

Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate


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'Flexible approach' to address water issues

RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI

New Delhi, 11 June

GS-12

The new Jal Shakti (water) ministry will adopt a flexible approach for tackling the water issue and delivering on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poll promise of "Nal se Jal" (tap water) using surface and ground water, depending on the region, and pushing for conservation and sustainability to balance supply.

Outlining the broad contours of the strategy, Parameswaran Iyer, drinking water and sanitation secretary said, "Water conservation will go together with supply. Delivery will be managed by the community."

In its 2019 manifesto, the BJP had promised that it would launch the 'Jal Jivan Mission', under which its government would ensure piped water for every household by 2024. The manifesto had added that the government would ensure "sustainability of water supply



**Jal Shakti Minister
G S Shekhawat**

through a special focus on conservation of rural water bodies and ground water recharge".

The government held a meeting with various state representatives on Tuesday to discuss issues around water availability and local challenges. Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, "Water is a state subject but we will provide all the hand-holding required to ensure we improve our coverage of clean drinking water from 18 per cent currently to 100 per cent by 2024."

Ambitious move BS-12

The challenges before the Jal Shakti ministry are huge

As the chosen one for the newly-minted Jal Shakti Ministry, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has one of the toughest jobs in the second edition of the Narendra Modi government. Apart from the responsibility of rolling out the government's ambitious plans to provide piped water connections — the *nal se jal* scheme — to every household in India by 2024, Mr Shekhawat will also have to address international and inter-state water disputes and the Namami Gange project — the flagship initiative to clean the river Ganga, its tributaries and sub-tributaries. This is in line with the BJP's election manifesto, which promises to address water-related issues in the country in an integrated manner.

The idea behind the creation of the ministry is salutary because it has the potential of bringing about a transformational change. A NITI Aayog report in 2018 noted that around 600 million people in India face high-to-extreme water stress. Around 75 per cent of the households do not have drinking water on their premises, 84 per cent rural households do not get piped water, and 200,000 die every year because of inadequate access to safe water. With 70 per cent of the water contaminated, India holds the dubious position of 120th among 122 countries on the water quality index.

Around 21 cities, including New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad, are set to run out of groundwater by 2020, affecting an estimated 100 million people. By 2020, India will be formally categorised as a "water-stressed" country, where per capita availability of water is less than 1,000 cubic metres. And by 2030, water demand is expected to be twice the available supply and the country could lose up to 6 per cent of its gross domestic product.

One of the main reasons for this crisis is that India's river systems are suffering badly from water scarcity. Take the example of the river Yamuna — the largest tributary of the river Ganga in North India. The river was once described as the lifeline of Delhi. But today, it has become one of the dirtiest rivers in the country. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the water quality of the Yamuna is fit only for recreation and industrial cooling, completely ruling out the possibility for underwater life.

Agriculture is another issue. India has 18 per cent of the world's population with 4 per cent of the world's fresh water. Of this, 80 per cent is used in agriculture. India's farmers prefer water-guzzling crops like rice, cotton, wheat and sugarcane. Rice, an important export crop, consumes as much as 3,500 litres of water for a kilogram of grain. But convincing farmers to cultivate other crops would be a tough job.

India's annual rainfall is mostly received between July and September. In the absence of storage procedure, lack of adequate infrastructure, and inappropriate water management, around 20 per cent of the water is used. An exclusive water ministry at the Centre also has to face more than just the water challenge. Infrastructure, which is critical to the distribution of piped water, is in a shambles in rural India. It needs to be rebuilt along modern lines. Besides, water is a state subject, and in most states, lakes and ponds have been altered for urbanisation and industrialisation. The water mafias, real estate lobby and even farmers will loathe any Central intervention. The only way the Centre can intervene is through inter-state rivers if Parliament legislates it in the public interest.

No Drought Alert Yet, But Centre Warns of Deficit Rainfall

ECOS ET-12

Rituraj.Tiwari@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre has asked states to brace for deficit rainfall this season, although the weather office has stuck to its forecast of normal monsoon.

The suggestion came at the Centre's first meeting on drought management held on Tuesday.

The monsoon reached Kerala on June 8 — a week later than usual — and has made tardy progress since. It has not moved northwards for two days. The severe heatwave in most parts of the country, with the mercury soaring at 48 degrees Celsius in Delhi and above 50 degrees in parts of Rajasthan, has heightened anxiety over water scarcity and agricultural yield.

Officials, however, maintained that it was too early to predict the June-September monsoon season. The alarm bell is pressed when there is a long dry spell during monsoon and the soil starts losing moisture.

"There is no such alarming situation as the monsoon has just started. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast normal monsoon. There are 80 days to go.

But we should be prepared if there is any deviation in rainfall," said a senior agriculture ministry official.

He said all states are prepared with their action plans and the Centre is also ready for any kind of support the states would need. "The Drought Action Contingency Plans (DACP) for 648 districts are ready. We will review the

situation every week through video conferencing. It's the responsibility of the states to declare drought. The Centre allocates extra funds and resources at the request of the states."

The government reviews the status of rainfall, soil moisture, sowing acreage, reser-

voir condition, availability of fodder and progress of monsoon. "The latest IMD forecast says that conditions are favourable for monsoon to further advance. It is raining heavily in Kerala, Karnataka and north-eastern parts of the country. We expect the monsoon to soon advance over fertile lands of north and central India," another official said.

