

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the **Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM)** Conference at Ahmedabad jointly organized by **‘Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation’** and **‘Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd’**. This one-day (28th May 2019) event is the second in the series of National CADWM Conferences planned to be held in different States each year as per resolution adopted in the first CADWM Conference held on 13th March 2018 at New Delhi.

Nearly each one of us has a good understanding of the subject matter of Water Resource Management. Yet the degree of our individual understanding (in both expanse and depth) can vary from person to person, and the parts of understanding can be dissimilar or even conflicting. Our ancient scriptures have called these part-understandings as ‘Bhag’ and cherished its assimilation by naming the one that has a total (universal) understanding as ‘Bhagvan’. Civilizations have developed by such assimilation or marred by its absence. Facing an impending water crisis, there is an urgent need for the assimilation of our part-understandings in managing of India’s irrigation sector, which consumes over 80% of the country’s limited water resources.

The CADWM Conference is thus organized to provide a common platform for the multiple project implementing agencies (of the Central and State Governments) and other key stakeholders (Contractors, Suppliers, Consultants, NGOs, Institutes, Water Users’ Associations, and Farmers) aiming for sharing and assimilation of their vast and varied information, knowledge and experiences. The deliberations planned for the 2nd CADWM Conference are primarily spread over three technical sessions covering:

- (i) Program Review – Success, Failure, and Strategic Corrections;
- (ii) Structural Intervention – Adaptation of New Technologies; and
- (iii) Non-structural Intervention – Sustaining ‘Participatory Irrigation Management’ Initiative.

The esteemed Chairs and Speakers of these Sessions, coming from different backgrounds and working in different ways, will share their valuable experiences on varied key concerns (implementation bottlenecks, cost aspects, contractual issues, quality and speed of survey/planning, faults in implementation, capacity building of WUAs, conjunctive use of groundwater, new materials/ technologies etc). The question-answer round at the end of each Session will add further value to the deliberations. The Conference outcomes (to be summarized as Conference Recommendations) are expected to help us in collectively and impartially reviewing the successes and failures of the ongoing CADWM Program, learn from the best practices, and seek course corrections in our future interventions.

Wishing for pleasant and fruitful deliberations for all,

(Dr. B. Ravi Kumar Pillai)
Commissioner (CADWM)

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