



# Employment News



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## INDIA'S GROWING WATER WOE : A BIG CHALLENGE

Dr. M.A. Haque

Almost regularly India faces monsoon uncertainty. Meteorological Department works overtime to give accurate predictions. It attains importance as India receives most of the precipitation, about 75%, in the monsoon season. During rest of the period, there is no or little precipitation. Average rainfall in the country is about 1170 mm varying widely, from only 100 mm to 10,000 mm in different areas. Estimated precipitation in India is about 4000 bcm (billion cubic m). But only 1869 bcm remains available for use. Even that cannot be utilized completely due to topographical constraints. About 1123bcm is utilisable i.e. 1086m<sup>3</sup> per capita. By 2050 it will become 760 m<sup>3</sup>, much lower than required. That is why World Bank has warned that India will exhaust its fresh water by 2050. Out of the 4,000 bcm of rainfall only 48% ends up in rivers, only 18% remains utilisable. Insufficient storage infrastructures results in inadequate storage of surplus water. It goes to the oceans or just evaporates. With such uneven seasonal distribution of rainfall we should have concentrated towards better capture and storage infrastructures. But we are constantly destroying ponds, lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams to obtain more land which results in water scarcity. A report released in July 2014 gives data about forests, wastelands and water bodies in Delhi. During just seven years more than 15% of those natural ecosystems vanished. Obviously the areas have been encroached for urbanization resulting in reduced surface storage



and percolation underground. Recently, in Chennai, sixty people died in building collapse. The building was located on Porur Lake, a water body that helps in flood management and groundwater recharge. The land mafia easily grabs the wetlands as the planners consider them land. In Delhi itself large parts of Yamuna bed are under encroachments.

Historically India depends to a large extent on rivers for water. But the rivers cannot meet the demand for entire year because more water is extracted than what they receive. Many of them dry up immediately after the rainy season. Main Indian rivers can be classified into four groups:

Himalayan, coastal, peninsular, and inland drainage basins. The Himalayan rivers are formed by snow and glaciers. Therefore they maintain their flows throughout the year. Now the Himalayan glaciers are shrinking. As a result, these rivers are in danger. The coastal rivers, Bramhaputra and Krishna, especially on the west coast, are short in length with small catchment areas. The peninsular rivers, which include the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri flow inland and bulge only during the monsoon. Inland drainage basin rivers, such as Mahanadi and the Godavari run only limited distance. With growing greenhouse effect and climate warming rivers are likely to be affected with other water sources. The IPCC has already warned that climate change will trigger water shortage, famine and increased regional tension, especially in India. The report specifically mentions shrinking Himalayan glaciers as important factor. Another consequence of climate change may be more frequent downpour or unexpected dry patches resulting in crop loss due to water shortage or flooding.

For large areas of the country ground water is the major water source. Estimated static groundwater in India is about 10,812bcm. The average groundwater recharge rate of India's river basins is about 260m<sup>3</sup>/day. About 432bcm of groundwater is replenished annually through rain and river drainage. Out of that about 395bcm is utilisable. About 82% is used just for irrigation. The remaining, about 18%, is available for other uses. With growing demands for irrigation and in other areas more groundwater is being pumped out than replenishment. We are pumping out about 190km<sup>3</sup> of groundwater per year. Nature is refilling only 120km<sup>3</sup>, a shortfall of 70km<sup>3</sup> per year. There are approximately 20 million individual wells in India utilizing groundwater. People have to pay nothing for the water they extract. So there is no incentive to conserve or recycle water. For industries and urban bodies the water cess is nominal and with loopholes. Hence, most of these organizations avoid treating and reusing the waste water. Result is that in most parts

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## JOB HIGHLIGHTS

### SSC

Staff Selection Commission Notifies Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors in Delhi Police, CAPFs and Assistant Sub-Inspector in CISF Examination, 2015.

Vacancy : 2902

Last Date : 28.04.2015 (pg 2-11)

### UPSC

Union Public Service Commission invites applications for various posts.

Last Date : 16.04.2015 (pg 30-36)

### PNB

Punjab National Bank requires 53 Company Secretary, Manager (Security), Officer (Data Analyst) and Fire Officers

Last Date : 16.04.2015 (pg 12)

Turn over the pages for other vacancies in Banks, Armed Forces, Railways, PSUs and other Govt. Depts

## LOGISTIC SECTOR OFFERS NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG WORK FORCE

Dr Ranjeet Mehta

Logistics is one of the most important career fields in the world now especially in India. Without the planning and execution of the distribution of resources, society would cease to function and food shortages would cause chaos around the world. Every company uses logistics even though full-time logistics managers may not be employed. The work of a logistician begins with bringing in the supplies and raw materials necessary for a business or organization to operate. Inbound logistics are then used in conjunction with outbound logistics to distribute products or services where they are in demand.

