

Deccan Chronicle 19-February-2021

SHORT TAKES

TS OKAYS WATER RESERVOIR IN KESHAVAPURAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

The government on Thursday gave final permission for diversion of 409.53 hectares of forest land for the construction of a 10 thousand million cubic feet capacity drinking water reservoir in Keshavapuram village. The reservoir is planned as part of providing water from Godavari river to Hyderabad to meet the drinking water requirements of the city.

The orders from the Environment, Forests Science & Technology Department of the state government follow a clearance from the Ministry of Forests and Environment approving diversion of the forest land for constructing the reservoir.

The approval, the department said, will be subject to the state government handing over that has been identified for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land being diverted for the project.

Indian Express 19-February-2021

Himalayas on the edge

Immediate regulation of all activities is urgently needed. A green cover in the adjacent valleys of the glaciers is essential



KARAN SINGH

THE GLORIOUS HIMALAYAS have always been a powerful presence in our cultural, economic and political life. In the opening verse of *Kumarasambhavam*, Kalidasa describes it as *devatātma*, a great spiritual presence. Indeed, it is from the Himalayan ashrams that the Vedas, Upanishads and many other seminal texts have come down to us. It is also the source of the great rivers that irrigate our country and feed half a billion people. Powerful though the Himalayas are, the Himalayan ecosystem is fragile and vulnerable. The constant damming of rivers has not only polluted the Ganga itself, but has also gravely jeopardised the people living in the higher reaches. Despite constant warnings from scientists and concerned citizens, the blasting of roads and damming of rivers continues unabated. The Kedarnath tragedy in 2013 claimed thousands of lives and the recent Rishi Ganga-Dhauri Ganga flood fury has also caused massive damage.

This unprecedented event of a flash flood in a calm, winter river on a bright sunny day is a strong warning from nature to make appropriate amends. It is common knowledge that winter is the time for glaciers to compact themselves and increase their girth rather than breaching or breaking and becoming the cause of deluge and disaster. If we continue the persistent interference in the sensitive Himalayan terrain for fulfilling a short-sighted concept of development, then we may have nothing left of the great Ganga basin to pass on to the next generation.

In 2008, G D Agarwal went on a fast-unto-death to protest the degradation of the Ganga due to hydro-power projects. After his death, the government found merit in his demands. It cancelled three under-construction hydro-power projects in the Bhagirathi Valley and declared the entire area as an eco-sensitive zone.

In the same year, a Planning Commission task force headed by G B Mukherjee highlighted the sensitivity of the Himalayan region (IHR), recommended demarcation of no-go areas and advised strategic environment impact assessments (SEA) in place of routine project-based environment impact assessment (EIA). Subsequently, Parliament debated the issue under Rule 193. An all-party delegation met then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and requested cancellation of all hydropower projects on the Ganga. Consequently, an inter-ministerial group (IMG) was formed to analyse the extent of damage. In April 2013, this IMG submitted a report stating that the Ganga basin rivers suffer immense fragmentation due to hydropower projects and recommended that seven tributaries of the Ganga, including the Rishi Ganga, be left untouched.

Two months later, the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy took place and the then leader of op-

position, Sushma Swaraj, suggested cancellation of all dams on the Ganga and rehabilitation of the Dhari Devi temple which was submerged in a hydropower project. About the same time, the Supreme Court took *suo motu* cognisance of the mushrooming of hydropower projects in Uttarakhand. A committee headed by Ravi Chopra was devised to investigate the role of hydropower projects in the wake of the disaster of 2013. Citing this report and several others, the Ministry of Environment and Forests stated before the court that the existing and under-construction hydropower projects had, in fact, played a direct and indirect role in escalating the impact of the disaster of 2013. The affidavit elaborated on the indirect impact of dams with regard to mass-scale deforestation, loss of water sources, fragmentation of river length, soil loss and so on, and the direct impact in terms of obstruction of the flow of raging rivers, thereby enhancing the flood fury downstream. It is appalling that the governments have not taken a decision on hydropower projects in the Ganga basin even after these findings. The promise of Ganga rejuvenation will be left unfulfilled if these dams are continued.

