

## Gujarat Tops Composite Water Management Index

Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari released a report titled 'Composite Water Management Index' in New Delhi.

Niti Aayog ranked the states through first of its kind index on the composite water management, comprising 9 broad sectors with 28 different indicators covering various aspects of groundwater, restoration of water bodies, irrigation, farm practices, drinking water, policy and governance. The reporting states were divided into two special groups – 'North Eastern and Himalayan states' and 'Other States' - to account for the different hydrological conditions across these groups.

According to the report, Gujarat has the best composite water management index while Jharkhand was adjudged as the worst performer. Gujarat is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra on the index. On the other side, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are worst performing states in water management.

In the north-eastern and Himalayan states, Tripura was adjudged as the top state in 2016-17 followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam. However, West Bengal and Puducherry did not share water data with the Niti Aayog.

The report said, "In terms of incremental change in the index (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan holds number one position in general states and Tripura ranks at first position amongst North Eastern and Himalayan states."

The report stated that water management is a big problem and "the states which have done well, have also performed better on agriculture front". The report also pointed out that India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history and millions of lives and livelihoods are under threat. Currently, 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress and about two lakh people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water and the crisis is only going to get worse.

The report also predicted that by 2030, the country's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply, implying severe water scarcity for hundreds of millions of people. According to the report, 52 percent of India's agricultural area remains dependent on rainfall so the future expansion of irrigation needs to be focused on last-mile efficiency.

Noting that water index scores vary widely across states, the report said most states have achieved a score below 50 percent and could significantly improve their water resource management practices.

## NITI Aayog's Delta Ranking

In a major boost for Gujarat state development, the NITI Aayog's first delta ranking has touted Dahod district as the 'most aspirational' one. Dahod has bagged the top spot in the ranking featuring 108 districts.

The NITI Aayog delta ranking captures five developmental parameters including incremental improvements of aspirational districts on health, education among others in the two month period of April and May this year. The Eastern district of Gujarat improved 19.8 points to be first in the Delta ranking. Other districts that follow after Gujarat are West Sikkim (Sikkim), Ramanathapuram (Tamil Nadu), Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh), YSRKadapa district (Andhra Pradesh). West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant while releasing the first Delta ranking for the aspirational districts, stated that Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, Begusarai in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Simdega in Jharkhand and Khagadia in Bihar are the worst performing districts. Telangana's Asifabad district, which was ranked 100 in baseline ranking released in March this year, made significant improvements in past two months and stood at 15 in Delta ranking. Meanwhile, three districts of West Bengal did not participate in the ranking. Odisha and Kerala sent their entries late and hence they could not be included in the ranking exercise.

NITI Aayog's first Delta ranking (incremental progress) for the Aspirational Districts was based on self-reported data of districts between March 31, 2018, to May 31, 2018, across five developmental areas of health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure. 49 key performance indicators were chosen to measure the progress of the districts.

To participate in the ranking, districts are encouraged to first catch up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

Transformation of Aspirational District's programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this year and it is aimed at quickly and effectively transforming some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

## India launches National Digital Library

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a new digital initiative National Digital Library of India (NDLI) on the occasion of National Reading Day.

NDLI is a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) with the objective making digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country to empower, inspire and encourage learning.

The work on developing and implementing the National Digital Library began in 2015; it was built by the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur using technology provided the HRD Ministry. The digital library is just one project under the Digital India plan that was initiated by Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi.

NDLI is a Single Window Platform that collects and collates meta data from premier learning institutions in India and abroad, as well as other relevant sources. It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media. It ushers in a new era of Digital India. The National Digital Library is a 24x7 ubiquitous knowledge resource that is accessible to anyone with internet access and it is built to enable the rise of Digital India. Anybody can access the digital library anytime and anywhere absolutely free of cost and will contribute greatly to the Government's commitment towards "Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat".

NDLI is a digital library that makes quality learning resources available to all learners and has 1.7 crore content from more than 160 sources, in over 200 languages, everywhere and 30 lakh users are registered on NDLI as on date and our target is to increase the users 10 times in a year.

NDLI platform is collaborative in nature and apart from website, NDL is also available on the Mobile app. NDLI Mobile app is enabling access to rich digital content of libraries across the country and even foreign repositories to users even in the remotest of areas. The App, which has been downloaded over 6.70 lakh times, is currently available for both iPhone and Android users. Users can search for content using various parameters like subject matter, source, content type and more. Right Now the app is available in three languages - English, Hindi and Bengali.

The National Digital Library will change the way education is accessed and presented in India, and through this initiative, every citizen in India will be given the digital tools and resources to empower themselves.