

The Pioneer - 10 March-2024

# Government launches Catch the Rain drive to promote sustainable water management practices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Jal Shakti on Saturday launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024' to optimise rainwater harvesting and other sustainable water management practices. Speaking at the launch of the campaign here in the national capital, Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat emphasised the pivotal role of women in water management, conservation, and sustainability. The event themed 'Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti', which marked the fifth edition of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, was held at the New Delhi Municipal Council Convention Centre. Under 'Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti', the campaign seeks to establish a strong connection between women empowerment and the sustainable management of water resources, Shekhawat said. Key highlights of the event

include the screening of a documentary titled 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2019 to 2023' - a public-led movement marching towards water security' and unveiling of two books - 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: 2019 to 2023' and '101 Water Champions of Jal Jeevan Mission' and talks by 'Women Water Warriors'.

The campaign aims to cover water conservation, rainwater harvesting, geo-tagging of water bodies, establishment of Jal Shakti Kendras, intensive afforestation, and awareness generation, according to a government statement.

Additionally, the campaign emphasises on desilting and cleaning of water bodies, revitalising abandoned borewells, geo-tagging, and mapping of water bodies, intensified afforestation in catchment areas, snow harvesting in hilly regions, and rejuvenation of small rivers.

I/165954/2024

The Hindu - 10 March -2024

Four wells and a sprawling pond ensure the Guduvanchery campus of the company does not face a water crisis

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**I**n a post on X on November 20, 2023, Sridhar Vembu, chief executive officer of Zoho Corporation, tweeted about the water storage ponds on the company's Guduvanchery campus; about how they "capture" and store rainwater. He also touched upon his "plan to swim in it soon" with an emoji.

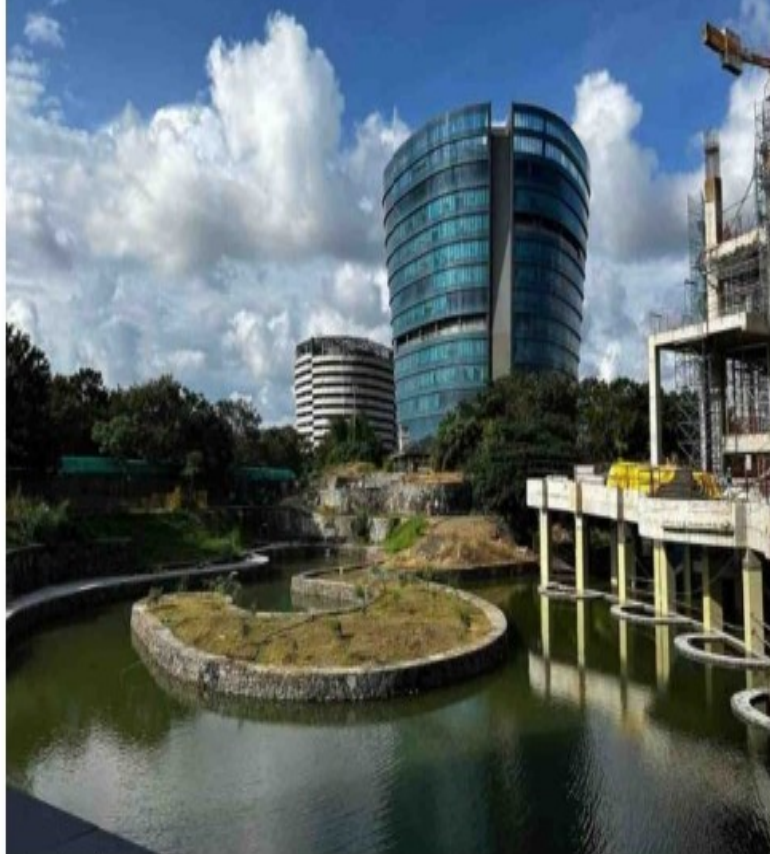
With the temperature in the city shooting up, there should be more employees who would want to dive into this sprawling pond spread across 1.5 acres.

The Pond Project at the Estancia campus was initiated two years ago and the results were evident following last year's November rains and later, Cyclone Michaung. In November, the water level stood at 13 feet.

"During cyclone Michaung, the water level in the pond rose to more than 18 feet. Owing to our mechanism, there was no water logging inside the campus," says Praval Singh, vice-president, marketing and customer experience, Zoho Corp, responding to questions over email.

The campus is designed in

## Water conservation begins at home: an illustration from Zoho



The pond at the Estancia campus. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

such a way that all the water from the terraces and roads across the campus is diverted to underground storage tanks. Once these tanks are filled to the brim, the water is then stored in the pond. When the pond reaches its full capacity, the overflow is let out to the main stormwater drainage system.

The provision for outflow is kept at more than one meter above Grand Southern Trunk (GST) road's level, the highway adjacent to the campus.

In addition to the pond, the campus also has four wells and one borewell. The stored water is used for fire hydrants and domestic use after RO treatment. "We house thousands of employees at the Estancia campus, and the stored water can fulfil our domestic requirement for three to four days. So, if there are 25 days of rain in a year, a maximum of 100 days of water for domestic use can come from the stored water.

For the rest of the domestic use, we use both well and borewell water. We use treated sewage water for chillers and flushing the water closet," says Praval.

Zoho believes that rainwater management should be incorporated into infrastructure planning and design to prevent wastage. This will also replenish the groundwater table. "By doing this, we believe the neighbourhood will not get flooded with the water that falls within the campus during rains. And in very extreme situations, the impact of excess rain can be curtailed," Praval adds.

Dainik Bhaskar- 10 March -2024

## सीएम ने गजेन्द्र और बाबूसिंह में कराई सुलह, राठौड़ बोले-शेखावत 25 साल पुराने दोस्त



जयपुर। एक-दूसरे के विरोधी बने विधायक बाबू सिंह राठौड़ और केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल शर्मा की मौजूदगी में शनिवार सुबह सुलह कर ली। इसके साथ ही अब माना जा रहा है कि इन दोनों नेताओं की आपसी अदावत लगभग खत्म हो गई है। दोनों नेताओं के बीच जयपुर में शनिवार को मुलाकात

हुई और इसके बाद मुख्यमंत्री आवास से दोनों नेता साथ बाहर आए। लोकसभा चुनाव के समय भाजपा में दूसरा विवाद चरू में सामने आ रहा है। राहुल कस्वां को मनाने की दिशा में भी पार्टी के बड़े नेता आगे आ सकते हैं। हालांकि भाजपा प्रदेशाध्यक्ष सीपी जोशी ने चुनाव लड़ने के चलते अभी तक दूरी बनाई हुई है।

■ बाबूसिंह राठौड़ ने कहा कि हमारी अच्छी बात हुई। हम पार्टी के लिए समर्पित हैं। लोकसभा चुनाव में मिलकर पार्टी के लिए काम करेंगे। भाजपा विधायक ने कहा कि हम सभी पार्टी से बंधे हैं। मेरा शेखावत से 25 साल का दोस्ताना, लेकिन जनता की बात रखनी पड़ती है।