**Unabated
heatwave
fuels fear of
water
scarcity,
lower farm
yield**



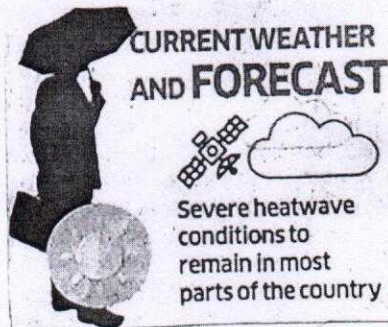
Countrywide rainfall in 24 hours until Tuesday morning was 53% below average

Total rainfall since the start of the monsoon season on June 1 is **46%** below normal

The weather office maintains that June-Sept monsoon rain will be nearly normal



The Centre is ready with drought mitigation plans, should the need arise



India's hottest place is Churu in Rajasthan at **50.3°** Celsius



A severe cyclone is heading towards the Gujarat coast

Winds gusting up to 135 km/hour will lash the state on Thursday



Heavy rain in coastal Maharashtra and Gujarat expected in the next 2-3 days

ET-12-7

Fix The Leak: Why Water Is A Company Matter

TOI's Water Positive Campaign Invites Corporate Houses To Join The Movement For A Water Resilient Future

Times News Network

On May 27, Uday Kotak tweeted: "4.3 lakh plastic bottles saved per annum. Glass water jars and disposable paper cups in meeting rooms at Kotak Mahindra Bank Mumbai offices. Working to make it national", along with a photo of the glass jars and paper cups.

The measure shared by an industry leader shows businesses acknowledging, however slowly, and demonstrating, that company practices and tiny tweaks in office drills can significantly impact the environment and help conserve natural resources.

Not just plastic, large companies are engaging with how they approach 'water', the most precious and threatened resource. From indiscriminate sourcing, to polluting groundwater and rivers, corporate houses have had a free run in use of water for operations without limit, and often have flouted pollution norms, with little regard for checks and balances.

Large MNCs have faced community unrest at factory sites over random sourcing, and polluting, of groundwater, adversely impacting the neighbourhood of their factory sites, and been taken to court.

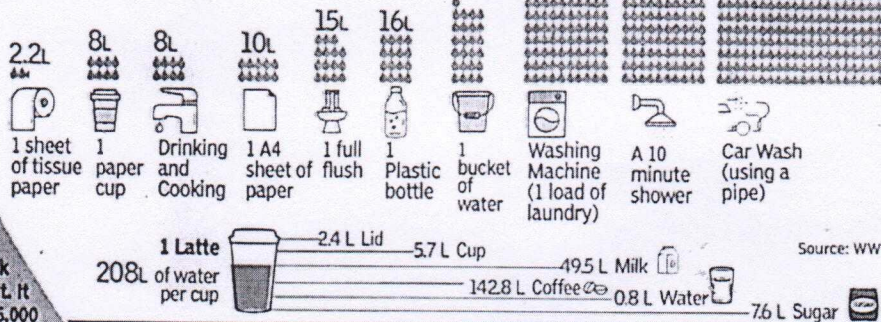
While reducing individual 'water footprint' has been the focus for conservation efforts, community actions and NGO-led projects have made the leap to the corporate world, where collectives are engaging with companies to review water practices: in offices, supply chain and in their operations.

As the water crisis deepened, the 'water risk' to businesses sharply spiked, leading to corporate houses seeking

MAP YOUR WATER FOOTPRINT

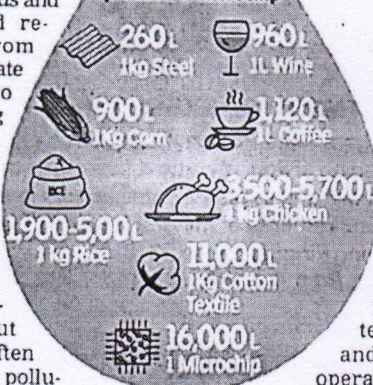
Here's a measure of how much water is used up to produce everyday products

● = 1 Litre



Source: WWF

Think about it. It takes 16,000 litres of water to produce a microchip



MAKE INDIA WATER POSITIVE
A TIMES OF INDIA INITIATIVE

solutions to make operations more water-friendly and business operations less risky. Australia made

water a tradable commodity in the hope that it will be managed more efficiently.

Charity CDP was founded 15 years ago as a system for investors, corporate houses, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. CDP said in its 2018 report that despite knowing the severity of water stress, just nine of 37 Indian companies asked to disclose to CDP their commitments to measure the environmental impact of their businesses did so.

Some years ago, the non-profit Alliance for Water Stewardship devised a measure to gauge a company's commitment to conservative water use from supply chain to end cus-

Make India Water Positive

Readers, pledge to save water at waterpositive.timesofindia.com and share your water conservation story at:

FB: [#bewaterpositive](https://www.facebook.com/bewaterpositive) | Twitter [@bewaterpositive](https://twitter.com/bewaterpositive)

Companies, share your water conservation story on waterpositive.timesofindia.com to participate in the Make India Water Positive Challenge 2019

tomer. The standard measured a company's commitment to "use of water that is socially equitable, sustainable and economically beneficial... that involves site and catchment-based actions".

The AWS Standard, its website says, was developed through a four-year global consultation for a framework that could be implemented at any site, across the sector, in any catchment globally. It is the only framework for water users that is compliant with guidelines for standards system laid down by ISEAL, the global alliance for credible standard systems. This is among the initiatives made the world over towards what is called water positivity: where rampant abuse of water is replaced by an attitudinal shift of taking 'care' of water.

