IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Newsletter December 2025

Edition Volume IAI/25/12

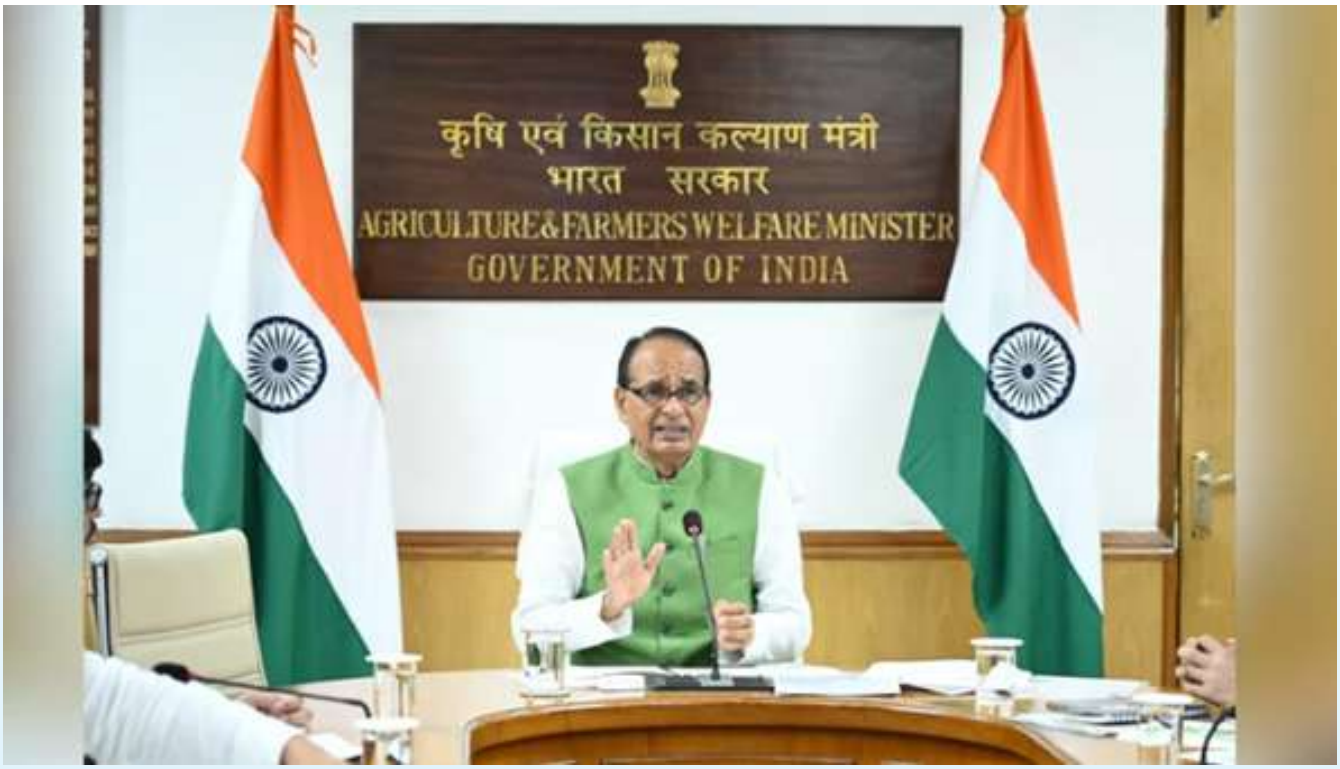
Water Saving

Higher Yield

Sustainable Farming

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Centre Urges Faster Utilisation of Agricultural Scheme Allocations



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has urged all States to utilize the allocated funds for agricultural schemes before March. He cautioned that delays or underutilization of funds can adversely affect States, as it may lead to difficulties in securing additional allocations from the Central Government in the future.

He emphasized the need for timely and effective implementation of various Central agricultural schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, to ensure direct benefits reach farmers and the agriculture sector gains momentum.

The Union Government reiterated its commitment to support States through close coordination, aiming to strengthen agricultural development and safeguard farmers' interests.

