



Modern Update of Traditional Tankas | Rajasthan | 08 Jan 2024

Why in News?

To battle [water scarcity](#) in the arid region, the Centre has adopted western Rajasthan's **traditional rainwater harvesting system 'tankas'** by constructing a large number of such **storage tanks** with reinforced concrete cement.

- **Traditional 'tankas' are earthen rainwater storage tanks** constructed by the people of Barmer district and other parts of western Rajasthan **to collect water received during showers between July and September.**

Key Points

- The water stored in the traditional **'tankas' gradually becomes contaminated due to its earthen structure and does not last for the entire year.**
- The Centre has adopted the method under [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act MGNREGA \(Rural\) scheme](#) by **constructing water storage spaces made of reinforced concrete cement** to provide uncontaminated water to the people for a longer period of time.
 - A total of **1,84,766** such tanks have been **constructed since 2016**, with **41,580 built in the current 2023-24 fiscal.**
 - Each tank, **measuring 13.5 ft by 13.5 ft**, has the **capacity to store 35,000 liters of water** and is constructed at a **cost of ₹3 lakh.**
 - The district has **2,971 villages, locally called 'dhannis'**, and respective **gram panchayats are the implementing agencies.**
- Other **measures** are also being adopted to **ensure water supply to far-flung villages** in the district such as the supply of water from the **Indira Gandhi Canal and the [Narmada Project](#) along with the [Jal Jeevan Mission \(JJM\) scheme.](#)**
- The target is to reach out to 4.25 lakh households under the JJM scheme. Of these, 1.25 lakh households are already covered.

The Indira Gandhi Canal

- It is the **longest canal** in the country.
 - It **starts from Harike Barrage**, a few kilometers **below the confluence of the Satluj and Beas rivers in Punjab**, flows through Ludhiana and **terminates in the Thar Desert in northwest Rajasthan.**
 - The canal is a **source of drinking and irrigation** in the north and western **Rajasthan.**
 - It **provides water to 1.75 crore people** living in 7,500 villages across eight districts in the state.
 - The **water in the Indira Gandhi canal** has apparently **turned black due to the presence of pollutants in it.**
 - The pollution has caused several **health complications** among people **such as skin diseases, gastroenteritis, indigestion and loss of eyesight.**
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