GROUND WATER LEVEL BULLETIN

JANUARY- 2025

HIMACHAL PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Ground water level Scenario during Jan-2025 highlighting the findings, status of ground water level in different aquifers and its seasonal, annual and decadal comparison.

INTRODUCTION

Groundwater bulletin is prepared by CGWB depicting changes in groundwater regime of the country through different seasons. It is an effort to obtain information on groundwater levels through representative monitoring wells. The important attributes of groundwater regime monitoring are groundwater level.

The natural conditions affecting the groundwater regime involve climatic parameters like rainfall, evapotranspiration etc., whereas anthropogenic influences include pumpage from the aquifer, recharge due to irrigation systems and other practices like waste disposal etc.

Groundwater levels are being measured by Central Ground Water Board four times a year during January, May, August and December. The regime monitoring started in the year 1969 by Central Groundwater Board. A network of 25437 observation wells called **National Hydrograph Network Stations (NHNS)**, as on 30.04.2023, located all over the country is being monitored.

STUDY AREA

Himachal Pradesh is located between the north latitude30º22'40" &33º12'40"and east longitude 75º47'55" & 79º04'20". It falls in Survey of India topographic sheets Nos. 52D, 52H, 52L, 53A, 53B, 53F, 53E and 53I and covers an area of 55,673 sq km. It is one of the predominantly hilly states in India, which lies in the western Himalayas. The length of Himachal Pradesh is about 355 km i.e., from northwestern part of Chamba to southeastern part of Kinnaur. The breadth of the state is about 270 km i.e., from western part of Una to northeast part of Lahaul and Spiti Disrtict. The state is bounded by the state of Jammu & Kashmir in north, Punjab state in west, Haryana state in south and Uttrakhand state in southeast and shares an international border with China (Tibet) in northeast.

Administratively, the state is divided in 12 Districts, 76 Tehsils, 34 Sub-Tehsils and 78 Blocks. There are 20,690 villages, 3,226 Gram Panchayats, 59 towns, 28 Nagar Panchayats and 25 Nagar Parishads including Municipal Corporations. Lahaul & Spiti is the largest and Hamirpur is the smallest District of the state with geographical area of 12,835 and 1,118 sq km respectively.

The state has a population of 68,64,602 persons (Census 2011) having an average population density of 128 person per sq km. The male population in the state is 34,81,873 persons and female population is 33,82,729. The rural

and urban population in the state is 61,76,050 and 6,00,552 persons respectively. The density of population in the state varies from as low as 2 persons/sq.km in Lahaul and Spiti District to 406 persons/sq km in Hamirpur District as compared to the state average of 128 persons/sq km.

Himachal region presents an intricate mosaic of mountain ranges, hills and valleys with altitude ranging from 350 m to 6500 m amsl. The Dhauladhar range looks in supreme majesty over the Kangra valley while the Pir Panjal, the Great Himalaya and the Zanskar ranges guard over Chamba, Lahaul & Spiti, Kullu and Kinnaur Districts. The mountain slopes are covered with forests and meadows. The valleys below are interspersed with numerous streams, fields and quiet homesteads. There is general increase in elevation from east to west and from south to north. The physiographic divisions from south to north are the Outer Himalayas also known as Siwaliks (350 to 1500 m amsl), the Lesser Himalayan Range (1500-5000 m amsl), Great Himalayan Range (5000 – 6000 m amsl) and Zanskar Range (> 6000 m amsl)

Himachal state has a unique distinction of having drainage systems of both the Indus and the Ganga basin. The major river systems of the region are the Chandra-Bhaga or the Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas, the Satluj and the Yamuna. The catchments of the rivers are fed by snow and rainfall, and are protected by fairly extensive cover of natural vegetation. Major rivers of the Indus River basin are the Chenab, the Ravi, the Beas and the Satluj. The Yamuna is the only river contributing water to Ganga basin.

The southwestern monsoon contributes about 70% of rain fall during monsoon period from July to September and about 30%occurs during non-monsoon period due to western disturbances and in the form of thunder storm. Generally, rainfall increases from south to north. Western disturbances also shower rainfall in winters. Beyond Kullu towards Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur, rain fall decreases due to rain shadow effect. Spiti is the driest area with 50 mm rainfall because of being enclosed by High Mountain from all sides. The average annual rainfall in the Districts of the state varies from about 600 mm in Lahaul & Spiti to more than 2400 mm in Kangra.

GROUND WATER LEVEL MONITORING

Central Ground Water Board, Northern Himalayan Region, is monitoring changes in groundwater regime in Himachal Pradesh state on quarterly basis continuously. This is facilitated by a network of monitoring stations in the State located in diverse hydrogeological and geomorphic units. The number of operational wells till Jan 2024 was 224 which include 137 dug wells, 60 piezometers and 27 springs. In January 2025, 225 wells which include 137 dug wells, 61 piezometers and 27 springs. The district-wise breakup of the water level monitoring stations is given in **Table-1**.

Sl. No	Name of the District	Number of GW Monitoring Stations (JAN-2025)				
		Dug Well	Piezometer	Hand pump	Spring	Total
1	Hamirpur	6	3	-	-	9
2	Bilaspur	4	8	-	-	12
3	Kangra	46	19	-	2	67
4	Kullu	2	3	-	-	5
5	Mandi	10	-	-	4	14
6	Sirmaur	19	13	-	-	32
7	Solan	14	5	-	-	19
8	Una	34	8	-	-	42
9	Chamba	2	2	-	21	25
	TOTAL	137	61	-	27	**225**

Table-1 District-wise breakup of the water level monitoring stations

RAINFALL

The rainfall data collected and compiled from weekly and monthly weather reports from India Meteorological Department were used to analyze the rainfall for the period June 2024 – September 2024. Table-2 gives the district-wise rainfall data for the period June 2024 – September 2024.

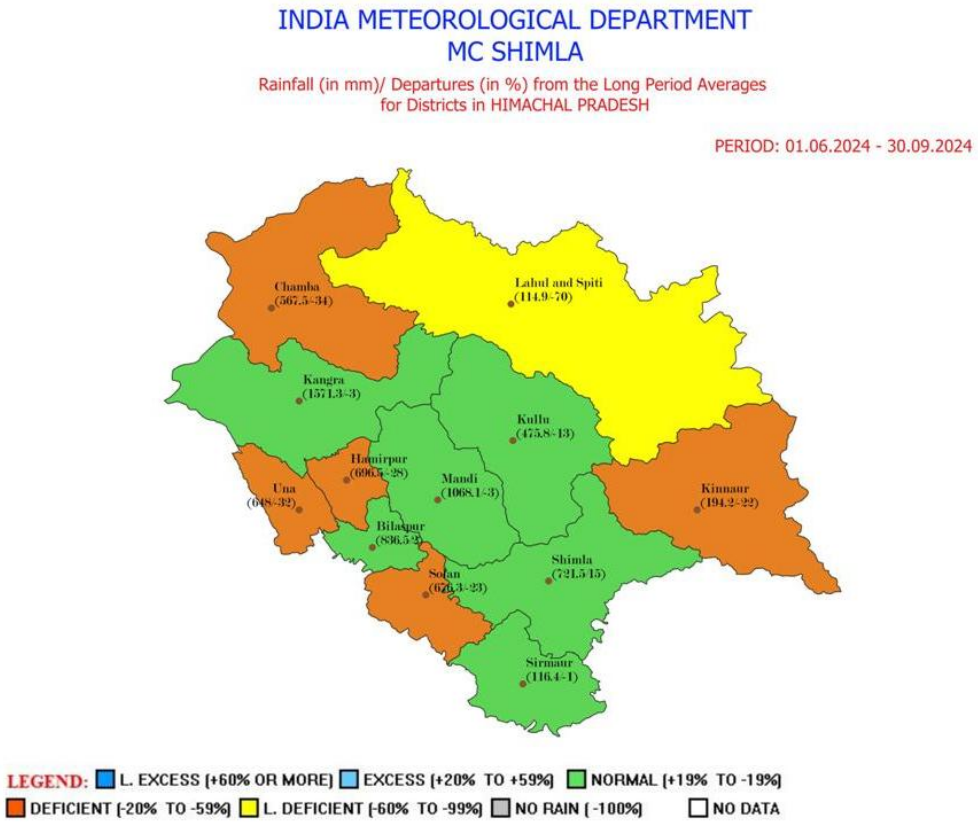
Month- June 2024				
S.No	District	Act (mm)	Nor (mm)	Dep (%)
1	Bilaspur	44.4	102.1	-57
2	Chamba	40.1	121.8	-67
3	Hamirpur	39.6	114.1	-65
4	Kangra	60.7	181.4	-67
5	Kinnaur	16.1	41.8	-61
6	Kullu	43.4	86.9	-50
7	Lahaul & Spiti	25	47.8	-48
8	Mandi	73.8	171.5	-57
9	Shimla	80.3	110.4	-27
10	Sirmaur	76.5	165.8	-54
11	Solan	89.4	137.3	-35
12	Una	54.9	103.8	-47
13	**Sub- Division HP**	46.2	101.1	-54

