WATER VISIONARIES LEAVE A RICH LEGACY

ROYAL TOUCH

The Chandela and Bundela rulers built a network of weirs to tap run-off rainwater

Water, Wisdom

Pankaj Jaiswal

What does it mean to be a water visionary? The Chandela and Bundela rulers of central India provide an excellent example. Their irrigation systems and weirs, built over a thousand years ago, continue to serve the region today.

The Chandela and Bundela rulers were skilled in the art of water management. They built complex systems of weirs, tanks, and canals to capture and store rainwater, ensuring a regular supply of water for their subjects. These systems were not only practical but also served as symbols of the rulers' power and prestige.

The weirs were built along the course of rivers and streams to capture rainwater and direct it into large tanks or reservoirs. These structures were often quite sophisticated, with multiple levels and channels to control the flow of water. The water was then channeled into canals and distributaries to irrigate the surrounding fields.

The Chandela and Bundela rulers were experts in hydrology, recognizing the importance of water management for agriculture and economic development. Their systems were not only beneficial for their time but also set a precedent for future generations.

In conclusion, the Chandela and Bundela rulers were true water visionaries, whose innovative and sustainable approaches to water management continue to inspire us today.