Irrigation Association of India attends the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) 79th Foundation Day on 06th January 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Irrigation Association of India attended the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) 79th Foundation Day on 6th January 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The celebration was graced by Shri Pralhad

Joshi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, as the Chief Guest and Shri B.L. Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution as the Guest of Honour.

Bureau of Indian Standards, the National Standard Body of India, functioning under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, through its comprehensive standardization, certification, and testing activities, BIS plays a pivotal role in ensuring the availability of safe, reliable, and quality goods, safeguarding consumer health, strengthening exports and import substitution, and supporting the nation's overall economic growth.

(Source:https://www.thestatesman.com/india/union-minister-pralhad-joshi-to-launch-integrated-standardisation-poral-on-79th-bis-foundation-day-1503536670.html)

IAI Tamil Nadu Chapter Leadership met the Key officials in Chennai

The IAI Tamil Nadu Chapter met the JDH (MI) and R/DOA in Chennai to highlight delays in subsidy payment releases. District-wise pendency was reviewed, and instructions were issued to district MI teams and JDAs to expedite processing and submit eligible cases to the Treasury. Directions were also given to accelerate payment releases and appoint Data Operators across districts.

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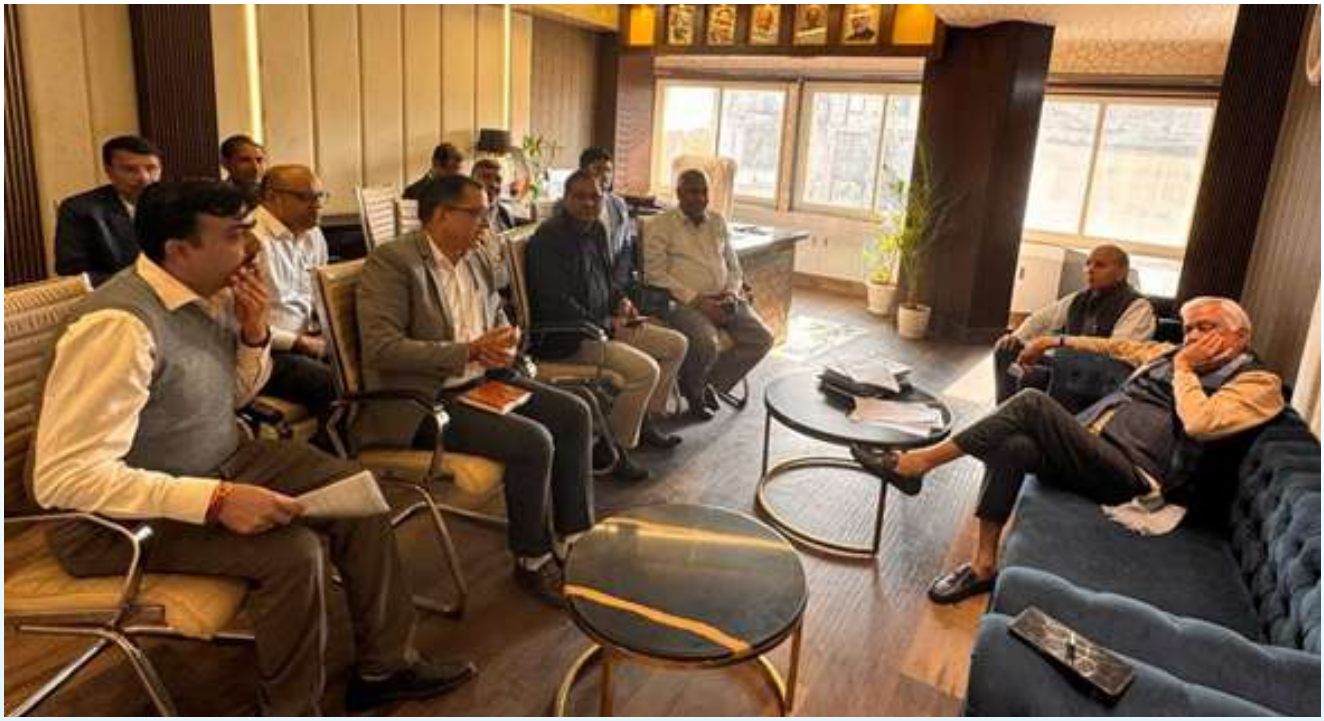
In addition, a written representation was submitted highlighting that the State may require an additional ₹150 crore from the Government of India to clear pending dues for completed works. IAI suggested that an advance request be made to GOI so that the requirement is duly noted and timely action can be taken.

