

Deccan Chronicle- 08- January-2022

UP ranked best state in water conservation, Rajasthan 2nd

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Addressing the 2020 National Water Awards, the minister for Jal Shakti said the country required 1,000 billion cubic metres of water per year to cater to its agriculture, irrigation, industrial and domestic requirements.

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patterns are changing... By 2050, the demand for water would rise from 1,000 billion cubic metres to 1,400-1,500 billion cubic metres. So, we must move ahead with a positive attitude and take effective steps," Shekhawat said.

Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh received the best district award in the northern zone, followed by Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in Punjab.

In southern zone, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala was awarded the best district, followed by Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh.

East Champaran in Bihar and Godda in Jharkhand were awarded first and second ranks among districts in the east zone, while Indore in Madhya Pradesh

ranked first in the western region. Vadodara in Gujarat and Banswara in Rajasthan won a joint second rank.

In the northeast zone, Goalpara in Assam and Siang in Arunachal Pradesh were recognised for their water conservation efforts.

This is the third National Water Award. The National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018.

National Water Awards also aims to provide a good opportunity to start-ups as well as leading organisations to engage and deliberate with senior policy-makers on how to adopt the best water resources management practices in India.

—PTI

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Tamil Nadu comes third in water conservation efforts

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Millennium Post- 08- January-2022

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OUR CORRESPONDENT

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To encourage and recognise individuals and organisations doing exemplary work in the field of water resources management, the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation gives 57 awards to states, organisations, individuals, etc. in 11 different categories.

Under the best industry category, Welspun India Textile Ltd. Gujarat (first), Hyundai Motor India Ltd. Tamil Nadu (second), and jointly Trident (Textile) Ltd (third) Punjab and Steel Authority of India Ltd (third) New Delhi have been awarded.

Under the best NGO category, Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell, Ahmedabad, Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP, Kanyakumari, Gramvikas Sanstha, Aurangabad and Vivekananda Research and Training Institute, Bhavnagar have been awarded first, second and joint third position respectively.

The Statesman- 09- January-2022

'Hydro power projects are necessary'

From serving as a telephone operator at the state electricity board and later as a junior engineer, Himachal Pradesh MP and Power Minister Sukhram Chaudhary has come a long way to head the department where he took up his first job in 1982. Chaudhary's portfolio is important as Himachal is considered to be naturally most suitable for hydro power generation. The state can generate 25,000 MW which is 25.9 per cent of India's total hydro power potential.

Recent natural calamities in power project areas, especially in Kinnaur district, have triggered unrest among environmentalists who are protesting against new projects. The protests in Kinnaur have spiralled to the neighbouring tribal district of Lahaul Spiti, especially after the Nigulsari landslide that resulted in the deaths of 28 people in August last year.

In an interview with Sajeew Kumar, Chaudhary expressed his views on various issues concerning the hydro power sector in the hilly state and dismissed suggestions that the power projects were responsible for natural calamities.

Excerpts:

Q. What were the achievements and initiatives of MPP and Power Departments since you took charge of the portfolio in August 2020?

A: Himachal Pradesh has a huge power potential and the state government is looking to exploit it by constructing more and more hydro-electric projects in the state. But

there have been instances where projects were sanctioned but couldn't get functional. There were hundreds of such projects so we started re-evaluation of these and granted amnesty so that a new Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) could be signed. The PPAs of many power projects were signed 20 years ago which made them unviable in present times, hence there was the need to sign new PPAs. As far as hydro-electric scenario is considered, we have started the provision of power banking. When we have surplus power during monsoons, we sell it to other states of the country through this mode and in open pool too. We buy back power from this pool when the state faces shortage of power in winters. At present, Himachal is generating 10,700 MW with a potential of generating 25,000 MW. We are looking to exploit the hydro power potential to make the state economically stronger.

Q. The resentment against hydro power projects is growing in the state with tribal population, especially in Kinnaur district, alleging that these projects were responsible for natural calamities due to unscientific construction?

A: This is not the case as the construction of hydro projects is being done on scientific methods, latest techniques and according to set rules and regulations. The state has witnessed many landslides in areas where there are no hydro-power projects so solely blaming these projects would not be accurate. In addition,



many areas of the state have witnessed development due to hydro projects and these projects have led to connecting many remote and geographically tough regions by road. These hydro power projects also have a major contribution in connecting remote areas with roads as in some areas, the project authorities have themselves constructed such roads. Also, the state government is ensuring

that the hydro projects are constructed with the latest technology so that ecology and natural beauty of these areas don't get affected.

Q. Is the state government planning to pacify protesting locals given the fact that some panchayats in Kinnaur district had boycotted bypolls that were held in October 2021?

A: Holding protests is a fundamental right of the people but if Himachal Pradesh wants to become a financially viable state, hydro projects are the necessity of the time. The state government always keeps interests of the locals in mind and engages with them from time to time to redress their grievances.

Q. Is the government planning to move from hydro power to renewable energy as solar power?

A: Yes. The state government is planning to exploit the solar power potential and has even come out with a new solar power policy in which many investors have evinced keen interest. We are promoting rooftop solar power plants in the state to harness solar energy and have now invited proposals for setting up ground mounted solar power projects with a target of generating 20 MW in coming years. These solar power plants will be allotted to individuals on a 'First Come, First Serve' basis. All bonafide Himachalis can apply for setting up such solar power projects with a capacity ranging from 250 KW to 1 MW.

Q. There was a proposal for a solar power park in Spiti but it is still in limbo. Is the government planning to go ahead with the plan?

A: Yes. It is a big solar power project (880 MW) which is aided by the Central government and it has been allotted to Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Ltd. We are working on transmission lines to evacuate power from the cold desert of Lahaul Spiti.

