Groundwater through Ages in Rajasthan

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About the theme
Rajasthan, the largest state in India, spans over an area of 342,239 sq. kms. However, it experiences extreme climatic conditions in terms of temperature and rainfall. The state also faces a scarcity of fresh groundwater in several regions. Additionally, around 75% of the state’s land is occupied by saline water tracts. Dr. V. B. Khilnani has worked extensively about 55 years in groundwater investigations, assessment, and management in Rajasthan. He played a pioneering role in initiating groundwater surveys in Rajasthan in 1950 when the Government of India formed the Rajasthan Underground Water Board. The quest of groundwater began with an old percussion and direct circulation rotary drilling rig. In 1964, Dr. Khilnani became the first geologist to join the Rajasthan Underground Water Board. He will also discuss the work done by the Exploratory Tubewell Organization (ETO), which was later renamed as the Central Ground Water Board after merging the geomorphological unit of GSI that was conducting hydrogeological studies.

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Dr. Khilnani’s professional qualifications include an M.Sc in Geology from Rajasthan University in 1960 and a PhD in Hydro-geo-chemistry from JNV University, Jodhpur in 1973. He also underwent training in Ground Water Hydrology under the US Agency for International Development (USAID) program from the U.S Geological Survey for a duration of 9 months during 1970-71. Furthermore, he is a Fellow of the Geological Society of India, a Life Member of the Hydrological Society of India, and a Member of the Arid Zone Research Association. Moreover,

He is the esteemed Founder and Managing Director of Hydro-Geosurvey Consultants Private Limited, located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. Since its establishment in 1988, Dr. Khilnani has utilized his extensive 55 years of hands-on, diversified hydrogeological consulting experience to conduct ground water investigations, assessments, management, planning, conservation, recharge, and monitoring in the arid and semi-arid regions of the Great Indian Thar desert.

Dr. Khilnani held the position of Superintending Hydrogeologist at the Ground Water Department in Jodhpur. He also worked in Tanzania, where he served as a Project Hydrogeologist for the Government of the Republic of Tanzania on foreign deputation from 1975 to 1980. After taking voluntary retirement from the Government of Rajasthan, Dr. Khilnani established partnership firms and served as the Chief Executive of HYDROGEOSURVEY.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Khilnani has completed over 750 hydrological, hydrogeological, hydrogeochemical, and geo-technical studies in India and abroad. He has provided assistance to more than 100 industries in obtaining environmental clearances from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF), as well as permissions for ground water abstraction from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). Additionally, Dr. Khilnani has utilized MODFLOW to estimate the inflow of groundwater in mines and assess its impact on the water regime.