Irrigation Association of India's Rajasthan Chapter in discussions with Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena, Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan



Irrigation Association of India's Rajasthan Chapter held an interactive discussion with Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena, Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan at Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur Rajasthan.

Dr. R.P. Yadav, IAI's State Chairman along with other key representatives of micro-irrigation companies in the state met with the hon. minister to discuss ongoing challenges in implementation of the centrally supported PDMC (Micro Irrigation) Scheme.

Key issues discussed: -

- Timely release of funds
- Delays and repeated re-verification of field installations
- Challenges faced by industry, dealers, and farmers
- Demand for skilled micro-irrigation professionals

The Hon'ble Minister assured the industry of full cooperation and coordination in order to address underlying concerns experienced by farmers, companies and dealers in the state including timely releases of funds and the demand for trained micro-irrigation professionals. The Hon Minister's timely resolution of state issues and challenges will considerably help Rajasthan achieve the full potential of water-efficient micro-irrigation technologies in transforming the water-stressed state.

PRECISION IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGIES

Odisha launches an Internet of Things (IoT) based smart irrigation system

Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC) has implemented an IoT-based Smart Irrigation System under the Tarajodi-III Community Lift Irrigation Project in Mayurbhanj district. This data-driven initiative enhances irrigation efficiency by using field sensors, weather data, and AI for real-time monitoring and optimized water delivery.

Integrated IoT devices and a mobile app enable farmers to apply water precisely, monitor usage, and access real-time weather information, supporting better decision-making. Piloted in upland and drought-prone areas, the project reflects OLIC's commitment to boosting agricultural productivity, improving water security, and advancing equitable access to irrigation through innovative technologies.

(Source: https://swabhimaniodia.in/odisha-launches-iot-based-smart-irrigation/)

Advancements in IoT-Driven Smart Drip Irrigation

Agriculture today stands at a turning point, with smart technologies reshaping traditional farming. Drip irrigation, known for its efficiency, is being transformed through IoT-enabled systems that use sensors and controllers to monitor soil moisture, weather conditions, and crop needs in real time.

This data-driven approach allows farmers to optimize water use, improve yields, and enhance overall farm management through informed decision-making. While smart drip irrigation offers significant potential, wider adoption depends on improving access to technology and providing proper farmer training to fully realize its benefits.

(Source: https://bioengineer.org/advancements-in-iot-driven-smart-drip-irrigation/)

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AgriLink in Morocco: Smart Irrigation Tackles Water Scarcity

Morocco—one of North Africa's most water-stressed nations—is turning to digital innovation to rethink how water is managed in agriculture. Under mounting pressure to use every drop wisely, the country has launched the AgriLink Project (Agricultural Knowledge: Linking Farmers, Advisors and Researchers) in the Safi region to showcase the power of smart technologies in irrigation.

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The project is piloting a digital irrigation monitoring and optimization system powered by battery-operated, wireless IoT technologies such as LoRaWAN. Field sensors continuously track soil moisture, temperature, and humidity, transmitting real-time data over long distances with minimal energy use. This enables precise, data-driven irrigation decisions even in areas with limited infrastructure.

By preventing over-irrigation, reducing water losses, and ensuring fair water distribution, data-driven irrigation systems are proving to be a game changer. For Morocco, LoRaWAN represents a strong gateway to digital agriculture, offering a practical and scalable solution to address water scarcity through smarter, more efficient irrigation management.

