Weak monsoon: Maharashtra to cut water supply by at least 10% from 16 October

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News

Citing a deficient monsoon, El Niño and fears of drought, Maharashtra will cut water supply by at least 10% in all urban and rural local bodies (corporations, municipalities, gram panchayats) from 16 Oct. Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan announced it. Dam-wise water planning runs to 31 Aug 2027.

Key facts

Cut	At least 10% from 16 Oct
Applies to	All urban and rural local bodies
Priority	Drinking water first, then livestock and fodder, then irrigation
Industry	Reuse or recycle at least 30% of water
Emergency reserve	10% in every dam
Enforcement	Joint police–revenue teams; illegal pumps seized

Background

- El Niño is unusual warming of the central-eastern Pacific surface; it usually weakens the Indian monsoon. La Niña is the opposite and tends to help rain.

- Geography: Marathwada and parts of Vidarbha lie in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats (Sahyadri) and face frequent drought.
- Water governance: the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (2005) was India's first State water regulator. 'Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan' builds village water works against drought.
- Constitution: 'Water' (drinking water, irrigation) is State List Entry 17; inter-State rivers are Union List Entry 56; Article 262 covers river-water disputes.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (2019): tap water to every rural home ('Har Ghar Jal'); the Jal Shakti Ministry was formed in 2019.

Tamil Nadu link: in 2003 Tamil Nadu became the first State to make rainwater harvesting compulsory in all buildings. Chennai faced a severe water crisis in 2019.

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