

# **Maharashtra Government Unveils Ambitious Water Tourism Project in Koyna Dam Area**

The Maharashtra state government has approved a water tourism project in Munawale village, located in the Koyna Dam area, following a proposal presented through the Satara District Planning Committee (DPC) in 2022. The proposal, aimed at developing water tourism, received the green light from the apex committee of the state government.

The Krishna Valley Development Corporation has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing this project, with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) slated to execute the initiative. Strict measures have been implemented to safeguard the environment and prevent pollution in the water tourism sector. Notably, the government has mandated the use of environmentally friendly boats.

Santosh Rokde, Deputy Secretary of the Tourism and Culture Department, announced the government's decision, emphasizing the significance of adhering to environmental guidelines. The directive includes provisions for necessary insurance discounts and medical facilities for tourists in compliance with regulations.

In a bid to promote tourism development, the State Government has made amendments to the Official Secrets Act 1923, specifically focusing on the Koyna Dam and the backwater area of Shivsagar. While safeguarding the dam and its surrounding seven km area as a prohibited zone, this amendment opens avenues for tourism development in the remaining 80 km area of the reservoir.

The government envisions transforming Munawale in Jawli taluka into a world-class water tourism destination through the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, with a sanctioned fund of 45 crores for this purpose. The Koyna Dam area boasts natural wonders like forests, Sahyadri hills, and pristine blue waters. The Shivsagar Reservoir offers immense potential for water tourism development, promising job opportunities for local youth and fostering economic growth in the region.