There are several infrastructure development activities happening simultaneously in Uttarakhand, which is already facing the furious consequences of climate change. Whether it is road-widening in the Chardham pariyojana, the hydropower projects, the ambitious Chardham railway project, unregulated tourism, building of resorts and so on, the cumulative impact of these activities combined with existing problems of forest fires, soil erosion and landslide prone hills, severely weaken the already fragile ecology.

An immediate regulation of all activities is urgently needed. A green cover in the adjacent valleys of the glaciers is essential, which will work as a buffer and minimise the impact of climate change. A 2018 Niti Aayog report cautioned that almost 60 per cent of water sources in the Indian Himalayan region are on the verge of drying up. For this reason, too, it is essential to maintain a green cover in the Himalayas. For this, the upper stretch of Himalayan valleys should be declared an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).

A truly sustainable Himalayan policy is possible only when the cultural significance of the Himalayas and the Ganga is kept in mind. In this process, the contribution and support of concerned state governments is essential. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and West Bengal (Darjeeling) fall within the immediate presence of the Himalayas, not to speak of the North Eastern States, which have their own set of environmental problems. This is an area where a creative federalism will be required if we are to meet the grave threats that loom ahead.

The Himalayas are a divine entity. Let us not forget that its presiding deity, Lord Shiva, can be both benign and destructive. When he dances his *ananda tandava*, the whole ecosystem fills with power and beauty, while if he does the *vinasha tandava*, there is total destruction. Let us work and pray for the former.

The writer is a former Union minister

Indian Express 19-February-2021

Modi launches connectivity projects in Assam

'Double engine govts reduced geographical, cultural distances'

TORA AGARWALA

GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 18

HIGHLIGHTING THE BJP government's commitment to increasing connectivity and development in Assam and the Northeast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday launched multiple initiatives in Assam, including the Mahabahu-Brahmaputra inland waterway project and the foundation stone of two bridges across the Brahmaputra. The projects are a continuation of a slew of similar announcements by the BJP government in the past month in poll-bound Assam.

"The Brahmaputra is a confluence of brotherhood and togetherness. For years, this sacred river has connected people," Modi said, through a video conference. "But it is also true that for long, work that should have been done to increase connectivity on the Brahmaputra, has not been done," said Modi. "That is why connectivity has always remained a challenge, not just in Assam but in the Northeast, too. But now we are steadfastly working in that direction."

The new projects come just two weeks after Modi laid the foundation stone for two medical colleges and launched the Asom Mala, a major road network project. Prior to that, the PM had distributed land allotment certificates to landless indigenous farmers in Sivasagar. The Prime Minister is expected to visit Assam's Dhemaji on February 22, where he will be inaugurating a host of other development projects.

To mark the Rs 3,200 crore Mahabahu-Brahmaputra initiative, Modi inaugurated three Ropax vessel operations between Neemati Ghat (Jorhat) and Majuli island, North Guwahati and South



PM Modi inaugurates projects through video conference, in Delhi. PTI

Guwahati as well as Dhubri and Hatsingimari. He also laid the foundation stone of Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa and various tourist jetties on the Brahmaputra and launched two portals for ease-of-doing-business.

The PM also laid the foundation stone for a 19-km-long four-lane bridge over the Brahmaputra — which will be India's longest bridge over a river — that connects Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya, to be constructed at the cost of Rs 5,000 crore. A bhumi puja was also performed for a 6.8-km-long two-lane bridge that would connect Kamalabari in Majuli, the world's largest river island to Neematighat in Jorhat.

Calling it a "landmark day" for Assam's development journey, PM Modi said that BJP's "double engine governments" — at the state and the Centre — have reduced the "geographical and cultural distances" between the state and rest of the country.

Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari said that road and infrastructure works worth Rs one lakh crore were being undertaken in Assam.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Millennium Post 19-February-2021

Correcting historical mistake of neglecting Assam: Modi

PM virtually launched the Rs 3,231-crore 'Mahabahu Brahmaputra' project

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that his government is correcting the "historical mistake" of neglecting Assam, and the state's development is its priority. Modi also said BJP's double engine governments at the Centre and in Assam reduced geographical and cultural distances between the state and rest of the country. "Prior to Independence, Assam enjoyed a high per-capita income but since 1947, its development was neglected.

Correcting the historical mistake of neglecting Assam had begun with former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, and now it has gained strength with the BJP government taking its development as a priority," he said.