Month- July 2024				
S.No	District	Act (mm)	Nor (mm)	Dep (%)
1	Bilaspur	204.5	272.2	-25
2	Chamba	196.2	305.7	-36
3	Hamirpur	207.9	328.5	-37
4	Kangra	581.5	589.3	-1
5	Kinnaur	38.3	65.9	-42
6	Kullu	161.4	184	-12
7	Lahaul & Spiti	12.1	131.5	-91
8	Mandi	352.6	386.5	-9
9	Shimla	195.3	210.2	-7
10	Sirmaur	254	437	-42
11	Solan	142.4	303.3	-53
12	Una	176.8	329	-46
13	**Sub- Division HP**	180.5	255.9	-29

Month- August 2024				
S.No	District	Act (mm)	Nor (mm)	Dep (%)
1	Bilaspur	404.8	316.8	28
2	Chamba	239.3	291.7	-18
3	Hamirpur	320.5	400.6	-20
4	Kangra	654.8	631.5	4
5	Kinnaur	52.6	77.6	-32
6	Kullu	144.5	180.2	-20
7	Lahaul & Spiti	43.4	117.6	-63
8	Mandi	421.6	395.3	7
9	Shimla	300	196.4	53
10	Sirmaur	522.9	402.1	30
11	Solan	271.6	287.9	-6
12	Una	305.3	372.2	-18
13	**Sub- Division HP**	243.6	256.8	-5

Month- September 2024				
S.No	District	Act (mm)	Nor (mm)	Dep (%)
1	Bilaspur	182.8	128	43
2	Chamba	91.9	134.2	-31
3	Hamirpur	128.4	130	-1
4	Kangra	274.2	220.2	25
5	Kinnaur	87.2	62.5	40
6	Kullu	102.3	96.9	6
7	Lahaul & Spiti	23.1	86	-73
8	Mandi	220.1	144.2	53
9	Shimla	145.9	110.5	32
10	Sirmaur	312.1	178.9	74
11	Solan	172.9	145.8	19
12	Una	111	148	-25
13	**Sub- Division HP**	125.3	120.6	4

Table-2 District-wise Rainfall from 01.06.2024 to 30.09.2024



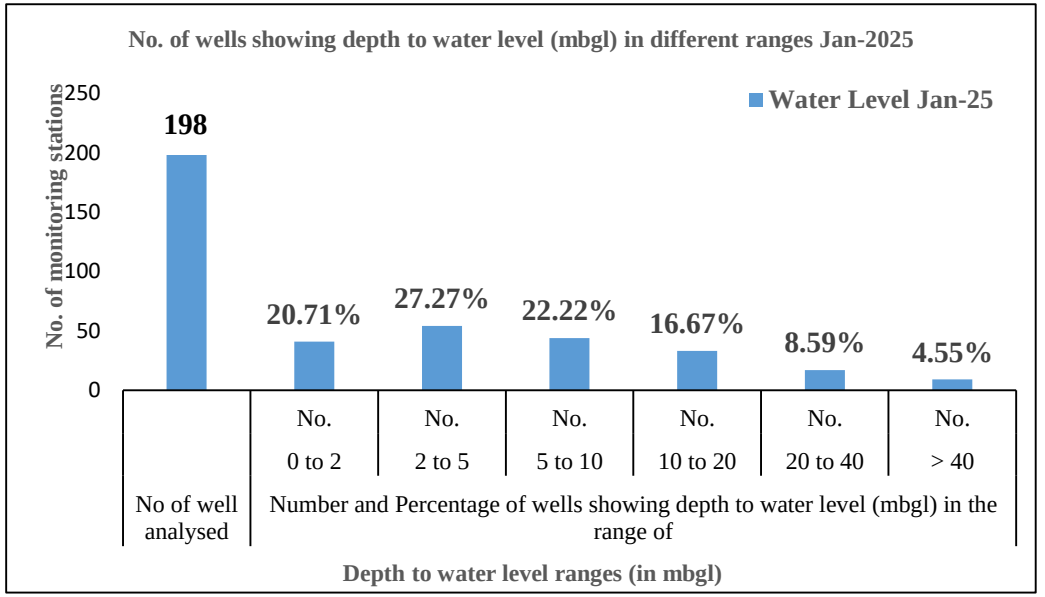
DEPTH TO WATER LEVEL (Jan-2025)

The depth to water level, recorded during Jan 2025 ranged between 0.05 m (Bilaspur District) and 95.76 m bgl (Tikkri (Pz) Solan District). Out of 198 stations monitored, the majority of 172 NHS (86.87%) recorded DTWL, in the range between 2 - 20 m bgl. 41 stations (20.71%), recorded shallow water levels, less than 2 m bgl and 26 stations (13.13%), recorded deep water levels, more than 20 m bgl in the state.

A perusal of the DTW map of January 2025 shows that the shallow water level area occurs mainly in south southern part of Kangra Palampur valley (Kangra District), northern part of Balh valley (Mandi District) and northern and southern part of Kullu Valley. 2-5 m bgl & 5-10 m bgl water level is depicted in all the valleys of Himachal Pradesh. 10-20 m bgl water level occupies Nalagarh, Kangra-Palampur Valley and Una valley. Deeper water level, more than 20m are confined mainly in southern part of Nalagarh and at few places of Una valley.

Season	No of well analysed	Number and Percentage of wells showing depth to water level (mbgl) in the range of											
		0 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 20		20 to 40		> 40	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Jan-25	198	41	20.71	54	27.27	44	22.22	33	16.67	17	8.59	9	4.55

Depth to Water Level Distribution of Percentage of Observation Wells January-2025



