

# Geologist finds merit in Yamunanagar admn's 'Saraswati found' claim

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The claims of the district authorities on the chance discovery of water from the now inactive Saraswati River got a boost on Wednesday after a geologist termed it as a remnant of an inactive river or stream channel, on the modern identified river route (technically referred to as paleo channel).

On Tuesday, during digging water current from nine spots was found near Muglawali village in the district.

On the basis of assumption and popular belief, the local administration had claimed it to be Saraswati river water.

After a field study of various spots near Adi Badri in the district on Wednesday, chairperson of the department of geology, Kurukshetra University, AR Chaudhri, said that presence of sweet water at the shallow surface was an interesting phenomenon.

“Contrary to initial assumptions, the water found at various spots firmly hints at the presence of a paleo channel. Initial study of water and sediments at these sites hints them being distinct from the locally available water and minerals,” Chaudhri told HT, adding that the paleo channel could be one of the streams of a major river flowing in the region in the ancient times. Chaudhri has taken sedimentary samples from the spot for further analysis.

He said the land revenue records prepared during British-era demarcates river course of the Saraswati and digging was being done on the same route.

“More digging on the identified old river course could lead to similar experiences of water at very low depth,” he said.

Following the CM's decision to revive a project of creating a new water channel on the dry bed considered to be natural path of ancient river, the excavation work of 'Saraswati Revival Project' was started at Rullaheri village on April 21.

It is being dug under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNGEGS).

“It has also been confirmed that no other source of water crosses below the sites from where sweet water has come out. It indicates that an old water channel or river used to flow from here,” he said.

The geologist clarified that it was believed that Saraswati used to flow from upper Himalayas and enters the plains near Adi Badri, located in the foothills of lower Shivalik mountain ranges.

Chaudhri, who had worked with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in 2006 to explore water possibility along ancient Saraswati river course, said that now there was no need for exploration for deeper aquifers.

“Under Project Saraswati, the ONGC in 2006 had successfully drilled India’s deepest fresh-water well at a depth of about 500 metre below the ground-level near Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Geologists had claimed that explorations could be started for similar possibilities in Haryana, which is facing a severe problem due to the excessive utilisation of underground water.”

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