The PM virtually launched the Rs 3,231-crore 'Mahabahu Brahmaputra' project on Thursday, which includes the construction of inland water terminal at Jogighopa and tourist jetties at Pandu, Jogighopa, Neamati and Biswanat ghat.

Modi said developing

waterway connectivity as part of the project will provide an alternative route to connect the northeast with other parts of India and neighbouring countries.

"The Brahmaputra is not just a river, it is the manifestation of the great saga of the north east's ethnic diversity and the region's harmonious co-existence.

"Along the banks of this mighty river, grew the culture and civilisation of Assam... over the years, many things have changed but what has not is the Brahmaputra's countless blessings in the form of diverse religious, societal and cultural influences on different ethnic communities living on both banks of this river," Modi said.

This river is, in fact, the nerve-centre of the state's possibility, potentiality and prosperity, he said. However, Modi said the irony is that instead of considering the Brahmaputra as 'Assam's Pride', since Independence, the river was treated as 'Assam's Sorrow' due to floods and erosion caused by it.

"Our government since coming to power made sincere



People cross the Brahmaputra river on a Ro-Pax vessel, after being inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, in Guwahati, on Thursday

attempts to realise Brahmaputra's innumerable blessings," the PM said. He also laid the foundation of the country's longest river bridge of 19 km from Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya at an estimated cost of Rs 5,000 crore, and the 8-km Jorhat-Majuli bridge.

The prime minister laid the foundation of the Rs 350-crore North East Data Centre at Guwahati, too, along with the e-portals PANI and CAR-D for ease of doing business.

Developing connectivity through roadways, railways, airways and inland waterways

will help realise the aspirations of the people of Assam and make the region the growth centre of the country, he said.

Efforts are underway to make the state and the northeast the hub of cultural and business relations with other East Asian countries, Modi said. He said it is painful to note that Assam, which was among the highest revenue-paying states during the British era and the fifth most prosperous state at the time of Independence, had to depend so heavily on grants and subsidies of the central government dur-

ing the subsequent years.

The traditional trade routes got disrupted after Independence and this adversely affected the economy, along with poor governance and mismanagement, the prime minister said. "Our government is committed to change the dismal scenario and transform this neglected region of the past...," he asserted.

Modi also highlighted the government's focussed attention for the development of Majuli, the country's largest river island, and said the government was committed to preserve Majuli's unique culture, ecology and protect it from erosion and connect it with the mainland.

The PM said he was happy to say that there is a remarkable change in Majuli — be it road infrastructure, healthcare facilities, academic opportunities or governance, "change is visible everywhere in the island".

He added that work on the India-Bangladesh protocol route across the Hooghly River to connect the Brahmaputra and the Barak River has been initiated.

The Statesman 19-February-2021

Environmental concerns related to hydroelectric projects also need to be addressed: HP Governor

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 18 FEBRUARY

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Thursday said hydropower generation plays an important role in increasing the economic resources but the state needed to do more work while addressing concerns related to environmental protection.

After a visit to Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project at Rampur in Shimla, Dattatraya said the state was one of the leading states in the field of power generation where surplus energy was being generated.

"Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Station of 1500 MW capacity is the country's largest hydropower plant which is providing electricity to around nine states of the country.

The project boasts of the largest and longest headrace tunnel, largest desilting chambers, deepest and largest surge shaft and the largest underground power complex," he added.

He further stated that the



HP Governor Bandaru Dattatraya during his visit to Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project at Rampur in Shimla.

SNS

project added 1,500 MW capacity to the Indian Northern Grid since the first unit was commissioned in October 2003. He expressed happiness that the Union Power Ministry was reportedly treating this as a benchmark for future hydroelectric projects.

Earlier, the Governor paid

a visit to Bhima Kali Temple at Sarahan and paid obeisance. He visited the temple complex and inquired about the history of the temple.

Bhima Kali temple is one of 51 Shakti Peethas and is a reflection of the rich cultural heritage of the state, said Dattatraya.

He added the premises were immaculately clean and offered an extraordinary view of nature.

"Himachal is a land of God and Goddess and is known as Dev Bhoomi and the significance of Dev Bhoomi is reflected in these ancient temples," he added.

The Statesman 19-February-2021

Khattar calls for rejuvenation of 1890 ponds in Haryana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 18 FEBRUARY

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, on Thursday called for rejuvenation of 1890 ponds in the state in a time-bound manner for the use of the public.

