

# End to North Karnataka water problems in sight

**A '24/7' water supply project proposes to bring round-the-clock water to Belgaum, Hubli-Dharwad and Gulbarga cities.**

**FROM DEEPA BALAKRISHNAN  
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**BANGALORE:** Continuous water supply in Bangalore may be a far cry, but it will probably become a reality sooner in some of the most drought-hit regions of north Karnataka.

The Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC), which proposed the Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project (KU-WaSIP) last year, is all set to finalise a joint venture with in-

ternational water management companies to implement a unique '24/7' water supply project in three towns in north Karnataka.

The project proposes to bring round-the-clock water to Belgaum, Hubli-Dharwad and Gulbarga cities, by plugging leakages.

"We have short-listed seven international firms and have already called for tenders. We should be able to zero in on one of these firms by the end of December. Once we sign the joint venture, work will start — perhaps latest by February," said Assistant General Manager (Urban Water Supply) Raghavendra Purohit. The joint venture will involve the KUIDFC, which is

funding the project, the company chosen, a private water utility and an engineering consultancy company. The Rs 235 crore project will be implemented on a pilot basis on identified areas in the three towns first.

"We have chosen areas in each town, which cover at least 10 per cent of the city's total water consumption. The area is also typical of the city's population, as in, it has a mix of all classes of people to really represent the city," said Purohit.

The project, expected to be completed in three years, focuses on refurbishing the water transmission and supply lines so that there is no unaccounted-for water.