

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation**

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**MDWS intensifies State engagement; Secretary visits Uttar Pradesh**

**UP CM announces 'ODF Kannauj by 2016-17'**

Taking forward a series of meetings that the Central Government is holding with State Governments to support implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM(G)), the Secretary of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer, today met the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and senior officials of Uttar Pradesh.

The Chief Minister, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, assured the Secretary that the Parliamentary constituency of Kannauj – which encompasses three districts, viz. Kanpur Dehat, Orai and Kannauj – will become Open Defecation Free (ODF) in 2016-17, and lead the way for other districts to follow. He also expressed his full support for integrating sanitation and nutrition in UP through the State Nutrition Mission.

The drinking water situation in the State, including that of Bundelkhand, was also reviewed by the Secretary in a meeting with the Agriculture Production Commissioner and other officials. The Secretary informed the State officials that the first Central release under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has already been made.

Shri Parameswaran Iyer also addressed all District Magistrates of UP via video conference, which was attended by the Principal Secretary (Panchayati Raj) and the Mission Director (SBM(G)) of UP. The DMs spoke to the Secretary about the efforts they are making to scale up sanitation and the challenges faced. The Secretary congratulated them on their innovative work and leadership, especially Bijnor, Shahjahanpur, Agra, Firozabad, Kannauj and Fatehpur districts. The DMs were assured of full support from the Central and State governments in their laudable efforts.

The Chief Minister of UP Shri Akhilesh Yadav with the Secretary Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer in Lucknow on 13 April 2016 in the photograph..



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