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Title : Day-long seminar on water mgmt

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The Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), in a paper, has suggested a socio-ecological perspective in building water resources and increased focus on soil and water conservation by developing micro-watersheds. The suggestions on 'water resource management in Maharashtra' will be taken up for discussion at a day-long workshop scheduled on Friday at the institute's campus in the presence of Nitin Raut, state water conservation minister.

Addressing a news conference here on Wednesday, H M Desarda, visiting professor at GIPE said, "Large parts of the country, including Maharashtra, are reeling under droughtlike conditions. A truant monsoon has exposed the lack of proper water-resources planning and policy. The paper prepared by GIPE on drought and water management has various suggestions and measures to tackle issues pertaining to water management. The seminar will have discussions on measures suggested in paper and also on other issues regarding water crisis", Desarda said.

A year ago, GIPE had organized a seminar which was attended by the chief minister and water experts. The institute then started 'Drought Mitigation and Water Re

source Management Center', he said, adding that preparation of a comprehensive paper on water management is one project taken up by the Centre.

He pointed out that the state lacked a proper approach in managing rainwater. "Construction of big dams has failed to resolve problems of water availability and irrigation. The state requires to adopt decentralized approach in strengthening water resources. During a 100mm rainfall, there is a million litre water available per hectare which means there is great scope for rainwater harvesting," he said.

The Center has planned a tour of areas facing droughtlike situation in the state to study ground reality pertaining to availability of water and status of water resources from which water is being supplied for farming and drinking purposes.

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