Giving this direction, the CM - the Chairperson of Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority (HPWWMA) - said contaminated water of drains in the state should be treated and used for fisheries and irrigation purposes.

He emphasised to clean the natural rain ponds and maintain them till 30 June. While giv-



ing directions to set up a team of youth at the local level to look after the renovated ponds, Khattar said that it is not only necessary to focus on construction of ponds but also to maintain them.

The CM said presently if there is any encroachment on ponds, then prepare a report regarding the same and bring

it to the notice of the authorities concerned so that appropriate action can be taken.

It was informed at the meeting that as per the orders issued by the government, a total of 905 ponds have been completed under the various schemes during fiscal year 2019-20 and 2020-21 and construction work of 756 ponds is about to be completed soon. Currently in the 18 model ponds, the used water of the houses is being allowed to flow into the ponds only after being treated by Constructed Wetland Technology and the rejuvenation of the proposed 200 ponds in 2020-21 will be started soon.

Meanwhile, the CM said the details of the crop sown in every acre should be registered by the farmers on the 'Meri Fasal - Mera Byora' portal. Besides this, the details of patches of land lying vacant should also be updated. During a meeting of Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran held here today, it was informed at present 92 lakh acres of land is verified, of which about 68 lakh acres of land is under cultivation.

On the remaining uncultivated land, the CM directed to ascertain the usage of the remaining 24 lakh acres of land. He said that the mechanism of crop verification will be strength-

ened under the 'Meri Fasal - Mera Byora' Scheme. He also instructed the officers that in future the entire amount of crop purchase should be deposited in the account of farmers.

Khattar said it is difficult to enhance the income of farmers on the basis of agriculture only. For this, it is important to promote agriculture related activities like horticulture, floriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries. He said that initially plans for peri-urban agriculture should be formulated for four districts - Sonapat, Jhajjar, Gurugram and Faridabad so that there could be cultivation according to local needs.

Navbharat Times 19-February-2021

महाबाहु-ब्रह्मपुत्र से 680 किमी की दूरी घटकर 43 रह जाएगी

■ **भाषा, गुवाहाटी :** प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गुरुवार को असम को कई विकास परियोजनाओं की सौगात दी और कहा कि उनकी सरकार पूर्वोत्तर के इस राज्य को नजरअंदाज करने की 'ऐतिहासिक गलती' को ना सिर्फ सुधार रही है, बल्कि तेज गति से उसके विकास के

असम को मोदी का तोहफा, 11 दिन में दूसरी बार कार्यक्रम

लिए प्रतिबद्ध भी है। पीएम मोदी ने इस अवसर पर 'महाबाहु- ब्रह्मपुत्र' जलमार्ग का लोकार्पण किया। धुबरी-फुलबाड़ी पुल की आधारशिला रखी और माजुली सेतु के निर्माण के लिए भूमिपूजन किया।

महाबाहु-ब्रह्मपुत्र से 680 किमी की दूरी घटकर 43 रह जाएगी। बता दें कि 11 दिनों में पीएम मोदी का असम के लिए यह दूसरा कार्यक्रम है।

विडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस के माध्यम से कार्यक्रम में शामिल होते हुए पीएम ने रिमोट कंट्रोल का बटन दबाकर इन परियोजनाओं का लोकार्पण और शिलान्यास किया।

Dainik Jagran 19-February-2021

यमुना की सफाई में नहीं हुई खास प्रगति

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : एनजीटी द्वारा यमुना निगरानी के लिए गठित नई कमेटी ने एक रिपोर्ट दाखिल कर कहा है कि यमुना की सफाई में कुछ खास प्रगति नहीं हुई है। यमुना में कचरा रोकने के लिए 42 सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) लगाए जाने की योजना थी, लेकिन दिसंबर तक सिर्फ एक ही प्लांट लग पाएगा और योजना जून 2022 तक पूरी हो सकेगी।

एनजीटी ने हाल ही में यमुना निगरानी समिति को भंग कर नई कमेटी का गठन किया था। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि यमुना में प्रदूषण को लेकर रिठाला, कौंडली और ओखला सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित क्षेत्र हैं और इनके लिए बनाई गई योजना



