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News: Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- Union cabinet has decided to continue with Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana till 2024 – 25.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (Core Scheme) launched in 2015. **Centre- States will be 75:25 per cent.** **In the case of the north-eastern region and hilly states, it will be 90:10.**
- The **Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare is implementing** the "Per Drop More Crop" component of PMKSY-PDMC.
- The scheme also aims at **restoring the lost irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of existing water bodies.**
- PMKSY is to be **implemented in an area development approach**, adopting **decentralized state-level planning and project execution**, allowing the states to draw their irrigation development plans based on district/blocks plans with a horizon of 5 to 7 years. States can take up projects based on the District/State Irrigation Plan.

- **Micro Irrigation Fund corpus of Rs. 5000 crore** has been created with **NABARD**.
- The objective of the fund is to facilitate the states in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation by taking up special and innovative projects and also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under PMKSY-PDMC to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems.
- The Government **provides financial assistance @ 55% for small and marginal farmers and @ 45% for other farmers for installation of Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems.**
- In addition, some States provide additional incentives/top up subsidy for encouraging farmers to adopt Micro Irrigation.
- The **Long-Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF)** was instituted under **NABARD** in **2016-17**.
- Under LTIF, **NABARD** provides loan towards the central share, as well as, the **state share with a tenor of 15 years.**
- The central share is provided to **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)**, whereas the loan towards **the state share is availed by the State Governments.**

- The corpus for the LTIF mainly comes from two sources- **Budgetary allocations from the Central Government and market borrowings from NABARD**. To borrow from the market, NABARD would issue bonds and the Central Government gives guarantee on repayment of such bonds.

News: Bhutan announces its highest civilian award to PM Modi

- On the occasion of Bhutan's national day, **Bhutan has decided to confer its highest civilian award Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo or The Order of The Druk Gyaplo to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- In 2016, he received the **highest civilian awards from Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan**.
- In 2018, he was conferred the **highest honour of Palestine**.
- In 2019, the **United Arab Emirates honoured the Indian Prime Minister** with the Order of Zyed Award.
- In the same year, **Russia, Bahrain and the Maldives also conferred Mr. Modi** with their respective highest civilian awards.
- In 2020, Mr. Modi received the prestigious **Legion of Merit from the United States of America**.

- Other prestigious awards given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at international forums include the **Seoul Peace Prize and Champions of the Earth Award** which is United Nation's highest environmental honour.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also **received the First-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award, Global Goalkeeper' Award by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award** by the Cambridge Energy Research Associates.