(Source: https://wiot-group.com/think/en/articles/agrilink-smart-irrigation-morocco-agriculture-iot/

Abu Dhabi launches AI-powered smart water meters to boost farm efficiency

Abu Dhabi is taking a smart leap in water management with the launch of an AI-powered water metering project in Al Wathba. Led by the Department of Energy in collaboration with ADAFSA, the initiative aims to boost water-use efficiency and promote sustainable agriculture across the emirate.

Following a successful pilot, smart water meters are being installed across 80 farms, delivering real-time, AI-driven insights into water consumption. Connected to the Department of Energy's digital platform, the system enables precise monitoring and analysis, helping farmers reduce water wastage, improve productivity, and optimize resource use—a strong step toward enhanced food and water security.

(Source: https://www.utilities-me.com/news/abu-dhabi-ai-smart-water-meter)

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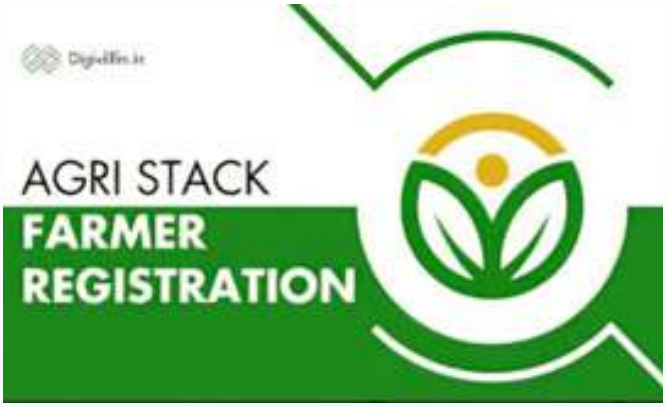
NATIONAL NEWS

Centre approves Odisha's Agri Stack proposals; state eligible for Rs 155.48 crore incentives



Odisha has taken a major step forward in digital agriculture, with the Centre approving its proposals for Special Central Assistance under the AgriStack initiative. The support will help the state establish a Farmer Registry and successfully implement the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) as part of India's Digital Public Infrastructure.

The Farmer Registry will ensure accurate identification of beneficiaries for schemes like PM-KISAN and crop insurance, while the Digital Crop Survey will provide geo-referenced, plot-level crop data to improve production estimates, procurement planning, and targeted scheme delivery. This approval highlights Odisha's strong execution, timely progress, and leadership in data-driven, farmer-centric reforms.

(Source:https://www.thestatesman.com/business/centre-approves-odishas-agristack-proposals-state-eligible-for-rs-155-48-crore-incentives-1503531219.html)

Solar Powered Drip Irrigation Transforms Agriculture in Remote Village of Sundarbans in West Bengal