The Indian Express- 08- January-2022

UP tops Jal Ministry's National Water Awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 7

THE UNION Jal Shakti Ministry on Friday announced the winners of National Water Awards 2020, with Uttar Pradesh getting first prize in the best state category and ITC Limited Kolkata and Adani Foundation, Gujarat securing 1st and 2nd prize respectively in the best industry for CSR activities category.

Announcing the winners, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Shekhawat said that India's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic meters per year, which is projected to go up to 1,447 billion cubic meters by 2050. He said the aim of the awards is to encourage competition.

In the best state category, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have bagged 2nd and 3rd prize. In the best institution/RWA/ religious organizations for campus category, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board bagged the first prize. Welspun India Textile Ltd, Gujarat and Hyundai Motor India Ltd, Tamil Nadu bagged 1st and second prize in the best industry category.

Haribhoomi- 08- January-2022



केंद्रीय मंत्री शेखावत ने की जल संरक्षण पर पुरस्कारों की घोषणा

उत्तर प्रदेश सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य, पश्चिम क्षेत्र में इंदौर सर्वोपरि

एजेसी नई दिल्ली

राजस्थान और तमिलनाडु को दूसरे और तीसरे स्थान से सम्मानित किया

केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने शुक्रवार को घोषणा की कि 2020 के लिए जल संरक्षण के प्रयासों में उत्तर प्रदेश को सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य का दर्जा दिया गया है। जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने जल संरक्षण की दिशा में कार्यों और प्रयासों के लिए राजस्थान और तमिलनाडु को दूसरे और तीसरे स्थान से सम्मानित किया। जल शक्ति मंत्री ने 2020 के राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कारों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि देश को अपनी कृषि, सिंचाई, औद्योगिक और घरेलू आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए हर साल 1,000 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी की जरूरत है। मध्य प्रदेश में इंदौर को पश्चिमी क्षेत्र में पहला स्थान मिला।



जल बचाने प्रभावी कदम उठाएं

शेखावत ने कहा कि पानी का उपयोग बढ़ रहा है लेकिन इसकी उपलब्धता कम हो रही है। बारिश के पैटर्न में बदलाव भी होता जा रहा है। 2050 तक पानी की मांग 1,000 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर से बढ़कर 1400-1500 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर हो जाएगी। इसलिए हमें सकारात्मक रवैया अपनाकर और प्रभावी कदम उठाकर एक साथ आगे बढ़ना चाहिए।

मुजफ्फरनगर उत्तरी क्षेत्र में सर्वश्रेष्ठ जिला

उत्तर प्रदेश के मुजफ्फरनगर को उत्तरी क्षेत्र में सर्वश्रेष्ठ जिला का पुरस्कार मिला, उसके बाद पंजाब में शहीद भगत सिंह नगर को दूसरा पुरस्कार मिला। दक्षिण में केरल में तिरुवनंतपुरम को सर्वश्रेष्ठ जिले का पुरस्कार दिया गया और उसके बाद आंध्र प्रदेश में कडप्पा को यह पुरस्कार मिला।

पूर्वी चंपारण को पूर्वी क्षेत्र में पहला स्थान मिला

बिहार में पूर्वी चंपारण और झारखंड में गोड्डा को पूर्वी क्षेत्र के जिलों में पहला और दूसरा स्थान दिया। गुजरात के वडोदरा और राजस्थान के बांसवाड़ा ने संयुक्त रूप से दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया। उत्तर पूर्व क्षेत्र में असम में गोलपाड़ा और अरुणाचल प्रदेश में सियांग को उनके जल संरक्षण प्रयासों के लिए मान्यता दी गई थी।

Amar Ujala- 08- January-2022

2020 में जल संरक्षण प्रयासों में यूपी अव्वल, राजस्थान को मिला दूसरा स्थान

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। जलशक्ति मंत्रालय की ओर से शुक्रवार को तीसरे राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कारों की घोषणा में जल संरक्षण प्रयासों के मामले में उत्तर प्रदेश अव्वल रहा, वहीं राजस्थान दूसरे व तमिलनाडु तीसरे स्थान पर है। मंत्रालय अलग-अलग वर्गों आदि में 57 पुरस्कार देता है।

वर्ष 2020 के लिए पुरस्कारों का एलान करते हुए जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा, देश को कृषि, सिंचाई, औद्योगिक और घरेलू जरूरतों के लिए 1000 अरब क्यूबिक मीटर पानी की सालाना जरूरत है, लेकिन उपलब्धता कम हो रही है। ऐसे में हमें प्रभावी कदम उठाने होंगे।

मुजफ्फरनगर उत्तरी जोन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ

मुजफ्फरनगर उत्तरी जोन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ जिला रहा। दूसरे स्थान पर पंजाब का शहीद भगत सिंह नगर है। दक्षिण जोन में केरल का तिरुवनंतपुरम सर्वश्रेष्ठ, जबकि दूसरे पायदान पर आंध्र प्रदेश का कडप्पा है। पूर्वी जोन में बिहार का पूर्वी चंपारण पहले और झारखंड का गोड्डा दूसरे स्थान पर रहे। पश्चिम जोन में मध्य प्रदेश का इंदौर पहले पायदान पर है। इस जोन में गुजरात का वडोदरा और राजस्थान का बांसवाड़ा संयुक्त रूप से दूसरे स्थान पर है। उत्तर-पूर्व जोन में असम का गोलपारा और अरुणाचल प्रदेश के सियांग को सबसे अधिक जल संरक्षण प्रयासों के पहचान मिली।