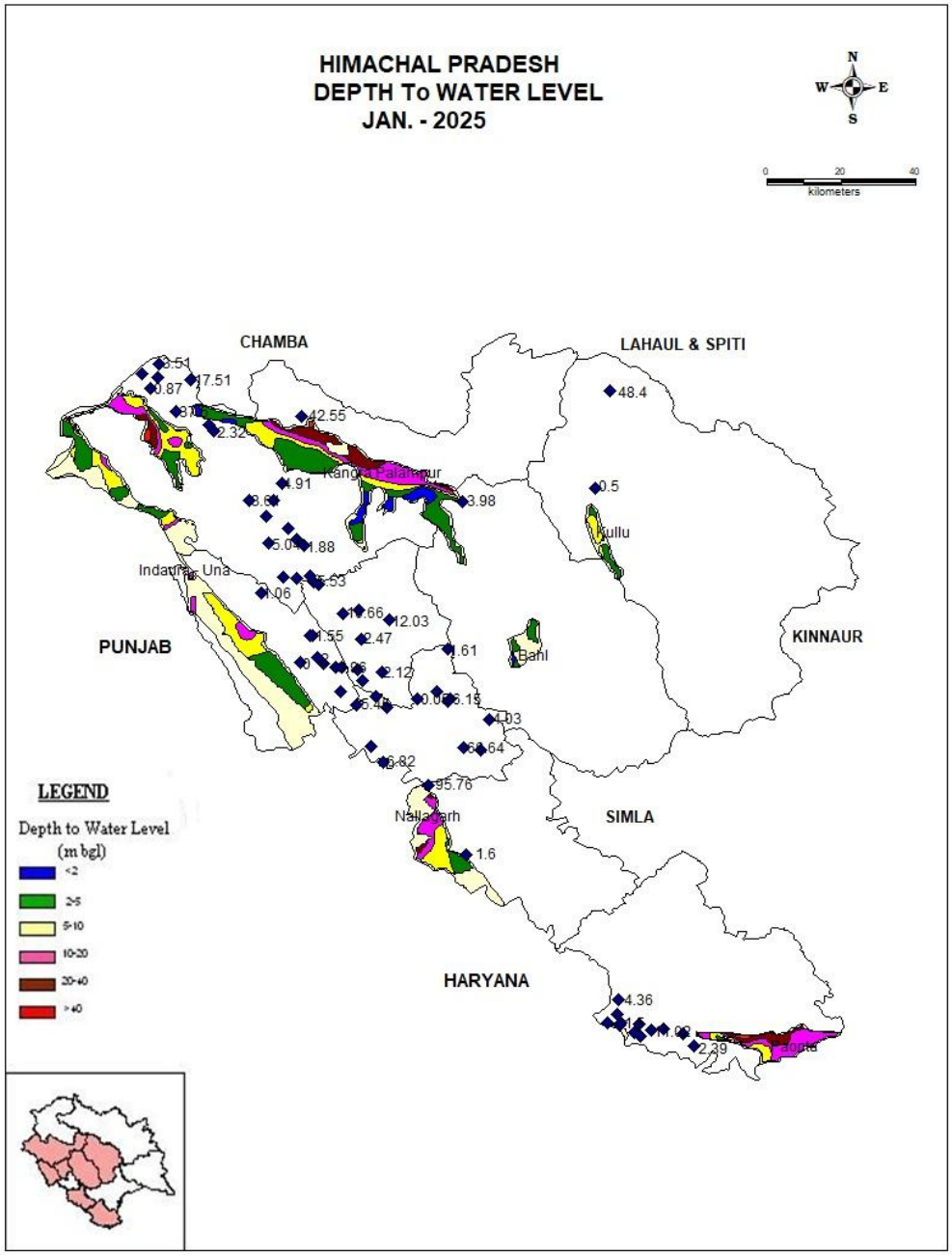


Fig:1 Depth to Water Level Jan-2025

SEASONAL WATER LEVEL FLUCTUATION

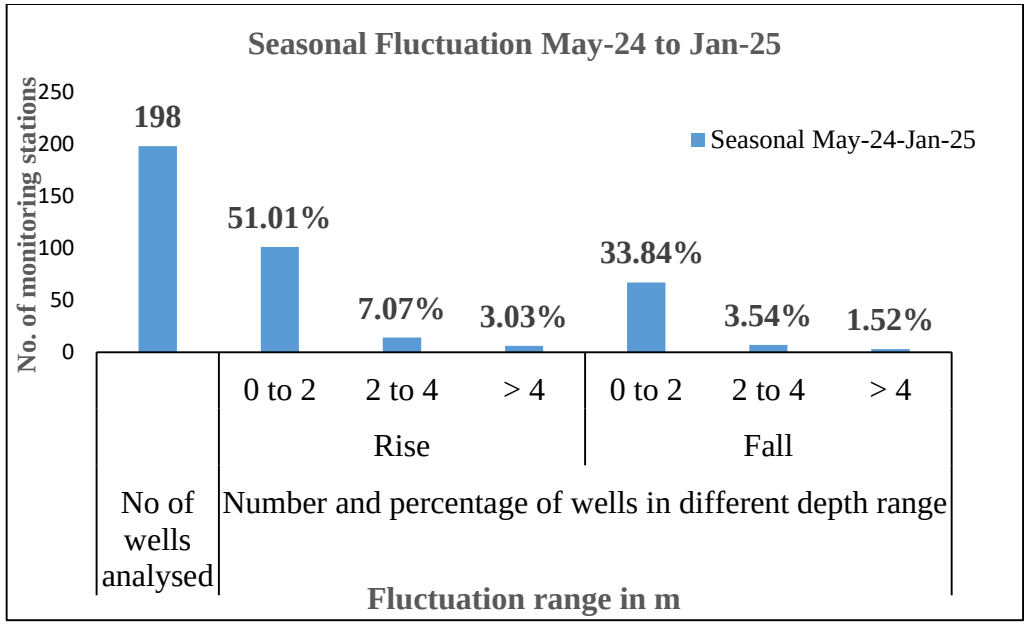
To study the effect of monsoon and subsequent utilization for various needs like agriculture, irrigation and domestic etc, changes in water level are studied and are discussed below.

May 2024 to Jan 2025

Seasonal fluctuation of water level was analyzed for 198 stations for the period May 2024 – Jan 2025. Out of the 198 stations, 121 stations have shown rise in water level and remaining 77 stations have shown fall in water level.

The minimum rise in water level of 0.01 m was observed in Solan District (Raipur Jakholi Pz) and the maximum rise 8.25 m was noticed in Kangra District (Bir-Baijnath Pz). Out of the 121 stations which have shown rise in water level, 101 stations show rise between the range of 0 to 2 m, 14 stations between 2 to 4 m and remaining 6 stations show rise more than 4 m.

Comparison	Season	No of wells analysed	Number and percentage of wells in different depth range											
			Rise						Fall					
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%
Seasonal	May-24-Jan-25	198	101	51.01	14	7.07	6	3.03	67	33.84	7	3.54	3	1.52



