

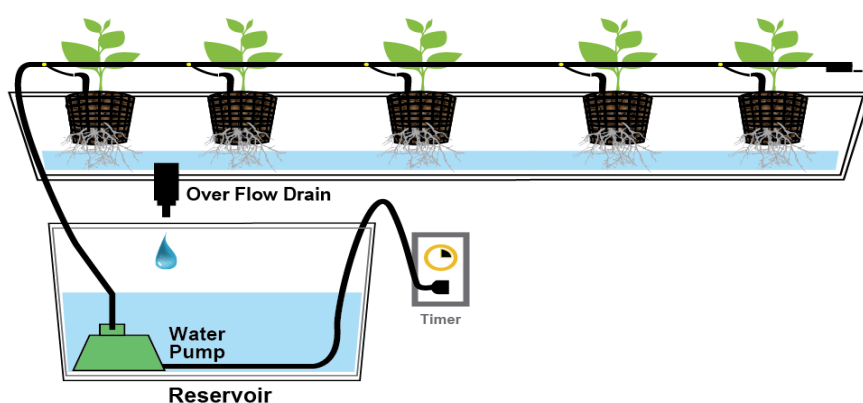
## Drip irrigation needs further push

### Why in news?

Israel has presented a drip irrigation system for Children's Park near India Gate for conservation of water and electricity.

### What is drip irrigation?

- **Water at slow rate** - Drip irrigation involves dripping water onto the soil at very low rates (2-20 liters/hour) from a system of small diameter plastic pipes fitted with outlets called emitters or drippers.
- **Directly to root zone** - Drip irrigation provides water directly to the root zone of the crop through a network of pipes/emitters.
- **Different from traditional methods** - Drip irrigation unlike surface and sprinkler irrigation, which involves wetting the whole soil profile.
- **Crops suitable** - The crop suitable for drip irrigation system are
  - Orchard crops such as grapes, banana, pomegranate and orange.
  - Vegetables such as tomato, chilly, capsicum, cabbage, cauliflower and onion.
  - Cash crops such as sugarcane, cotton, arecanut and strawberry.
  - Flowers such as rose, carnation, gerbera, anthurium, orchids and jasmine.
  - Plantation crops such as tea, rubber, coffee and coconut.
  - Spices such as turmeric, cloves and mint.
  - Oil seed such as sunflower, oil palm and groundnut.
  - Forest crops such as teakwood and bamboo.



### What are the advantages of drip irrigation?

- Water loss is **completely prevented**
- Conserve [electricity](#), time and ground water

Ground water is the **largest fresh water resources** on the earth.

- Minimize crop failure during summer
- The profit margin of the farmers can be increased
- The crop yield can be increased up to 230%
- [Fertilizer](#) use efficiency increases by 30%
- Crop grows consistently, healthier and matures fast
- Helps crops growth during even in periods of water scarcity and load-shedding

*World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day held on 22 March.*

### **What is the need of the hour?**

- The lands suitable for drip irrigation which is around 270 lakh is applicable needs to be brought into the ambit.
- Drip irrigation should be made mandatory for water intensive crops to reduce the risk of ground water crisis.
- Measures should be taken to gradually bring sugarcane cultivation entirely under drip with the support of sugarcane mills.
- The government should guarantee interest-free bank loans and immediate electricity connection for pump sets to farmers who agree to cultivate only through drip irrigation.

*To achieve the goal of 'more crop per drop' the Pradhan Mantri Sinchayee Yojana was launched in 2015 to promote drip irrigation*

### **Quick facts**

#### **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)**

- CGWB is a **subordinate office** of the Ministry of Water Resources.
- CGWB was established in 1970 by renaming the exploratory tube wells organization under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- CGWB was merged with the Ground Water Wing of the Geological Survey of India during 1972.
- CGWB is head quartered in **Haryana**.

#### **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)**

- CACP is an **attached office** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- CACP comprises a Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official).
  - The non-official members are representatives of the farming community and usually have an active association with the farming community.
- CACP is mandated to recommend **minimum support prices** (MSPs).
- CACP submits its recommendations to the government in the form of **Price Policy Reports** every year.

## References

1. [The Hindu Business Line | Advantages Of Drip Irrigation](#)
2. [The Hindu | Drip Irrigation In Children's Park](#)

