

## Solar energy for ending water woes of rural folks

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If the mission of a Pune-based private firm bears fruit, three villages may get over the water shortage and will soon see filtered drinking water flowing through their taps.

Aar-em Electronics Pvt Ltd, makers of Champion UPS, is all set to go ahead with the goodwill gesture once the technology, which uses solar energy to pump water from wells gets ready.

"The solution will be ready within 15 days and we plan to give a working demonstration in our factory. By then three villages in Pune will be identified so that we can provide them with clean drinking water," said Ranjit Mohite, founder of Ar-em Electronics, which recently entered into manufacturing products which runs on solar energy.

The firm will be using membrane filter developed by National Chemical Laboratory and already got in touch with manufacturers of the membrane filter. Water is cleaned of viruses and bacteria while passing through the membrane, which was developed by NCL's polymer division. The membrane allows only tiniest of molecules to pass through it. NCL's membrane filter, which received a US patent last year, works on gravity.

"We will use solar energy to pump water out of the village well. This water will be stored in a tank, which will be filtered using NCL developed membrane. This filtered water will be stored in two separate tanks from which the water will be supplied," said Mohite.

The success story of Mohri, a village situated about 100 km from Pune, where the firm put an end to the 60-year-old electricity blackout by installing equipment that works on solar energy gives them the backing.

"I was overwhelmed by the response that we got from the villagers of Mohri. We will supply street lamps and house hold lamps and also give a TV set that runs on solar energy," he said.

Once the firm succeeds in providing light and water to three villages (using solar energy), they plan to get in touch with the Maharashtra Government in order to replicate their Pune model across the State.