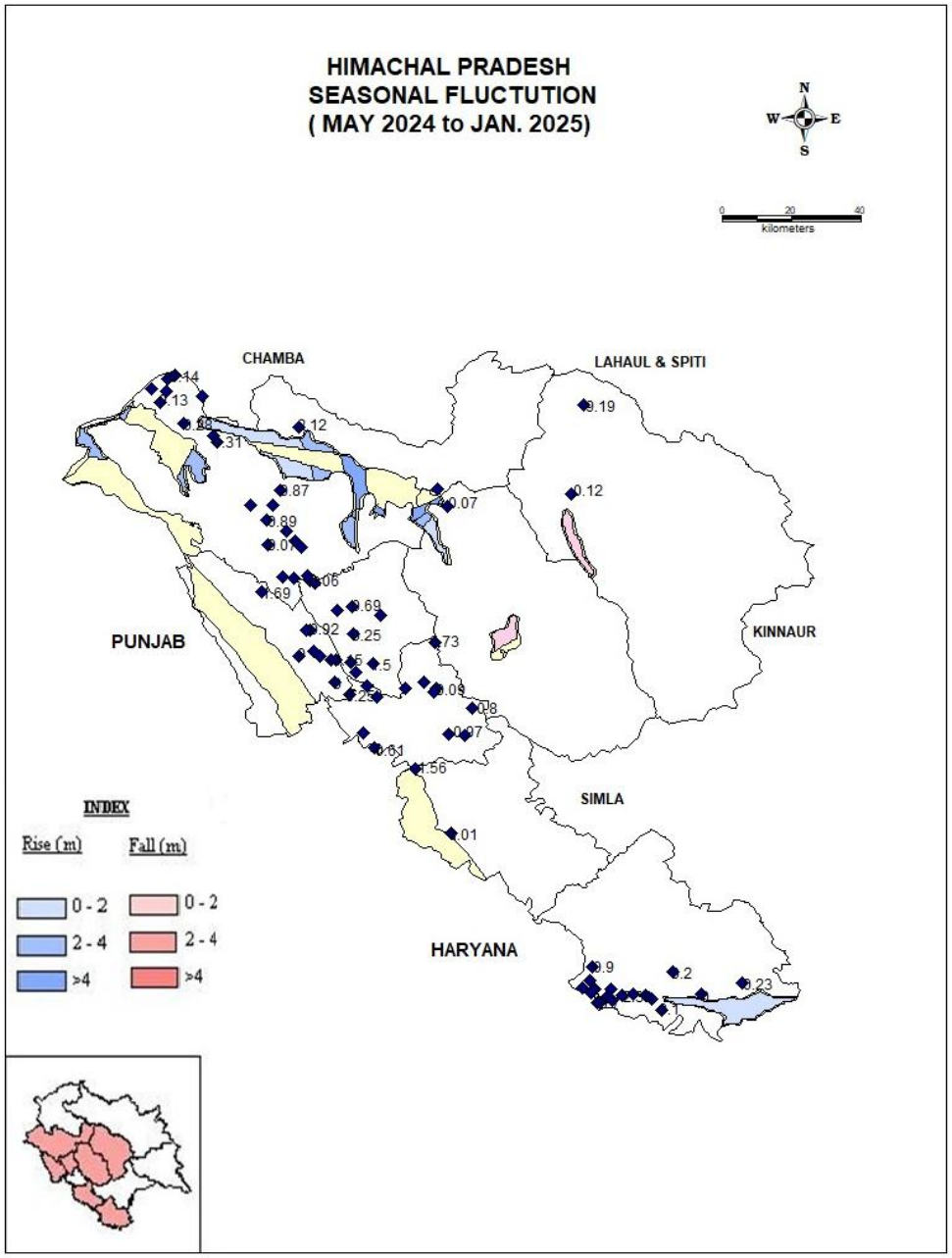


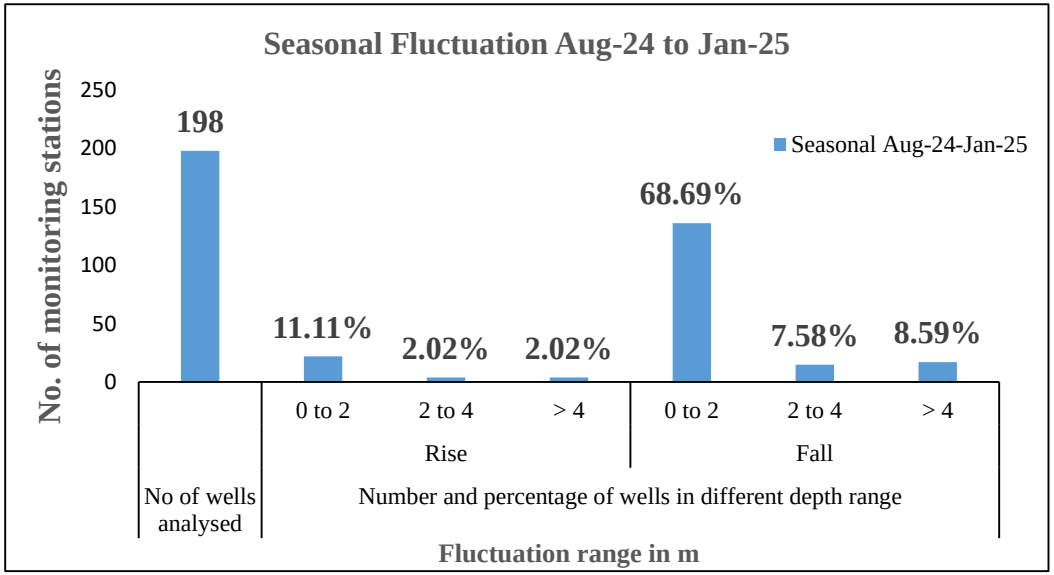
Fig:2 Seasonal fluctuations for the period May 2024 – Jan 2024

Aug 2024 to Jan 2025

Seasonal fluctuation of water level was analyzed for 198 stations for the period Aug 2024 – Jan 2025. Out of the 198 stations, 30 stations have shown rise in water level and remaining 168 stations have shown fall in water level.

The minimum rise in water level of 0.01 m was observed in Mandi District and the maximum rise 8 m was noticed in Solan District (Raipur Jakholi Pz). Out of the 30 stations which have shown rise in water level, 22 stations show rise between the range of 0 to 2 m, 4 stations between 2 to 4 m and remaining 4 stations show rise more than 4 m.

Comparison	Season	No of wells analysed	Number and percentage of wells in different depth range											
			Rise						Fall					
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%
Seasonal	Aug-24-Jan-25	198	22	11.11	4	2.02	4	2.02	136	68.69	15	7.58	17	8.59



