Rajasthan makes rapid strides in Water Conservation

- **Mukhyamantri Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan (MJSA) leads to average rise of 4.66 feet in water table in 21 non-desert districts of Rajasthan**
- **Adopted 'Four Waters Concept' and 'Ridge to Valley Technique' to maximize results**
- **Multi-phased water conservation scheme covered 12,042 villages in first three phases, created 3.90 lakh rain water harvesting structures and planted 148 lakh saplings across the State**

Less than three years ago, the government of Rajasthan embarked on a journey to make villages of Rajasthan self-reliant in water by launching Mukhyamantri Jal Swavalamban on 27th January 2016. The construction/renovation of 3.90 lakh rain water harvesting structures in a time-bound manner benefiting more than a crore people of the State by securing their water future speaks volumes of the success of the scheme which was implemented in three phases so far.

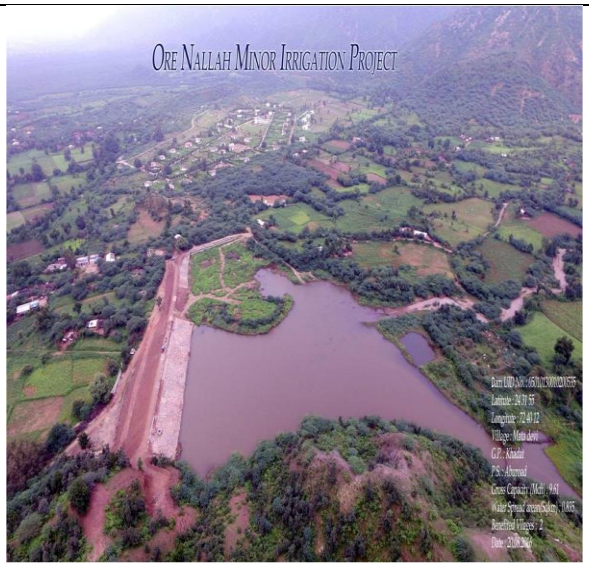
While the Impact Assessment reports of second and third phases are awaited, the study of the first phase, which was completed on 30th June 2016, shows remarkable improvements in critical parameters. The report shows an average rise of 4.66 feet in water table in 21 non-desert districts, 56.13% reduction in water supply through tankers and 63.64% rejuvenation of defunct hand-pumps and an increase of 44409 hectare of cropping area among other achievements. These are the findings of the study carried out by a committee involving experts from outside the department under the aegis of Rajasthan River Basin & Water Resource Planning Authority. The first phase covered 3529 villages where over 95,000 water conservation structures were constructed resulting in increased availability of water (both drinking and irrigation use) to more than 41 lakh people and 45 lakh live-stock. About 28 lakh trees were planted during phase-I around the water harvesting structures.

In the second phase, 4213 villages were covered where 1, 28, 991 water harvesting structures were constructed followed by plantation of about 60 lakh saplings around them.

Together phases I and II covered 7742 villages encompassing an area of 31.50 lakh hectares across the State through construction and renovation of 2.30 lakh rain water harvesting structures accommodating conservation of 22251 Mcft of rain water. The third phase which begun on 9th December 2017 covered 4,300 villages and created 1.60 lakh water conservation structures followed by plantation of 60 lakh saplings. Catchment area treatment of 3, 52, 768 hectare and construction of 419 micro-irrigation tanks/micro storage tancks have also been done in phase three.

In the words of Chief Minister of Rajasthan Smt. Vasundhara Raje: “It is a foregone conclusion that MJSA has been a huge success and a trendsetter in the country on water management front. In many ways, MJSA is an important step towards **‘climate proofing’** the State.”