### Logistic a Sunrise Industry in India

The Indian logistics industry was valued at an estimated US\$ 130 billion in 2012-13. Sources also estimate that the industry has grown at a CAGR of over 16% over the last five years & employs over 45 million people with sub-sector growing at even 30-40% per annum. Due to its current growth and its future growth potential, the Indian logistics sector is viewed as one of the most attractive in the world. The Emerging Market Survey, 2011 conducted by Transport Intelligence highlights India's attractiveness as a strong growth area for logistics in the future. The survey found that nearly half of its respondents agreed that India would emerge as a major logistics hub in the future. Also India's rapid growth and market size were the key fac-

tors for global players looking at opportunities in the region.



According to a report by KPMG, a glimpse into various industrial sectors highlights the anticipated upsurge in trade and commerce and the consequent growth in the need for a strong logistics industry, like: India's nominal GDP could grow from USD 1.8 trillion in (2012-13) to USD 3.6 trillion by 2020 at an annual growth rate of 9 percent. By 2030, India's crude steel production is expected to increase by a factor of 4. The demand for cement in the country is expected to double by 2030. Agricultural output, although reduced in size as a percentage of the economy, is expected to increase from 207 million metric tonnes (MMT) to 295 MMT by 2020. The Indian textiles industry is expected to triple from USD 78 billion currently to US\$ 220 billion by 2020. The share of organized retail is expected to increase from 5 percent cur-

rently to 24 percent by 2020. Overall export-import (EXIM) cargo at Indian ports is projected to increase to around 2,800 MMT by 2020 from approximately 890 MMT currently.

Finished consumer goods, both imported and those produced in India, will have to be transported to the country's middle-class consumers, which, by 2030, are expected to increase fourfold from the current middle class population.

Thus, to sustain and drive economic growth, the movement of goods associated with a mature economy will require a vastly superior service sector as well as physical logistics infrastructure. The transformation of India's logistics landscape needs a clear, long-term and sustainable vision encompassing initiatives that are proactive rather than reactive to leverage India's economic potential in future.

Much has been written around the various opportunities that the Indian logistics industry offers and the challenges it faces. Yet, it is perhaps an opportune time to dive deep into certain specific developments - those in the pipeline as well as those that must be focused upon in the near future - that could potentially overhaul the way India moves, stores and delivers.

There are three mediums of logistics services in India. These can be categorized in

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Following item is available in the Web Exclusives section on www.employmentnews.gov.in :

• A Big Push in Budget for Infrastructure to Lift Indian Economy

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## India's Growing Water...

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of the country water tables are dipping year after year leading to groundwater shortages. Many cities import water from far off involving energy consumption, evaporation loss, leakage, pilferage etc. In certain areas industries are slowing down activities as they cannot find sufficient water at competitive cost. Also, farmers and residents oppose utilization of water by industries. Such conflicts may aggravate in future with growing scarcity. Many rural communities at the outskirts of urban sprawls access groundwater through wells, adding to the depletion of groundwater and contamination of water sources. For example, the situation in Gurgaon, a city close to Delhi became so acute that Court had to order to halt large scale constructions except where treated waste water was utilized. But the order is not effective. Allegations are that construction companies use groundwater by bribing the officials.

The problems do not end here. In certain years there is concern about El Niño. Historically, El Niño years have brought less than normal rains in India. Data for 126 years (1880-2005) show that in about 90%

of El Niño years had sub-normal rains and 65% of El Niño years experienced droughts. During last decade, 2004, 2009, 2012 had El Niño and India had less than normal rains (79 to 92%). In 2004 and 2009 there were drought-like conditions. But the opinions of experts remain divided about El Niño effect, as it happened in 2014. Important issue is that India is never ready to face less rain and drought like conditions. Our thinking about water is skewed, text books, even at highest levels, generally discuss that about 70% of earth's surface is covered by water. It is correct. That is why earth is called "Blue Planet". Important fact is that about 97.5% earth's water is saline. Only about 2.5% is not saline, called "Fresh Water". This fraction can be directly consumed by us and most of the organisms outside oceans. Fresh water contains small concentrations of salts which help living organisms. That is why good quality drinking water is labeled as "Mineral Water". Another issue is that out of the total fresh water, around 68.9% is in the glaciers, about 30.8% is groundwater. Only about 0.3% is in the rivers, lakes, ponds, streams and other sources from where we can obtain them readily. It is too little to meet the demand. Importance of water is obvious.

Most animals, including humans, have to drink water or get that with food to keep healthy. Certain organisms have more than 95% water. Human body has about 60% water. Water deficiency leads to dehydration. Similarly, insufficient water in soil leads to death of plants.

Tragedy is that wherever water is available, there is misuse and wastage. This explains why during the last century global water use has grown at more than double the population growth rate. Changing lifestyle and food habits are to be blamed. Food production requires huge quantities of water. About 95% of our water footprint is hidden in the food we eat, energy we use, products we buy, and services we utilize. Presently most of our energy requirements are being met through thermal or hydroelectric routes. Use of efficient appliances and adoption of energy-efficiency measures can reduce our water footprint substantially. By utilizing alternative energies like wind, solar etc. our footprint can reduce further.

