District ......AJMER

Province.....Rajasthan

Population ......2.583 Million

Climate.....Subtropical Steppe climate

Altitude ......370 m above sea level

Average annual rainfall ...... 525 mm

Temperature range......27°C to 39°C

## **Benefits**

- Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, initially designed as a job creation program, has proven to be a powerful instrument in addressing climate challenges.
- Nearly 75% of the work under MGNREGA is related to natural resource management, an essential intervention as India faces growing climate risks.
- By building water conservation structures like wells, trenches, and check dams, rural communities are safeguarding their future against droughts and water scarcity.
- The scheme can be leveraged as a tool for climate adaptation, particularly in water-scarce regions like Rajasthan, India where groundwater levels have plummeted and rainfall is erratic.

## **Scaling Potential**

The potential to scale up such initiatives through MGNREGA is immense, especially when combined with other government programs focused on groundwater security. As climate risks worsen, including more erratic rainfall and depleting groundwater, it becomes critical to monitor the impact of these interventions and strengthen their design through scientific guidance. Programs like MGNREGA offer hope for water-scarce regions, providing both jobs and climate resilience.

## **Conclusion**

The wall of Surajpura is more than just a structure—it is a testament to the power of community-driven climate action. By tapping into MGNREGA funds, the villagers have not only secured their water supply but also revitalised agriculture and local livelihoods, proving that with determination and the right support, even the harshest climates can be made more livable.

