



Tamil Nadu's Namakkal District Excels in Water Management

Why in News?

Recently, **Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu, India**, with a population of 1.7 million, has achieved remarkable success in **addressing its water scarcity challenges**.

- The district's strategic approach to water conservation and management has led to a significant improvement in **groundwater availability**, earning it the **second-best district in India** in the conservation and management category for the year 2022 according to the Union **Jal Shakti Ministry's annual ranking**.

What Led to Namakkal's Water Management Success?

- **Comprehensive Approach:** Namakkal adopted a holistic approach involving **community participation**, [rainwater harvesting](#), [river rejuvenation](#), and **canal desilting**.
- **Infrastructure Modernization:** The district upgraded the water infrastructure, incorporating advanced technologies for monitoring and **controlling water supply networks**, reducing leaks, and optimizing water distribution.
 - The district **rejuvenated its small river by constructing check dams** and ponds, leading to improved surface water availability. The surface water quality was also reported to be potable.
- **Artificial Recharge Structures:** Namakkal constructed numerous artificial recharge structures, such as **farm ponds, recharge shafts, and check dams, to replenish groundwater**.
- **Community Participation and Awareness:** Active involvement of residents, along with awareness campaigns and educational programs, fostered a water conservation culture.

What Were the Outcomes of Namakkal's Water Management Efforts?

- Namakkal district improved its groundwater availability and quality significantly. The average water level in 116 dug wells **improved from 11.48 metres below ground level (mbgl)** in January 2019 to 6 mbgl in January 2022.
- Namakkal district also reduced its water consumption and wastage. The district also reused **domestic and industrial wastewater for horticulture and industrial purposes**.

What are the Lessons from Namakkal's Water Management Success?

- Implementing **efficient rainwater harvesting systems** for water conservation.
- Prioritizing the **restoration of natural water bodies** and tackling pollution and encroachment.
- Utilizing **advanced technologies for monitoring, leak detection**, and efficient distribution.
- Promoting community awareness and participation through education and collaborative initiatives.

Source: DTE

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