

भारत सरकार  
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
जल संसाधन नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग  
केंद्रीय जल आयोग  
जल प्रणाली अभियांत्रिकी निदेशालय



Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Dept. of Water Resources, RD&GR  
Central Water Commission  
Water System Engineering Directorate

**विषय: समाचार पत्रों की कटिंग का प्रस्तुतीकरण-27-दिसंबर-2020**

जल संसाधन विकास एवं सम्बद्ध विषयों से संबन्धित समाचार पत्रों की कटिंग को केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष के अवलोकन के लिए संलग्न किया गया है. इसकी साफ्ट कापी केंद्रीय जल आयोग की वेबसाइट पर भी अपलोड की जाएगी.

**संलग्नक: उपरोक्त**

**(-/sd)**

**सहायक निदेशक**

**उप निदेशक(-/sd)**

**निदेशक (-/sd)**

**सेवा में**

अध्यक्ष, केंद्रीय जल आयोग, नई दिल्ली

**जानकारी हेतु:** सभी संबन्धित केंद्रीय जल आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://cwc.gov.in/news-clipping> परदेखें



Times of India 27-December-2020

# Sinking deep: Water table at Gzb falls 12m in 4 years

## At 48.3m, Sihani Worst-Hit; Officials Bank On 2019 Rules

Abhijay Jha | TNN

**Ghaziabad:** The groundwater level in Ghaziabad has depleted by almost 12 metres in the past four years and experts have warned that the district would “stare at a water scarcity” if measures are not taken to replenish the waterbodies immediately.

Data sourced from the UP government says that groundwater in the district has been depleting at the rate of around 3m every year since 2016. Four of five blocks in Ghaziabad have been put under the “notified” category, which means that water here has been extracted at a much higher rate than it has been recharged. The extraction rate of Ghaziabad city itself is more than 260%.

“Till last year, the annual groundwater depletion rate hovered around 1.5m. But it has almost doubled now. There are areas where the water table has plummeted to as low as 48m. If the slide conti-

nues at this rate, we would stare at a water scarcity in less than a decade,” said Gemini Rao, a city-based hydrologist.

Data provided by the UP groundwater department showed the pre-monsoon level in the district to be 18.7m in 2016. In the next four years, it has gone down to 30.6m, a drop of 12m. Noornagar in Sihani area has seen the sharpest fall — from 29.4m in 2016, it has dropped to 48.3m this year; a drop of 19m. It is followed by Vijay Nagar, which has registered a depletion of 8.5m during the same period.

Officials said the water level was recorded digitally at 39 places, of which 10 spots were categorised as “dry”. “A dry spot means either the apparatus used for recording groundwater level had malfunctioned or the water table is so low that the recorder cannot register the data. There are a dozen spots where the groundwater level has depleted by more than

5m,” said Rahul Dev Sharma, an engineer with the groundwater department.

Asked how alarming the situation was in Ghaziabad, Rao referred to a composite water management index report released by Niti Aayog in 2019. The report

### OFFICIALS SAY

**The water level was recorded digitally at 39 places, of which 10 spots were categorised as ‘dry’**

said that “21 Indian cities, including Ghaziabad, may run out of groundwater in a couple of years, affecting a population of 100 million people”.

“The latest data on groundwater is a pointer to this. Of five blocks here in Ghaziabad, four have exceeded the water extrac-

tion capacity. The use of groundwater has been 140.9% in Bhopur, while it has been 132.9% in Loni. In Ghaziabad, it is an alarming 263.3%,” Rao said.

Reasons for the sharp decline in water table range from vanishing waterbodies to rampant illegal extraction for commercial, construction and industrial purposes. Rapid urbanisation has also been blamed for the situation.

Officials have, however, pinned their hopes on the Uttar Pradesh Ground Water (Management and Regulation) Act, 2019, which mandates a fine of up to Rs 20 lakh and a maximum imprisonment of seven years for illegal extraction of water. “Earlier, the groundwater policy was governed by the Central Ground Water Authority, but it lacked teeth. Under the new law, there are provisions to levy a penalty and punishment for overuse of groundwater,” Sharma said.

The Pioneer 27-December-2020

# Heavy rainfall, snowfall likely over northern India for a few days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said widespread rainfall or snowfall is very likely over northern parts of India in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the next few days.

The IMD has also said that cold wave to severe cold wave conditions would prevail over some States due to the strengthening of northwesterly/northerly lower-level winds from December 29.

In a series of tweets, the IMD updated its forecasts for north Indian states till the end of December, saying the cold wave conditions are likely to extend to parts of western and central India towards the end of this month. "Under the influence of the approaching Western Disturbance Scattered to Fairly widespread rainfall/snowfall is very likely over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan & Muzaffarabad," IMD said.