यमुना में प्रदूषण के कारण अक्सर झाग दिखता है। फाइल फोटो

पर काम तय समय से काफी पीछे चल रहा है, क्योंकि यहां पेड़ काटने और पौधारोपण के लिए दिल्ली सरकार से अनुमति नहीं मिली है। रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की तरफ से जिन ठेकेदारों को अलग-अलग कार्य दिए गए हैं, उन्हें समय पर भुगतान नहीं किया जा रहा है। यमुना से 90 मिलियन गैलन पानी का इस्तेमाल रोजाना सिंचाई और डीटीसी के अलग-अलग डिपो में हो रहा है।

- नई निगरानी कमेटी ने एनजीटी में दाखिल की रिपोर्ट
- 42 एसटीपी लगाने की थी योजना दिसंबर तक लगेगा सिर्फ एक
- एक एसटीपी अप्रैल से दिसंबर के बीच शुरू होगा
- कुल 42 एसटीपी को संचालित करने की है योजना

Haribhoomi 19-February-2021

नेहरू युवा केंद्र
का जन जागृति
अभियान शुरु

दिलाई जल संरक्षण की शपथ और रैली नुक्कड़ व संगोष्ठी से कर रहे जागरुक

हरिमूमि न्यूज ►► गुरुग्राम

जल को ही जीवन कहा गया है। जल संरक्षण के प्रति सरकार से लेकर कई सामाजिक संस्थाएं भी जुटी हुई हैं। केंद्र सरकार का जलशक्ति मंत्रालय भी विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन कर जल संरक्षण के प्रति लोगों को जागरुक करता रहा है। इस मंत्रालय ने केच दरैन अभियान शुरु किया है। नेहरू युवा केंद्र इस अभियान को सहयोग कर रहा है। जिले के सभी विकास खंडों में नेहरू युवा केंद्र विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन भी करा रहा है। जिले के गांव कुकड़ौला, दिवलावास, तुर्कापुर, दुर्गापुर एवं भौड़ाखुर्द में नेहरू युवा केंद्र



कार्यक्रम में शामिल केंद्र के युवा समन्वयक व अन्य।

के कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा जहां लोगों को जल संरक्षण के प्रति जागरुक किया गया, वहीं उन्हें जल संरक्षण की शपथ भी दिलाई गई। जागरुकता रैली, संगोष्ठी

एवं नुक्कड़ नाटक जैसे कार्यक्रमों को भी किया जा रहा है। कृष्ण लाल का कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम जिले के शहरी व ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में चलाया जा रहा है।

Haribhoomi 19-February-2021

‘महाबाहु-ब्रह्मपुत्र’ देश को समर्पित, दो पुलों की रखी आधारशिला

एजेसी ► गुवाहाटी

असम को प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने दिया तोहफा

पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने आगामी विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले गुरुवार को असम को कई विकास परियोजनाओं की सौगात दी है।

पीएम मोदी ने वीडियो वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस के जरिये असम में 3,231 करोड़ रुपए की लागत वाली महाबाहु-ब्रह्मपुत्र परियोजना का लोकार्पण किया है। साथ ही पीएम मोदी ने धुबरी-फूलबाड़ी ब्रिज की आधारशिला रखी और माजुली सेतु के निर्माण के लिए भूमिपूजन किया। इसके अलावा कई अन्य परियोजनाओं को हरी झंडी दिखाई। पीएम ने कहा कि असम का विकास सर्वोपरि है।

खास बातें

■ वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस से असम में 3,231 करोड़ की लागत वाली महाबाहु-ब्रह्मपुत्र परियोजना का लोकार्पण करने के अलावा कई परियोजनाओं को हरी झंडी दिखाई।



असम में मजबूत होगी कनेक्टिविटी

इस अवसर पर पीएम ने कहा कि ब्रह्मपुत्र पर कनेक्टिविटी से जुड़े जितने काम पहले होने चाहिए थे, उतने पहले नहीं हुए। इसकी वजह से असम और नार्थ ईस्ट में कनेक्टिविटी एक चुनौती बनी रही है। महाबाहु ब्रह्मपुत्र के आशीर्वाद से अब इस दिशा में तेजी से कार्य हो रहा है। पीएम ने कहा, हमने ब्रह्मपुत्र की सशक्त भावनाओं के अनुरूप सुविधा, सुअवसरों और संस्कृति के पुल बनाए हैं। असम सहित पूरे नार्थ ईस्ट के फिजिकल और कल्चरल एक्टिविटी को बीते सालों में सशक्त किया गया है। आज का दिन असम सहित पूरे नार्थ ईस्ट के लिए इस व्यापक विजन को विस्तार देने वाला है।

