

# Geo-Hydrological analysis of Underground Drinking Water in Peninsular India

Dr. Prakash Vir Singh

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, C.S.J.M. University, Kanpur, India

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**Abstract:** The geohydrological status of the Indian landmass at the regional level for drinking water is generally complex due to differentiated hydrogeological conformations with significant lithospheric and sequential variations, complex and varied textures, climatological peculiarities, and diverse hydrochemical conditions. Ponders carried out over time have uncovered that Sandstone, Shales, and Limestones of the Vindhyan period undoubtedly rise above the unconformity boundaries. Cosmically, two bunches of gemstone conformations have been connected depending on characteristically diverse power through pressure of groundwater, viz., permeable conformations, and Fissured conformations.

This investigation paper is arranged to measure the groundwater danger of the geohydrological strata of the Peninsular level, centred on the Deccan Level by CGWB and other geohydrology information from colourful offices to portray the changes in ground drinking water through diverse seasons.

These geohydrological variations have resulted in a complex mosaic of groundwater availability and quality across the Peninsular region. The interplay between lithological diversity and structural features influences the storage, movement, and recharge potential of aquifers. Additionally, the region's dependence on monsoonal rainfall and variable recharge rates further complicates the sustainable management of underground drinking water sources.

The characteristic conditions influencing groundwater management include climatic parameters such as precipitation, evapotranspiration, and waterways. This investigation paper encourages considering the inconvenience in picking up sensible data on the groundwater conditions in the Deccan Level locale through agent checking wells and other geographical bed structures. The critical traits of groundwater administration checking are groundwater recharge danger position and its effect on biology. The issue of the investigation paper centres on the suggested measures to diminish the danger of the geohydrological circumstance of drinking water position in the ponder zone and advance suggested measures to have an economic impact on the environment. Keywords: Deccan Level, Geography, Geohydrology, Biology, Drinking water.

## Hypothesis

- Both Climate and Groundwater for pumping for the water system cause quick groundwater consumption in the Peninsular part.
- The adequacy of groundwater checking systems for shallow and deep aquifers must be inspected.
- Superior representation of human intercessions is required in the arrival surface models.
- Groundwater capacity changeability needs to be inspected under changing climatic conditions.

## I. Introduction

The peninsular level of India has various underground energising tables. Climate alteration and population development have both influenced the worldwide water resources of the Deccan Level in the 20th century, which are likely to impose more challenges soon. Be that as it may, a significant circumstance has emerged in later periods where the groundwater energy table has disintegrated colossally. This can be uncovered from the information dissected to get about the recurrence of the groundwater levels amid diverse situations & regular, yearly and decadal changes in some water levels. The groundwater level and groundwater level variance map are arranged for every checking time to consider spatial and temporal modifications in groundwater administration. The Peninsular portion of the Indian State or UT-wise dispersion for the groundwater perception water wells is given in Table –

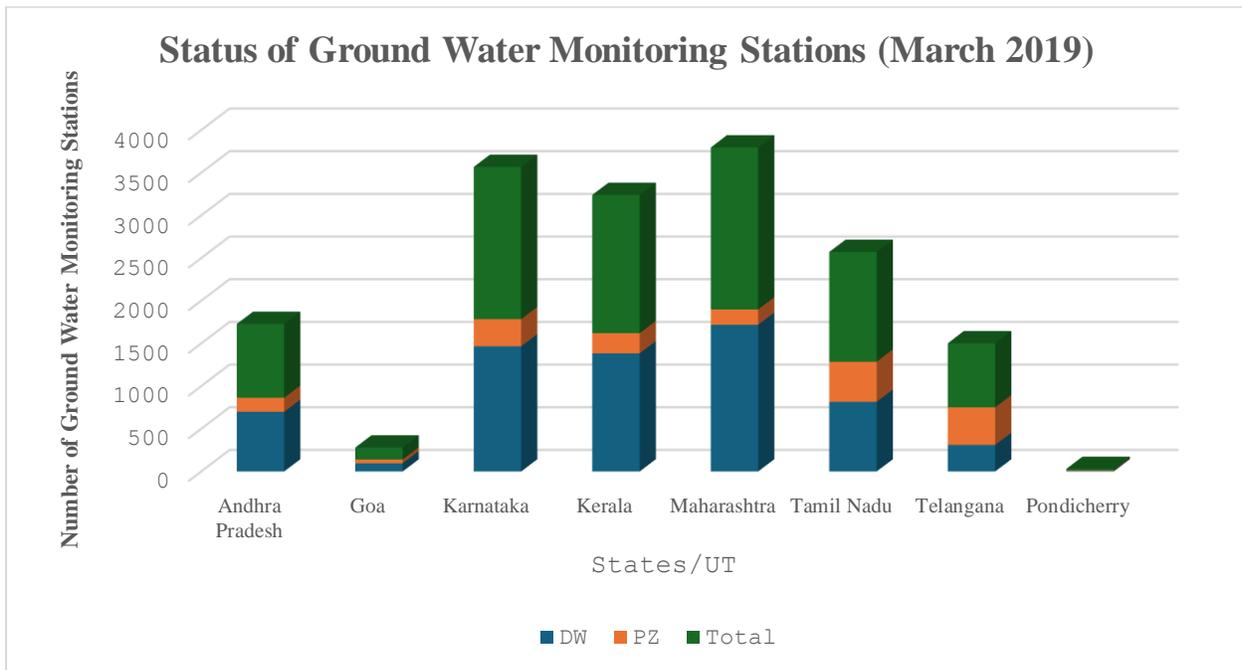
### Status of Groundwater Monitoring Wells (STATE / UT)

