



Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Adds Beneficiaries to PM-Kisan

For Prelims: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi \(PM-Kisan\)](#), [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\) Scheme](#), [Aadhaar linkage](#), [Saturation Drive](#)

For Mains: Saturation Drive and its impact on the PM Kisan Beneficiaries through Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Source: [IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the number of [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi \(PM-Kisan\) scheme](#) beneficiaries has declined by more than **20%**, decreasing from a peak of **10.47 crore** in **April-July 2022** to **8.12 crore**.

- The government's proactive measures, particularly the "[saturation drive](#)" initiated under the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**, have added 34 lakh farmers back to the list of beneficiaries.

What is Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra?

- **About:**
 - It is a nationwide campaign to **raise awareness** through **outreach activities** to achieve **saturation of schemes of Govt. of India** across the country covering all [Gram Panchayats](#), [Nagar Panchayats](#) and [Urban Local Bodies](#).
 - The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of government approach with active involvement of various **Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Central Govt. Organizations and Institutions**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Reach out to the **vulnerable** who are eligible under various schemes but have not availed benefit so far.
 - **Dissemination of information** and generating awareness about schemes.
 - Interaction with beneficiaries of government schemes through their **personal stories/ experience sharing**.
 - Enrolment of potential beneficiaries through details ascertained during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

What is PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-Kisan)?

- **About:**
 - It was launched to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers.
 - It has become operational from **December, 2018**.
- **Financial Benefits:**
 - Financial benefit of **Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments, every four month** is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\) mode](#).

- **Scope of the Scheme:**
 - The scheme was initially meant for **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)** having landholding upto **2 hectares** but scope of the scheme was extended to cover all landholding farmers.
- **Funding and Implementation:**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
 - It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- **Objectives:**
 - To supplement the **financial needs** of the **Small and Marginal Farmers** in procuring various inputs to ensure **proper crop health** and **appropriate yields**, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
 - To protect them from falling in the clutches of **moneylenders** for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the **farming activities**.
- **PM-KISAN Mobile App:**
 - It was developed and designed by **the National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- **Physical Verification Module:**
 - A mandatory physical verification of **5%** beneficiary every year is being done as per the provisions laid down in the scheme.

What are the Challenges of PM-Kisan?

- **Mandatory Provisions and Aadhaar Linkage:**
 - The **mandatory land seeding provisions** and the requirement to **link Aadhaar** with **active bank accounts** have introduced complexity, leading to challenges for farmers in complying with these prerequisites.
 - Farmers, especially those in remote areas, may face technical challenges in fulfilling the **Aadhaar linkage** and **land seeding requirements**, hindering their access to **PM-Kisan** benefits.
- **Awareness and Outreach:**
 - Many eligible farmers may still be unaware of the **PM-Kisan scheme** or may not have sufficient information about the application process.
 - Despite efforts, **outreach initiatives** may struggle to reach all segments of the farming community, particularly in remote or marginalized areas.
- **Technology Accessibility:**
 - Disparities in technology access, including smartphones and internet connectivity, may hinder farmers' ability to engage with the online processes required for PM-Kisan enrollment and compliance.

Way Forward

- Conduct a comprehensive review of mandatory land seeding provisions and Aadhaar linkage requirements for simplicity and efficiency.
- Utilize technology to create user-friendly platforms for seamless compliance.
- Establish community-level engagement programs to reach vulnerable farmers.
- Collaborate with local authorities, agricultural services, and NGOs to identify and support eligible farmers unaware of PM-Kisan benefits.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Exp:

- The Aadhaar platform helps service providers authenticate identity of residents electronically, in a safe and quick manner, making service delivery more cost effective and efficient. According to the GoI and UIDAI, Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship.
- However, UIDAI has also published a set of contingencies when the Aadhaar issued by it is liable for rejection. An Aadhaar with mixed or anomalous biometric information or multiple names in a single name (like Urf or Alias) can be deactivated. Aadhaar can also get deactivated upon non-usage of the same for three consecutive years.

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