

Governor calls for water conservation

ITANAGAR, June 25:

Arunachal Pradesh Governor, Gen JJ Singh called for water conservation to meet up growing demands. Rain water harvesting hasn't taken off and deforestation, massive urban migration and urbanization has meant the loss of ground water and increasing pressures on existing supplies. Fresh water, sourced from the big lakes near metros is also running thin because it's used for everything including industrial use. Yet water conservation is not seriously practiced in India, he said.

He was addressing a Water Leaders Summit at the 2nd Singapore International Water Week organised by PUB, Government of Singapore being held from June 22-26.

The water leader's summit brought to focus the need for sustainable water management.

In his address, Governor spoke about the integrated water management perspective of India. He highlighted the salient aspects of India Water Policy 2002, the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the highlights of Bharat Nirman and JNURM schemes of the Government of India.

The Central government



in Dec 2005 started a comprehensive programme of urban renewal named as Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM). In the first prong of this strategy, JNURM has been sanctioned to provide extensive financial support to about 60 cities for up gradation and improvement of infrastructure in a planned and integrated manner, he said.

In the five decades since independence, India has witnessed phenomenal development of water resources and has largely successfully met the demand of water for many of the diverse uses in the

country. However, there remain significant challenges in providing sustainable services, especially for the poorest and hard to reach, he said.

Climate change is expected to change hydro-

“Singh at water leaders summit”

logical regimes in the country and affect the water sector in a number of ways. We need to take advance action at appropriate time. The water infrastructure would need to be designed to account for such changes, the governor said in his address.

Today, water management is the starting point for getting rid of poverty in the world. This requires an integrated approach to management of Water. Integrated water management calls for significant increase in scientific, technical and managerial capacities at all levels and especially at local levels.

It also requires a mindset change from project based thinking to a holistic approach.

My State Arunachal Pradesh, alone constitutes 23% of hydropower potential of North East and 37% hydropower potential of India. (See P-3)

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(From P-1) However, this future powerhouse of India has only tapped 1% of this potential. As, the region grows towards development and prosperity a small glimpse of the States rich flora, fauna, water resources and the multi ethnic tribal society stands as an invitation to visit India and this pristine State in the lap of Nature, the governor added.

The Governor interacted with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loo at the opening ceremony of the Changi Reclamation Plant on 23 June and the Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Singapore Dr Yacob Ibrahim at several occasions. Chief Minister of Mizoram also attended the Summit.