

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Subject – UPSC GS-III

Topic – Direct Action Day

Atal Bhujal Yojana

In order to acknowledge and contain the ever-growing problem of groundwater depletion, the Indian Government introduced the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) in December 2019 after getting financial approval by the World Bank in 2018. It has been launched under Jal Jeevan Mission of the government.

Atal Bhujal scheme is related to groundwater usage and conservation in India and is one of the important [Government Schemes](#). These kind of schemes are important for the UPSC exam as every year, many questions are asked in both the prelims and mains exam.

Government Schemes also play an important role in [IAS Exam](#). They are a significant part of the General Studies paper-2 of the USPC Syllabus.

What is Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY)?

The objective of the programme was to lay emphasis on the recharge of groundwater resources and improve the exploitation of the groundwater resources, with the involvement of people at the local level.

- The scheme will be implemented and looked over by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation which is now known as the [Jal Shakti Ministry](#).
- Half of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government, while the other half will be funded by the World Bank in the form of a loan.
- It is proposed to be launched in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat across 78 districts, 193 blocks and about 8300 gram panchayats.
- To encourage community participation, it has been planned by the government to give 50% of the money to gram panchayats and states as incentives for achieving the groundwater management targets.

Post the data from the Central Ground Water Board report regarding groundwater depletion at an alarming rate in 30% of the assessed blocks from the assessment of groundwater in the country, the Government has fast-tracked the implementation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana.

To read about **Water Scarcity - Water Stress in India & Prevention of Water Scarcity**, [Click Here](#)

India's Ground Water Problem

- A study reported that almost 80% of the domestic water supplies [both rural and urban] rely on groundwater.
- According to another report by the World Bank, India is held responsible for about 25% of the groundwater abstraction due to its increasing number of dark zones.
 - **What are Groundwater Dark Zones?**

- Areas where groundwater consumption is overexploited.
- Here the rate of annual consumption is more than the annual rate of recharge of groundwater.
- The government keeps a record of such dark zones in the states and the country.

Quick Facts about Atal Bhujal Yojana for UPSC

When was Atal Bhujal Yojana launched?	It was launched on 25th December 2019 on the special occasion of the 95th birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
Is it a central or a state scheme?	Atal Bhujal Yojana is a central government scheme
Is it a central-sector scheme or centrally-sponsored?	Atal Bhujal Yojana is a central-sector scheme
Has India partnered with any international organisation to launch Atal Bhujal Yojana?	India got financial support from World Bank for this government scheme
What are the priority states under Atal Bhujal Yojana?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gujarat • Haryana • Karnataka • Madhya Pradesh • Maharashtra • Rajasthan • Uttar Pradesh
Current update regarding Atal Bhujal Yojana	Haryana (Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Department) in March 2020, planned to implement Atal Bhujal Yojana in state with a budgetary provision of Rs 723 crore to help in conserving water bodies and strengthening the organisations concerned from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with 50 per cent financial assistance of the World Bank.

Also read [India's Water Crisis - Every Drop Counts: RSTV - The Big Picture](#)

Related Links:

National Water Mission - Jal Jeevan Mission	Central Water Commission
(NWIC) National Water Informatics Centre	United Nations World Water Development Report
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