

Hindustan Times- 16- December-2021

{ **OPINION** } NATIONAL WATER GRID

## Interlinking rivers to achieve atmanirbharta



**The climate crisis no longer remains an issue with merely climatic** implications. Its reverberations are felt in the world of development and strategy. Our nation is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of the climate crisis. Increasingly, unpredictable patterns of monsoon rainfall, while catering to the second largest population in the world, might overwhelm the drinking water infrastructure of India. Hence, it is vital for the government to work towards comprehensively overhauling the existing water infrastructure of the nation, thereby recalibrating it with India's needs in the 21st century, writes Union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The answer to this recalibration lies in the national water grid, and the Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme. The national water grid is the network of canals and dams to be constructed under the ILR programme, which seeks to sustainably divert water from regions with rivers having excess water to deficient geographies. →P20

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# Interlinking rivers to achieve atmanirbharta

With agricultural, economic, strategic, and sociological benefits, the national water grid can help India tap into its full potential as an economic powerhouse

**T**he climate crisis no longer remains an issue with merely climatic implications. Its reverberations are felt in the world of development and strategy. Our nation is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of the climate crisis. Increasingly, unpredictable patterns of monsoon rainfall, while catering to the second largest population in the world, might overwhelm the drinking water infrastructure of India. Hence, it is vital for the government to work towards comprehensively overhauling the existing water infrastructure of the nation, thereby recalibrating it with India's needs in the 21st century.

The answer to this recalibration lies in the national water grid, and the Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme, making them perhaps the most important need of the nation at this hour. The question that arises at this stage is: What is a national water grid? The national water grid is the network of canals and dams to be constructed under the ILR programme of the Government of India, which seeks to sustainably divert

water from regions with rivers having excess water to geographies deficient in this natural resource. The ILR programme received an impetus during the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's tenure, under Prime Minister (PM) Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

An intricate web of a comprehensive policy involving various ministries is required to be created to implement a project of the ILR's magnitude. Federal sensibilities must also be accounted for through forming a consensus. The subtle art of policymaking needs to be backed with resolute and decisive leadership. This is where the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was deficient, and where PM Narendra Modi's leadership has made a difference to projects that long lay dormant between 2004 and 2014.

In less than five months of the NDA government's swearing-in, a special committee on ILR, as per the directions of the Supreme Court, was constituted by an order on September 23, 2014. The ILR has two components — the Himalayan River Development Component and the Peninsular Rivers Development Component. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has already identified 14 links under the Himalayan Rivers Component and 16 links under the Peninsular Rivers Component, for inter-basin transfer of water after having conducted geographical and topographical surveys with due dili-

gence.

The benefits of the national water grid have four distinct dimensions: Agricultural, economic, strategic, and sociological. On the economic front, the interlinking project will enable the production of 34,000 MW (megawatts) of energy, while curbing irrigation shortages to 35 million hectares of land. The benefits are sociological too. Research by the World Bank shows that halving the time required

to fetch water for households increases school attendance among girl children by 2.4 percentage points on average, with the impact being far greater in rural areas. Thus, interlinking rivers, by increasing water supply, invariably results in women's empowerment

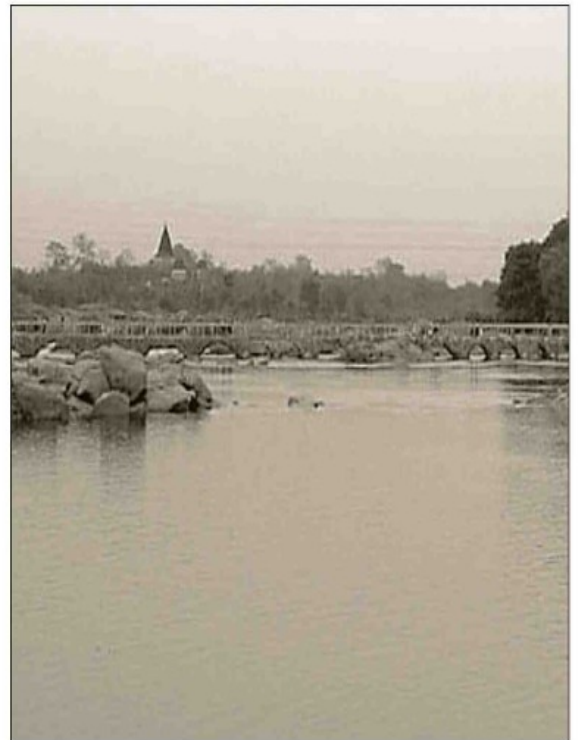
— a dream already being realised by PM Modi's Ujjwala Yojana.