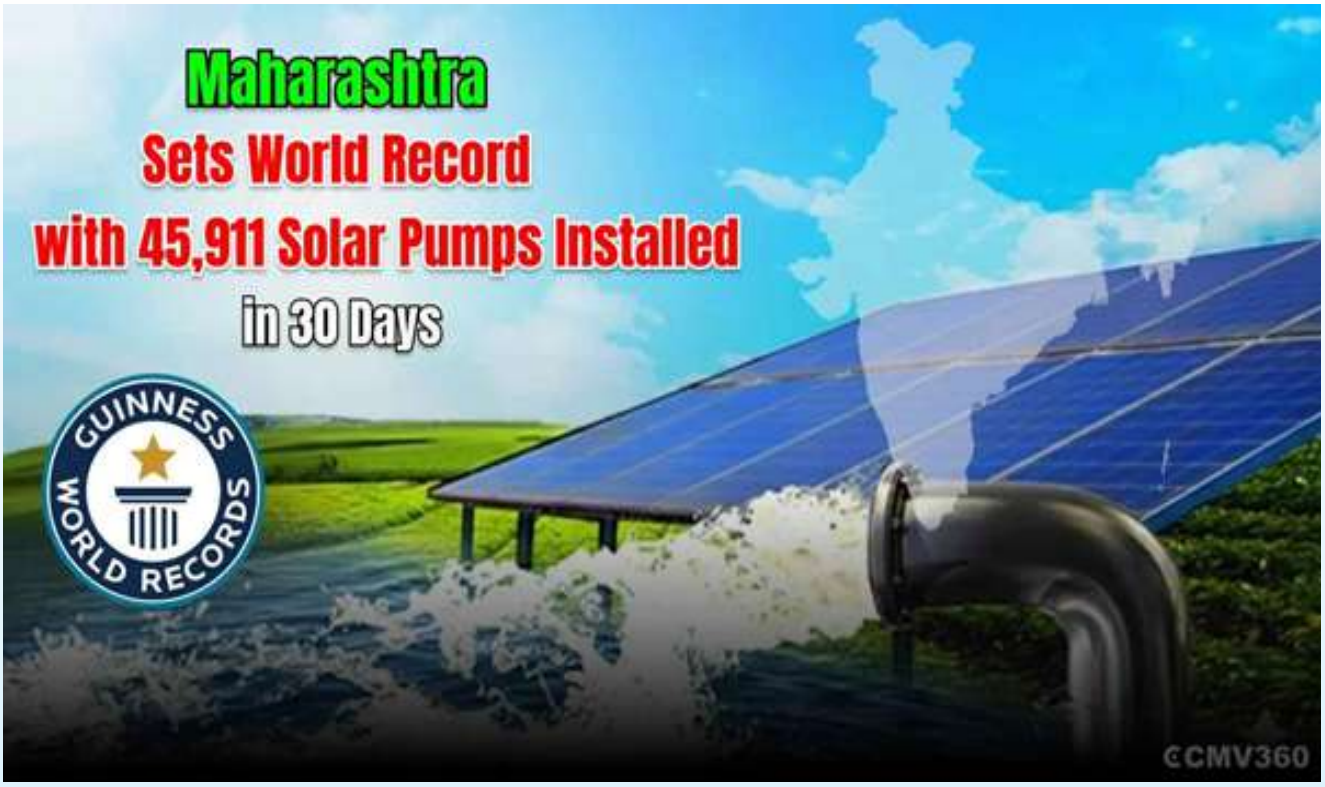
On Gosaba Island in the India's Sundarbans, where tidal rivers from the Bay of Bengal bring highly saline water, farming has always been a challenge. To expand cultivation in this fragile landscape, solar-powered drip irrigation has been introduced under the CSI4CZ project—offering a smart, climate-resilient solution.

The system uses solar panels and a low-energy nano pump to lift water from farm ponds into a storage tank, from where it flows by gravity through drip lines to crops. This simple yet innovative setup now supports the cultivation of high-value vegetables such as cucumber, bitter gourd, and okra, especially during rainfall shortfalls.

The results are encouraging: higher productivity, profitable returns, and an improved output–input ratio, proving that solar drip irrigation can turn even saline-prone islands into productive farmland.

(Source: https://icar.org.in/en/node/4625)

India installs 45,911 solar water pumps in Maharashtra achieving a Guinness World Record



Maharashtra has made global headlines in clean energy and irrigation as MSEDCL installed an astounding 45,911 solar water pumps in just one month, earning a Guinness World Record for the largest and fastest renewable energy–irrigation rollout.

Implemented under the Magel Tyala Solar Pump Yojana, the drive rapidly expanded solar-powered irrigation across multiple districts during the audited period from 27 October to 25 November. Beyond enabling daytime solar irrigation, the initiative also provides night-time electricity for households, significantly lowering energy costs and improving the quality of life for farmers.

This record-breaking achievement showcases Maharashtra's leadership in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy adoption, and farmer-centric innovation.

(Source:https://www.pv-magazine.com/2025/12/08/india-installs-45911-solar-water-pumps-in-maharashtra/)

Shri Ramnath Thakur, Minister of State (MoS) addresses Parliament Questions on the centrally supported RAFTAAR-RKVY Scheme

Shri Ramnath Thakur, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare addressed questions on the centrally supported Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RAFTAAR) - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) in the winter session of the Indian Parliament.

