

The Times of India- 13- January-2023

# Shah reviews situation, says avoid blame game

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday chaired a review meeting on the Joshimath land subsidence crisis with four other senior cabinet ministers and took stock of the current status as well as progress on the decisions taken at the January 8 review of the situation by the Prime Minister's Office.

Sources said Shah has asked all the ministries and departments to work together and avoid blaming anyone or any agency considering the sensitivity of the issue. They added that the home minister had called the meeting of road transport minister Nitin Gadkari, Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, environment minister Bhupendra Yadav and power minister R K Singh following the PM's direction to discuss the matter among themselves.

TOI has learnt that the ministers were briefed about the relief and rescue operations being carried out in the holy city. They discussed future strategies as well.



ANI

## NEED OF THE HOUR

“The main objective was to ensure that every agency works in close coordination to deal with the current situation and what more we can do to bring relief to people of the affected areas,” a government functionary said.

Post the review by the PMO, centre deputed secretary, border management in the home ministry and NDMA members to assess the situation. They had taken experts from National Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Disaster Management, Geological Survey of India, IIT Roorkee, National Institute of Hydrology and Central Building Research Institute to study and give recommendations on how to respond to the situation arising out of land subsidence.

# Rejuvenating rivers needs political will

**T**he world's oldest cities thrived along the banks of great rivers because the water sustained life and spurred the economy. Delhi is no different, with the Yamuna providing environmental, social and cultural services to its citizens. This centuries-old relationship between the river and the citizens is today enfeebled because mounds of garbage have robbed the Yamuna of its riverine qualities and turned it into a drain along large stretches in Delhi. According to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee's latest report on the clean up of the river, one-fourth of the city's sewage (171 million gallons per day or MGD) flows untreated into the river within the borders of the National Capital in December.

In the last 27 years, three Yamuna Action Plans have been implemented, and ₹5,000 crore has been spent, yet the 22-km stretch of Yamuna that passes through Delhi remains fetid. Reports suggest that the river turns virtually dead (incapable of housing any flora or fauna in its bed due to poisonous pollutants) as soon as it enters Delhi from Haryana's Palla. This is true not just of the Yamuna, but of most rivers in India that are turning decrepit due to effluents, unchecked urbanisation and a lack of political will. Though governments have focused on setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs), this initiative appears to have only a limited impact. Instead, it has led to a recurring political blame game.

As the Yamuna shows, nursing rivers back to health will need a strategy that goes beyond STPs. The lack of accountability among different agencies that control our cities needs to be fixed. In the case of Yamuna, for example, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi must come together to address the issue of disappearing flows, and push political, social and municipal action to improve its water quality.



# 2 unsafe hotels set to be razed in Joshimath

## Testing times

27

more families  
moved to tempo-  
rary relief centres

835

rooms serving as  
relief centres in  
Joshimath and  
Pipalkoti

A  
total of  
**169 families**  
consisting of 589  
members in  
relief centres  
so far



Police outside Hotel Malari Inn ahead  
of its demolition in Joshimath. PTI

Number of houses  
developing cracks  
rises to 760

Interim assistance of  
**Rs 1.5 lakh** paid so  
far to **42 families**

NEW DELHI/DEHRADUN, PTI  
& DHNS

The process of demolishing two “unsafe” hotels in Uttarakhand’s Joshimath began on Thursday evening, while Union minister Nitin Gadkari said it is “too early” to hold construction of road and power projects responsible for the crisis.

Gadkari’s statement came as he attended a meeting called by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi to take stock of the situation in the Himalayan town.

Joshimath, the gateway to pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and skiing destination Auli, is facing a major challenge

due to land subsidence.

Hotels Malari Inn and Mount View had developed cracks and were precariously leaning towards each other posing a threat to the settlements around them, officials said.

The exercise has begun under the technical supervision of Roorkee-based Central Building Research Institute with Hotel Malari Inn, Disaster Secretary Ranjit Sinha told reporters.

The demolition of the hotels was scheduled on Tuesday and all preparations had been done. However, the process could not start as their owners staged a dharna over proper compensation.

**Joshimath, Page 5**

## 2 unsafe hotels set to be razed in Joshimath

Joshimath, from Page 1

"First, the iron sheets shading the hotel's roof will be removed. JCBs will also be used wherever needed. But everything will be done under the technical supervision of CBRI," an official engaged in the operation said.

"It will be dismantled in such a manner that no harm is caused to the structures nearby," he said, adding that the process will take time.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said a committee would decide the market rate for compensation to be paid to the families affected in Joshimath keeping in mind the interests of stakeholders.

Amid the unfolding tragedy, Shah held a meeting on the situation in Joshimath.

Four other Union ministers - Nitin Gadkari (road transport), R K Singh (power), Bhupendra Yadav (environmental and forest) and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (jal shakti) - attended the meeting along with top officials.

