



WICCI WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

To,

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

Honourable Finance Minister

Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Respected Minister

Subject: Water Resources sector-specific recommendations for Budget 2021

I am honoured to introduce myself as the National President of the Water Resources Council of WICCI (Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

The Vision of Water Resources Council of WICCI is to build a water abundant economy for India by enabling every business and industry to put water and women central to their decision making. We believe that Indian economy will thrive when businesses and industries become water sensitive and women inclusive.

With respect to the upcoming budget 2021-22, our National Council of Water Resources WICCI would like to propose the following recommendations to the Ministry of Finance:

1. Financial tax incentives be introduced for businesses and industries for having a water conservation committee with a minimum of 2 members with 50% of them being women. The water conservation committee will be responsible for submitting water accounts and annual clean water returns (to the groundwater and environment) through implementation of water positive interventions giving back to the environment more than what they may take.
3. Groundwater extraction on all properties both public, private, urban or rural water usage be metered, geo tagged and charged groundwater tax for volume of



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extracted water with a cap provided on maximum volume that is permissible to be extracted.

4. A levy should be charged to those polluting Urban Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats that
 - Do not make any plans for implementing a fecal sludge management system (FSM) while disposing of untreated fecal sludge in an open environment.
 - Allow the industries in their jurisdiction to pollute local water bodies by discharging their untreated wastewater

5. Introduce a combination of financial disincentives and incentives that provide enough pressure and enablement for Water Utilities and Water & Sewerage Departments of City corporations and municipalities to develop & implement
 - Water Demand Management Plans
 - Decentralised Water Plans that integrate the planning & management of the three elements of urban water cycle namely - water supply, sewage and stormwater

We look forward to your acknowledgment and addressal of the issues and suggestions that are made pertaining to water resources and allied sectors.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Bhakti Lata Devi

National President, WICCI-Water Resources Council

Dated - 20th January 2021