Ground Water Monitoring Stations (March 2019)				
Sl. No.	Southern States / U.T.	Number of Groundwater Monitoring Stations		
		DW	PZ	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	699	165	864
2.	Goa	96	44	140
3.	Karnataka	1466	318	1784
4.	Kerala	1384	236	1620

5.	Maharashtra	1719	179	1898
6.	Tamil Nadu	816	470	1286
7.	Telangana	311	440	751
8.	Pondicherry	08	07	15

**Source:** Central Ground Water Board, 2019

The database in this way shapes the premise for arranging groundwater advancement and administration programs. The groundwater level and quality checking are of specific significance in a coastal as well as an inland saline environment to survey the transformation in the saltwater/freshwater interface, as well as the slow quality changes in the new groundwater administration. This information is utilised for the appraisal of groundwater assets and changes in the administration resulting in different advancement and administration activities. During the final year’s rainstorm, most of the southern portion of India got precipitation that was 18 per cent below ordinary, the least since 2015. Indeed, the post-monsoon period did not bring much rain to the state. Like most other parts of the nation, Karnataka gets the bulk of its yearly precipitation amid the rainstorm, and it is this water that fills up the stores and revives the aquifers. A precipitation shortfall in the storm months will almost certainly come about in the water supply. Karnataka was not the only state to get below-normal precipitation in the final rainstorm. Kerala, for instance, wrapped up the season with a 34 per cent shortage. India is the greatest client of groundwater in the world. Groundwater caters to more than 60% of rural areas and more than 85% of drinking water. Groundwater withdrawal over a long time has resulted in an extension of water levels and drying of shallow groundwater reflection structures. Manufactured revival and water gathering are the conceivable arrangements to address the issues separate from demand-side administration.



**Source:** Central Ground Water Board, 2019

More particularly, in major parts of the state, the water level is in the range of 5 to 10 m. An exceptionally shallow water level of less than 2 m bgl is being watched locally, in separated pockets, in a few parcels of Maharashtra. In the eastern coastal locale of Andhra Pradesh, a water level of 2-5 m bgl can be observed. Too, little pockets in Tamil Nadu appear at a water level of more than 40 m bgl. Thus, the peninsular portion of the nation recorded a water level to the extent of 5 to 20 m below the groundwater level. The points to delineate the groundwater recharge zones for superior administration of the aquifer framework found in Tamil Nadu state, South India, where the reliance on groundwater has altogether increased over the years. This tenacious groundwater withdrawal for different divisions (water system, residential and businesses) has caused a decline in groundwater levels, a long-term declining slope and indeed a drying up of wells. Different measures, such as water gathering, counterfeit energy, and water utilisation proficiency, are effectively improved by Central and State offices. But for viable usage of manufactured energy plans, recognisable proof of a suitable area and structure is pivotal. A few analysts have connected geographic data frameworks (GIS) & further detection methods to distinguish potential groundwater zones. Further detecting and GIS cover a gigantic & unapproachable zone of the earth's surface within a restricted time for deciding the ranges of potential groundwater and for finding locales for manufactured energy. Analysts have utilised geospatial mastery for groundwater thinking by translating topical layers such as geomorphology, topography, seepage design, lineament, soil, precipitation, and incline. Integration of these topical layers, coupled

with field information such as post-monsoon water levels and the profundity of weathering, has not been endeavoured by analysts. This coordinates approach can recognise ideal destinations for fake revive inside the aquifer framework. Subsequently, the display was carried out in the Amaravathi aquifer framework covering a region of 12,285 km<sup>2</sup>, wherein 8 layers, viz. topography, slant, soil, geomorphology, arrival use/land cover, waste & water bodies, weathered zone and profundity to groundwater level (post-monsoon period) were coordinates into the spatial space of GIS.