Nitin Gadkari, who holds the Union Road Transport and Highways portfolio, said holding construction of roads and power projects responsible for the Joshimath crisis is very premature.

"It is too early to blame road constructions and power projects for the crisis. We should wait for reports by experts after they complete investigation," Gadkari said



EXPERT TEAM'S FIELD ASSESSMENT REPORT 'This is being manifested as sinking, subsidence'

# Joshimath Panel Points to 'Water from Unknown Source' for Cracks

Water samples from NTPC's Tapovan power plant, its tunnel taken to check for linkage

Anubhuti Vishnoi  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The expert panel's field assessment report on Joshimath has pointed out that sediment-laden water, gushing out of an unknown underground source, might have caused arcuate-shaped erosion and cracks as deep as 1 meter in several areas.

Water samples from the NTPC Tapovan-Vishnugad hydropower project site and the tunnel itself have been sent to the National Institute of Hydrology to assess for any possible linkage.

ET has learnt that experts are trying "to understand...role of tunnel" in the recent damages. The hydel project's tunnel has been surveyed by the team, which held discussions with the NTPC technical team on the progress of tunnel construction.

"It seems some underground water source burst by removing substantial earth material. This probably created some underground void...which is being manifested as sinking and subsidence in different spots above and below JP Colony. This has caused many large cracks, some more than 1 m deep," the report has said.

Their report shows damage is "mostly confined in an arcuate shape, starting from Sunil, the right limb goes through Ravigram and AT Nala, while the left limb goes through Manohar Bagh, Singhdhar, Marwari and JP Colony".

Following major cracks in several buildings, the impact of the under-construction hydel project and the Char Dham Pariyojana on the ecology and stability of Joshimath and its vicinity has come under serious scrutiny.

A seven-member panel was set up by the Uttarakhand government to conduct a field survey in Joshimath.

The panel, with experts from IIT Roorkee, Geological Survey of India, National Institute of Hydrology and the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, conducted the survey between January 5 and 6 and has submitted a draft report. A key observation is on the "major turbid water flow" from JP Colony to Marwari bridge, which aggravated on January 2. This coincides with cracks in several houses.

"This water flow is seen to be of approximately 400 lpm and is laden with sediment content giving a muddy appearance. This was said to be aggravated on the night of January 2, 2023. The gushing of the water flow and the appearance of aggravated cracks coincide," the report has said.

Silt content in water samples is being assessed. Due to this water flow, there is "uneven settlement of the ground" causing failure of retaining walls. Foundations of the buildings have also failed in several cases. The water source was yet to be ascertained, the panel is learnt to have said.

The survey says that in Ravigram, Gandhinagar, NTPC Colony AT Nala and other areas, there are "no substantial new aggravated cracks". The cracks were observed last August too.

Reaffirming the previous reports, the panel said that "Joshimath is located over a thick cover of loose material and is witnessing gradual sinking for a long time". The loose material is observed almost in "all regions of the town".

## Expert Panel's Prescription

### HOME FRONT

Demolition of houses with maximum damage, removal of debris and relocation of people at risk

Damage assessment of buildings and possible retrofitting of affected foundations



### SOIL CHECK

Detailed geotechnical and geophysical investigation to determine 'shear strength characteristics and bearing capacity of soil' and to understand the sub-strata of the region

Monitoring of slope movement on real-time and near real-time basis

### DRAIN MAP

Hydrological investigation for mapping drainage, springs, local water table, source identification and sub-surface flow

### FAULT LINE

Seismic monitoring to understand geological and developmental tremors in the region

## EXPERT TAKE ON LINKAGE



'Damage mostly confined in arcuate shape, starting from Sunil, right limb goes via Ravigram & AT Nala... Left limb goes via Manohar Bagh, Singhdhar, Marwari & JP Colony... Gushing of water and appearance of aggravated cracks coincide'



Panel was set up by Uttarakhand government to conduct a field survey in Joshimath

# Clean Ganga report: 26% of STPs in UP not complying with ministry's standards

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

OF THE 111 operational sewage treatment plants in Uttar Pradesh, 29 are not complying with the effluent discharge standards fixed by the Union Environment Ministry, shows a report available with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the apex body that implements the government's ambitious Namami Gange project.

The monthly progress report for Uttar Pradesh for September-October 2022 shows that these 29 non-complying STPs accounted for about 15 per cent (532.18 MLD) of the total sewage treatment capacity (3,663.4 MLD) in the state and were located along the main stem of the Ganga and its tributaries. This is significant in view of the gap in sewage treatment capacity in the state. As per the report, there are 119 STPs in Uttar Pradesh with a sewage treatment capacity of 3,663.4 million litre per day (MLD) against the estimated sewage generation of 5,500 MLD — leaving a sewage treatment capacity gap of 1,836.6 MLD. Of the 119 STPs, 111 are operational, shows the report. This affects the gap further.

