



Monthly Newsletter: Issue 5 - January, 2013

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Message from Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Water Mission conveys its wishes for a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. We are happy to share with you the fifth newsletter of FICCI Water Mission. This monthly newsletter will give you an update on the Mission's work and developments in the water sector.

The National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister adopted the New National Water Policy last month. The policy speaks of institutional reforms in the water sector.

The XII Five Year Plan adopted by the National Development Council has for the first time included a separate Chapter on Water, laying importance to the sustainability of water resource and provisions that the government will employ in the XII Plan. We have included a section on the provisions in this issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter contains an update of major news items relating to the water sector, important sectoral reports and water data. We hope that you find the newsletter useful. The secretariat looks forward to your comments and suggestions.

FICCI Water Mission Secretariat

Water Mission Activities

Water Disclosure for Industries Workshop

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will organise a half day workshop and panel discussion to understand the

feasibility of water disclosure in India and share experience of Indian companies and investors. The workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2013. We are inviting a select group of representatives across industry, government, and civil society organizations for workshop.

Article: Water in the XII Five Year Plan

The XII Five Year Plan document is historic in the sense that it is for the first time that any plan document has included a separate Chapter on Water Resources. The fact that access to adequate and safe water is becoming a growing concern across different sectors is the underlying theme in the Chapter. There is an emphasis for a paradigm shift in the way water resources are managed in our country.

With regard to industrial water management the document stresses on improving water use efficiency by reducing the consumption of freshwater, reusing and recycling the waste water. The Planning Commission is working with leading industry representatives and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to make it mandatory for companies to include details of their water footprint every year in their annual report. This would include:


- Activity wise volume of fresh water (source-wise) used by industry in their various production activities,
- Activity wise volume of water used by them that was reused or recycled, and
- A commitment with a time-line that the company would reduce its water footprint by a definite amount (to be specified) within a definite period of time (to be specified).


Work is also on for setting benchmarks for specific water use across different industrial sectors. There is a plan to revisit the charges for water use and incentives for water conservation. Currently, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act 1977 is the only instrument to impose cess on discharge of effluent water from industrial units. This charge is based on the quantum of discharge from the industry and is used to augment the resources of the Central and State Pollution Boards. “The importance of water pricing as an instrument for change is critical and must be actively used to incentivise industry” mentions the plan document.


Water audits are going to become mandatory for companies. The water audits will be publicly validated. The Government plans to track the water reduction commitment of each industry for compliance and enforcement. This will be enforced through regulatory institutions.


Read the chapter on Water Resources in the XII Five Year Plan -


http://planningcommission.nic.in/plans/planrel/12thplan/pdf/vol_1.pdf (Page 144)

-  **Govt to make water audit mandatory for companies** - After tax audits and mandatory corporate social responsibility norms, the government is set to introduce water audit and yearly water footprint disclosures in annual reports a mandatory feature for companies. The move is aimed at encouraging companies registered in India to adopt the best international practices on water use efficiency. A senior official said the idea is to make it mandatory for companies to disclose the volume of fresh water used by them in their production activities and the volume of recycled water use per year - <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/govt-to-make-water-audit-mandatory-for-companies/1055143/>

-  **Centre wont encroach upon states' rights on water, PM says** - The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) on Friday approved the new National Water Policy in its meeting here after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured states that the Centre did not intend to encroach upon the constitutional rights or to centralize the regulation over water resources - http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-12-29/india/36050596_1_water-resources-national-water-policy-water-regulatory-authority


-  **New national water policy approved** – The National Water Resources Council on Friday approved the new national water policy amid opposition by some states over concerns that the legal framework proposed in the policy was an infringement on their constitutional rights- <http://epaper.livemint.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>


-  **Government may snap water supply to breweries** - The acute water crisis in the state may leave cola plants, water-intensive bottling units, breweries and vineyards thirsting for the one resource that is absolutely vital to their operation. Faced with a severe scarcity of water in several parts of the state, the state government in Maharashtra may resort to some drastic steps, including the snapping of supply to water-intensive bottling plants and other industrial units - http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-09/mumbai/36236880_1_scarcity-acute-water-crisis-industrial-units