TOI's Make India Water Positive campaign is a stand against wastage and mismanagement of water. This year it aims to bring a behavioural

change among people to make a responsible choice of the brands they will endorse, based on their water-resilience.

Just a clutch of companies is exploring water-efficient businesses. Ashish Bhardwaj of AWS India said that Diageo, Mars and ITC have adopted the AWS Standard in India 2014. A Coimbatore paper and pulp unit which has adopted the standard awaits an audit, he said. First, a baseline study at the site included the factory's impact on the region's water resources such as check dams, village ponds etc. It measured the gap between practice and ideal water use. It was, thereafter, for the company to adopt practices and devise ways to improve operations.

TOI's Water Positive campaign is designed to motivate companies to commit to water-positivity and announce their status as a socially responsible brand. The campaign has invited brands to pledge to water positivity on global standards.

Partly cloudy sky, dust storm with light showers likely today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after the maximum temperature in the city hit a record high of 48 degrees Celsius at Palam, the maximum temperature on Tuesday was 44.5 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal, while the minimum was 30.4, two points above normal.

Palam recorded a maximum temperature of 45.4 degrees Celsius, while Ridge station was the warmest in Delhi with 46.9 degrees Celsius. Ayazgar reached 45.7.

Some parts of the city witnessed rainfall on Tuesday morning and there are predictions of very light rain on Wednesday as well.

"A partly cloudy sky is expected. Dust storm or thunderstorm, accompanied with light rain and gusty wind are predicted for Wednesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures will be around



Piyal Bhattacharjee

SWEATING IT OUT: Palam recorded a max temperature of 45.4 degrees Celsius

41 and 31 degrees Celsius respectively," said a Met official.

Delhi's air quality was 'poor' on Monday with an AQI of 300.

According to SAFAR, a body under the Union ministry, the air quality in Delhi is in the 'severe' category.

"Delhi is experiencing widespread

Peak power demand surges past 6,680MW

As there is no relief from the scorching heat, the peak power demand in Delhi broke all records of this season on Monday and touched a high of 6,686 megawatt. The peak power demand was recorded at 11.23pm on Monday, a power discom official said. On Tuesday, the peak power demand was 6,679 MW at 3.04pm, second highest in the month of June, according to state load dispatch centre (SLDC) figures. It was 6,658 MW on June 6. PTI

dust lifting from the morning, which is locally generated due to high temperatures and a sudden rise in wind speed as part of a western disturbance. However, this condition will not last long and PM10 levels will come down rapidly by late afternoon as boundary layers go up and winds will slow down," a SAFAR report stated.

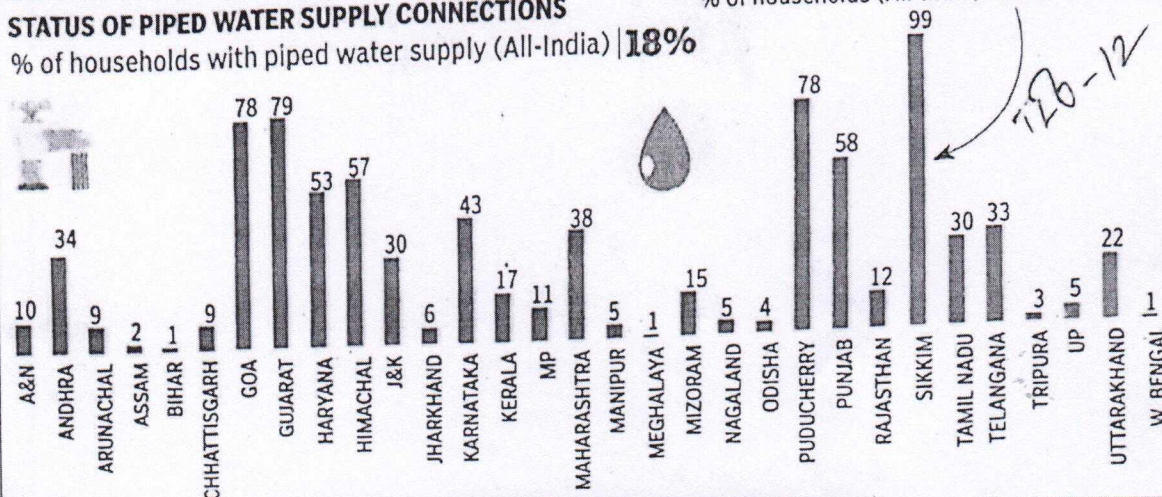
Piped water at every rural home in 5 years, says govt

A LONG WAY TO GO

STATUS OF PIPED WATER SUPPLY CONNECTIONS

% of households with piped water supply (All-India) | **18%**

% of households (All-India, state-wise)



STATUS OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

81% of rural habitations have access to drinking water

57% rural population have access to piped water supply through public standpost

18% rural households have piped water supply

Dipak.Dash
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With more than 80% rural households yet to get piped water supply, the government on Tuesday announced to roll out a new mission to ensure "Nal se Jal" (water from tap) for each house in villages in the next five years as promised in BJP's poll manifesto.