प्राथमिकता से होगा राज्य का विकास

पीएम ने कहा कि ब्रह्मपुत्र और बराक सहित असम को अनेक नदियों की जो सौगात मिली है, उसे समृद्ध करने के लिए आज महाबाहु ब्रह्मपुत्र कार्यक्रम शुरू किया गया है। ये कार्यक्रम ब्रह्मपुत्र के जल से इस पूरे क्षेत्र में वॉटर कनेक्टिविटी को सशक्त करेगा। अब असम का विकास प्राथमिकता में भी है, इसके लिए दिन रात प्रयास भी हो रहा है। बीते 5 वर्षों में असम की मल्टी मॉडल कनेक्टिविटी को फिर से स्थापित करने के लिए एक के बाद एक कदम उठाए गए हैं।

Hindustan 19-February-2021

जल जीवन मिशन के दायरे में आएंगे देश के सभी 4378 शहर

शहरों में हर घर को सीवर और नल से जोड़ा जाएगा

योजना

रामनारायण श्रीवास्तव | नई दिल्ली

जल जीवन मिशन (शहरी) के तहत दस शहरों के पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के बाद देश के सभी 4378 शहरी निकायों में इसे शुरू किया जाएगा और पांच साल के भीतर शहरी क्षेत्रों में नल से जल कनेक्शनों के 2.68 करोड़ घरों के लक्ष्य को पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। इसके साथ सीवर कनेक्शन पर भी काम किया जाएगा और उसमें 2.64 करोड़ कनेक्शनों के अनुमानित लक्ष्य को भी इसी समयवधि में पूरा किया जाएगा।

इस परियोजना के लिए अनुमानित खर्च दो लाख 87 हजार करोड़ रुपए है। इसमें तीन बिंदुओं पानी की गुणवत्ता, जल स्रोत का संरक्षण और जल वितरण में हानि को कम करने पर जोर दिया जाएगा। जल जीवन मिशन (शहरी) के

सीधे पीने लायक होगा नल का जल

केंद्रीय आवासन व शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय के सचिव दुर्गाशंकर मिश्र ने कहा है कि इसमें इस बात पर ज्यादा काम किया जाएगा कि जो पानी नल से आएगा वह गुणवत्ता वाला हो और उसे सीधे पिया जा सके। उसे आरओ या अन्य उपकरणों से फिल्टर करने की जरूरत न पड़े। इसके लिए उसका संयंत्रों में ही पूरी तरह से शोधन किया जाएगा और पाइपलाइन को भी ठीक रखा जाएगा। साथ ही जो पानी उपयोग के बाग वेस्ट के रूप में होगा उसका भी शोधन कर उसे बागबानी या औद्योगिक उपयोग में लेने का काम भी किया जाएगा।



तहत इस काम के साथ पानी के स्रोतों पर भी काम किया जाएगा। शहरी क्षेत्रों में पानी के पुराने स्रोतों को तलाशने, उनके पुनुरुद्धार करने और नए स्रोत तैयार करने का भी काम किया जाएगा। इस काम में आधुनिक तकनीक की भी मदद ली जाएगी। अनुमान के मुताबिक लगभग 50 फीसद पानी का कोई हिसाब किताब नहीं है यानी यह पानी या तो लीकेज में बर्बाद हो रहा है या फिर इसका कोई भुगतान नहीं हो रहा है। इस नुकसान को

भी 20 फीसद तक लाने की योजना है।

जागरुकता व प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ाने का

होगा काम : अभी शहरी क्षेत्रों में यह काम अमृत योजना के तहत हो रहा है जिसमें पांच सौ शहर हैं। इनमें 478 एक लाख से ज्यादा जनसंख्या वाले हैं। बाकी में राजधानियां, हृदय योजना शहर व नदी किनारे के महत्वपूर्ण शहर शामिल हैं। मंत्रालय की योजना इसे स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण की तरह चलाने की है, जिससे लोगों में जागरुकता के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा भी बढ़े।