Similarly, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand would also experience rainfall or snowfall and thundershowers are expected in Punjab and Haryana, on December 27 and 28, IMD said. Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan and West Uttar Pradesh are also set to experience cold wave or severe cold wave conditions because of "the strengthening of cold and dry

northwesterly/northerly lower-level winds," IMD said.

Cold day conditions are predicted for these states on December 28 and 29 and on December 29 and 30 for northern Rajasthan. Dense to very dense fog during morning hours is also expected during the morning hours in these states from December 28 till the year end. "Ground Frost conditions are likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Rajasthan and West Madhya Pradesh during 28th-29th December, 2020," IMD tweeted.

Towards the end of December, these cold wave conditions are also expected to spread towards western India. "Northern parts of Saurashtra & Kutch and West Madhya Pradesh also likely to experience cold wave conditions on these days," IMD said.

The weather across Kashmir has remained dry and cold since the snowfall on December 12, with the night temperature staying several degrees below the freezing point, IMD said. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 4.3 degrees Celsius. In the south Kashmir tourist resort of Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.9 degrees Celsius the previous

night. The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir was the coldest place in the valley at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 5.6 degrees Celsius the previous night, according to the IMD.

Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4 degrees Celsius, Kupwara minus 3.6 degrees Celsius and Kokernag minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, the IMD said. Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai Kalan'— a 40-day period of harshest winter when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley. The chances of snowfall are the maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall, the IMD said.

Biting cold conditions prevailed in Haryana and Punjab on Saturday, with Hisar reeling at a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius. Hisar in Haryana was the coldest place in the state, while Narnaul too experienced a cold night at 3 degrees Celsius, IMD said.

Among other places in the state, Karnal, Sirsa, Rohtak, Ambala and Bhiwani recorded their respective minimums at 4 degrees Celsius, 4.1 degrees Celsius, 4 degrees Celsius, 5.3 degrees Celsius and 5.6 degrees Celsius.



Deccan Chronicle 27-December-2020

# Jagan efforts on Polavaram pay off, Centre okays new cost of ₹55,548 cr

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 26

The efforts of the YSR Congress government led by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to get adequate funds for the construction of the Polavaram irrigation project expeditiously seemed to have yielded the desired result as the Centre accepted the revised cost estimate of the project at ₹55,548 crore at the 2017-18 price level.

The Union ministry of Jal Sakshi in its annual release through the Press Information Bureau here on Saturday ann-

ounced the new project cost.

It may mentioned that CM had met the Union home minister Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Shekhawat and requested them to accept the revised cost estimate to enable completion of the project so as to extend its benefits to all the targeted people and the farmers. He appealed for acceptance of revised cost estimate-2 at ₹55,656 crore at 2017-18 price level.

The fixing of the project cost has been a bone of contention for long. Recently, the Centre had

raised queries on the project cost and announced that it would extend financial help as per earlier agreement with the previous Telugu Desam regime at the price level of 2014-15. However, the YSR Congress government submitted relevant details and managed to persuade the Centre to consider the revised cost estimate of the project at the 2017-18 price level. As per Central Water Commission's revised cost estimate-II, the total cost of the project was ₹55,656.87 crore at 2017-18 price level while the revised

cost committee recommended the price level at ₹47,725.74 crore at the 2017-18 price level. With regard to reimbursement details, the total expenditure incurred up to December 11, 2020, was ₹17,733.75 crore and expenditure incurred after declaration as national project up to December 11, 2020, was ₹12,597.70 crore.

The amount reimbursed to the AP government by the Polavaram Project Authority was ₹10,741.46 crore while the amount yet to be reimbursed was estimated at ₹1,856.24 crore.

The Hindu 27-December-2020

# Jal Jeevan adds 1 lakh water connections daily'

3 crore houses covered in first year, says official

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

Since its launch in August 2019, the Centre's ambitious flagship scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which in partnership with the States seeks to ensure that every rural household of the country gets assured drinking water supply by 2024, has achieved 32.3% coverage of tap connections in rural India, emerging as a key scheme in the Narendra Modi government's second term.

The Modi government is almost replicating the implementation of its flagship scheme of building toilets in the first term in providing tap water connections to every rural household in the

## Drop by drop

The Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide assured tap water supply to every rural household by 2024, has reached 32.3% coverage

**Total number of households (rural):**  
**19.06 cr.**

■ Households with tap connections as on Aug. 15, 2019: **3.24 cr. (16.98%)**

■ Households with tap connections as on Dec. 25, 2020: **6.16 cr. (32.3%)**

### Top five States with high coverage

Goa: 100%  
Telangana: 98.48%  
Puducherry: 87.31%  
Haryana: 81.75%  
Gujarat: 80.88%

SOURCE: JAL JEEVAN MISSION



PTI

country in its second term. In its first term from 2014 to 2019, the Centre reportedly built over 11 crore toilets in the country.