With our adversaries trying to disrupt the natural flow of rivers in the subcontinent by constructing dams, the ILR programme will ensure a safety net of water supply, if these foreign powers ever try to divert the natural flow of our rivers. All four dimensions are vital for the PM's vision of ensuring an *aatmanirbhar* India — a self-reliant India that is under no compulsion to be dependent on the world. Therefore, the ILR and the national water grid are essential policy imperatives in tapping into India's full potential to grow as an economic powerhouse.

The first chapter of this promising success story is being authored by the



Jyotiraditya Scindia



It is vital for the government to work towards overhauling the existing water infrastructure, recalibrating it with India's needs in the 21st century. The answer to this recalibration lies in the national water grid, and the ILR programme, making them, perhaps, the most important need of the hour **ANI**

PM in the form of the Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project. The Cabinet, last Wednesday, under the PM's direction, approved the funding and implementation of this historic project, which has a total cost of Rs 44,605 crore. The government is committed to delivering on its promise of the project's completion in eight years.

The project has far-reaching positive implications on the region that I have the good fortune of calling my *janambhoomi* (birthplace) and *kar-ambhoomi* (workplace). The 13 districts in the Bundelkhand-Chambal belt bordering Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have, for generations, battled withering drought. For generations, despite promises by successive governments, this region had remained neglected.

With PM Modi at the helm of affairs, the project has been infused with renewed vigour. Statistics from the Jal Shakti ministry underline that the project will realistically provide irrigation to 10.62 lakh hectares of barren farmlands, and provide safe drinking water to about six million people. The benefits also extend to industry and the power sector, with infrastructure providing for the generation of 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.

PM Modi is committed to making India a geopolitical power, self-reliant and strong. A new dawn awaits Madhya Pradesh, and, in turn, India.

*Jyotiraditya Scindia is the Union minister for civil aviation and a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The views expressed are personal*

Hindustan Times- 16- December-2021

# Irrigation scheme with ₹93k-cr outlay cleared

**NEW DELHI:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for 2021-26 with an outlay of ₹93,068 crore, which would benefit about 2.2 million farmers, including 250,000 scheduled caste and 200,000 scheduled tribe farmers, an official government statement said.

Launched in 2015, the PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, provid-

ing central grants to state governments for specific activities.

The CCEA approved central support of ₹37,454 crore to states and ₹20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loans availed by the government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21.

Moreover, a central fund of 90% of water components has also been provisioned for Renukaji dam project (Himachal Pradesh) and Lakhwar multipurpose project (Uttarakhand). →P14



Hindustan Times- 16- December-2021

{ CABINET DECISIONS }

# ₹93k-cr irrigation plan to aid farmers gets nod

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of ₹93,068 crore, which would benefit about 2.2 million farmers, including 250,000 scheduled caste and 200,000 scheduled tribe farmers, an official statement by the government said.

Launched in 2015, the PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to state governments for specific activities. These consist of two major components by the department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation — Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP), the statement said. The HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub-components — command area development (CAD), surface minor irrigation (SMI), repair, renovation and restoration (RRR) of water bodies, and ground water development, it said. In addition, the watershed development part is being implemented by the department of land resources.

The CCEA on Wednesday approved central support of ₹37,454 crore to states and ₹20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loans availed by the government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21. AIBP and HKKP and watershed development components have



The PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to state governments for specific activities

been approved for continuation during 2021-26, the official statement said.

