

UPSC Notes Civil Service Examination

UPSC GS-III

PM Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana was launched in the year 2016 by PM Narendra Modi along with the other provisions of Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016. It came into effect from 17th December 2016 under the Ministry of Finance.

There have been recent updates on the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana as declared by the Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman on March 26th, 2020.

This scheme was valid from December 16, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and provided an opportunity to declare the unaccounted wealth and black money in a confidential manner and avoid prosecution after paying a fine of 50% on the undisclosed income. An additional 25% of the undisclosed income is invested in the scheme which can be refunded after four years, without any interest.

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 in India, the Finance Minister announced a ₹1.7 lakh crore Gareeb Kalyan package to mitigate the loss faced by the poor due to the coronavirus lockdown.

The highlights of this scheme have been mentioned in the table below:

Name of the scheme	PMGKY
Full-Form	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
Date of launch	17th December 2016
Government Ministry	Ministry of Finance

PM Garib Kalyan Yojana – Recent Updates

The latest announcement on PMGKY was made on 26th March, 2020 as an initiative towards the loss caused by the outbreak. The 21 days lock down is expected to cost the Indian Economy a cost of around 9 lakh crores.

Some of the latest announcements made by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman are mentioned below:

- To provide an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs per health worker affected by COVID-19.
- To provide free resources of 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for 80 crore poor people for the next three months under the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.
- 20 crore Women Jan Dhan account holders will be provided Rs 500 per month for next three months. To know more about the [PM Jan-Dhan Yojana](#), refer to the linked article.
- There will be an increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 per day to benefit 13.62 crore families.
- The Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers.

To know about other [government schemes](#), refer to the linked page.

Benefits of PM Garib Kalyan Package

To reduce the loss caused by the outbreak of Covid-19 in India, the Finance Minister launched the PM Garib Kalyan Package on March 26th 2020 for the BPL families.

Some of the benefits provided by the PM Garib Kalyan Package are as follows:

- **An Insurance Cover of Rs. 50 Lakh**

Under this PM Garib Kalyan Scheme, any health worker in government hospitals and healthcare centres who are treating the Covid-19 patients would be provided with an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh if met with some accident. These health workers include Safai karamcharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists. All government health centres, wellness centres and hospitals of Centres as well as States would be covered under this scheme. Approximately 22 lakh health workers would be provided insurance cover to fight this pandemic.

- **Free Pulses for the next 3 months under PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana**

The Government of India declared to provide free resources of 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for 80 crore poor people for the next three months under the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana. Each one of them would be provided double of their current entitlement over the next three months to ensure adequate availability of protein to all Covid-19 affected BPL families.

- **Benefit to farmers**

The Government to front-load Rs. 2,000 paid to farmers in the first week of April under existing PM Kisan Yojana which will benefit 8.7 crore farmers.

- **Free LPG cylinders to the BPL families**

The Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman made an announcement on 26th March, 2020 to provide free cylinders to the BPL (Below Poverty Line) families for the next three months under the Ujjwala scheme

- **To help the low wage earners in organised sectors**

The PM Garib Kalyan Package will also help the Wage-earners who are earning below Rs. 15,000 per month in businesses that are having less than 100 workers. The wage workers who are at risk of losing their employment will be provided with 24 percent of their monthly wages into their PF accounts for next three months which would prevent disruption in their employment.

Apart from the above-mentioned benefits, MNREGA wages would also be increased by Rs. 20 with effect from 1 April, 2020 under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana. Wage increase under MNREGA will provide an additional Rs. 2,000 benefit annually to a worker which will benefit approximately 13.62 crore families. To know more about [MNREGA](#), refer to the linked page.

