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News: Delay in govt.'s flagship PMAYG scheme to invite penalty

- Pulling up the States for the delay in completion of the Narendra Modi government's flagship rural household scheme — Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) — the Union Ministry of Rural Development has come up with a set of penalties that the State governments will have to bear for any further delay.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)

- To achieve the objective of “**Housing for All**” by 2022, the **erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was restructured to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) w.e.f 1st April, 2016.**
- **Ministry of Rural development is the nodal ministry of PMAY - G.**
- Aim of the scheme is to provide a **pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutchha or dilapidated houses** by the end of March 2022 and to **help rural people Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutchha houses** by providing assistance in the form of a full grant.
- People belonging to **SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex**

servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, disabled persons and minorities are the main beneficiaries of the scheme.

- Selection of Beneficiaries is through a three stage validation - Socio Economic Caste Census 2011, Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging.
- The cost of unit assistance is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states.
- The minimum size of the house has been increased to 25 sq.mt (from 20sq.mt) with a hygienic cooking space.
- The unit assistance has been increased from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain and from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1.30 lakh in hilly states.
- The assistance for construction of toilets shall be leveraged through convergence with Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), MGNREGS or any other dedicated source of funding.
- Convergence for piped drinking water, electricity connection, LPG gas connection etc. different Government programmers are also to be attempted.
- The scheme also envisages the training of Rural Masons.

News: Plea to raise retirement age of judges

- Advocates' bodies, including the Bar Council of India (BCI), have resolved to push forward with a demand to enhance the **retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court and High Court to 67 and 65 from 65 and 62, respectively.**

Supreme Court

- Articles 124 to 147 of Indian Constitution speak about the Supreme Court, its composition, CJI and powers, roles and duties of Supreme Court.
- At present, there are **33 judges in the Supreme Court of India excluding the Chief Justice** of India.
- The **number of judges in Supreme Court is decided by Parliament** from time to time. However, **Parliament does not possess the power to reduce the number of judges.**
- **President appoints the CJI by a warrant under his hand and seal** with consultation of necessary judges.
- **President with consultation of CJI & necessary judges appoints Puisne judges.**
- Currently, Collegium is the appointing body of Judges. Collegium consists of CJI and four senior most judges of Supreme Court. Its decisions are binding on government on a resend, but the **time limit is not fixed for the government to act**

upon the decision which makes the appointment of judiciary a time consuming process.

- The CJI, Judges and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India subscribes to oath before the president of India, with the same sentences used.
- Supreme court hear petitions only in English.
- Enlargement of jurisdiction of Supreme Court and High Courts and union public service commission are the powers of parliament whereas State legislature has got the power to enlarge the jurisdiction of State Public Service Commission.
- In matters in the Union List, Parliament and in any other matter Parliament in concurrence with Government of India and the Government of any State can enlarge the powers and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- An important thing to note down is that Parliament cannot curtail the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court.
- Supreme Court in Shri T.S.R. Subramanian Vs Union of India Case, 2013 mandated the constitution of Civil Services Board.
- If there is a conflict among two or more judgements of the Supreme Court of India then, a judgement given by larger bench of Supreme Court prevails over the other.

High Court

- Articles 214 to 231 speak about the High Court in each state.
- The **composition of each High Court varies** from each one and it is **determined by the President**.
- A judge is appointed to the High Court till he achieves the age of 62. **15th Constitutional Amendment act of 1963** increased the retirement age of High Court judges from 60 to 62.
- The **Chief Justice** of a High Court is appointed by the **President of India** by a warrant under his hand and seal after **consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the governor of the state concerned**.
- For the appointment of **other judges**, the **chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted**.
- In case of **a common high court** for two or more states, the **governors of all the states** concerned are consulted by the president.
- When a Judge **has been or is so transferred**, he is entitled to receive in addition to his salary such **compensatory allowance as may be determined by Parliament** by law and, until so determined, such compensatory allowance as the President may by order fix.
- Any **questions regarding his age is to be decided by the president** after **consultation with the chief justice of India** and the decision of the president is **final**.