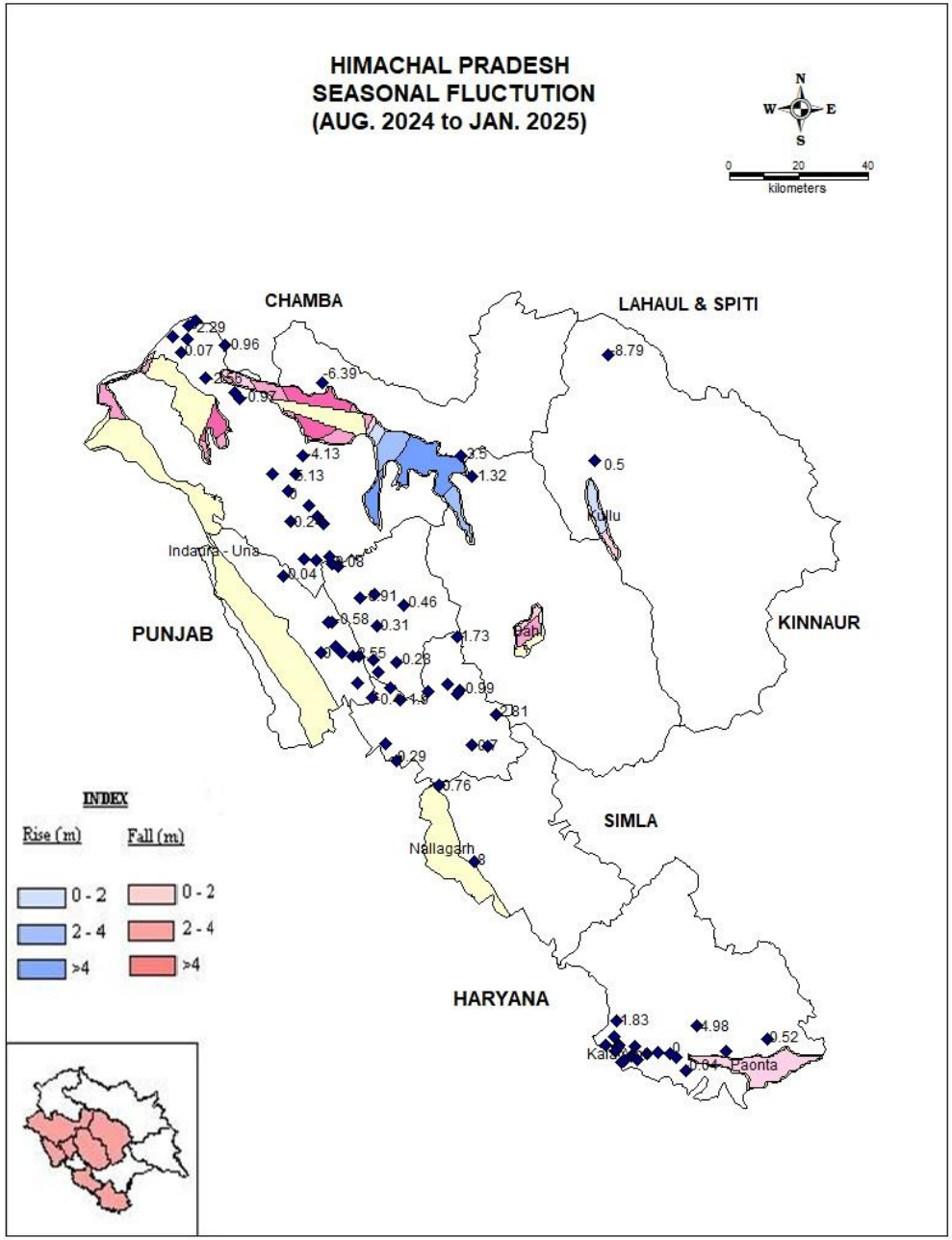


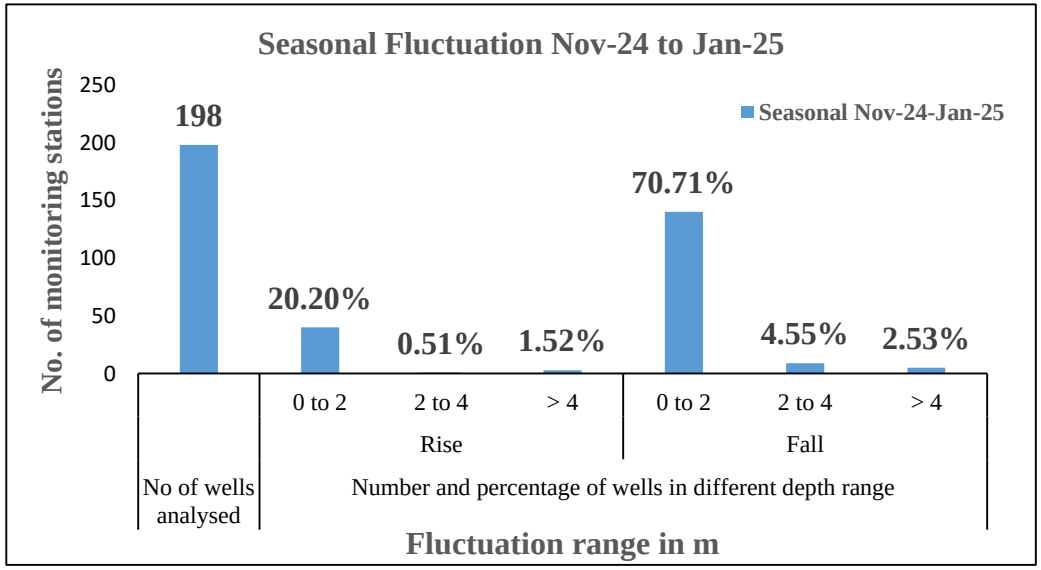
Fig:3 Seasonal fluctuations for the period Aug 2024 – Jan 2025

Nov 2024 to Jan 2025

Seasonal fluctuation of water level was analyzed for 198 stations for the period Nov 2024 – Jan 2025. Out of the 198 stations, 44 stations have shown rise in water level and remaining 154 stations have shown fall in water level.

The minimum rise in water level of 0.03 m was observed in Una and Kangra District and the maximum rise 5.36 m was noticed in Kangra District (Bir-Baijnath Pz). Out of the 44 stations which have shown rise in water level, 40 stations show rise between the range of 0 to 2 m, 1 stations between 2 to 4 m and remaining 3 stations show rise more than 4 m.

Comparison	Season	No of wells analysed	Number and percentage of wells in different depth range											
			Rise						Fall					
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%
Seasonal	Nov-24-Jan-25	198	40	20.20	1	0.51	3	1.52	140	70.71	9	4.55	5	2.53



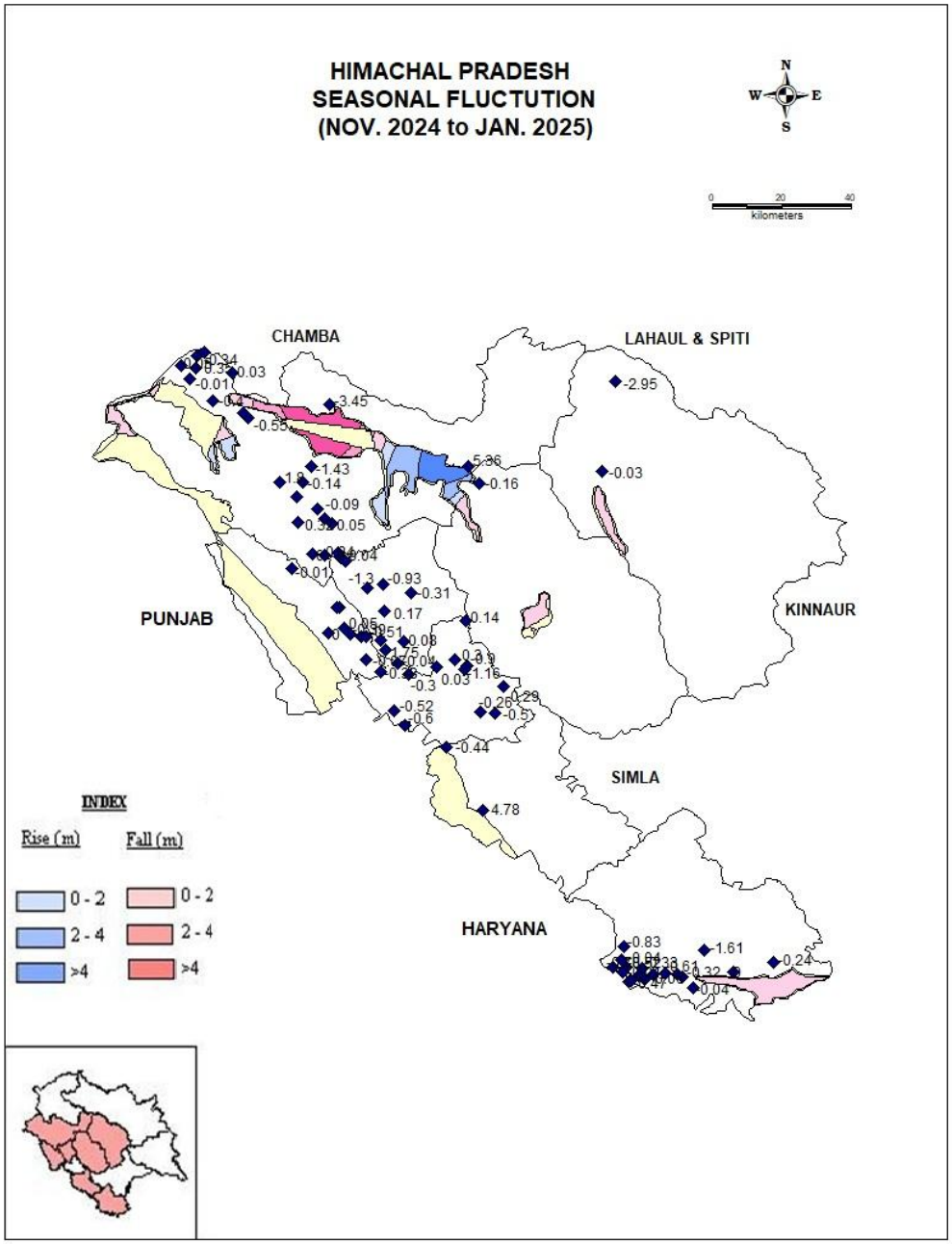


Fig:4 Seasonal fluctuations for the period Nov 2024 – Jan 2025

ANNUAL WATER LEVEL FLUCTUATION

Annual fluctuation in water level of GWMS during different monitoring period was analysed and discussed below.

January 2023 to January 2025

Annual fluctuation of water level, has been worked out by comparing depth to water level of Jan 2023, with Jan 2025 and the data presented its frequency distribution in various rise and fall ranges.