Indian agriculture is the prime consumer of water. According to the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) about 83% of available water goes for irrigation. Remaining 17% meets the rest of the demands, domestic, industrial and oth-

ers. Agriculture is important, 65% of India's 1.2 billion people depend on agriculture for livelihood. Also, India needs to boost agriculture for its growing population which is expected to hit 1.6 billion by 2050. India has the largest arable area in Asia, about 39% of Asia's arable land. But over-irrigation and inefficient irrigation systems are common in the country, leading to wastage and over-exploitation of resources. In several states power is subsidized for agriculture. Diesel was heavily subsidized till recently. These factors encourage over-irrigation. Also, water intensive crops like rice, cotton, sugarcane etc. are extensively grown in water deficient areas. Marathwada is one example with large scale sugarcane cultivation. Then sugarcane is processed in the area bringing further pressure on water sources. Influential farmers and industrialists over-utilize the available water while crops of small farmers fail. They get into loan traps, at times leading to suicides.

We need to rethink about water scarcity and prepare ourselves to face the situation. Creating infrastructures for storage of surplus water received in monsoon can help a lot. Also, better irrigation systems need to be encouraged.

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## Logistic Sector Offers...

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the following way:

- **Air freight** - This is a modern and the safest mode to ensure a fast delivery of goods. A chosen one by many because of the swiftness of the system there are many companies that are now even providing super fast deliveries by airways even on the same day.
- **Land transport** - This is a means of logistics support that has withstood the test of time through the extensive network of roads in India. It has been the popularly used method and used especially in the shipments of heavy articles like machinery and vehicles. This is also a chosen method in case of household packers and movers.
- **Railways** - This is also an age old method of shipments and transport. Though most used in case of domestic services this is very effective in

the availability of cost effective logistics support in India.

- **Waterways** - An essential part of this industry is also one of the oldest methods. Shipments and transportation of goods is done on an international basis through this way. It is apt in case of shipments of oil, highly sensitive or volatile articles like Uranium.

Among the key players of the Indian logistics industry there are certain international names along with national companies that are not only world leaders in the field but are also part of the Indian industry for a long time now. Some of the Companies are DHL, TNT, AFL, Blue Dart, Gati, DTDC, Ashok Leyland, First Flight, Agarwal Packers and Movers etc.

### Ten reasons to start your career with Logistic Industry

If you are thinking about a career change, the field of logistics has much to offer for all kinds of people right from the 10th standard to MBA. You need to have drive

and you should be willing to take challenges in life.

1. New opportunities are opening in logistics.
2. Careers in logistics are paying more than ever.
3. Jobs are available in logistics for people of all education levels.
4. Advancement opportunities in logistics are plentiful.
5. Logistics careers can be started anywhere.
6. Logistics careers are rarely boring.
7. Opportunities for women are expanding in logistics-Logistics careers have traditionally been held by men, but women are becoming increasingly involved at all levels. Many women hold top positions in logistics companies and logistics departments.
9. Logistics is a stepping stone into the field of international business-Many people who begin a career in logistics find that they quickly gain enough experience with international

business to develop new skills or open new opportunities. Learning a second language is much easier when you are working with people who speak that language. In addition, it may be possible to relocate to other countries temporarily or permanently.

10. People working in logistics develop fraternal relationships.

People who have a career in logistics cite their coworkers as one of its great advantages. Logistics can be a demanding field, and those working in it develop a high level of pride in their jobs.

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## NEWS DIGEST

- The Rajya Sabha has passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015 as reported by its Select Committee in a division of voting. The bill was adopted with 117 members in favour and 69 against. Barring Congress and Left, all parties supported the bill. However, JD (U) members staged a walkout before the voting. The Rajya Sabha had referred the bill to its Select Committee last week, which tabled its report to the House on Wednesday.
- All cities with over 1 lakh population to have FM Radio stations soon. Minister of state for Information and Broadcasting Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has informed this to Lok Sabha. He said government is ready to consider a proposal to allow private FM radio channels to broadcast current news under certain conditions.
- A Memoranda of Understanding has been signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) for creation of logistic hubs with rail connectivity at Varanasi and other places on National Waterways. The MoU was signed in the presence of Minister of Shipping and Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari and Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu.
- The Supreme Court has sought explanation from Uttar Pradesh Police on the circumstances leading to the arrest of a youth for allegedly posting on Facebook objectionable comments against State Minister Azam Khan. A bench of the apex court has asked the police to file response to the petition on filing of FIR without consultation of high ranking police officers like Inspector General or Deputy Commissioner of Police as it violates a Supreme Court advisory on the Information Technology Act.
- Noted industrialist and Tata Group's Chairman Emeritus, Ratan Tata has been appointed as the head of Indian Railways Innovative Council called 'Kaya Kalp'. The Council has been constituted to turn around the rail network. The announcement of the council was made by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in this year's Rail budget.