

**01 – 01 – 2022**

**News:** Over 22500 irrigation wells constructed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Har Khet Ko Pani

- The government has said that more than 22 thousand 500 irrigation wells have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Har Khet Ko Pani.
- Jal Shakti Ministry said, as on November this year, nearly 36 thousand small and marginal farmers have been benefited under the scheme.

## **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (Core Scheme) launched in 2015. **Centre- States share will be in 3:1 ratio. In the case of the north-eastern region and hilly states, it will be 9:1.**
- 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.

## **Objectives**

- **Convergence of investments in irrigation** at the field level.
- To **expand the cultivable area under assured irrigation** (Har Khet Ko Pani).
- To improve **on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water.**
- To enhance the **adoption of precision-irrigation** and other **water saving technologies (More crop per drop).**
- To **enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water** conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal based water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater private investment in a precision irrigation system. Peri-urban agriculture refers to farm units close to town which operate intensive semi- or fully commercial farms to grow vegetables

and other horticulture, raise chickens and other livestock, and produce milk and eggs.

**It is formulated by amalgamating ongoing schemes:**

- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) -Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) - Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.
- On-Farm Water Management (OFWM) - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC).
- Implementation - Decentralized implementation through State Irrigation Plan and District Irrigation Plan.

**News:** National Highways construction gone up by more than 50%: Govt

- The government has said that the National Highways construction has gone up by more than 50 per cent.
- Road Transport and Highways Ministry said, in the last seven years, length of National Highways has gone up by around 91,000 kilometres in 2014 to around 1,41,000 kilometres till date.

## **Bharatmala Pariyojana**

- Bharatmala Pariyojana is an **umbrella program for the highways sector** envisaged by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- Under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana, **implementation of 34,800 km of national highways in 5 years (from 2017 to 2022) has been approved at an estimated outlay of Rs. 5,35,000 crore.**
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has mandated the development of about 27,500 km of national highways under Phase-I.
- Phase-II envisages around **48,000 km of road network across India by 2024.**
- With about 52.32 lakh km of road network comprising National Highways, State Highways and other roads, **India has the second largest road network in the world.**

## Objectives

- To optimise the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions.
- The effective interventions include the development of economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes, national corridor efficiency improvement, border and international connectivity roads, coastal and port connectivity roads and greenfield expressways.
- **Economic Corridors:** These are integrated networks of infrastructure within a geographical area designed to stimulate economic development.
- **Greenfield Projects:** They lack constraints imposed by prior work on the site. Typically, it entails development on a completely vacant site and architects start completely from scratch.
- **Brownfield Projects:** They carry constraints related to the current state of the site and might be contaminated or have existing structures that architects have to tear down or modify in some way before the project can move forward.
- To generate a large number of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the construction and infrastructure sector and also as part of the enhanced economic activity resulting from better road connectivity across the country.
- To connect 550 districts in the country through national highway linkages.

- Improvement in the efficiency of existing corridors through the development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of chokepoint. Multimodal Logistics Parks are a key policy initiative of the Government of India to improve the country's logistics sector by lowering overall freight costs, reducing vehicular pollution and congestion, and cutting warehousing costs. A chokepoint is a single point through which all incoming and outgoing network traffic is funnelled and hence, leads to congestion and traffic.
- Enhance focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways.
- Emphasis on the use of scientific and technological planning for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring.
- Satellite mapping of corridors to identify upgradation requirements.
- Delegation of powers to expedite project delivery for successful completion of Phase I by 2022.

**News:** PM approves ex gratia from PMNRF for the victims of stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved an ex-gratia from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the victims of stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan.

## **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)**

- Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established in 1948 with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.
- PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament.
- The resources of the PMNRF are now utilized primarily to render immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, etc., and to the victims of major accidents and riots.
- Assistance from PMNRF is also rendered, to partially defray the expenses for medical treatment like heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment, and acid attack, etc.
- The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.
- PMNRF accepts only voluntary donations by individuals and institutions.



- Contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of Government or from the balance sheets of the public sector undertakings are not accepted. Conditional contributions, where the donor specifically mentions that the amount is meant for a particular purpose, are not accepted in the Fund.
- Prime Minister is the Chairman of PMNRF.
- Disbursements are made at the discretion and with the approval of the Prime Minister.
- The fund is administered on an Honorary basis by the Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister as Secretary of the fund.
- He is assisted on an Honorary basis by an officer of the rank of Director.
- The PMNRF is not audited by the CAG of India but by an independent auditor outside the Government.
- At present, Sarc & Associates, Chartered Accountants are the auditors.