The AIBP flagship programme aims to provide financial support to irrigation projects. "Total additional irrigation potential creation targeted during 2021-26 under AIBP is 13.88 lakh hectare. Apart from focused completion of 60 ongoing projects, including their 30.23 lakh hectare command area development, additional projects can also be taken up. The inclusion criteria have been relaxed for projects under tribal and drought prone areas," read the official statement by the CCEA.

Moreover, a central fund of 90% of water components has also been provisioned for two national projects: Renukaji dam project (Himachal Pradesh) and Lakhwar multipurpose project (Uttarakhand).

"The two projects will provide beginning of storage in Yamuna

basin benefitting six states of upper Yamuna basin, augmenting water supply to Delhi as well Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan and a major step towards rejuvenation of Yamuna," the government said in the statement.

HKKP aims to enhance physical access on the farm and expansion of cultivable areas under assured irrigation, the statement read. "Under HKKP, surface minor irrigation and repair-renovation-restoration of water bodies component of PMKSY is targeted to provide additional 4.5 lakh hectare irrigation," it said.

In view of the importance of rejuvenation of water bodies, the cabinet has approved a paradigm shift in funding of their rejuvenation in both urban and rural areas, with significant expansion of their inclusion criteria, and enhancement of central assistance from 25% to 60% in general area, it said.

Times of India- 16- December-2021

## **Centre allocates ₹93,000cr for top irrigation plan & 2 hydro projects**

**New Delhi:** The Cabinet on Wednesday approved an outlay of over Rs 93,000 crore for its on-going flagship irrigation scheme — Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) — for 2021-26 and central grant of 90% for two national projects — Renukajidam project, Himachal and Lakhwar multipurpose project, Uttarakhand — which would provide storage benefitting six states/UT including Delhi, UP, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

These projects are considered quite critical for water supply to Delhi and other participating states. Besides augmenting water supply in six states/UTs, including annual supply of 498 million cubic meters (MCM) for Delhi, these projects would also provide irrigation benefits and hydro-power.

Both the projects, cleared in 2018-19, are key components of the Yamuna rejuvenation programme through ensuring uninterrupted water flow in the river. “Twenty-two lakh farmers would be benefitted from these projects. It will also give a new life to the river Yamuna,” said ‘Jal Shakti’ minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat while sharing details of the Cabinet decision.

Launched in 2015, the PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the states for specific activities. TNN



Millennium Post- 16- December-2021

# Sinchayee Yojana for '21-26 cleared

Outlay of Rs. 93,068 crore, including Rs.37,454 cr central assistance to States

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna' for 2021-26 that has a provision to fund 90 per cent of the water component for the Renukaji and Lakhwar dams which would eventually improve water supply to Delhi. The implementation has been approved with an outlay of Rs.93,068 crore. The CCEA authorised central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21.

The scheme, an official statement said, would benefit about 22 lakh farmers, including 2.5 lakh scheduled caste and two lakh scheduled tribe farmers. "Central funding of 90 per cent of water component for two national projects, namely Renukaji Dam Project (Himachal Pradesh) and Lakhwar Multipurpose Project (Uttarakhand) has been provisioned," it said.

"The two projects would provide beginning of storage in Yamuna basin, benefitting six states of upper Yamuna basin, augmenting water supply to Delhi as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan, and a major step towards rejuvenation of the Yamuna," the statement said.

It also mentioned the central government's flagship Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and stated that it aims for financial support to irrigation projects. The total additional irrigation potential creation targeted during 2021-26 under the AIBP is 13.88 lakh hectare, and apart from focused completion of 60 ongoing



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

## Highlights

- » 'The scheme would benefit about 22L farmers, including 2.5L scheduled caste and 2L scheduled tribe farmers'
- » Scheme to fund 90% of water component for Renukaji and Lakhwar dams which would improve supply to Delhi
- » 2 projects would provide beginning of storage in Yamuna basin
- » The total additional irrigation potential creation targeted during 2021-26 under the AIBP is 13.88 lakh hectare
- » On the Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) programme, the statement said that 'it aims for increasing enhancement of physical access on the farm and expansion of cultivable area under assured irrigation'

ing projects, including their 30.23 lakh hectare command area development, additional projects can also be taken up, the statement said.