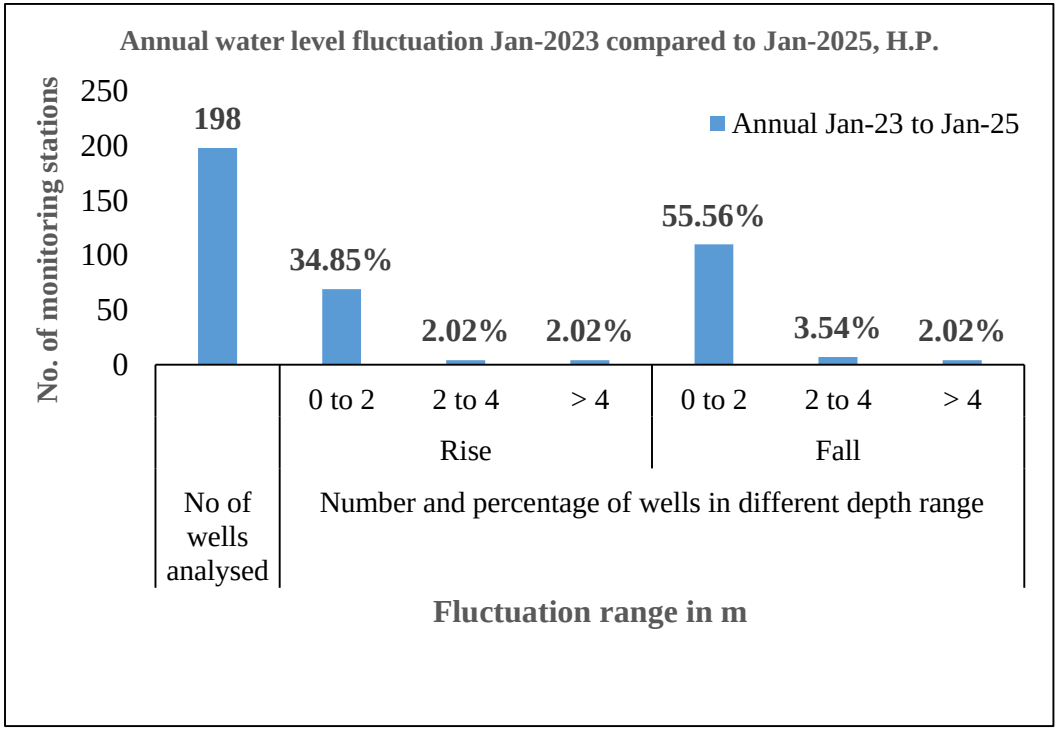
Out of the 198 stations analysed, 77 stations (38.89%) have shown rise in water level ranging from 0.02 m in Mandi, Una & Kangra District to 10.93 m in Kangra District (Mohli Pz).

Out of 77 stations which have shown rise in water level, 69 stations (89.61%) show rise between the range of 0 to 2 m, 4 station (5.195%) has shown rise between 2 to 4 m and 4 station (5.195%) shown rise more than 4 m.

Similarly, for 121 stations which have shown fall in water level, 110 stations (90.91%) show fall between the range of 0 to 2 m, 7 stations (5.79%) have shown fall between 2 to 4 m and 4 stations (3.30%) has shown fall more than 4 m.

A perusal of map of annual fluctuation of January 2023 to January 2025 showing fall in water levels in Nurpur Indora valley and central part of Una valley, Paonta Valley, Balh Valley and Nalagarh Vally. Similarly rise in water level 0-2 m is noticed along the fringe areas of all monitoring valleys except Balh Valley (Mandi District).

Comparison	Season	No of wells analysed	Number and percentage of wells in different depth range											
			Rise						Fall					
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%
Annual	Jan-23 to Jan-25	198	69	34.85	4	2.02	4	2.02	110	55.56	7	3.54	4	2.02



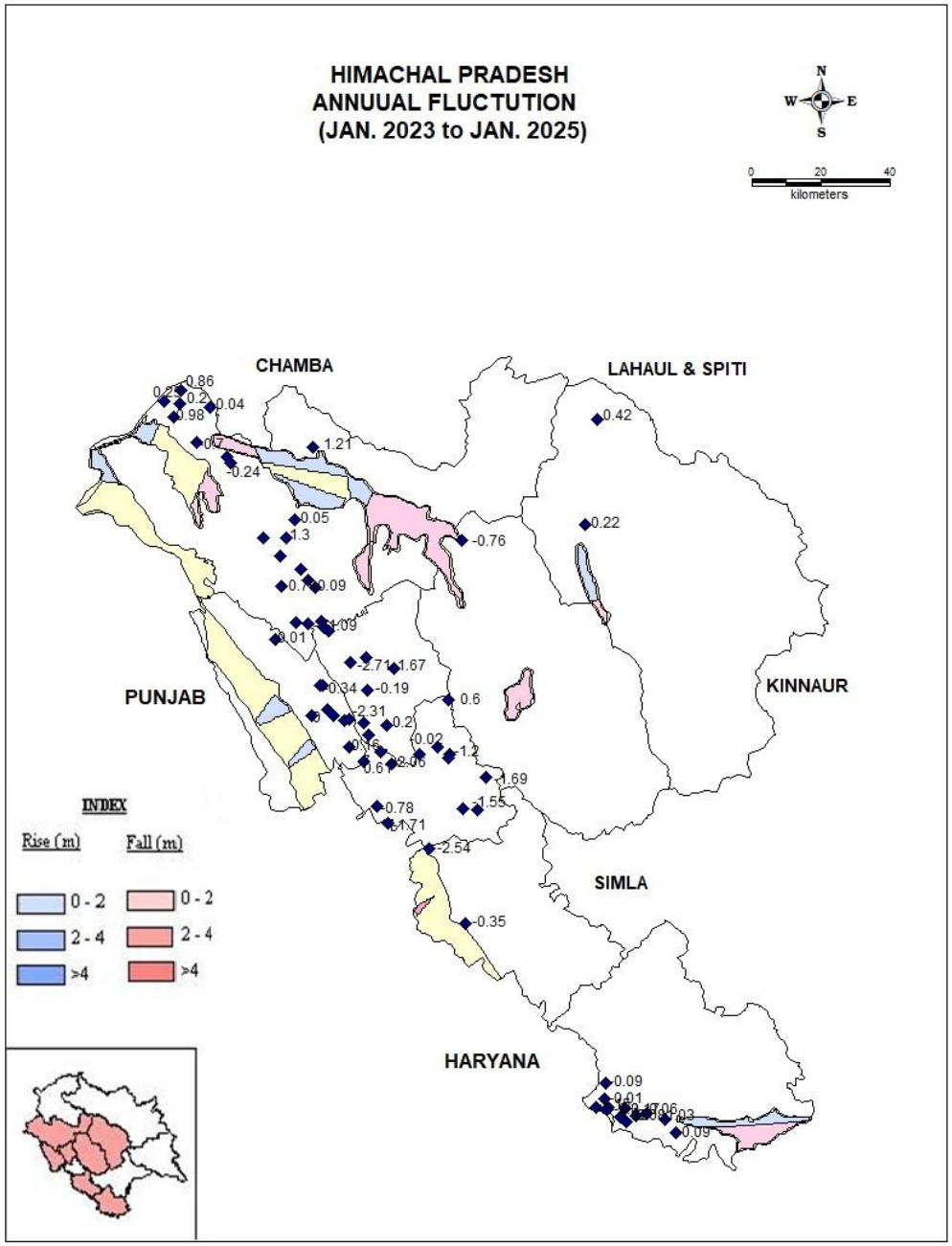


Fig:5 Annual fluctuations for the period Jan 2023 – Jan 2025

January 2024 to January 2025

Annual fluctuation of water level, has been worked out by comparing depth to water level of Jan 2024, with Jan 2025 and the data presented its frequency distribution in various rise and fall ranges.

