



## India's 6th Minor Irrigation Census

**For Prelims:** Minor Irrigation Census, Minor irrigation schemes

**For Mains:** Initiatives Related to Irrigation, Importance of census on minor irrigation

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the **6<sup>th</sup> census of minor irrigation schemes (with reference year 2017-18)**, shedding light on the state of irrigation practices across India.

- So far, five censuses were conducted in 1986-87, 1993-94, 2000-01, 2006-07, and 2013-14.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

- **Total Minor Irrigation Schemes:**
  - A total of **23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes** have been reported in the country.
    - Among these, **21.93 million (94.8%) are groundwater (GW) schemes, and 1.21 million (5.2%) are Surface Water (SW) schemes.**
- **Dominant Types of Schemes:**
  - **Dug-wells have the highest share in MI schemes** followed by shallow tube-wells, medium tube-wells and deep tube-wells.
  - The 6<sup>th</sup> MI census recorded an **increase of about 1.42 million MI schemes compared to the previous census.**
    - Nationally, GW schemes saw a **6.9% increase, while SW schemes increased by 1.2%.**
- **Leading States in MI Schemes:**
  - **Uttar Pradesh leads in MI schemes in India**, followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
  - **Maharashtra is the leading State in dug-wells**, surface flow and surface lift schemes.
  - **Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab** are the leading States in shallow tube-wells, medium tube-wells and deep tube-wells, respectively.
  - In SW schemes, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand have the highest share.
- **Ownership Breakdown:**
  - Approximately **96.6% of MI schemes are under private ownership.**
  - Among GW schemes, **98.3% are owned by private entities, and in SW schemes, this share is 64.2%.**
  - For the first time, data on the gender of MI scheme owners was collected.
    - **18.1% of individually owned schemes are owned by women.**
- **Financing and Sources:**
  - Around **60.2% of schemes are financed through a single source.**

- **Own savings of individual farmers contribute significantly to single-source financing (79.5%).**
- **39.8% of schemes have more than one source of finance.**

## What is a Minor Irrigation scheme?

- A minor irrigation scheme is a type of irrigation project that uses surface water or groundwater to irrigate a **culturable command area (CCA)** of up to 2,000 hectares.
  - **CCA is an area which can be irrigated from a scheme** and is fit for cultivation.
- Minor irrigation schemes are classified **into two major categories and six sub-categories.**
  - **Ground Water (GW)** schemes encompass **dugwells, shallow tube wells, medium tube wells, and deep tube wells.**
  - Surface Water (SW) schemes consist of **surface flow and surface lift schemes.**
- The minor irrigation schemes provide the **farmers with controlled and timely irrigation which the new high yielding varieties of seeds demand.** These schemes are labour intensive, less implementation period and involve reasonable investments for their commissioning.

## What are the Initiatives Taken by the Government Related to Irrigation?

- [Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana \(PMKSY\).](#)
- [Per Drop More Crop.](#)
- [Mission Kakatiya.](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/india-s-6th-minor-irrigation-census>