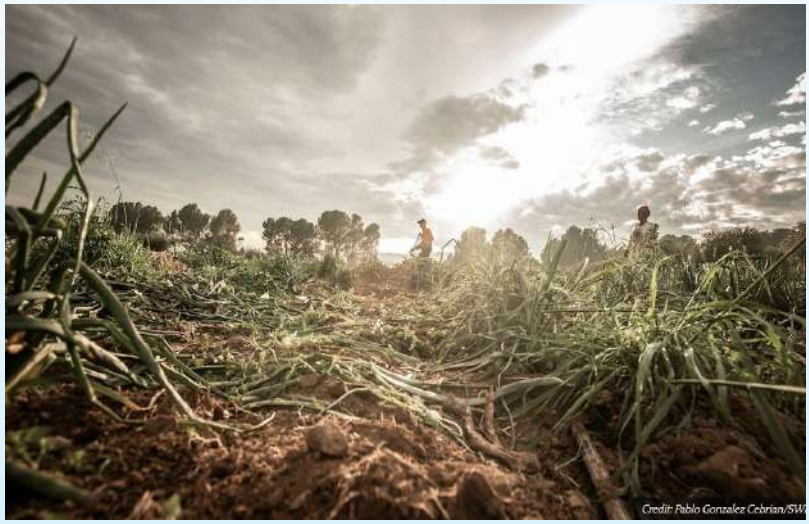
The written questions by Shri Kesineni Sivanath, Shri Bastipati Nagaraju and Dr. R Purandeshwari Members of Parliament (MP) aimed to present key initiatives and progress under the centrally supported scheme especially with regard to enhancement of agricultural productivity, efficient utilization of water resources and additional income generation in the state of Andhra Pradesh for the period 2022-2023 – 2024-2025. While approaches such as the efficient utilization of water resources and integrated farming systems (IFS) aim to mitigate key risks experienced by farmers in states water scarce and drought prone regions, training programmes and capacity building initiatives aim to equip farmers with knowledge and necessary skills to adopt improved practices.

(Source: https://hostwebs.site/Xm9gt9)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

How digitalization is reshaping agriculture in an era of drought and flood

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released its flagship report, "The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2025," revealing how droughts, floods, and climate extremes are steadily undermining food production, rural livelihoods, and nutrition worldwide. Drawing on over 30 years of global data, the report exposes not only rising losses but also critical gaps in how these impacts are tracked and addressed.



Amid these challenges, the report highlights the growing role of digital technologies in transforming disaster management in agriculture—from reactive relief to early warning and anticipatory action. Tools such as FAO's Agricultural Stress Index and WaPOR convert satellite data into real-time insights on crop stress and water productivity, supporting smarter planning and recovery. However, FAO cautions that technology must be matched with strong institutions, reliable connectivity, sound data governance, and skilled human capacity to truly safeguard food security.

(Source:https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/smart-water-magazine/how-digitalization-reshaping-agriculture-era-drought-and-flood)