The inclusion criteria have been relaxed for projects under tribal and drought prone areas.

On the Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) programme, the statement said that "it aims for increasing enhancement of physical access on the farm and expansion of cultivable area under assured irrigation".

Under the HKKP, surface minor irrigation and repair-renovation-restoration of water bodies components of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) is targeted to provide additional 4.5 lakh hectare irrigation, the statement said. In view of the

importance of rejuvenation of water bodies, the Cabinet has approved a paradigm shift in funding of their rejuvenation in both urban and rural areas, with significant expansion of their inclusion criteria, and enhancement of central assistance from 25 to 60 per cent in general areas, it said.

The statement said the ground water component of the HKKP, approved provisionally for 2021-22, targets creation of irrigation potential of 1.52 lakh hectare. The watershed development component focuses on development of rain-fed areas towards soil and water conservation, regeneration of ground water, arresting runoff and promoting extension activities related to water harvesting and management.

The Hindu- 16- December-2021

# Be dispassionate on Mullaperiyar: SC

‘Court should not be compelled into the day-to-day management of the dam’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday told Kerala and Tamil Nadu to not approach the court for every issue regarding the Mullaperiyar dam, urging them to behave like normal litigants and not use the court as a platform to score political brownie points.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar said the States should approach the Mullaperiyar issue in a dispassionate manner and take decisions in a consensual manner. It reminded the two neighbours that the Supreme Court should not be compelled into the day-to-day management of the dam. The court's stern



**Dam tussle:** Water being released from the Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala on November 18. • FILE PHOTO

words came after Kerala filed an application complaining that Tamil Nadu was releasing water from the dam in the middle of the night without any prior warning, endangering the lives of thousands living downstream,

unaware in their sleep of the danger to their lives. Kerala said Tamil Nadu should inform 24 hours before opening the shutters to release water.

The court said the State should first approach the Su-

pervisory Committee constituted on the orders of the court to hear such grievances. The court said it was up to the Supervisory Committee to consider the need for the release of water from the dam, and when or how it should be released.

“But every activity should be consensual and the committee will take a decision...your [Kerala's] representative is also there,” Justice Khanwilkar addressed Mr. Gupta. “All political statements are being made here and such statements cannot be made in court. Let there be a dispassionate approach,” he remarked.

It posted on January 11 a batch of petitions raising safety concerns over the dam.

The Hindu- 16- December-2021

# Nod to extend irrigation scheme for five years

## Only 46% of PMKSY projects completed

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI**

The Cabinet has given its approval to extend its umbrella scheme for irrigation, water supply, ground water and watershed development projects for another five years.

Less than half of the identified irrigation projects have been completed since the scheme – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – began in 2015, according to Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The extension of PMKSY till 2026 will cost ₹93,068 crore, benefit 22 lakh farm-

ers and fund dams critical for water supply to Delhi and five other States in the upper Yamuna basin, said an official statement from the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs.

“In 2015-16, 99 projects were identified which were completed more than 50% but had been pending for years. Of the 99 projects, 46 have been completed. The rest of the projects will be completed by 2024-25,” Mr. Shekhawat told journalists after the Cabinet decision.

The additional irrigation potential creation target over the next five years is 13.88 lakh hectares.





Prem Nath Pandey

Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Anurag Thakur

## CCEA nod to extension of irrigation scheme

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 15

THE UNION government Wednesday approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) till 2026 — a move expected to help fund irrigation projects that will increase water supply across northern India, including in Delhi.

The approval for PMKSY — with an outlay of Rs 93,068 crore — was granted for 2021-26. PMKSY was first launched in 2015.

The decision was taken at the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.

"It has been decided to implement the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and its four components from 2021-22 to 2025-26... This is a historic decision," said Union

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur, at a press briefing in Delhi.

