

Central Water Commission  
Technical Documentation Directorate  
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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings will be uploaded on the CWC website.

S. H. Sharma  
10.1.2019  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
10/1/19

Director, WSE Dte.

*on leave*

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at [www.cwc.nic.in](http://www.cwc.nic.in)

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Times of India (N.D.)  
Indian Express  
Tribune  
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

# '66 of 97 towns along Ganga have at least one drain flowing into river'

**SOWMIYA ASHOK**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

ABOUT 78 per cent of towns in West Bengal along the river Ganga have nullahs (drains) flowing directly into the river, a third party inspection of all 97 Ganga towns across five states has revealed. Overall, 66 of the 97 towns had at least one nullah draining into the Ganga, 31 of those were in West Bengal. West Bengal has the largest chunk of towns (40) along the river, followed by Uttar Pradesh (21), Bihar (18), Uttarakhand (16) and Jharkhand (2).

The assessment undertaken by the Quality Council of India over a period of six weeks focused on four major priority areas for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs — overall cleanliness, solid waste management services, nullahs and screens, and availability of a municipal solid waste plant in the town. The survey was carried out between November 1 and December 15, 2018.

**EXPLAINED**

## Shift of focus from managing liquid waste to solid waste

WITH SUBSTANTIAL investment having gone into managing liquid waste in towns along the river Ganga, the stock-taking workshop held Wednesday with representatives from states governments was crucial to shift focus on how solid waste management and the need to achieve 100% source segregation was crucial for the smooth functioning of infrastructure that is in place.

With the report pointing out that dump sites were close to the river in many towns, and screens placed on drains were choked with solid waste, it is evident that the efforts to clean the river needs to be multifaceted.

The report points out that only 19 towns across the Ganga basin had a municipal solid waste plant within the town, and in 33 towns, assessors found solid waste floating on at least one of the ghats of the town. "72 towns had old and legacy dump-sites as well as garbage vulnerable points in the vicinity of the

ghats," the report states.

In Uttar Pradesh, 13 towns, including Prayagraj, Ramnagar, Varanasi and Kanpur, were found to have nullahs discharging directly into the river. Ten towns in Uttarakhand, including Haridwar and Rishkesh, had a similar issue. The assessors also found shortfalls in containing

garbage dumping sites which were found to be "vulnerable points" near ghats where wind displaced the solid waste onto the river in some instances. This was the case in 17 towns in Bihar and 34 towns in West Bengal. In several instances across the states, it was found that dumping sites were close to the ghats.

In Bihar, 56 per cent towns have drains near the river and "all these towns are discharging the nullahs directly into the river Ganga, whereas there were no screens installed at the nullahs", the report states. In West Bengal, the report states, "three percent towns have screens installed at the nullah and in 3% towns it was found that screens are choked with solid waste".

In a stocktaking workshop where the report was presented, state in-charges were given a time limit of February 2019 to achieve 100 per cent source segregation. National Mission for Clean Ganga director general Rajiv Ranjan Mishra said his team will do an assessment by mid-March.

Hindustan Times

State of India

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Kesari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

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## Every drop counts

New groundwater-extraction guidelines are inadequate

**T**he new water-extraction guidelines, notified by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to take effect from June 1, are unlikely to help check wasteful and injudicious use of rapidly vanishing groundwater because of several loopholes. For one, they do not make any effort to ensure efficient and need-based utilisation of water for irrigation, which corners nearly 90 per cent of the extracted groundwater. The domestic sector, which accounts for another 5 per cent of it, has also been exempted from any restrictions. That leaves only 5 per cent groundwater that is accessed by the industrial sector to be regulated for careful use. Even in this case, some of the well-advised norms that are already in place have been relaxed for no good reason. Many commercial ventures, including beverages and drinking water bottlers, do not only consume water in bulk but also waste it in substantial measure. The power of issuing no objection certificates for many kinds of industrial units has now been vested with district magistrates instead of the CGWA. Given the lack of wider perspective on the status of this dynamic natural resource, the civic authorities can be expected to be quite lenient in letting the commercial ventures tap it unchecked.

The existing provision for mandatory recharging of groundwater by bulk consumers has also been diluted. They are now bound only to undertake rooftop water harvesting and not large-scale field projects for rainwater harvesting. Though the new guidelines propose water conservation fees on groundwater use to generate resources for the state governments' water harvesting schemes, there is no guarantee that these funds will actually be used for this purpose. No doubt, the water charges have rightly been linked with the category of aquifer, type of industry and the quantum of water extraction but, in the absence of any cap on water withdrawals, this step will not suffice to discourage its wasteful use by cash-rich consumers. Moreover, the new rules have, for inexplicable reasons, virtually done away with the obligation to reuse the extracted water. Any laxity on this count is uncalled for considering the rampant overexploitation of this resource, causing a sharp dip in water table in many areas.

India is already the world's largest user of groundwater, tapping annually about 253 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water. This is equivalent to 25 per cent of the global yearly withdrawals. As many as 1,034 of India's total 6,584 groundwater blocks have already been categorised as "over-exploited". Among the rest, 253 blocks are in "critical" and 681 in "semi-critical" categories. Some 96 others hold only saline water which, in any case, is not of much use. Water tapping in these areas needs to be kept below the level of annual recharge through natural or artificial means. With such disquieting state of the country's groundwater resources, exceptional care is needed not only to thwart its indiscriminate use but also to incentivise its replenishment with rainwater. Otherwise, large parts of the country would soon face severe shortage of water even for domestic and drinking purposes.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 10/11/2019 in the

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Haribhumi, Delhi

# नमामि गंगे मिशन से जुड़े निजी बैंक और उद्यम क्षेत्र

नई दिल्ली (हरिभूमि ब्यूरो)। केंद्र सरकार के महत्वाकांक्षी 'नमामि गंगे मिशन' के तहत विभिन्न परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन में तेजी लाने की दिशा में निजी बैंकों और कारोबारी उद्यम क्षेत्र भी जुड़ गये हैं, जो गंगा परियोजनाओं के विभिन्न कार्यों में निवेश करने के साथ सहयोगी बन रहे हैं। यहां नई दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन और राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन ने मिलकर 'कॉरपोरेट सोशल रिस्पॉसबिलिटी पर केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उद्यम' मुद्दे पर आयोजित एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला में शामिल हुए सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों और निजी बैंकों के अलावा कारोबारी संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधियों ने राष्ट्रीय

■ गंगा परियोजनाओं पर  
कार्यशाला में दिखाया दम

स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन की अपील पर इस मिशन में योगदान देने में ऐसी इच्छा प्रकट की है। कार्यशाला में जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के सचिव यूपी सिंह, राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन के महानिदेशक राजीव रंजन मिश्रा और राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन के प्रबंध निदेशक व सलाहकार की अपील के बाद इस आयोजन में 30-35 नवरत्न और केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उद्यम की कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों ने हिस्सा लिया, जिसमें टेरी, रिलायंस फाउंडेशन, सीआईआई वॉटर इंस्टीट्यूशन जैसी संस्था भी मौजूद रही।