

L-G VK Saxena's water conservation initiative leads to channelising 20 million litres of glacier water into dry canal at Chuchot village

Water discharge in River Indus reduced drastically from 90 million litres a day to just 5 million litres daily

Initiative to strengthen irrigation, support farmers and advance Ladakh's water-secure and sustainable agriculture goals

Leh, August 21: In yet another landmark water conservation initiative led by Lt Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, a huge volume of nearly 20 million litres of water has been successfully channelised in another dry canal at Chuchot village in Leh, aimed at ensuring long-term water and agricultural sustainability in the region.

The 20 million litres of water forms part of the 90 million litres of glacier water from Stok Glacier being tapped and diverted at the behest of Lieutenant Governor, Shri Saxena, enabling farmers to utilise a huge quantity of glacier water that was earlier flowing down the River Indus.

A majority of these 90 million litres of daily water discharge from Stok Glacier has already been diverted to the Igoo-Phey Irrigation Canal. With the latest intervention, the UT administration has successfully diverted nearly 20 million litres of water per day to the Chuchot village canal, which is locally known as Khuls. This has reduced the discharge of glacier water into the Indus River to just around 5 million litres of water.

The initiative follows the Lieutenant Governor's visit to Chuchot village on August 16, when Goba/Nambardar Mirza Hussain, on behalf of the people of Chuchot, appealed to him for his intervention to solve the acute water shortage in the village. The intervention will augment the availability of water for agriculture and other productive purposes in the village.

Acting on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department started creating trenches in front of LG Saxena to divert this water to the village dry canal. A JCB was utilised to create a diversion from the existing water channel and channelise the flow towards Chuchot canal, allowing the water to be put to productive use rather than flowing away into the Indus.

The initiative is part of the wider water-management campaign being spearheaded by the Lieutenant Governor to identify and harness glacier and snowmelt flows that are currently being lost downstream. The approach focuses on simple, cost-effective and gravity-based interventions, using existing water channels and minimal earthwork wherever feasible.

"Our objective is clear – not a single drop of glacier and snowmelt water should go to waste when our farmers need water for their fields. The diversion of water to Chuchot is another example of how simple and low-cost interventions can create meaningful benefits for local communities. We will continue to identify such opportunities across Ladakh and put our water resources to productive use for agriculture, livelihoods and long-term water security," said L-G Shri Saxena.

Welcoming the initiative, Goba/Nambardar Mirza Hussain expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for prioritising the villagers' request and taking concrete action to harness the water for the benefit of Chuchot's farmers. He appreciated the intervention by the Lieutenant Governor as an important step towards addressing the villagers' agricultural water requirements and making better use of the natural water resources available in the area for ages.