### **Water deficiency in the Southern Level region**

There are a number of long-term auxiliary issues, like unregulated development, precise pulverisation of lakes, restrictions to the natural underground stream of water, and climate alteration, that influence water accessibility in Bengaluru. But these are not the quick triggers for this continuous occasion. This one must do largely with the regular fluctuation in precipitation and the state's failure to make provisions to deal with these sorts of variabilities.

### **Mounting water emergency in southern Indian states**

According to the week-after-week bulletin, the combined water level in 150 essential supplies was 38 per cent of their general capacity at this point. The southern region's 42 supplies spread over Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are as full as 23 per cent of their capacity, which is almost 17 per cent less than the levels observed a year prior and nine per cent less than the normal for the past ten years. No other locale — central, west, east, or north — appears to have such a sharp move in levels from both the 10-year normal and the past year, as per the News18 bulletin.

Reservoir levels over the states this week appear to be in a genuine shortage, with Andhra Pradesh 69 per cent below normal, Tamil Nadu 30 per cent, Karnataka 24 per cent, and Telangana 12 per cent below average.

### **Reasons for the Groundwater Emergency in South India?**

#### **Rainfall Insufficiency and El Niño Effect**

- Lower precipitation caused by El Niño occasions has driven drought-like conditions and drawn out dry periods in the locale.
- El Niño is a climate design characterised by the warming of ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, which can disturb typical climate designs universally, driving decreased precipitation in certain regions.

#### **Delayed Rainstorm and Post-Monsoon Deficiency**

- The lack of precipitation amid the Storm and post-monsoon seasons has contributed to the exhaustion of water level supplies.
- The postponed onset of the storm and insufficient precipitation during the basic periods have exacerbated the situation.
- Amid the post-monsoon period (October-December 2023), more than 50% of locales in the nation were rain-deficient.

#### **Increased Temperature and Evaporation**

- Rising temperatures due to global warming quicken vanishing rates, driving speedier water consumption from stores and water bodies.
- Higher temperatures, moreover, worsen dry spell conditions, increasing water requests for farming, urban utilisation, and mechanical purposes.

#### **Groundwater Depletion**

- Intemperate groundwater extraction for water systems, especially in locales with a lack of surface water sources, has driven groundwater depletion.
- South India transcendently develops crops such as rice, sugarcane, and cotton, which require significant amounts of water.

#### **Pollution of Water Bodies**

- Contamination from mechanical release, untreated sewage, and strong waste dumping has sullied water sources, rendering them unfit for utilisation and diminishing the accessible water supply.

#### **Geomorphology**

Geomorphologically, the ponder zone comprises slopes and level landforms. Slope landforms like leftover slopes, denudation and auxiliary slopes act as runoff zones. In the level landforms, the volcanic surface moreover diminishes groundwater and possesses less water. An arrangement of slopes exists inside the considered region and is secured by preserved timberlands. More than 90% of the region is covered by upland and pediment zones. Basic, leftover slopes and pediplains are the other geomorphic highlights shown in lower extent. The arrival utilises and soil to give data on penetration, soil dampness and vegetation. Further detecting and GIS offer reliable and more exact pattern data for LULC mapping. Landsat & Operational Arrive Imager pictures of 2014 were utilised for Arrive cover mapping. Overwhelmingly, the range is characterised by damp crops (water-intensive crops like paddy, sugarcane & banana), manor and dry crops (rural areas) and accounts for 80% of the region of the aquifer framework. This zone is

profoundly reasonable for water preservation and restoration. The positions were formulated for the person LULC sort, according to its highlights impacting the groundwater energy, holding and its event. The soil is primarily of Alfisol type, which covers more than 60% of the considered region. The positions were defined for the individual soil sorts, agreeing with their highlights affecting the groundwater energy, holding and its occurrence.

### **Drainage and Water Bodies**

Rainfed ponds/tanks and surface water bodies are spread over the whole considered region. Canals (for water system purposes) stream through the southern portion of the zone. The seepage design is dendritic and sub-dendritic. A personal organisation of waste was extracted and portrayed from the Cartosat Computerised Rise Demonstrate (DEM) with the help of the Bend Hydro instrument of ArcGIS. Extricated seepage systems were overlaid on the digitised stream of the Overview of India Toposheet for cross-validation. The seepage thickness outline was arranged using the line thickness examination device. The waste thickness is, by implication, associated with the soil penetration capacity and weight, which is determined by our out-of-moo thickness and vice versa.

