CGWA

One-year scheme cuts groundwater compensation by 30% to 75%

S.O. 6179(E) of November 12, 2026 offers relief of 30% to 75% on environmental compensation in 19 States and UTs, for applications made within one year.

PROJECTS IN 19 STATES AND Union Territories that owe environmental compensation for drawing groundwater without a No Objection Certificate (NOC), applying late for renewal, or drawing more than their NOC allows can settle it with relief of 30% to 75%, if they apply on the BhuNeer APP portal within the scheme's one year. The Ministry of Jal Shakti (Central Ground Water Authority, CGWA) notified the Ground Water Charges (Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2026 by S.O. 6179(E), dated November 12, 2026; it comes into force on its publication in the Official Gazette and remains in force for one year from that date.

KEY FACTS

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Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) (Central Ground Water Authority)

DOCUMENT

Notification S.O. 6179(E), Ground Water Charges (Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2026

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The notification is published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5940, dated November 12, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277990), and signed by Sachin Arora, Deputy Secretary, under F. No. T-81011/8/2025-GW Section-MOWR-Part(2). It calls the scheme "a one-time, voluntary and time-bound dispute resolution and settlement mechanism". Environmental compensation (EC) is levied under the Guidelines to Regulate and Control Ground Water Extraction in India, S.O. 3289(E) of September 24, 2020, as amended by S.O. 1509(E) of March 29, 2023.

The scheme covers projects of all types (infrastructure, industrial, mining and others) in all categories of assessment unit: over exploited, critical, semi-critical, safe and saline. Fresh and renewal applications are covered, as are projects whose applications were rejected earlier and applications pending with CGWA where EC applies. A valid CTE, CTO or CCA is considered to decide whether a project existed before the scheme was announced. Relief is 60% to 30% for projects operating without an NOC, 70% to 40% for late renewal, and 75% to 45% for excess extraction, depending on the area category and the water drawn in cubic meters a day. Relief is given on the actual EC or the minimum EC under the guidelines, whichever is higher, and the project proponent pays the EC payable after relief or the actual ground water charges, whichever is higher.

To apply, a project proponent has to register on the BhuNeer APP portal. The amount is communicated through the BhuNeer APP portal to the project proponent's registered email, and the whole amount has to be paid in a single transaction within sixty days of that communication, or the relief is lost. A deficiency memo not cured within sixty days leads to summary rejection. Applying under the scheme supersedes, and annuls, any earlier representation for revision of EC pending with CGWA for the same project, and the quantum of extraction on which relief is given shall not be increased later during the NOC period without valid reason.

A project proponent with pending litigation on the amount of EC can apply with an irrevocable undertaking on non-judicial stamp paper to withdraw it. After payment, the Scheme Implementation Committee, chaired by the Member Secretary of CGWA, issues a provisional settlement order, and a final settlement order once proof of withdrawal or disposal is filed; if the proof is not filed, the settlement stands rescinded and the original liability revives in full. Cases

already finally adjudicated by a court or tribunal, including compensation imposed by the National Green Tribunal now under challenge before the Supreme Court, are excluded.

The notification calls the scheme "a last and final opportunity". After it expires or closes, EC applies under the guidelines from September 24, 2020 or the date the project began, whichever is later, "without any relaxation or rebate". Non-compliance found later in a project that used the scheme will attract full environmental compensation, applicable penalties and even sealing of the borewell.

Issued by	Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) (Central Ground Water Authority)
Document	Notification S.O. 6179(E), Ground Water Charges (Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2026
Dated	November 12, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5940, November 12, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277990)
In force	From publication in the Official Gazette, for one year
Applies to	Projects in the 19 States and UTs where CGWA regulates groundwater (Annexure)
Who can apply	Projects operating without an NOC, projects applying late for renewal, and projects that extracted more than their NOC allows
Relief	Group 1, without NOC: 60% to 30%; Group 2, late renewal: 70% to 40%; Group 3, excess extraction: 75% to 45%
Payment	Whole amount in a single transaction within 60 days of the communication on BhuNeer
Where to apply	BhuNeer APP portal (registration mandatory); grievances to cgwa-ots@gov.in
Excluded	Cases finally adjudicated by any court or tribunal, including NGT compensation under challenge before the Supreme Court
After the scheme	EC from September 24, 2020 or the project's start, whichever is later, without any relaxation or rebate
States and UTs	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu

Relief in EC charges, by group, area category and water consumption (cum/day)

Group	Area category	<200	200 to <1000	1000 to <5000	5000 & above
Group 1: existing projects operating without NOC	Safe and Saline	60%	60%	60%	60%
Group 1: existing projects operating without NOC	Semi-critical	60%	50%	50%	50%
Group 1: existing projects operating without NOC	Critical	60%	50%	40%	40%
Group 1: existing projects operating without NOC	Over exploited	60%	50%	40%	30%
Group 2: late application for renewal of NOC	Safe and Saline	70%	70%	70%	70%
Group 2: late application for renewal of NOC	Semi-critical	70%	60%	60%	60%
Group 2: late application for renewal of NOC	Critical	70%	60%	50%	50%
Group 2: late application for renewal of NOC	Over exploited	70%	60%	50%	40%
Group 3: excess quantum extracted over and above that specified in NOC	Safe and Saline	75%	75%	75%	75%
Group 3: excess quantum extracted over and above that specified in NOC	Semi-critical	75%	65%	65%	55%
Group 3: excess quantum extracted over and above that specified in NOC	Critical	75%	65%	55%	55%
Group 3: excess quantum extracted over and above that specified in NOC	Over exploited	75%	65%	55%	45%

The notification (PDF, 807 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5940, November 12, 2026, CG-DL-E-17112026-277990.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/cgwa/insights/one-year-scheme-cuts-groundwater-compensation-by-30-to-75/