



Haryana Declares Winners for 24,484 Solar Water Pumps under PM-KUSUM | Haryana | 29 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (**HAREDA**) has granted contracts for the **provision, installation, and commissioning of 24,484 solar water pumping systems** as part of Component B of the [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan Yojana \(PM-KUSUM\)](#).

Key Points

- **Component B of PM-KUSUM** centers on the **instalation of two million independent solar water pumps**, intended for agricultural irrigation purposes.
- **The project targets a range of beneficiaries, such as** individual farmers, water user associations, cattle shelters, [farmer-producer organizations](#), [primary agricultural credit societies](#), and community-based irrigation systems.

What is PM-KUSUM?

▪ About:

- The PM-KUSUM is a **flagship scheme** initiated by the Indian government in 2019 with the **primary objective of transforming the agricultural sector by promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions**.
- It operates on a **demand-driven approach**. Capacities are allocated based on the demands received from various states and union territories (UTs).
- Through various components and financial support, **PM-KUSUM envisions** achieving a significant **solar power capacity addition of 30.8 GW by 31st March, 2026**.

▪ Objectives of PM-KUSUM:

- **De-dieselisation of the Farm Sector:** The scheme aims to reduce the dependence on diesel for irrigation by encouraging the use of solar-powered pumps and other renewable energy sources. It also seeks to increase farmers' income by reducing irrigation costs through the use of solar pumps and enabling them to sell surplus solar power to the grid.
- **Water and Energy Security for Farmers:** By providing access to solar pumps and promoting solar-based community irrigation projects, the scheme aims to enhance water and energy security for farmers.
- **Curbing Environmental Pollution:** Through the adoption of clean and renewable solar energy, the scheme aims to mitigate environmental pollution caused by conventional energy sources.

▪ Components:

- **Component-A: Setting up of 10,000 MW of Decentralized** Ground/Stilt Mounted Solar Power Plants on barren/fallow/pasture/marshy/ cultivable land of farmers.
 - **Component-B: Installation of 20 Lakh Stand-alone Solar Pumps** in off-grid areas.
 - **Component-C: Solarisation of 15 Lakh Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps** through: Individual Pump Solarisation and Feeder Level Solarisation.
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MGNREGS Wage Rates Revised for Different States | Haryana | 29 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, wages under the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MGNREGS\)](#) have been revised, with hikes ranging between 4 and 10% for different states.

Key Points

- **Haryana has the highest wage rate for unskilled workers** under the scheme at **Rs 374 a day**, while **Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have the lowest at Rs 234**.
- The **increases have been made on the 2023 wage rates** under the scheme that is aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing **at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year** to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- **About:** It is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- **Launch:**
 - It was launched on 2nd February 2006
 - The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 23rd August 2005.
- **Objective:**
 - The primary objective of the scheme is **to guarantee 100 days of employment** in every financial year to **adult members of any rural household** willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- **Legal Right to Work:**
 - Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act **aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework**.
 - At least **one-third of beneficiaries have to be women**.
 - Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the [Minimum Wages Act, 1948](#).
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:**
 - The most important part of MGNREGA's design is **its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days** of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
 - This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- **Decentralized Planning:**
 - There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in [Panchayati Raj Institutions \(PRIs\)](#) in planning and implementing these works.
 - The act mandates [Gram sabhas](#) **to recommend the works** that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.