To add to it, 29 STPs are not working up to the standards notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, further widening the

sewage treatment capacity gap in the state, shows an analysis of the report.

Of the 29 non-complying STPs, seven are under Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Rural), 22 under UDD (Urban Development Department of the state) and other agencies, shows the report shared by the government of Uttar Pradesh to the NMCG on November 21, 2022.

The seven non-complying STPs of UPJN-Rural account for a combined sewage treatment capacity of 188.5 MLD and are located along the main stem of Ganga and its tributaries in different districts, including Kanpur, Hapur, Mathura and Bulandshahr. The remaining 22 non-complying STPs under UDD/others account for 343.68 MLD and are located across Firozabad, Chitrakoot, Varanasi, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Mathura and Greater Noida.

The non-compliance of the 29 STPs in Uttar Pradesh is significant in view of Centre's focus on the State. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat himself has traveled several times to U.P. The first meeting of the National Ganga Council was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019 at Kanpur. Besides, of the 177 STPs sanctioned under the Namami Gange scheme till date, a maximum of 59 projects have been sanctioned for U.P.



Rajasthan Patrika- 13- January-2023

खतरे की घंटी: केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट में चौंकाने वाला खुलासा

# भूजल में रेडियो एक्टिव प्रदूषण, प्रदेश के 28 जिलों में घुला मिला यूरेनियम



पत्रिका  
खास  
खबर

आशीष जोशी



28 जिलों में घुला मिला यूरेनियम

लीटर से अधिक मिली है। डॉक्टरों के अनुसार ऐसा पानी पीने से लीवर से जुड़ी बीमारियां व कैंसर हो सकता है। विकृत बच्चे पैदा होने की भी आशंका रहती है। देश के 18 राज्यों के 187 जिलों के भूजल में यूरेनियम की मात्रा तय सीमा से ज्यादा पाई गई है। आंध्रप्रदेश, तेलंगाना, झारखंड और मेघालय के भूजल में ये रेडियोधर्मी प्रदूषण कम मिला है। जबकि पिछले कुछ सालों में राजस्थान, हरियाणा और पंजाब में हेलिबॉर्न जियोलाजिकल सर्वे में यूरेनियम के भंडार होने के संकेत मिले हैं। इन राज्यों का भूजल यूरेनियम से सबसे ज्यादा संदूषित

## इन राज्यों के भूजल में यूरेनियम

राज्य	कुल जिले	यूरेनियम प्रभावित
राजस्थान	33	28
उत्तरप्रदेश	75	35
पंजाब	23	20
हरियाणा	22	19
तमिलनाडु	38	14
मध्यप्रदेश	52	12
बिहार	38	10

## ये यूरेनियम हब, भूजल सुरक्षित

राज्य	कुल जिले	यूरेनियम प्रभावित
आंध्रप्रदेश	26	08
तेलंगाना	31	06
झारखंड	24	04
मेघालय	11	00

पाया गया है। भू वैज्ञानिक इसके अध्ययन में जुटे हैं।

## अमरीकी शोध एजेंसी ने भी चेताया था

करीब 5 साल पहले अमरीका की ड्यूक यूनिवर्सिटी के शोध में राजस्थान के कई कुओं में यूरेनियम की मात्रा डब्ल्यूएचओ व अमरीकी एन्वायरनमेंटल प्रोटेक्शन एजेंसी के तय मानक से ज्यादा मिली थी। रिसर्च टीम ने बताया था कि यहां भूजल में

यूरेनियम की मौजूदगी बढ़ रही है। इसके बावजूद ब्यूरो ऑफ इंडियन स्टैंडर्ड ड्रिफ्टिंग वाटर स्पेसिफिकेशन में यूरेनियम को प्रदूषण की सूची में शामिल नहीं किया था। हाल के वर्षों में केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड ने इसे संदूषकों की सूची में शामिल किया है।

## सीजीडब्ल्यूबी ने क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर किया अध्ययन

सीजीडब्ल्यूबी की ओर से अपने भूजल गुणवत्ता मॉनिटरिंग कार्यक्रम और विभिन्न वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों के एक भाग के रूप में क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर देश के भूजल गुणवत्ता डेटा को तैयार किया जाता है। इस अध्ययन से राज्यों के अलग-अलग भागों में मानव उपयोग के लिए फ्लोराइड, आर्सेनिक, नाइट्रेट, आयरन और यूरेनियम की बीआइएस के अनुसार अनुमत सीमा से अधिक होने का संकेत प्राप्त होता है।