### **Slope**

The inclination of any territory plays a crucial part in permitting the invasion of water into the subsurface framework. In locales of delicate incline, the runoff will be moderated and will have more time for permeation of water, while close vertical slant surfaces have tall runoff, which has a constrained residence time for water to infiltrate. The slant outline of the ponder zone was arranged from the Cartosat DEM of 30 m spatial determination and was classified into 5 classes, i.e., about levelled/no incline (< 3%), tender slant (3–5%), direct (5–10%), direct to soak (10–15%) and exceptionally soak (> 15%). The positions were doled out to the inclined lesson, agreeing on its highlights affecting the groundwater energy, holding and its occurrence.

### **Hydrogeology**

South India has an exceptionally diverse kind of aquifer framework. It is exceptionally rough. The aquifers don't hold a part of the water. They purge rapidly, and they moreover get revived rapidly. What this implies is that groundwater assets cannot be supported for exceptionally long in the event of a prolonged dry spell. Water levels in the supplies of India's southern states are set to drop in advance in the next few months, driving concerns amid the stocks as of now being at a low this year. The whole aquifer framework is underlain by the crystalline transformative gneiss complex, comprising Hornblende-Biotite gneiss, Epidote-Hornblende gneiss and Magnesite Quartzites. Groundwater happens inside the weathered and broken gneiss rocks beneath phreatic conditions. The thickness of the weathering is greatly variable, and the profundities of groundwater withdrawal structures are straightforwardly related to the escalated weathering and occurrence of breaks. Large-diameter burrowed wells are more common groundwater delimiting structures, and their distance across ranges between 3 and 10 m. The profundities of the burrowed wells run between 6 and 18 m below ground level. The surrender of the burrowed wells is amazingly low in the summer months, and few wells are dry. The abdicate is satisfactory for flooding one or two crops in the rainstorm period. Five major soil types have been outlined and positioned into three groups, viz., difficult rocks, weathered arrangement and alluvium. The positions were formulated for the individual shake sorts, concurring with their highlights affecting the groundwater energy, groundwater holding and its occurrence.

The profundity of wells changes from 6.6 to 27 m below ground level. The display water levels in the aquifer framework are to the extent of 1.7 to 14.9 m below ground level during pre-monsoon (May) and from 1.0 to 20.1 m below ground level during post-monsoon (January). The decadal trend of groundwater level for periods recently and after rainstorms was moreover arranged to get the normal groundwater level changes. Sometime recently, the onset of the rainstorm, the larger part of the locales are less than 6 m below ground level, though groundwater levels after the storm are less than 5 m below ground level in most parts.

### **Falling supply levels**

Another coordinate result of the moo precipitation has been the general moo level in stores. Most recent information from the Central Water Commission appears that Karnataka supplies are right now holding water at as little as 26 per cent of their full capacity, which is at least ten per cent lower than what is anticipated at this time of the year. The amount of about 8.8 billion cubic meters of water that is anticipated in Karnataka's supplies at this time of the year, as it were, 6.5 billion cubic meters are currently available. And this is draining consistently. It is not fair that Karnataka's supplies have below-normal water levels. Other states in South India are confronting the same issue, with Telangana being in a more regrettable circumstance. But the requests in Karnataka are diverse, and its stores are draining quicker than those of the neighbouring states. The state is being constrained to draw more from the savings, indeed, sometimes recently, at the beginning of the summer season. Generally, almost half of Bengaluru gets its drinking water through a channelled supply. The remaining half, for the most part, utilises groundwater for drinking purposes. The regions that have channelled supply are not confronting much disturbance since this water is coming from the stores. In these sorts of circumstances, when the precipitation has been meagre and storage levels are low, the governments tend to organise drinking water needs, particularly in urban areas. It is in parts of Bengaluru that are subordinate to groundwater that the drinking water issue appears most intense.