Snippets of Success - MJSA

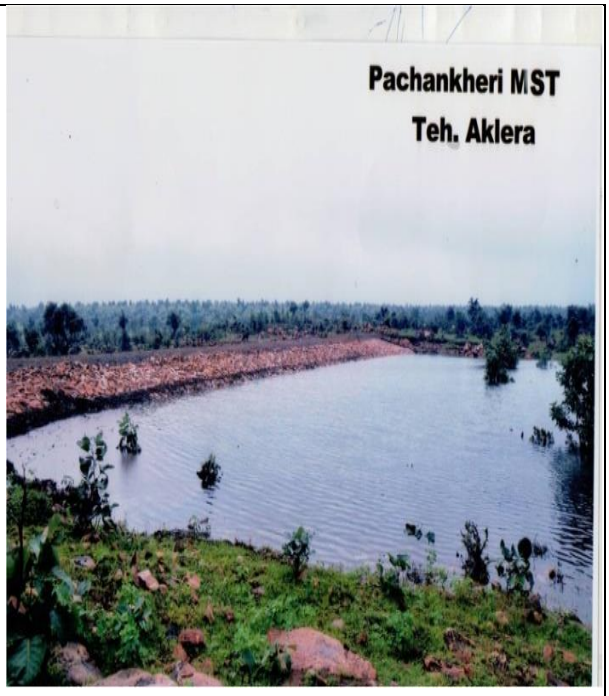
ORE NALLAH MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECT	
For many years the ground water level of Sirohi village was very low. Even after the rainy season, water would flow away due to unavailability of a structure to hold it. Looking at this problem a minor irrigation project of Gross Capacity 9.61 Mcft was constructed for water conservation. After construction, the water levels of neighboring well have also increased resulting in abundant water for farmer for irrigation, villagers and cattle.	

PACHANKHERI MST PROJECT, JHALAWAR

This area faced severe scarcity of water for drinking, cattle and irrigation.

This problem was further compounded by receding groundwater level and MST of gross capacity of 1.64 Mcft
was constructed on seasonal nallah to hold following rainwater. Subsequent to the rains, water is available in sufficient quantity for drinking, live stocks as well as irrigation.

Substantial increase in water table has also been witnessed.



RENOVATION OF ANICUT NEAR JAIPUR

Renovation of anicut has transformed the area. The residents of this area were facing problem due to scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation. But after the renovation work done under MJSA the level of water table has increased and 11.90 TCM of stored water is available for drinking and irrigation purpose during the entire year.

HALSEDA ANICUT, CHITTORGARH The entire region was facing acute water scarcity. Because of depleting water table, there was not enough water for drinking and irrigation. With the construction of anicut of gross capacity of 0.60 Mcft, water table is set to rise. People will get sufficient water to meet their day-to-day requirements.	
BAMBULIYA ANICUT, BARAN Lack of rainwater harvesting in the area led to unavailability of water in lean season. Construction of anicut of gross capacity of 3.10 Mcft has made the area more fertile providing sufficient water for drinking and irrigation purposes.	
KUKRAKURD ANICUT Over the years the anicut dilapidated causing the water to flow away and go waste. Under MJSA the anicut of gross capacity of 6.99 Mcft was renovated. This anicut is now used by villagers for drinking and irrigation. Water level has also increased.	

RENOVATION OF ANICUT ON MASSI RIVER, JAIPUR Rainwater used to flow away causing soil erosion and obvious loss of precious water repair under MJSA has increased the capacity and also checked the overflow of excess runoff. The gross capacity of anicut is 40 mcft. Availability of water for drinking and irrigation purpose and increase in Ground Water level has been reported.	
RENOVATION OF LEVA TALAB, BARAN Constantly decreasing ground water level due to absence of rain water harvesting techniques led to water shortage for drinking as well as irrigation. Renovation of this talab has facilitated better water storage capacity (gross capacity of 2.60 Mcft) for village and with rain water being stored effectively ground water will continue to increase.	
RESTORATION OF BAIRWO KI DHANI ANICUT, TONK Flowing rainwater would cause soil erosion and area also face lack of water for irrigation. With the restoration of anicut (Gross Capacity: 0.90 Mcft) soil erosion has been checked and the green cover has also increased. Availability of water for drinking and irrigation purpose & increase in Ground Water level have	

been reported.	
VERMAN MIT, SIROHI The area faced scarcity of water for irrigation despite good rainfall. Water table in the area was also receding. With the construction of MIT (Gross Capacity: 0.28 TMC) under MJSA now water is available for various uses. Availability of water for drinking and irrigation purpose & increase in Ground Water level has been reported.