

KISHANPURA DAM, ATRU: A HISTORICAL WATER CONSERVATION AREA

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The historic region of Hadoti in the state of Rajasthan in India showcases a rich and prosperous history from prehistoric times to the modern era. The Kota princely state was one of the prominent princely states of Rajasthan. The Kota princely state included the territories of Bundi, Jhalawar, and Kota districts.

On March 31, 1949, Rajasthan was reorganized. The headquarters of the Baran district was made a sub-divisional headquarters of the Kota district. On April 10, 1991, Baran district was created from the former Kota district.

Atru is a town in Baran district of Rajasthan. It is located in the southeastern part of Rajasthan. Atru has a dry climate. During the monsoon season from June to mid-September, the average rainfall is 895.2 mm. During the princely era, in order to conserve monsoon rainwater and provide adequate water for agriculture to the local farmers, as well as to avoid water scarcity issues in the region, a diversion was constructed on the Parvati River. This allowed for the small-scale collection and conservation of rainwater.

After the death of Maharaw Shatrushal, Ummid Singh II ascended the throne. Maharaw Ummid Singh II is considered the modern creator of Kota. When Ummid Singh II became Maharaw, Kota was a backward state. Through his efficient administration and a sense of devotion to his subjects, he achieved significant progress in the state, elevating it to one of the leading states in Rajasthan.

After the death of Maharaw Ummid Singh, Maharaw Bhimsingh became the ruler of Kota in 1940. In 1941, Bhimsingh constructed a pick-up weir on the Parvati River and the main canal was excavated, which is 1310 feet long and is an earthen canal. As needed, its area has been expanded over time. Currently, irrigation is provided to 12,547 hectares of land in 57 villages of Baran and Mangrol tehsil areas. This irrigation system includes one main canal, one branch, one distributary, and 62 minors, with a total length of 231 km.

In 2008, during Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's tenure, the improvement work of the Parvati Canal was carried out. The canals in the Parvati Canal area are earthen, which is why water does not reach the tail-end. In the 2023-24 budget announcement of the state government under Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, administrative and financial approval was granted for the strengthening of the Parvati Main Canal. This will benefit the farmers in the command area.

Under this state project, irrigation will be provided to 1421.46 hectares of land in 13 villages of Atru Tehsil, 8830.36 hectares of land in 36 villages of Baran Tehsil, and 2295.55 hectares of land in 9 villages of Mangrol Tehsil. The main canals of the Parvati irrigation system will be made permanent. There is a provision to strengthen the Kishanpura Dam (Atru) by removing silt and deepening the reservoir. The work also includes making the entire length of the Parvati

irrigation system's main canal, Rajawat Branch, and Paliya Distributary permanent and improving the system.

This work includes the construction of new footbridges, as well as repairs and strengthening of all irrigation structures, siphons, aqueducts, falls, culverts, headworks, and cross-regulators. The project aims to provide easier irrigation water access to 1421.46 hectares of land in 13 villages of Atru Tehsil, 8830.36 hectares of land in 36 villages of Baran Tehsil, and 2295.55 hectares of land in 9 villages of Mangrol Tehsil.

With the renovation and strengthening of this irrigation system, the entire command area, especially the tail-end region, will have better access to irrigation water. This will improve the living standards of farmers. The Kishanpura Anicut, built during the princely era, has been expanding over time. Currently, it continues to enhance the natural beauty of Atru while providing water to the region's farmers, just as it did during the princely period.

References

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