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# 'Work on new irrigation projects set to start'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ranchi:** The state will soon get 10 irrigation projects as part of the government's new irrigation scheme, chief minister Raghubar Das announced on Thursday.

"The construction work on 10 large and small irrigation projects will begin soon," Das said, adding that state secretary of the water resources department K K Soan has already sent the proposals to the Centre in this regard. The proposals include the Radhu reservoir scheme of Ranchi, Budhai reservoir scheme of Deoghar and Dugni Baraj scheme of Saraikela. The construction of other irrigation schemes in Garhwa, Palamu and Godda are likely to begin soon.



Chief minister Raghubar Das at the NIFFT seminar in Ranchi on Thursday

In the last three years, the state government has approved irrigation schemes worth Rs 950 crore. These included construction of 1,307 check dams, 36 dams and 34 irrigation projects.

## State immigration office in Ranchi soon

The state government will set up a state immigration office to assist migrating workers with paperwork and related formalities, state tourism minister Amar Kumar Bauri said on Thursday.

Bauri was attending a session on the state of Indian workers trapped in foreign countries in Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan in New Delhi when he made the announcement. Union external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj who was the chief speaker at the event. Swaraj urged all the states to establish immigration offices. "The office will help workers prepare their papers and necessary documents. We can keep track of how many of our men are visiting overseas in search of employment. We can help them whenever they are in need," Bauri said. The minister announced that his department will seek two acres of land in Ranchi from the state government in Ranchi. TNN

Das emphasised on the need to prioritise irrigation schemes meant for agriculture. "These 10 irrigation projects will be implemented on priority as soon as we get the nod from the Centre,"

he said.

The chief minister had met Union water resources minister Nitin Gadkari on December 18 and sought his assistance in the state's irrigation projects.

Following the meeting, the central government asked the Jharkhand government to send a list of proposed projects. "We will give priority to the on-going and new irrigation projects. The construction of 602 check dams is over. My aim is to ensure that all households across the state have water supply and each resident is financially independent," Das said.

While inaugurating a seminar on excellence of manufacturing at National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology (NIFFT) later in the day, the chief minister said, "To ensure that our youth get employment, we have to make them skilled. The state government has therefore put developing skills of the youth on top priority. In developed countries, more than

80% of the youth have vocational skills while in India, only 10% of the youth are skilled despite the fact that no less than 60% of our country's population consist of youngsters."

Das advised the participants and speakers at the workshop to focus on improving the quality of products manufactured in. "The quality of our products should be such that they can mark their presence in the international market. To ensure this, product packaging is of critical importance," he said.

The chief minister added, "Our state has a huge tribal populace which are extremely good with handicraft work. NIFFT should help us draw up a plan to showcase the skills and products of tribal artisans in the national circuit."