

# Cheaper RO water with new technology

Vijaysinh Parmar | TNN

**Bhavnagar:** Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, is planning to set up a first-of-its-kind reverse osmosis (RO) membrane plant in Bhavnagar. The thin film composite (TFC) RO membrane and spiral modules manufacturing plant will be set up in Chitra Industrial estate in Bhavnagar.

The plant will have a capacity to manufacture 2000 square metre TFC RO membrane per day. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi has sanctioned the project to CSMCRI, one of the constituent laboratories of CSIR.

According to Dr PK Ghosh, director, CSMCRI, the plant will be set up with an investment of Rs 24 crore. "It will be the first-of-its-kind in the country. The technology can be transferred to prospective entrepreneurs for large scale production. Commercialisation of the indigenously developed TFC RO membrane technology will have a great impact in meeting the water demand in the country in future for both human consumption and industry."

At present, the desalination plants that are installed in the country are based on the imported RO membrane. CSMCRI has developed a world class technology for desalination of brackish and sea water for production of clean water with the latest technology in the country.

The membranes made from this facility will be utilised for CSIR-800 program, societal mission activities and other government-funded projects in order to supply drinking water.

The technology can reduce production cost and have high socio-economic relevance in terms of environmental safety, water treatment and other industrial applications.

AVR Reddy, principal scientist, (Reverse



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Osmosis Membrane), CSMCRI, "TFC membrane preparation is a complex process and a precision-based technology. There are only a few companies in the US and Japan, which have been able to master this technology for desalination."

Desalination industry registers 25 per cent growth in India every year. Sujit Doshi, director, Doshion Veolia Pvt Ltd, said, "We can save foreign exchange if we have our own technology. Besides, for a country like India, where many people cannot afford pure and safe water, the technology is a welcome step."