

## Warm welcome to Mr. Mukesh Puri, IAS, Principal Secretary, Water Supply Department and Farewell to Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IAS by the family of Water Supply Department:

On 10th July, 2015, Water Supply Department, Gujarat Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Gujarat Water Infrastructure Limited (GWIL) and Water and Sanitation Management Organisation have hosted farewell ceremony and felicitation for Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IAS who had served the department for about 2 years and 10 months. On the same day the department has also welcomed Shri Mukesh Puri, IAS as the new Principal Secretary of the Department.



**Mr. Mukesh Puri, IAS:** Mr. Mukesh Puri has been appointed as the Principal Secretary of the Water Supply Department, Government of Gujarat from 12th June 2015. Earlier, he was serving as the as Principal Secretary for the Education Department, Government of Gujarat.

**Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IAS:** Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta had taken over the responsibility as Principal Secretary, Water Supply Department on 13th August 2012. Now, he has been appointed as the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Urban Housing Department from 12th June 2015.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta will always be remembered for his foresighted approach and passion to serve the people of Gujarat.

**Mr. N.H. Patel, Chief Engineer, GWSSB** gave the inaugural welcome address of the event to the dignitaries and all the officers of the departments at the commencement of the ceremony.

**Mr. Ravi Solanki, C.G.M. Projects, GWIL** in his speech expressed his experience of working with Dr. Gupta. He said the department has achieved many milestones during his tenure of work. Some of the tasks were tough to handle since it needed coordination, involvement and support from other departments. Mr. Solanki said that tasks were often completed well before the deadline due to his determination. Numbers of issues were pending including: land acquisition; sorting out issue with Railway and Forests. The pace in which he worked was extraordinary. We have served the people and quenched their thirst even before the peripheral construction of the pumping station was completed. It was because of the passionate leadership of Dr. Gupta that the department officials became proactive and supported us to complete the ambitious projects. Under his guidance, the department has achieved miraculous work, like the Shadulka project which was operationalised merely in 45 days and Dhanki Pumping station by separating grid for drinking and irrigation purpose. Today we are able to provide 1674 MLD water instead of just 800 MLD to entire Gujarat.



Shri Ravi Solanki also welcomed Mr. Puri on behalf of the entire department and he assured Dr. Gupta and Mr. Mukesh Puri that the department will work with the same pace.

**Mr. Mahesh Singh, Additional Secretary, Planning, Water Supply Department, Member Secretary of Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and C.E.O of WASMO** also felicitated Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta and Mr. Mukesh Puri. He recollected the experience of working with Dr. Gupta and said that it was truly a learning journey. Mr. Singh mentioned that he was an eyewitness of the entire transformation of the department from a completely bureaucratic approach to most professional and an efficient approach of the team. The main bottleneck for the department when Dr. Gupta had taken over the responsibility were the incomplete projects, and today it is a matter of pride that under his guidance the department could complete 35 projects to serve the people of Gujarat with drinking water. Mr. Singh said that WASMO was also rejuvenated during his tenure. He briefed that, the department has recently received the task of underground drainage project, which is also one of the challenging tasks and this will be completed successfully under the guidance of Mr. Puri. Water Supply Department will be working with the Urban Development Department, which is now headed by Dr. Gupta and so we will receive support from him as well.



**Mr. Mukesh Puri, the Principal Secretary, Water Supply Department,** thanked the team for organizing the event. He said that Dr. Gupta has set a very high standard and he will ensure to maintain this consistently. Mr. Puri said that it is always good to take new projects but the major focus should be towards the completion of ongoing work and projects. He also thanked Dr. Gupta for his support to complete the ongoing urban projects.



**Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta,** in his farewell speech said that he is satisfied with his work during his tenure and he is leaving the department with pride. He said he is thankful to the dedicated team of the Department, Water Supply Board, GWIL and WASMO for their support and hard work. Dr. Gupta mentioned that due to the hard work of the entire department, today, the image of the Water Supply Department is positive and strong among the people as well as in the government. As a head of department, he said that he had taken extreme strong approach & actions to sort out the pending issues various clearances. He mentioned that today we all can see the positive results of our actions. Dr. Gupta said that hard efforts were put in so that the people of Gujarat get safe drinking water. He mentioned that the achievement of our department can be proved with the fact that in the last 4 drought years people of Gujarat did not face scarcity of water. He congratulated all for these achievements. He said that if we are able to give water to the people during peak summer, only then we can only feel a sense of accomplishment.



Shri H.N. Patel, Chief Administrative Officer, GWSSB gave vote of thanks and Mr. Bhavik Rathod, Executive Engineer, GWWSB anchored the entire event.