After a stock-taking meeting with ministers and representatives from all states barring West Bengal, Union Jal Shakti minister

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the Jal Jeevan Mission will be launched to cover 14 crore households. The minister said in the coming years there will be a deficit of 43% between water availability and requirement.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, both ground and surface water will be used to meet the requirement. Union drinking water secretary Parameswaran Iyer said in villages where the quality of water available is good, piped water will be sourced and supplied at vil-

lage level. In other areas where water quality is poor, there will be a trunk water supply system for a cluster of villages and piped water will be sourced from other villages or locality.

The communities such as village panchayat would manage the operation and maintenance of the facilities wherever feasible. Iyer, who played key role in Swachh Bharat Mission, said there will be third-party verification and funds will be released by the government.

Full report on www.toi.in

Govt to states: Integrate all water depts like Jal Shakti Ministry

SHALINI NAIR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 11

TO INCREASE piped water coverage from the existing low 18 per cent to 100 per cent coverage by 2024, the Centre has requested all states to adopt an approach similar to the newly-formulated Jal Shakti Ministry that integrates all ministries and bodies dealing with water under one umbrella.

The request follows a consultative meeting Tuesday between ministers and secretaries of water resources, drinking water and sanitation departments of all states (barring West Bengal which did not attend), and Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

"Since water is state subject as per the Constitution, the primary role is that of states but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that as in the case of our last government, in even constitutional subjects relating to states, we will handhold and help in capacity building," he said.

"The habitation coverage of piped water is 18 per cent at present. It is to realise our vision of providing drinking water to every house by 2024 that the central government has integrated everything under one head. We call upon the state governments



Shekhawat held a meeting Tuesday

to go for a similar integration."

According to Shekhawat, the provision of safe drinking water in homes varies greatly between states – from 99 per cent tap water availability in Sikkim to less than five per cent in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.

"For a country that has the largest human and livestock population, the per capita availability of water today is a third of what it was in 1950," he said. According to officials, 70 years ago, water availability was 5,100 cubic meters per person per year which has now come down to just 1,400 cubic meters per person per year, though the population has trebled.

Explaining the broad contours of the planned implementation, Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary Drinking Water and Sanitation, said that it will allow for utilisation of both groundwater and surface water depending on specific conditions in the states. "It will be an approach where water conservation will go with together with supply.

Source sustainability, water recharge, reuse of grey water (for agriculture as well), rainwater harvesting will all be key."

He said that with regards to the service delivery part, in regions with groundwater, it will be single village schemes that will be managed by the gram panchayats along with the local community. Where water scarcity or water quality is the issue, the states will have to depend on surface water and adopt multi-village schemes.

"There will be third-party verification and then funds will be released from the Government of India," he said.

Water Resources Secretary U P Singh told The Indian Express that water availability in the country is 4,000 billion cubic meters (bcm) but the usable total of surface and groundwater combined is 1,137 bcm.

"Every year when rains occur, groundwater gets replenished. They need to extract water and make space so that in that space next year water can get accumulated. In states such as Odisha, Assam, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Arunachal Pradesh water table is good but the area under irrigation is low. In such places, we would like to exploit groundwater and they need central funding for tube wells, deep tube well etc," he said.

Govt to provide clean drinking water to all by 2024

New Delhi, June 11: The Centre has set a target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024, jal shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said Tuesday.

He said the government is formulating a plan to provide clean drinking water to nearly 14 crore households.

"The Prime Minister has set a target and our party manifesto talks about providing clean drinking water by 2024. There are nearly 14 crore households where clean drinking water is yet to reach," Mr Shekhawat told reporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during

his poll campaign, had promised to integrate all ministries that look after water-related issues into one ministry — the jal shakti ministry.

The BJP had also promised to provide clean drinking water to all households in the country. He said in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, the coverage of clean drinking water is less than five per cent.

Mr Shekhawat said nearly 81 per cent of total habitations in the country have drinking water supply. The minister, however, did not respond to the

■ In states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, the coverage of clean drinking water is less than five per cent.

question on when the project will be formally launched.

Water falls under the state list of the Constitution and participation of states is crucial to make the mission of providing clean drinking water a success.

Mr Shekhawat held dis-

cussions with officials and ministers from several states looking after water-related issues.

Addressing them, the minister said there has to be a holistic approach towards water supply and demand. He also urged the state governments to integrate water-related work under one single department. The minister said there was no representation from West Bengal in the meeting.

He said an emphasis will also be made on water conservation, citing the widening gap between water supply and demand.

Drinking and sanitation water secretary

Parmeswaran Iyer said the meeting was the first ministerial level meeting to discuss the subject.

Elaborating on the plan, he said states can use groundwater or surface water depending on the situation in the state.

"One point, the minister has been emphasising is that we need a very flexible approach because one size cannot fit all," Mr Iyer said.

It will be an approach where water conservation will go together with supply. Source sustainability will be the key to the mission besides recharging groundwater, he said.