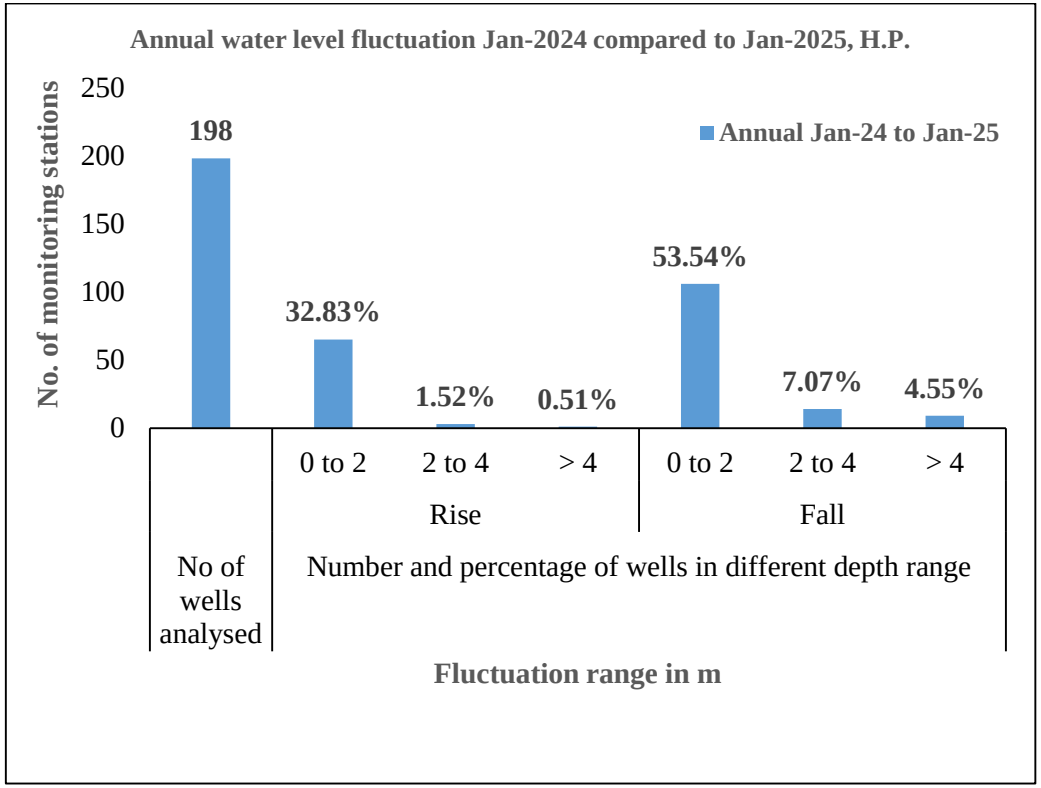
Out of the 198 stations analysed, 69 stations (41.63%) have shown rise in water level ranging from 0.01 in Kangra District (Basantpur Pz) to 5.01 m in Kangra District (Bhatoli).

Out of 69 stations which have shown rise in water level, 65 stations (94.20%) show rise between the range of 0 to 2 m, 3 station (4.35%) has shown rise between 2 to 4 m and 1 station (1.45%) shown rise more than 4 m.

Similarly, for 129 stations which have shown fall in water level, 106 stations (82.17%) show fall between the range of 0 to 2 m, 14 stations (10.85%) have shown fall between 2 to 4 m and 9 stations (6.98%) has shown fall more than 4 m.

A perusal of map of annual fluctuation of Janember 2024 to Janember 2025 showing fall in water levels in Nurpur Indora valley and central part of Una valley, Paonta Valley, Balh Valley and Nalagarh Vally. Similarly rise in water level 0-2 m is noticed along the fringe areas of all monitoring valleys except Balh Valley (Mandi District).

Comparison	Season	No of wells analysed	Number and percentage of wells in different depth range											
			Rise						Fall					
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%
Annual	Jan-24 to Jan-25	198	65	32.83	3	1.52	1	0.51	106	53.54	14	7.07	9	4.55



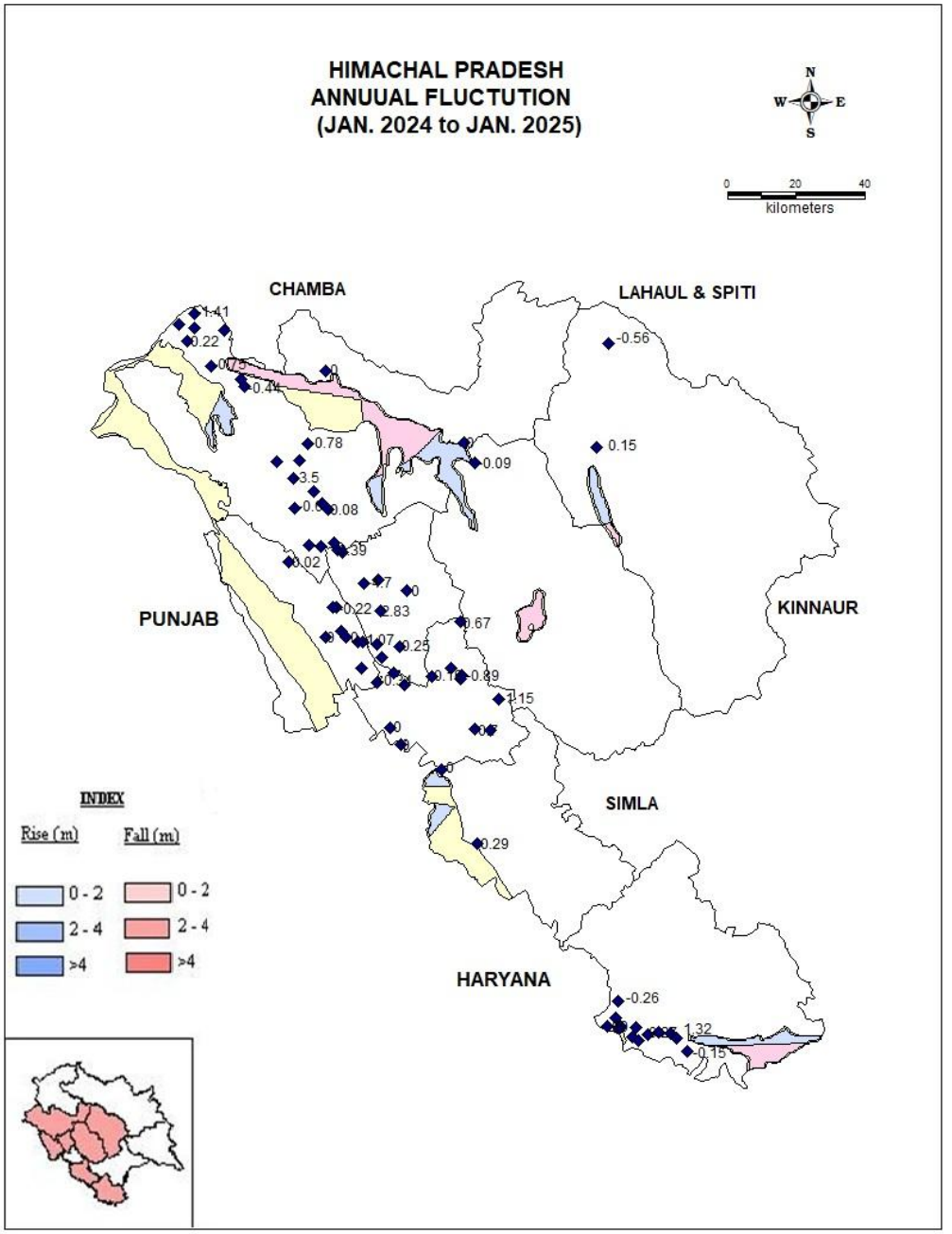


Fig:6 Annual fluctuations for the period Jan 2024 – Jan 2025

DECADAL FLUCTUATIONS

The decadal variations were analyzed considering the decadal average of water level and the water level for the respective period.

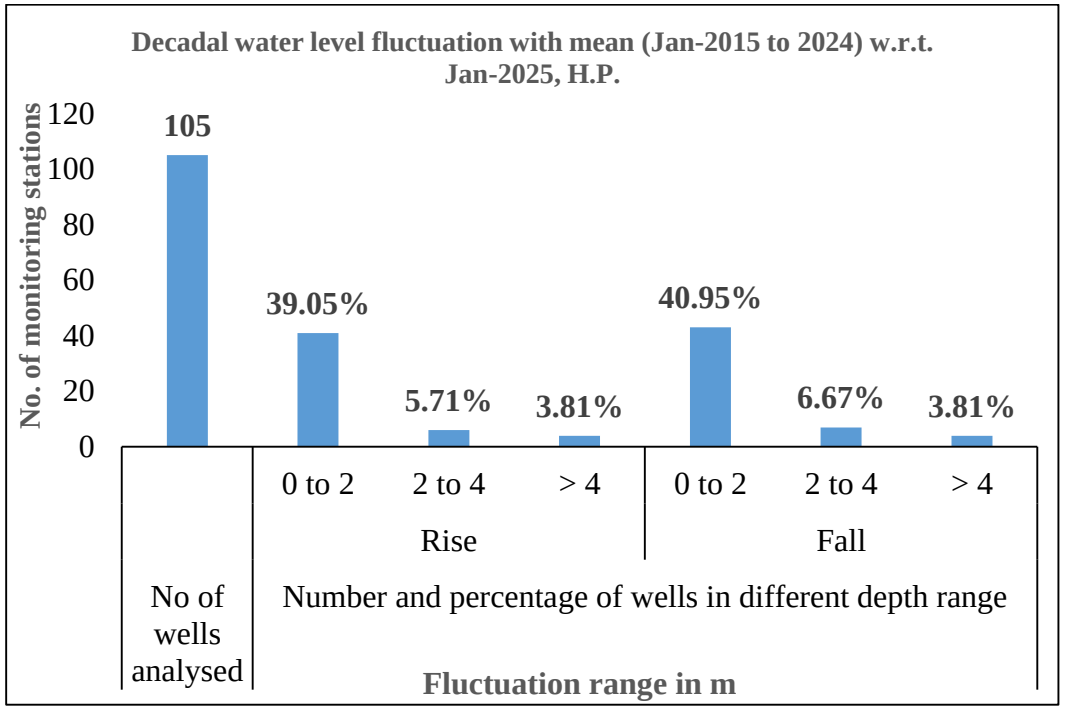
Decadal average of Jan (2015-2024) to Jan 2025

