



New Rainwater Harvesting Rules in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, **Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation (RIICO)** has issued a circular requiring all plot lessees with an area of 500 square meters and above to construct Rainwater Harvesting Structures on their premises.

Key Points

- The goal is to conserve water and increase groundwater levels in the state, which faces water scarcity due to its arid climate.
 - [Groundwater depletion](#) is a critical issue associated with groundwater use. It refers to **long-term declines in water levels** caused by sustained pumping of groundwater.
- If there's a delay in constructing Rainwater Harvesting Structure, the lessee will be subject to penalties as prescribed by RIICO.
- The penalty amount varies based on plot size:
 - For plots between 500 sq m and 2,000 sq m: Rs 25,000 per annum.
 - For plots above 2,000 sq m: Rs 50,000 per annum.
- Besides RIICO, other departments are also implementing rainwater harvesting. For instance, the **Rajasthan Police Housing and Construction Corporation Limited (RPH&CCL)** is collecting rainwater from rooftops and surrounding areas to recharge existing wells and aquifers.
- The state government is also emphasizing tree plantation to further conserve water.

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