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# OF INDIA

## Gujarat tech to purify water in Uttarakhand

**Ahmedabad:** Homegrown technology-based water purifiers will soon begin meeting the potable water requirements of nearly 50,000 households in Uttarakhand. This will counter the fear of disease which is looming large after flash floods.

The water purifiers operate with hollow fibre membrane ultrafiltration technology developed by the Central Salt Marine & Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI) in Gujarat. Around 23 water purifying units will soon be installed in the Himalayan state. The highlight of these units is that by taking advantage of the hilly terrain they can operate without electricity and do not require a pressure pump.

"These units can dispense 5,000 to 7,000 litres of potable water per hour," said CSMCRI director Dr Pushpito Ghosh. "To be installed in Tehri and Rudraprayag, these units...will have a combined safe water dispensing capacity of 1.5 to 2 lakh litres per day," he said. CSMCRI had licenced its ultrafiltration technology to a Pune-based private company a few years ago. The company, in association with an NGO, will begin installing the purifiers in Uttarakhand soon. They are likely to be installed in the next few weeks," Ghosh said, adding that the ultrafiltration technology gets rid of turbidity, bacteria, viruses and objectionable odour: "More such units can be installed there if the situation demands so," he said.

Earlier, after the flash floods, CSMCRI and a laboratory of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) installed a mobile water purification unit in Rishikesh.

The unit had a built-in reverse osmosis (RO) plant of 6,000 litres per hour capacity. The institute had installed an ultrafiltration plant at the H N Bahuguna base hospital at Srinagar in Uttarakhand, and one at a nearby teaching institute of the hospital, to meet the initial drinking water supply requirements there. "One of the units has been recalled and we are in the process of sending another simpler water purification unit in place of it," Ghosh said. ■