Decadal water level fluctuation has been worked out by comparing water level data of Jan 2025 with the average mean of 10 years' water level data of Jan (2015-2024) and is presented frequency distribution in various ranges.

A perusal shows that out of 105 stations analyzed, 51 stations (48.57%) have shown rise and 54 stations (51.43%), have shown fall in water level. Out of 51 stations 41 stations (80.39%) are showing rise in water level between 0 to 2 m, 6 stations (11.77%) between 2 to 4 m and 4 stations (7.84%), more than 4 m. Out of 54 stations, 43 stations (79.63%) show fall in water level between 0 to 2 m, 7 stations (12.96 %) between 2 to 4 m and 4 stations (7.41%) more than 4 m. A minimum rise in water level of 0.008 m was noticed in Kangra Districts and the maximum rise of 16.95 m is noticed in Una District. Similarly, the minimum fall of 0.08 m is noticed in Una District & maximum fall of 12.77 m is noticed in Solan District.

A perusal of map of Decadal average of January (2015-2024) to January 2025 reveals rise in water level less than 2m. to 4m is shown in small areas of Indaura valley of Kangra District, Balh valley, complete Una valley. The fall between 2 to 4 m and >4 m was noticed in Kangra Palampur valley and Nalagargh valley. Similarly, rise is noticed in all the valleys from 0-2 m and 2- 4m except in major part of Nallagah valley, Paonta Valley and Kangra Palampur valley.

Comparison	Season	No of wells analysed	Number and percentage of wells in different depth range											
			Rise						Fall					
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%
Decadal	Jan-25	105	41	39.05	6	5.71	4	3.81	43	40.95	7	6.67	4	3.81



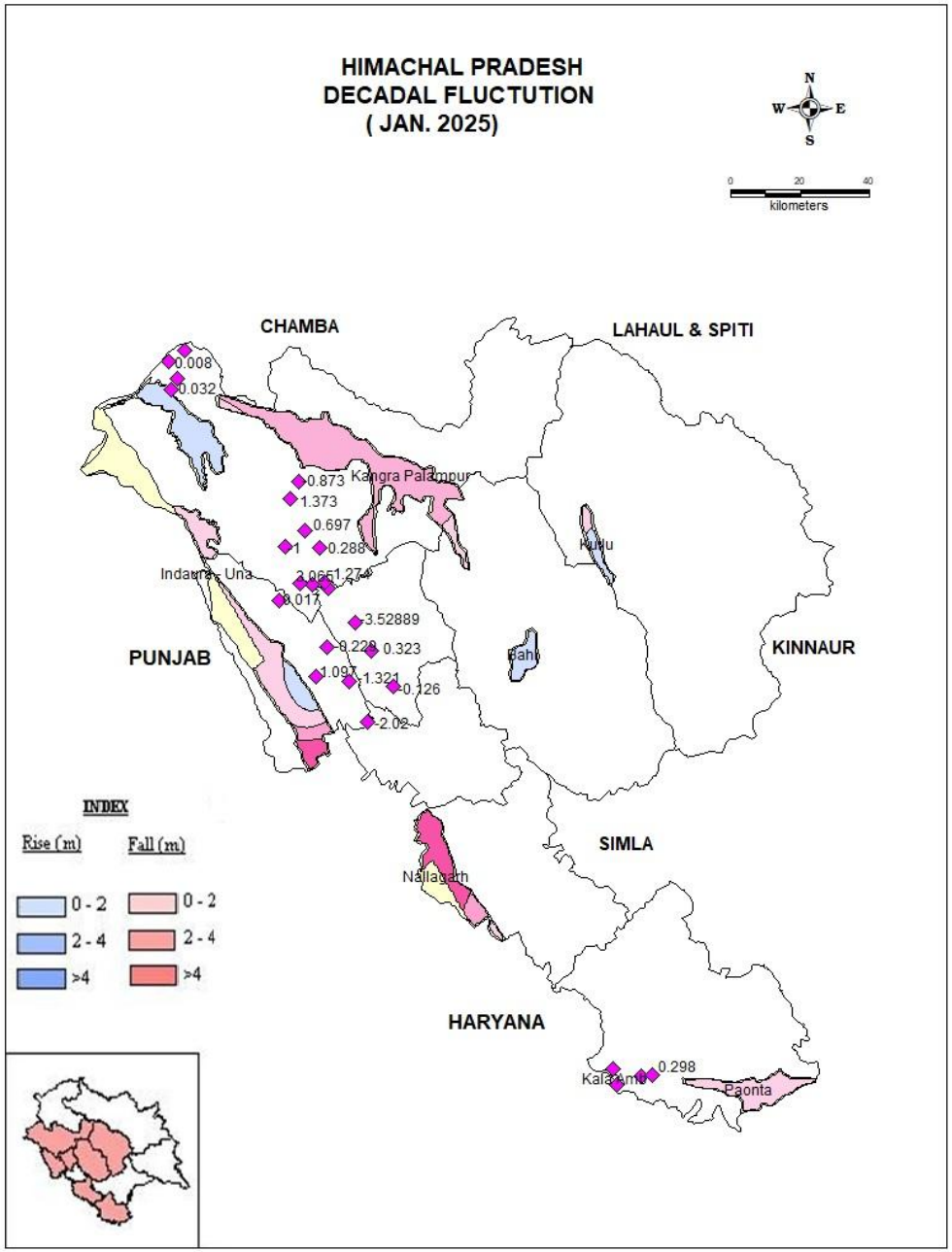


Fig. 7: Decadal water level fluctuation, Decadal mean Jan (2015-2024) Vs Jan-2025

SUMMARY

As a component of the National Ground Water Monitoring Programme, the CGWB, NHR, Dharamshala conducts monitoring of the ground water conditions on a quarterly basis: in January, Pre-monsoon (May), August and Post-monsoon (Janember). Additionally, a yearly assessment of ground water quality is performed in May and Jan-2025, the Northern Himalayan Region of the Central Ground Water Board monitored 137 dug wells, 61 piezometers and 27 springs. This comprehensive effort aims to portray the variations in the state's ground water conditions across different aquifers.

In Jan 2025, 86.87% of the state's area exhibited a depth to water level within 20 meters below ground level. Deeper water levels of more than 20 m cover 13.13 % area of the State covering mainly Una, Sirmaur,Solan, Kangra, districts.

Annual water level comparison with previous year Jan-2023 to Jan-2025 and Jan-2024 to Jan-2025 has shown that about 38.89% and 34.86% area of the state experienced rise in annual water level fluctuation respectively. 48.57% of the area experienced rise in decadal mean water level of 2015-2024 with respect to Jan, 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Himachal Pradesh is one of the predominantly hilly state in India, which lies in the western Himalayas. Deeper water levels more than 20 m covers only 13.13 % area of the State, mainly in Una, Sirmaur,Solan and some valley parts of Kangra, districts. In such valleys of Districts where the water level goes deeper, artificial recharge structures are recommended, like a Check Dam and rain water harvesting.