

GAG seeks policy to check depleting groundwater in Uttar Pradesh

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LUCKNOW: Ahead of the World Water Day on Tuesday, the Groundwater Action Group (GAG) on Sunday wrote to UP State Groundwater Management and Regulatory Authority, requesting it to make a detailed policy to check fast depleting ground water resources in the state due to indiscriminate extraction.

The policy should be based on the availability and capacity of the ground water aquifers present in a particular area, it added.

The GAG, which includes retired geoscientists, senior hydrologists and water experts, in its letter to UP chief secretary, who is also chairperson of the UP State Groundwater Management and Regulatory Authority, said the use of ground water for various activities has increased manifold in the

state for the past two decades. Since the rate of replenishment is not adequate, excessive extraction of ground water resources may directly affect the economy of the state and lead to geo-environment hazards, the experts added.

The GAG said many dynamic or shallow groundwater aquifers have dried up in many parts of the state due to excessive extraction and now static or deep aquifers are being drained out. The static aquifers are recharged by Himalayan resources, but the rate of which is slow in comparison to the extraction, hence a balance is required for better management.

“As per the central underground water board, groundwater depletion of UP is under-reported as extraction for irrigation and drinking water is only being counted. It does not include extraction being done through submersible pumps for various other activities such as construction, manning, horticulture and other commercial and domestic purposes,” said GAG coordinator RS Sinha.