


City colleges to audit district admin's water programmes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The district administration has decided to engage the services of the College of Engineering Pune (COEP) and the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics to conduct a third party audit of all the works taken up under the state government's 'Jalayukta Shivar' programme, which aims to strengthen water sources in rural parts.

"The administration wants to ensure quality and durability of each work. We will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the two institutes in the next few days," said district collector Saurabh Rao.

The institutions will conduct random checks of works, prepare a report on

 The administration wants to ensure quality and durability of each work. We will sign a memorandum of understanding with the two institutes for the audit

Saurabh Rao | PUNE COLLECTOR

various parameters and submit it to the district collector. The collector will recommend further action if a project is found to be of substandard quality or if it is being delayed without reason.

Rao said the administration will click photographs of each project and upload them on the website with geotagging.

The 'Jalayukta Shivar' programme aims to make villages drought-free. Most

works proposed under the programme include strengthening of water sources and construction of small dams and ponds to increase water-holding capacity. So far, the administration has taken up over 120 such works in rural parts. As many as 198 villages have been identified under the programme.

According to a district administration official, importance is being given to people's participation in the programme. About 52 villages have been adopted by 32 industrial houses to take up irrigation-related works. Works worth Rs 7 crore have been taken up by industries, the official said.

The administration also plans to repair water supply schemes in rural parts at an expenditure of Rs 25 crore.