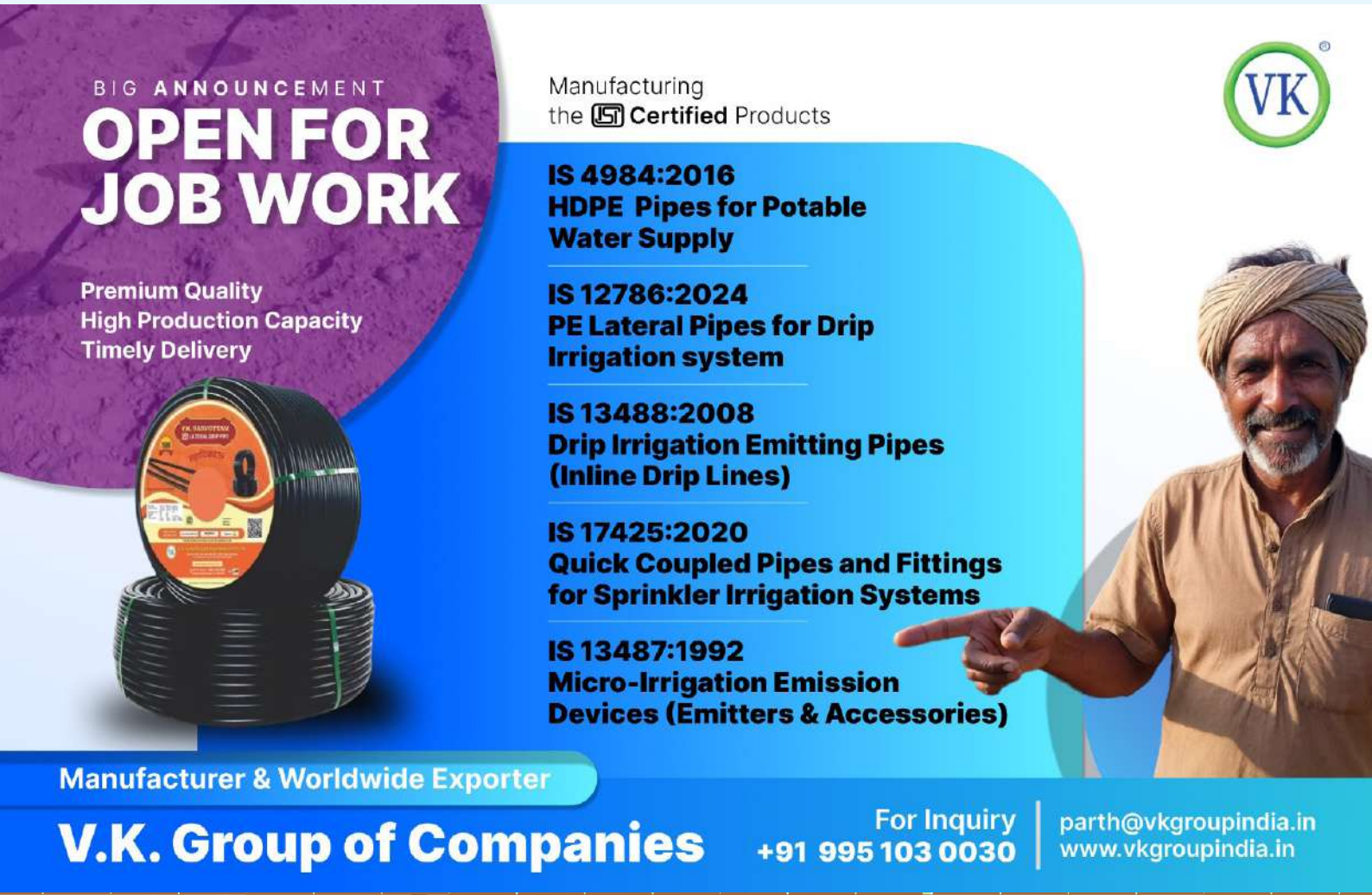
Bridging the skills gap: A growing threat to water infrastructure innovation

Smart water initiatives are reshaping the future of infrastructure, promising smarter, more efficient, and more reliable systems. Yet a critical challenge is holding the sector back. A November 2024 survey by HMS Networks revealed that a shortage of technical expertise is one of the biggest

obstacles preventing water and wastewater utilities from successfully adopting and operating smart water technologies.

While digital solutions can address aging infrastructure and rising environmental pressures, the lack of skilled professionals threatens to slow modernization across the sector. This growing skills gap puts not just individual utilities—but the industry as a whole—at risk of falling behind. Bridging this talent shortfall is now as important as the technology itself for utilities aiming to unlock the full potential of digital transformation.

(Source:https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/hms-networks/bridging-skills-gap-a-growing-threat-water-infrastructure-innovation)



About Irrigation Association of India

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) is an apex industry body established in 1999, representing Micro Irrigation System (MIS) manufacturing companies in India. It is a not-for-profit organization and is working towards the successful implementation of Micro Irrigation in India for the benefit of farmers.

IAI has a registered office at Pune. Maharashtra, India and corporate office at New Delhi. IAI is closely working with the central Government of India and the State Governments. The association has a strong presence in states through IAI State Chapters at Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and North Eastern Region.

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