"The actual implementa-

tion started on December 25, 2019 with the release of operational guidelines for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. In almost a year, despite COVID-19 pandemic

and lockdown as well as restrictions, more than 3 crore households have been provided with tap water connections," said Director of JJM Bharat Lal, a top official tasked with the implementation of the ambitious scheme.

### 32.3% coverage

"With this, as of now, 6.15 crore (32.3%) households of the country are getting tap water supply into their homes. Every year, more than 3 crore households are to be given tap water connections. This is the speed and scale on which the mission is being implemented," he added.

"Almost 1 lakh new connections are getting added on daily basis. The State governments have taken this very seriously and have focused their efforts on its [the scheme's] delivery," Mr. Lal, a Gujarat-cadre Forest Ser-

vice officer, told *The Hindu*.

According to him, there are many challenges in implementing the scheme nationally. Out of a total of 731 districts, 256 districts and 1,592 blocks have been classified as water-stressed or drought prone.

"The State government and local bodies (panchayats) will also have to protect the source of water to be supplied to the households. The government has emphasised protecting local water bodies to be used as a source for supply," he said.

To ensure its implementation without any funding crunch, in 2020-21, a sum of ₹23,500 crore has been allocated for the implementation of the JJM. Besides this, in 2020-21, 50% of 15th Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies, that is, ₹30,375 crore as a tied grant, will be utilised for water supply and sanitation.

Asian Age 27-December-2020

## MeT forecasts rain, snow in Himachal

**Shimla:** The meteorological department has predicted rain and snowfall in Himachal Pradesh from Sunday. The MeT centre in Shimla on Saturday forecast rain at some places in the plains, low hills and rain and snowfall in isolated places of mid and high hills of the state on December 27 and 28. — PTI  
Full report on Page 2

## MeT forecasts rain, snow in Himachal

**Shimla, Dec. 26:** The meteorological department has predicted rain and snowfall in Himachal Pradesh from Sunday. The MeT centre Shimla on Saturday forecast rain at some places in the plains, low hills and rain and snowfall in isolated places of mid and high hills of the state on December 27 and 28.

On Saturday, the weather remained dry but cold in the state. Keylong, Kalpa, Mandi and Manali shivered at sub-zero tempera-

tures, the meteorological department said.

Tribal district Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong remained the coldest place in the state at minus 11.1 degrees Celsius, MeT centre Shimla director Manmohan Singh said.

Kalpa in Kinnaur district, Mandi and Manali in Kullu district recorded a low of minus 3, minus 1 and minus 0.2 degrees Celsius respectively, he added. Kufri and

Dalhousie recorded a low of 2.9 and 6.0 degrees Celsius respectively, Singh said. The minimum temperature in Shimla was recorded as 7 degrees Celsius, he said.

Cold conditions persisted in the national capital as the minimum temperature remained below five degrees Celsius for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday, the India Meteorological Department said.

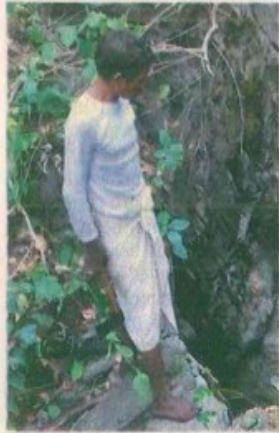
— PTI



Morning Standard 27-December-2020

# Job 'well' done, mountain man!

This labourer dug 25-foot-deep well after his wife, who has to walk 2 km every day to fetch water, fell sick, reports **Mukesh Ranjan**



Chada Pahan stands near the well he dug up single-handedly in Kojdong village in Jharkhand's Khunti district | EXPRESS

**+ve JHARKHAND**

**F**OR years, Emon Pahan — a resident of Kojdong village under Mufhu block in Jharkhand's Khunti district — walked about 2 km in search for water. This strenuous task was her daily routine, as there was no other source of water in her village — until she fell sick one day. The health condition of Emon moved her husband, Chada Pahan, so much that he decided to take it upon himself to arrange a source of water near his house.

Days later, when Chada went up to a nearby hill to bring firewood, he spotted water dripping from the rocks of that mountain. That's when this 35-year-old daily wage labourer hit upon an idea: Why not de-

velop a well to provide water to the villagers.

In little more than a year, Chada dug up a 25-foot-deep well in between the rocks and succeeded in bringing water to his doorsteps. The distance between his house and the well is about 500 metres, he says.

As his hard work paid off, Chada further decided to bring water to his doorsteps through a pipe-line which is also benefiting the entire village.