"Central funding of 90 per cent of water component for two national projects, namely Renukaji Dam Project (Himachal Pradesh) and Lakhwar Multipurpose Project (Uttarakhand) has been provisioned. The two projects would provide beginning of storage in Yamuna basin benefitting six states of upper Yamuna basin, augmenting water supply to Delhi as well Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, UP, Haryana and Rajasthan, and a major step towards rejuvenation of Yamuna," a statement said.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the Lakhwar dam project on Yamuna river, was conceptualised in 1976. He said that an area of 13.81 lakh hectare will be brought under irrigation after completion of the two dams.

**FULL REPORT ON**

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

The Tribune- 16- December-2021

# CM: Centre has okayed Renukaji dam project

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 15

The Union Government today approved the Renukaji dam project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) at a Cabinet meeting held in New Delhi, said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

He said that the detailed project report (DPR) for Rs 4,596.76 crore was accepted in 2015, but as there was no agreement between the beneficiary states, the project could not be taken forward.

Thakur said that Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, signed an interstate agreement on

Work to start in  
Dec 2022, to be  
completed in 6 yrs

January 9, 2019. Later, the Ministry of Jal Shakti accepted the DPR for Rs 6,946.99 crore on December 9, 2019.

The Chief Minister said that the project envisages the construction of a 148-metre high rock fill dam with storage capacity of 498 million cubic metres, which would be used for supplying drinking water @ 23 cubic metres per second to the National Capital Territory of Delhi.—TNS

Hindustan- 16- December-2021

पांच सालों में विभिन्न परियोजनाओं पर 93 हजार करोड़ खर्च होंगे

# कृषि सिंचाई योजना को पांच वर्ष और बढ़ाया गया

कैबिनेट फैसले

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना (पीएमकेएसवाई) को वर्ष 2021 से पांच वर्ष बढ़ाकर वर्ष 2026 तक करने के प्रस्ताव को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। इस पर कुल लागत 93,068 करोड़ रुपये आने का अनुमान है। केंद्र ने रेणुकाजी बांध परियोजना (हिमाचल प्रदेश) और लखवार बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजना (उत्तराखंड) नामक दो राष्ट्रीय परियोजनाओं के लिये 90 प्रतिशत केंद्रीय वित्तपोषण का प्रावधान किया है। इससे इन परियोजनाओं को तेजी से पूरा किया जा सकेगा। लखवार बांध परियोजना 1976 से प्रस्तावित चल रही है।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडल समिति (सीसीईए) की बैठक में यह निर्णय किया गया। सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर और जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक के बाद कहा कि मंत्रिमंडल ने प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना को 2021-22 से 2025-26 तक जारी रखने को मंजूरी दी है। इससे करीब 22 लाख किसानों को फायदा होगा। इसमें 2.5 लाख अनुसूचित जाति और 2 लाख अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग के किसान हैं। इस पर कुल लागत



नई दिल्ली में बुधवार को कैबिनेट फैसलों की जानकारी देते केंद्रीय मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर (दायें), अश्विनी वैष्णव (बीच में) और गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत। • सोनू मेहता

## यमुना को जीवन मिलेगा

शेखावत ने बताया कि दोनों परियोजनाएं यमुना बेसिन में भंडारण की शुरुआत करेंगी, जिससे यमुना बेसिन के ऊपरी हिस्से के छह राज्यों को फायदा पहुंचेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, उत्तरप्रदेश, हरियाणा और राजस्थान को जलापूर्ति होगी तथा जल प्रवाह बनाये रखने में मदद मिलेगी तथा यमुना को नया जीवन मिलेगा।

## जल स्रोतों को जीवित करने के लिए वित्तपोषण

93,068 करोड़ रुपये आने का अनुमान है। इसमें राज्यों के लिये 37,454 करोड़ रुपये की केंद्रीय सहायता शामिल है। इसमें पीएमकेएसवाई 2016-21 के