तय मात्रा से ज्यादा यूरेनियम वाला पानी लम्बे समय तक पीने से कैंसर और अन्य बीमारियां की आशंका रहती है। रेडियो एक्टिव पदार्थों का असर तत्काल नजर नहीं आता, लॉन्गटर्म इफेक्ट गंभीर हो सकते हैं। ऐसे पानी का सेवन स्वास्थ्य के लिए घातक है। कई जगह की मिट्टी में भी यूरेनियम पाया गया है। वहां कृषि उत्पादों में भी इसकी मौजूदगी मिलती है।

- डॉ. आलोक गुप्ता, पूर्व विभागाध्यक्ष, मेडिसिन, एसएन मेडिकल कॉलेज

## हड्डी-किडनी पर दुष्प्रभाव और कैंसर का खतरा

बीकानेर. राज्य का भूजल रेडियो एक्टिव प्रदूषण की चपेट में आ रहा है। प्रदेश के 33 में से 28 जिलों के भूजल में यूरेनियम की मात्रा अनुमत सीमा से ज्यादा घुली मिली है। राजस्थान में भूजल के बढ़ते दोहन की समस्या पहले ही विकराल हो चुकी है। अब केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड (सीजीडब्ल्यूबी) की ताजा रिपोर्ट में यह चौंकाने वाला खुलासा हुआ है। प्रदेश के 28 जिलों के भूजल में यूरेनियम की मात्रा 0.03 एमजी प्रति

Amar Ujala- 13- January-2023

## महादयी नदी विवाद निपटारे के लिए शाह से मिले गोवा के सीएम

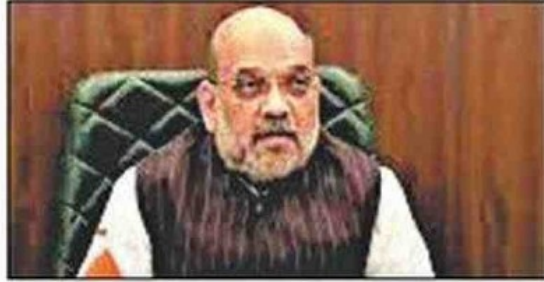
पणजी। गोवा और कर्नाटक के बीच चल रहे महादयी नदी जल विवाद के बीच गोवा के मुख्यमंत्री प्रमोद सावंत के नेतृत्व में एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने गृह मंत्री अमित शाह से मुलाकात की है। इसके बाद उन्होंने केंद्रीय मंत्री शंखावत से भी मुलाकात कर जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के तत्काल गठन का आग्रह किया है। ताकि, महादयी नदी की धारा का बहाव मोड़ने के मुद्दे का हल निकाला जा सके। एजेंसी



# जोशीमठ संकट पर शाह ने मंत्रियों के साथ किया मंथन, जाने हालात पर्यावरण, सड़क, बिजली और पानी की कमी पर चर्चा

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाह ने जोशीमठ संकट पर बृहस्पतिवार को मंत्रियों और अधिकारियों के साथ उच्चस्तरीय बैठक की। शाह ने जोशीमठ में भू-धंसाव के कारण सड़कों, बिजली, पानी की कमी और पर्यावरण की स्थिति जैसे मुद्दों पर चर्चा की।

दिल्ली में शाह के निवास पर आयोजित बैठक में गृह सचिव अजय भल्ला समेत संबंधित मंत्रालयों, एनडीएमए और उत्तराखंड सरकार के अधिकारी, विभिन्न संस्थानों के विशेषज्ञों ने शाह को स्थिति की जानकारी दी। बैठक करीब 40 मिनट तक चली। गृह मंत्री ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया कि राहत कार्यों में तेजी लाई जाए। शाह को जानकारी दी गई कि जिला प्रशासन प्रभावित परिवारों के साथ नियमित संपर्क में है और उन्हें जोखिम वाले घरों से निकालकर सुरक्षित जगहों पर पहुंचाया जा रहा है। इन जगहों पर भोजन, आश्रय और सुरक्षा के पर्याप्त इंतजाम किए गए हैं। इस क्षेत्र में निर्माण की



**सेना की कुछ इमारतों में भी दरार नई दिल्ली।** जोशीमठ भू धंसाव के दौरान भारतीय सेना की 25 से 28 इमारतों में भी हलकी दरारें आई हैं। सेना प्रमुख जनरल मनोज पांडे ने बृहस्पतिवार को यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया, इन इमारतों से सैन्यकर्मियों को अस्थायी रूप से हटा दिया गया है। एजेंसी

सभी परियोजनाएं भी रोक दी गई हैं। बैठक में केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन व राजमार्ग मंत्री नितिन गडकरी, ऊर्जा मंत्री आरके सिंह, पर्यावरण मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव और जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत भी शामिल हुए। एजेंसी