—PTI

Minister doesn't see water shortage, calls it media hype

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

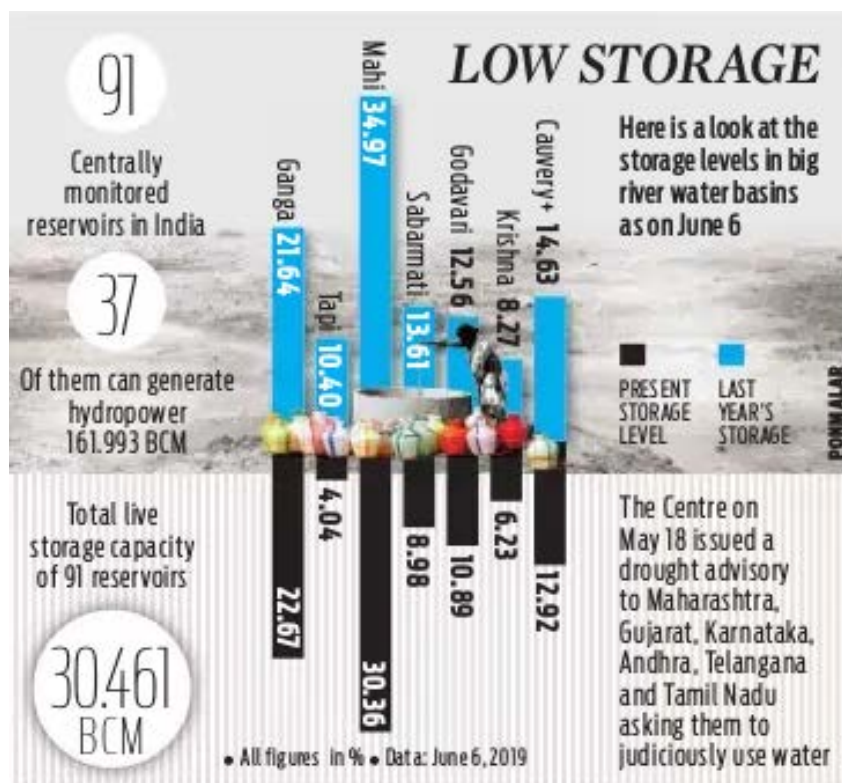
WHILE nearly half of India is facing a severe water crisis and the delay in the onset of monsoon is adding to concerns, Union Jal Shakti minister G S Shekhawat on Tuesday didn't appear worried.

Claiming that 91 major reservoirs in the country put together have more water storage compared to last year, he said the Centre would take action only after state governments declare drought and seek help.

Though he got his math right, data put out by the Central Water Commission (CWC) on June 6 shows lesser reservoir storage in East, West, Central and South India as compared to last year. It is only in the North that the storage is higher, lifting the overall average, but that can't offer solace.

Speaking at the meeting of state ministers and secretaries on the issue of water resources, Shekhawat said: "The water level storage in reservoirs is more compared to last year... Water shortage in reservoirs is a hype created by the media."

The minister's statement comes at a time when the Centre on May 18 issued a drought advisory to Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu asking them for judicious use of water. Data shows water storage level in the South and the West is below 20 per cent, which is when drought advisory is issued. During the meeting, many states raised the issue of drought looming large. **P9**



SELF-SUSTENANCE MOVE COMES IN WITH A VIEW TO MOBILISE REVENUE TO FINISH IRRIGATION PROJECTS

State approves policy to develop rest houses & dam sites

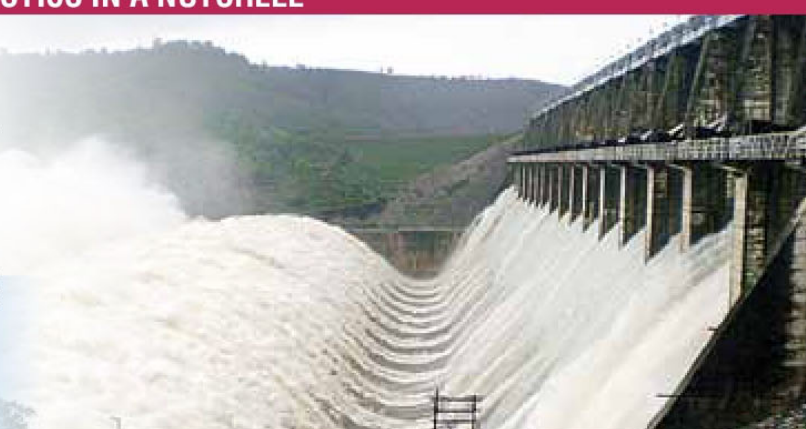
Dhaval Kulkarni
dhaval.kulkarni@dnaindia.net

To mobilise revenues to finish work on long-pending irrigation projects, the state Cabinet, on Tuesday, approved a policy for the development of rest houses and dam sites owned by the state water resources department on a commercial basis.

The state government is also considering raising of funds through sources like monetisation of surplus irrigation land and sale of sand extracted through desilting of reservoirs to complete over 300 pending projects at an estimated cost of Rs 84,000 crore.

These sites with tourism potential, include 146 rest houses, inspection bungalows, inspection huts and colonies at irrigation project sites. They will now be developed on a public private part-

STATISTICS IN A NUTSHELL	
Geographical Area (GA) 307 lakh ha	Annual Rainfall 400 to 6,000mm
Cultivable Area (CA) 225 lakh ha (73% OF GA)	Ultimate Potential 85 lakh ha (38% OF CA)
Potential created as on June 2014 48.66 lakh ha or 21.63 % of CA	Reasons for shortfall in creation of irrigation potential: fund paucity, opposition of project affected people, land acquisition, litigation, time taken for green clearances



nership (PPP) basis.

Officials said, it would generate revenue for the maintenance of these dams, thus freeing up resources to completing pending projects, create employment for the locals, and boost tourism in these areas.

Many of these sites are also in a poor condition due

to lack of repairs and maintenance.

E-tendering will be conducted for sites selected in consultation with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). The lease will be for a period between 10 to 30 years and subject to conditions like not allowing the developer to

sub-lease the land and not pledging it as a collateral for loans.