## हर खेत को पानी और भूमि

त्वरित सिंचाई लाभ कार्यक्रम (एआईबीबी), हर खेत को पानी (एचकेकेपी) और भूमि, जल व अन्य विकास घटकों को 2021-26 में जारी रखने को भी मंजूरी दी गई। इसमें 30.23 लाख हेक्टेयर कमान क्षेत्र विकास सहित चालू 60 परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने पर ध्यान देने के अलावा परियोजनाओं को भी शुरू किया जा सकता है।

जल स्रोतों को दोबारा जीवित करने के लिए वित्तपोषण जल स्रोतों के उद्धार के महत्व के मद्देनजर, मंत्रिमंडल ने शहरी और ग्रामीण इलाकों में जल स्रोतों को दोबारा जीवित करने के लिये वित्तपोषण को मंजूरी दी है।

दौरान सिंचाई विकास के लिये भारत सरकार द्वारा लिये गये ऋण को चुकाने के सम्बंध में 20,434.56 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किये हैं।



Punjab Kesari- 16- December-2021

# कृषि सिंचाई योजना को 5 वर्ष बढ़ाने को मंजूरी

- 22 लाख किसानों को होगा योजना से फायदा : कुल लागत 93,068 करोड़ रुपये आने का अनुमान

**नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) :** केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना (पीएमकेएसवाई) को वर्ष 2021 से पांच वर्ष बढ़ाकर वर्ष 2026 तक करने के प्रस्ताव को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। इस पर कुल लागत 93,068 करोड़ रुपये आने का अनुमान है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडल समिति (सीसीईए) की बैठक में यह निर्णय किया गया।

सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर और जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक के बाद संवाददाताओं को यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि मंत्रिमंडल ने प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना को 2021-22 से 2025-26 तक जारी रखने को मंजूरी दी है जिससे करीब 22 लाख किसानों को

**यूपीआई, रुपये डेबिट कार्ड से लेनदेन पर 1,300 करोड़ का 'शुल्क' लौटाया जाएगा**

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने बुधवार को यूपीआई और रुपये डेबिट कार्ड के जरिये डिजिटल लेनदेन पर 1,300 करोड़ रुपये के 'शुल्क' को वापस (रिइम्बर्समेंट) करने की मंजूरी दे दी है। इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार मर्चेन्ट डिस्काउंट रेट (एमडीआर) के तहत व्यक्तियों द्वारा कारोबारियों को किए गए डिजिटल भुगतान पर लगाए गए लेनदेन शुल्क को लौटाएगी। वैष्णव ने कहा कि आने वाले एक साल में सरकार करीब 1,300 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगी, ताकि अधिक से अधिक लोग डिजिटल भुगतान की ओर बढ़ें। उन्होंने बताया कि नवंबर में 7.56 लाख करोड़ रुपये के 423 करोड़ डिजिटल लेनदेन हुए। इस योजना के तहत रुपये डेबिट कार्ड और भीम-यूपीआई का इस्तेमाल करके किए गए 2,000 रुपये तक के डिजिटल लेनदेन पर शुल्क को लौटाया जाएगा।

फायदा होगा जिसमें 2.5 लाख अनुसूचित जाति और 2 लाख अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग के किसान हैं। सरकारी बयान के अनुसार, इस पर कुल लागत 93,068 करोड़ रुपये आने का अनुमान है जिसमें राज्यों के लिये 37,454 करोड़ रुपये की केंद्रीय सहायता शामिल है। सीसीईए ने राज्यों के लिये 37,454 करोड़ रुपये की केंद्रीय सहायता तथा पीएमकेएसवाई 2016-21 के दौरान

सिंचाई विकास के लिये भारत सरकार द्वारा लिये गये ऋण को चुकाने के सम्बंध में 20,434.56 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किये हैं। इसमें कहा गया है कि इसमें रेणुकाजी बांध परियोजना (हिमाचल प्रदेश) और लखवार बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजना (उत्तराखंड) नामक दो राष्ट्रीय परियोजनाओं के लिये 90 प्रतिशत केंद्रीय वित्तपोषण का प्रावधान किया गया है।