Chada's achievement may not be as colossal as that of Dashrath Manjhi, the mountain man, but his spirit is equally indomitable. From no source of water in the village to digging a 25-foot-deep well, benefitting not only his family but the entire village, is an example of his sheer dedication and

hard work. Manjhi, widely known as the "Mountain Man", a labourer in Gehlaur village, near Gaya in Bihar, who carved a path 9.1 metres wide and 110 metres long through a hill 7.6 metres high, using only a hammer and chisel for 22 years.

"The well is benefitting more than 50 households in the village as they are getting round the clock water supply without making use of any electricity or pump. The well is located about 250 feet above the village," Chada says.

"It was really a laborious task. But I did not lose hope, and finally succeeded digging the well in more than a year," he adds.

According to Emon, it's a great relief that she does not have to travel so much to fetch water anymore.

"When water in the 'dari' (natural source of water on the ground) gets dirty during the monsoon season and hand-pumps dries up in summers, villagers take water from a tap installed by my husband," she says. Villagers, too, can't stop praising Chada's work.

"Chada has done a commendable job and has also given the entire village a relief by providing an alternate source of water," says Sanika Munda, another villager.

Although Jharkhand is a rich storehouse of minerals, it is not so rich in water resources. Several villages in Chaibasa, Ghatshila, Sahebganj and even the state capital Ranchi are facing acute shortage of water these days. Most hand-pumps and taps are completely dry and some of them in working condition let out mud instead.

**CONQUERING ADVERSITY**

**Rashtriya Sahara 27-December-2020**

## **गंगा प्रदूषण समिति का कार्यकाल बढ़ा**

**नई दिल्ली।** राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने उस समिति का कार्यकाल बढ़ा दिया है जिसकी जिम्मेदारी गंगा नदी में प्रदूषण पर नजर रखने तथा यह देखने की है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में पर्यावरण संबंधी नियमों के पालन किया जा रहा है या नहीं। एनजीटी अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति आदर्श कुमार गोयल की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने कहा, जब तक उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार कोई अन्य प्रभावी वैकल्पिक प्रणाली का गठन नहीं करती है तब तक समिति को बंद करना उचित नहीं होगा।



Dainik Bhaskar 27-December-2020

## नगीना क्षेत्र के 40 गांवों में नहीं सिंचाई के लिए पानी, किसान परेशान

अन्नदाता कड़ुके की ठंड में आंदोलन पर डटा

भास्कर न्यूज़ | फिरोज़पुर झिरका

कृषि कानूनों के खिलाफ नूंह जिले के किसान भी धरना प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं। किसानों का कहना है कि किसी भी पार्टी की सरकार रही हो, किसानों के लिए जो भी दावे किए जाते हैं, उनमें कोई सच्चाई नहीं है। नगीना खंड के 40 गांव की भूमि को सिंचाई करने के लिए नहरी पानी तक उपलब्ध नहीं है। इसके अलावा जिले के गांव में सिंचाई के पानी की कमी है। किसान के खेत में पानी लगने से भूमि बंजर होती जा रही है। किसान इब्राहिम मरोड़ा का कहना है कि चौधरी चरण सिंह ने जो रास्ता धरती पुत्र को दिखाया था उन पर किसान तो चल रहा है, लेकिन सरकार उस पर चलने का काम नहीं कर रही है। किसान दरेखान कंसाली ने बताया कि बनारसी व अन्य नहरों में पानी कई दशकों से नहीं आया है। जमीन की गहराइयों

अन्नदाता सड़क से लेकर संसद तक अपना विरोध दर्ज करा रहा है। फिर भी केंद्र सरकार को किसानों का दर्द दिखाई व सुनाई नहीं पड़ रहा है। इतना जरूर है कि इस बार का किसान दिवस हमेशा किसानों की परेशानी और बदहाली के लिए याद किया जाता रहेगा।

—महमन खान, विधायक फिरोज़पुर झिरका।

में पानी जैसे सूख चुका है और 40 गांव में सिंचाई के लिए पानी नहीं है इसलिए टैकरों से खेतों में पानी देते हैं। किसान इकबाल का कहना है कि एक भी किसान ऐसा नहीं मिलता जो आज के हालात में खुश हो। ऐसे में किसान दिवस के मायने कोई मायने नहीं रह जाते हैं क्योंकि कोई उत्सव खुशी में मनाया जाता है। किसान मुस्तुफा कमाल पंच बताते हैं कि कोरोना काल में लाखों किसान दिल्ली के आसपास कड़ुके की ठंड में खुले आसमान के नीचे सड़कों पर रहने को मजबूर हैं फिर भी सरकार सुस्त है।