Maharashtra has over 3,000 completed irrigation projects, including 138 large dams and 255 and 2,862 medium and small irrigation projects respectively. Of these, many are located in the Sahyadri and Satpuda

ranges and at picturesque sites with great tourism potential.

However, it has to complete 313 ongoing irrigation projects, which have a balance cost of Rs 84,000 crore.

“Our annual budgetary allocation is only around Rs 8,000 crore, which along with Central aid for projects, bare-

ly meets over 10% of our requirements. Hence, we need to look at alternate sources of revenue,” said a senior official from the water resources department.

“The Cabinet’s decision will help make irrigation projects self-sustaining by ensuring that the money raised through this can be used for maintenance of dams. This will also prevent encroachment at these sites, create employment and open up state resources for the development of ongoing projects,” he further said.

The official said the state is also evaluating a proposal to monetise the surplus land of the water resources department to generate revenue. In addition to that, dams and irrigation projects will be de-silted and the extracted sand will be sold to farmers and several other construction industries.

मंत्रियों के लिए तीन साल का टास्क तय, हर 3 महीने में मोदी लेंगे हिसाब

घर-घर पानी पहुंचाने की योजना मोदी के दूसरे टर्म का हो सकता है सबसे बड़ा दांव

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Narendra.Mishra@timesgroup.com

■ **नई दिल्ली :** ऐतिहासिक जीत के बाद गवर्नेंस के स्तर पर पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी एक बार फिर ऐक्शन मोड में आ गए हैं। बुधवार को मंत्री परिषद की मीटिंग में वह सभी मंत्रियों को बता देंगे कि अगले तीन सालों के लिए उनके जिम्मे क्या टास्क होगा। यह भी बताया जाएगा कि अपने हिस्से के टास्क को कब तक और किस तरह निपटाना है। मोदी के दोबारा पदभार संभालने के बाद पहली बार विकास कार्यों की समीक्षा मीटिंग भी होगी। मालूम हो कि आम चुनाव में मिली बड़ी जीत को पीएम मोदी आजाद भारत का सबसे बड़ा प्रो इंकम्बेंसी वोट बताते रहे हैं। सोमवार को सभी विभागों के सेक्रेटरी के साथ मीटिंग में भी उन्होंने कहा था कि इस तरह जनादेश के बाद गवर्नेंस के स्तर पर किसी तरह की चूक को जनता स्वीकार नहीं करेगी।

मंत्री जी को बताना होगा काम का लेखा-जोखा

पीएमओ ने इस बार सभी मंत्रियों के कामकाज को मॉनिटर करने के लिए तीन महीने पर समीक्षा करने का सिस्टम भी तैयार किया है। इसके बारे में भी बुधवार की मीटिंग में सभी को बताया जाएगा। पीएमओ ने एक ऐसा सिस्टम तैयार किया है जिसके तहत सभी मंत्रालयों को मिले टास्क के बारे में रियल टाइम प्रगति का लेखा-जोखा बताते रहना होगा।

गरीबों के लिए अगले तीन साल में नई योजनाएं

दरअसल मोदी सरकार को पहले टर्म में प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना, शौचालय और उज्ज्वला जैसी योजनाओं का बड़ा लाभ मिला और गरीबों के बड़े तबके ने बीजेपी को वोट दिया। भारत की आजादी के 75 साल पूरा होने पर पीएम मोदी इसे बड़ी सफलता के रूप में प्रोजेक्ट करना चाहते हैं। इसके अलावा बुधवार की मीटिंग में गरीबों के लिए अगले तीन साल में कौन सी तीन बड़ी योजनाएं चलाई जा सकती हैं, इस पर भी विचार होगा। सूत्रों के अनुसार, इस बार बजट में इससे जुड़े एक बड़ी योजना की भी घोषणा हो सकती है।

बैठक में आर्थिक चुनौतियों पर भी होगी चर्चा

हालांकि सरकार के सामने आर्थिक चुनौतियां भी हैं और बुधवार की मीटिंग में इस मोर्चे पर भी मंथन हो सकता है। आर्थिक मोर्चे पर आए हालिया आंकड़े बहुत उत्साहवर्धक नहीं रहे हैं। पीएमओ की ओर से इसे उबरने के लिए बनाए ब्लूप्रिंट के अनुसार सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है,



सबको बिजली-पानी-शौचालय-गैस

■ **देश के हर नागरिक के घर तक पानी पहुंचाने की योजना** सरकार के दूसरे टर्म की सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी योजना है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, मोदी सरकार बड़े पैमाने पर इसी साल से इस दिशा में बड़ी योजनाओं को लॉन्च कर सकती है। साल 2022 तक सभी घरों तक पानी की पहुंच देने का लक्ष्य तय कर सकती है। मोदी की मंशा है कि 2022 तक वह सभी को ऐसा घर दें, जिसमें बिजली-पानी-शौचालय और गैस सिलेंडर की पहुंच हो और परिवार के कम से कम एक सदस्य तक नौकरी हो।

लंबित पड़े प्रोजेक्ट में तेजी लाना। सूत्रों के अनुसार, आर्थिक सुस्ती में तेजी लाने के लिए पचास हार करोड़ से अधिक के लंबित प्रोजेक्ट में तेजी लाई जाएगी।

