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News: PM Kisan Nidhi

- Recently, the Union Government released the seventeenth instalment of the PM Kisan Nidhi in the first decision of the newly sworn-in government.

Pradhan Manthri Kisan Samman Nidhi- PM KISAN

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is a **Central sector scheme** with 100% funding from Centre implemented by **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- Under this scheme, Gov. transfers **6000/- per year in three equal installments** directly to the bank account of farmers, **irrespective of the size of their farm holdings**.
- The scheme when launched was available only to small and marginal farmer families having combined landholding/ownership of up to 2 hectares. The provision is now taken away for including all land holders to be the beneficiaries of the scheme with some exceptions.

Exceptions to the beneficiaries of PM KISAN Yojana

- All Institutional Landholders.

Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to the following categories:

- Former and present holders of **constitutional posts**.
- Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and **former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.**
- **All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi-Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees).**
- **All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10, 000/- or more (Excluding Multi-Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees).**
- **All Persons who paid Income Tax in the last assessment year.**
- **Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.**

- Definition of the family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
- The identification of beneficiary of this scheme is entirely on the hands of State/ UT govt.
- For availing benefits under the scheme, Aadhaar is mandatory.
- Recently, on the first anniversary of PM-KISAN program, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched PM-KISAN mobile App in collaboration with National Information Centre.
- The farmers can view the status of their application; edit details like Aadhaar Number and Bank Account numbers.
- All OBC beneficiaries involved in Agricultural activities and getting coverage under the PM Kisan shall be eligible for coverage under Interest Subvention scheme Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) Yojana.

Definition of Farmer

- There is no well-defined definition of 'Farmer' for the programme - PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi).

- Instead, the definition available in the National Policy for Farmers, which was drafted by the National Commission on Farmers, headed by M.S. Swaminathan and officially approved by the centre in 2007, is used.

The Definition clause of Farmers in the National Farmers Policy reads like:

- “For the purpose of this Policy, the term ‘Farmer’ will refer to a person actively engaged in the economic and/or livelihood activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities and will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners, pastoralists, non-corporate planters and planting labourers, as well as the persons engaged in various farming related occupations, such as sericulture, vermiculture and agroforestry. The term will also include tribal families/persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.”