deficits, prolonged dry spells, and elevated temperatures**.

Reference

[Indian Express | India's Water Storage at 10-Year Low](#)