दर्जन भर दागी अफसरों को छुट्टी देने के बाद 4 का डिमोशन किया गया

■ **विस, नई दिल्ली :** केंद्र सरकार ने कथित भ्रष्ट और दागी अफसरों के खिलाफ कदम उठाने शुरू कर दिए हैं। सोमवार को इनकम टैक्स विभाग के दर्जन भर सीनियर अधिकारियों की छुट्टी करने के बाद मंगलवार को चार और सीनियर अफसरों का पद छोटा (डिमोशन) कर दिया। इन अफसरों के खिलाफ विजिलेंस की जांच

अनुसार रूल 56 के तहत अगर किसी अधिकारी के खिलाफ अधिक सम्पत्ति, भ्रष्टाचार के मामले और यौन उत्पीड़न के मामले सामने आते हैं तो उसके खिलाफ विभागीय कार्रवाई की जा सकती है। मामला अगर अदालत में जाता है तो रूल 56 के तहत सरकार उस अधिकारी को जबर्न रिटायर कर सकती है।

चल रही थी। आशुतोष वर्मा, संजीव घई, जय सिंह और वाघमारे विपुल दिगंबर को इनकम टैक्स के जॉईंट कमिशनर के पद हटा कर डिप्यूटी कमिशनर के पद पर

तैनाती दे दी गई। सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह सिलसिला आगे भी जारी रहेगा। सूत्रों के अनुसार अभी वित्त मंत्रालय के अधीन आने वाले इनकम टैक्स विभाग के अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई है। आने वाले समय में सरकार की अन्य विभागों में दागी और भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों पर नजर रहेगी, जिनके खिलाफ मामलों में जांच की जा रही है। इनके खिलाफ भी कई पैमानों के आधार पर रूल 56 के तहत कार्रवाई की जाएगी। इनके केस की स्टडी की जा रही है।

वित्त मंत्रालय के उच्चाधिकारियों के

दागदार
अफसरों पर
मोदी सरकार आगे
भी सख्त कदम
उठाएगी

गौरतलब है कि जिन 12 अधिकारियों की छुट्टी की गई, उनमें 1989 बैच के एक अधिकारी का नाम भी इस सूची में है, जिस पर दो महिला अधिकारियों के यौन शोषण का आरोप है। जिन

12 सीनियर अधिकारियों को जबर्न रिटायरमेंट दिया गया, उनमें आलोक कुमार मित्रा (कमिशनर), अरुणभा बी (कमिशनर) बीवी राजेंद्र, (कमिशनर), अजय कुमार सिंह (कमिशनर), एस.के. श्रीवास्तव (कमिशनर), होमी राजवंश (कमिशनर), श्वेताभ सुमन (कमिशनर), ए. रविंदर, (एडिशनल कमिशनर), विवेक बत्रा (एडिशनल कमिशनर), चंद्रसेन भारती (एडिशनल कमिशनर), अशोक कुमार अमरवाल (ज्वाइंट कमिशनर) और राजकुमार भार्गव (असिस्टेंट कमिशनर) शामिल हैं।

केंद्रीय जल मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत से की मुलाकात वेलुमणि ने केंद्र से मांगे 5,398 करोड़

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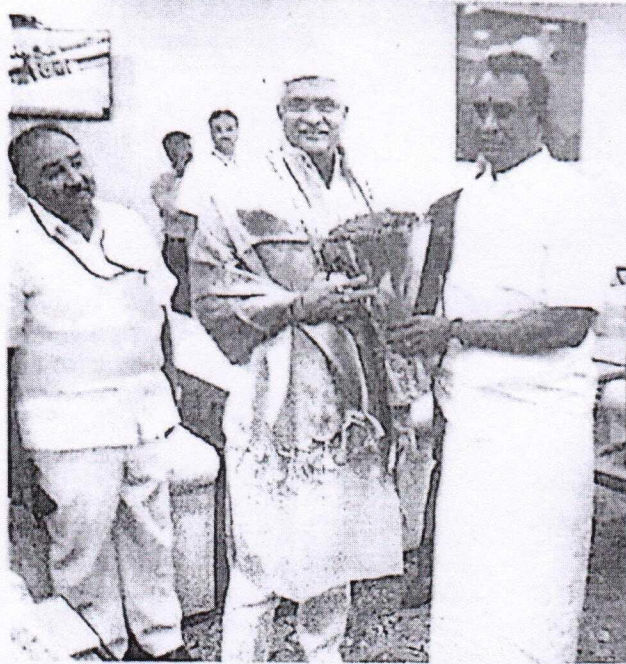
चेन्नई. राज्य के ग्रामीण और नगरपालिका प्रशासन मंत्री एस.पी.वेलुमणि ने केंद्रीय जल मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत से मुलाकात की और संयुक्त जलापूर्ति परियोजनाओं के तहत राज्य के ग्रामीण इलाकों में पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए 5,398 करोड़ रुपये की मंजूरी देने का आग्रह किया।

उन्होंने कहा कि स्थानीय निकायों में पानी की कमी और सूखे जलस्रोतों के कारण राज्य में पीने के पानी की आपूर्ति में चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। राज्य में 17 जिलों और दूसरे 7 जिलों के 38 ब्लॉकों में गंभीर सूखे का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

उन्होंने बताया कि विल्लीपुरम और दिंडीवणम नगरपालिका में 100 एमएलडी की क्षमता वाले डिसेलिनेजेशन प्लांट का निर्माण और उसे जोड़ने वाली पाइपलाइन का निर्माण, मरक्काणम और विक्रवांडी नगर पंचायत व विल्लीपुरम जिले की 10 पंचायत यूनियनों में 1,601 ग्रामीण विकास समितियों के गठन के लिए 2,000 करोड़ रुपये के कोष की आवश्यकता होगी। इससे 16.78 लाख लोगों को फायदा होगा।