-  **Water tariff hike put on hold in Delhi** - Chief minister Sheila Dikshit, the chairperson of Delhi Jal Board (DJB), has instructed the board not to effect any hike in water tariff in the Capital. According to a board decision, the revision is due on January 1, 2013. Dikshit


further directed the DJB to make its revenue management system smooth and settle issues related to billing. She also stressed upon the need of immediate resolution of consumer grievances and other issues of the revenue management system -

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Water-tariff-hike-put-on-hold-in-Capital/Article1-982890.aspx>


 **Maharashtra set to tap Karnataka for drinking water supply** – Water scarcity in the drought-prone areas of Maharashtra has turned grim. The State Government is looking to supply water to these areas using railway tankers, according to Jayant Patil, Maharashtra’s Minister for Rural Development. Patil said a delegation of Ministers from Maharashtra are to meet their counterparts in Karnataka seeking water for towns and villages which are on the border of the two States, - http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/maharashtra-set-to-tap-karnataka-for-drinking-water-supply/article4283561.ece?homepage=true&ref=wl_home

 **Move to improve Indo-Bangla initiative for trans-border river navigation** - The trade between India and Bangladesh by river route, despite its perceived potential, has not picked up. Led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a fresh India-Bangladesh initiative, Ecosystems for Life, is now on to promote insights into trans-boundary issues across the three major river systems, namely the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna - http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/move-to-improve-indobangla-initiative-for-transborder-river-navigation/article4276829.ece?ref=wl_industry-and-economy

 **Govt to give special subsidies to deal with water scarcity** - The drought situation in Maharashtra, with 6,250 villages officially being declared as drought-hit, has forced the government to dole out special subsidies and facilities to deal with the water scarcity. Marathwada’s Jalna, Osmanabad, Buldhana and Aurangabad regions are among the worst-hit besides Dhule, Jalgaon and Nasik in North Maharashtra and Pune, Sangli and Solapur in Western Maharashtra. While there is only 61% water left in the 2,468 water projects in the state, only 19% is left in reservoirs in Marathwada. Till now the state has spent around Rs. 1,000 crore to tackle the drought situation. An additional Rs. 400 crore contingency fund was announced last week - <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Mumbai/Govt-to-give-special-subsidies-to-deal-with-water-scarcity/Article1-984248.aspx>

 **New Year focus on water sector reforms** - Although inter-State water disputes and arbitration with neighbouring Pakistan over the Kishenganga hydro-electric project in Jammu &

Kashmir dominated the functioning of the Union Water Resources Ministry in 2012, it is expected that in the New Year the Government will focus on giving a push to water sector reforms. With the revised national water policy being “adopted” at the recent National Water Council meeting, the Ministry will prepare during the year an over-arching legal framework of guidelines for the States to follow - <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/new-year-focus-on-water-sector-reforms/article4267233.ece>

 **Maharashtra plans water trains for drought areas** - With the state witnessing an acute drought, the state government has decided to adopt unprecedented measures. Anticipating that certain parts of Marathwada will go completely dry by March, the state government has drawn up a plan to transport water for drinking in railway wagons. At the state cabinet meeting on Wednesday, chief minister Prithviraj Chavan informed colleagues that initial discussions in this regard had been held with officials from Western Railway and Central Railway. Chavan further informed that the railway officials have agreed to provide three rakes for the purpose. He further said that the arrangement could provide means to transport five lakh litres of water to the drought-prone areas daily - http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-10/india/36257863_1_drought-hit-acute-drought-marathwada

World Water Day - 2013

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. The United Nations has declared 2013 as the **International Year of Water Cooperation**.

The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The Year will highlight the history of successful water cooperation initiatives, as well as identify burning issues on water education, water diplomacy, trans-boundary water management, financing cooperation, national/international legal frameworks, and the linkages with the Millennium Development Goals. It also will provide an opportunity to

capitalize on the momentum created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and to support the formulation of new objectives that will contribute towards developing water resources that are truly sustainable.

For information visit the site of UN WATER -

<http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/index.html>

Sector Report

Water Valuation: Business case study summaries –

This compendium of case studies is a companion document to the Water valuation: Building the business case publication. It illustrates how and why different companies have carried out water-related valuation studies, and is based on publicly information available.

Download the report -

<http://www.wbcds.org/Pages/EDocument/EDocumentDetails.aspx?ID=15098&NoSearchContextKey=true>

Comments/ queries can be address to –

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