## Suggestions and Conclusion

The requirement for groundwater expansion, coupled with the realisation that climate alteration is genuine, implies South India will soon be “staring down the barrel.” Fake energising of groundwater expands the stores and revives tables utilising artificial respectful structures. These structures occupy the common development of water for revival or capacity. Water augmentation:

- 1) Energises drained aquifers
- 2) Stores an abundance of water/ runoff for future use
- 3) Diminishes the contamination through dilution

Techniques that are being utilised for the energising of groundwater through water expansion structures can be classified as:

- Seat terracing
- Form bunds and form trenches
- Permeation ponds

## Construction of “Johad”

The conventional water-harvesting frameworks in India had a positive effect on the rural tenants. The villagers of this range are exceedingly subordinate in cultivating delivery. The groundwater was draining quickly and influencing the business of its inhabitants. The local people used to hold up perpetually for water tankers. The cattle went parched, causing a decrease in dairy yield. Once the ‘johad’ was completely developed, two to three hours of overwhelming precipitation was adequate for the lake to flood sufficiently to last a whole year. Additional water in the lake energised the water table, driving it to a higher level of groundwater. The distance across and profundity was expanded to collect as much water as possible, making it final for a longer term after the dissipation handle. Wells in the adjoining towns, too, showed up fuller and were able to serve more individuals than before. The spinoff impact was evident. The local people felt more secure and more mindful of water administration and its employment.

## Construction of Check dams

These vertical obstructions are built against the course of the water stream on shallow waterways and streams for water expansion and collection. Check dams hold overabundant water during the stormy season in a catchment zone. The water held back permeates into the ground and replenishes the adjacent water table and water wells. An abundance of water can be utilised over time for the water system and residential needs. Various types of check dams run from concrete structures, stones, sandbags, or wooden logs, which can be effectively built depending on the complexity and the lowest financial outlay.

Check dams are one of the most vital enlargement structures and play a successful part in improving water, particularly in dry, bone-dry, and semi-arid zones that are dispossessed of a canal or waterway supply. These have been utilised broadly in India for some time. Be that as it may, there is renewed intrigue in such structures as whimsical precipitation, and a burgeoning populace puts weight on South India’s water resources and supply framework. A check dam with a store can energise groundwater with twice the amount of runoff or a watershed and is valuable in catching and decreasing sediments from the runoff or downstream flows.

Check dams developed, after cautious location assessment, energise groundwater saves and improve water accessibility for horticulture. A few benefits to the community over time:

- Make work through rural heightened and extensification.
- Make extra income for individuals through superior yields and other activities.
- Make strides in the quality of life for the adjacent communities.
- Moderate the environment through diminished degradation.

## Water Asset Augmentation

It is a coordinated approach to renew exhausted underground aquifers and expand groundwater essentially by water collection to make strides in the accessibility and quality of groundwater in the long run. Groups work with communities to resuscitate water bodies and conventional water collecting frameworks in India, and plan and develop cost-effective energised structures to collect excess rainstorm runoff for either an increase in groundwater/or the creation of surface water capacity. Water assets include structures that incorporate check dams, lakes, cultivated lakes, tanks, and revive wells, among others.

## Case Ponder from South India

With the prime objective of restoring groundwater levels and supporting the jobs of ranchers and villagers, the venture was embraced in Kolar in Karnataka and Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and benefited 6,740 villagers over eleven villages.

The approach for making strides in groundwater levels in the regions included gathering water runoff through check dams and desilting, and revival of conventional tanks, which made a difference in collection, capacity, and expanding the water maintenance

and permeation office. The venture centred on making mindfulness and capacity building of nearby communities on effective administration of water assets and operation and upkeep of venture mediations.

### Groundwater Reclamation (Check Dams)

Five check dams have been built in the towns of Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh: Nallapareddipalli, Mudapalli, Subbaraopeta, Kandurparthi, and Timalapalli.

“Since the check dam is input, the level of water in my borewell appears to change with a half-inch rise each month. There is an increment of the water level of twenty meters, so far.” —T. Sreenivasulu, Koduru.

### Groundwater Rebuilding (Tank De-siltation and Rejuvenation)

Silt is the dissolved top layer of soil, kept in the closest water body. Even though nutrient-rich, it collects at the base of the lake; shrivels its estimate and decreases its water-holding capacity. These water bodies are, for the most part, lakes, locally referred to as water tanks.

Five water tanks are de-silted in the towns of Kolar, viz. Aninganahalli, Halepalya, Obatti and Kempasandra, and 1,76,641 cubic meters of sediment have been uncovered from the tank bed, reestablishing 3,41,064 cubic meters of water capacity. This nutrient-rich sediment was connected by agriculturists in their areas to reestablish the topsoil layer. A total of 2,034 people have directly profited from desilting. To control and contain the water in tanks, bunds were made to prevent water permeation. This brought about expanded groundwater levels in the region.

### Formation of Water-Governing Bodies (WGB at Town Level)

Project Jaldhara started community-led water oversight bodies in each extended town, guaranteeing dynamic community cooperation and transparency in underground drinking water management.

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