दिए गए प्रस्ताव में कहा गया है कि 8 नगर पंचायतों को संयुक्त जल आपूर्ति और शिवगंगा जिले की 2,452 ग्रामीण बस्तियों में जलस्रोत के लिए कावेरी नदी का उपयोग किया जाएगा।

1,800 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से 78.40 एमएलडी क्षमता वाले प्लांट से 10.77 लाख लोगों को फायदा होगा। राज्य सरकार 155 जल आपूर्ति परियोजनाओं के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए 1000 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोग करेगी। राज्य जल आपूर्ति और ड्रेनेज बोर्ड की योजनाओं के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग के



केंद्रीय जल मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत से मुलाकात करते एस.पी.वेलुमणि।

627 एकड़ के अधिग्रहण के निर्णय को नहीं बदला जाए

तमिलनाडु ने उठाया
जमीन अवाप्ति का
मामला

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चेन्नई. तमिलनाडु सरकार ने कोयम्बतूर एयरपोर्ट विस्तारीकरण योजना के तहत 627.89 एकड़ जमीन अवाप्ति की मूल योजना को 365 एकड़ तक कम करने के भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के निर्णय को बदलने को कहा है। स्थानीय प्रशासन, ग्रामीण विकास व विशेष योजना क्रियान्वयन मंत्री एस. पी. वेलुमणि ने केंद्रीय आवासन, शहरी कार्य व नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी से भेंट कर इस आशय का पत्र सौंपा। मंत्री ने एएआई के जमीन

निर्माण और सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में राहत कार्यों के लिए 448 करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत होगी। उन्होंने बताया कि 550 एमएलडी जल की आपूर्ति के लिए 7337.78

अवाप्ति को 365 एकड़ तक करने से पैदा होने वाले हालातों का विस्तार से उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि इससे भूमि मालिकों में अविश्वास का वातावरण पैदा होने के साथ ही कानून-व्यवस्था बिगड़ने की भी आशंका रहेगी। विस्तारीकरण उद्यमियों और निर्यातकों के लिहाज से भी आवश्यक है। ताकि माल की आवाजाही अन्य जिलों में त्वरित गति से हो सके। वेलुमणि ने कहा कि अंतिम समय मूल योजना को बदलने से न केवल अधिक समय लगेगा बल्कि मानवश्रम की भी अधिक जरूरत होगी। साथ ही नए सिरे से सर्वे और अन्य कार्य करने होंगे। लिहाजा 627.89 एकड़ अधिग्रहण के आधार पर विस्तारीकरण की मूल योजना को जारी रखा जाना चाहिए।

करोड़ रुपये की अनुमानित लागत वाली दो प्रमुख परियोजनाएं चेन्नई में शुरू की जा रही हैं। इन परियोजनाओं के दिसंबर 2022 तक पूरा होने

अमित शाह को आवास संबंधी ज्ञापन

चेन्नई. स्थानीय प्रशासन मंत्री एस. पी. वेलुमणि और ऊर्जा मंत्री पी. तंगमणि ने राजधानी दिल्ली में केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह से मंगलवार को भेंट की। वेलुमणि ने अमित शाह को गृह मंत्री बनने की शुभकामनाएं दीं। मंत्री ने उनको दिए ज्ञापन में कहा कि तमिलनाडु शहरी विकास योजनाओं को लागू करने में अग्रसर रहा है। इस कड़ी में उन्होंने 2017-18 के लिए निष्पादन अनुदान 560.15 करोड़ तथा चौदहवें वित्त आयोग के अनुसार शहरी और ग्रामीण निकायों के लिए मूल अनुदान के तौर पर 1608.03 करोड़ देने की मांग की। इसके अलावा पीएमएवाई (जी) के तहत गाजा प्रभावित इलाकों में 2 लाख आवास तथा आवास प्लास परियोजना में छूटे 828419 लोगों के नाम शामिल करने का आग्रह किया। साथ ही कोयम्बतूर एयरपोर्ट विस्तार योजना को लेकर भी चर्चा की। इससे पहले उन्होंने केंद्रीय कृषि, ग्रामीण विकास व पंचायतीराज मंत्री नरेंद्र सिंह तोमर से भेंट करते हुए गाजा प्रभावित इलाकों की जनता की व्यथा साझा करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना और पीएमएवाई (जी) का लाभ देने का अनुरोध किया। साथ ही एससी-एसटी समुदाय को पीएमएवाई जी योजना के तहत 60:40 का अनुदान देने की बात रखी।

की उम्मीद है। उन्होंने ज्ञापन में कहा है कि राज्य में जलापूर्ति और ड्रेनेज बोर्ड, चेन्नई मेट्रो वाटर सप्लाई एवं सीवरज बोर्ड और दूसरे स्थानीय निकायों की 600 प्रमुख जलापूर्ति योजनाएं हैं। वेलुमणि ने गजेन्द्र शेखावत से अनुरोध किया कि वे राज्य में बड़े पैमाने पर जलापूर्ति परियोजनाओं को चलाने और राज्य की जनता के जीवन गुणवत्ता सुधार में राज्य सरकार की कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को आगे बढ़ाने में सहायता करेंगे।