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Atal Bhujal Yojana

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Why is in news? National Level Steering Committee reviews overall progress of Atal Bhujal Yojana

The third meeting of the National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) of the Atal Bhujal Yojana was held today at New Delhi by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The Committee directed the States to expedite convergence for the implementation of the interventions proposed under Water Security Plans

One of the key aspects of ATAL JAL is to bring in **behavioral changes in the community**, from the prevailing attitude of consumption to conservation & smart water management

The Secretary of Department of Water Resources underscored that the **sustainability of the drinking water sources** are to be given utmost priority while taking up interventions under this Scheme

The Special Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR highlighted the **importance of continued engagement** with the community with a focus on the aim that the WSPs are to be owned by the Communities

Atal Bhujal Yojana:

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is a **Central Sector Scheme** of the Ministry of Jal Shakti to **improve ground water management through community participation**. The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.6000 crore and is to be implemented over a **period of 5 years** (2020-21 to 2024-25).

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is an initiative for ensuring long term sustainability of ground water resources in the country.

The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is **adopting a mix of 'top down' and 'bottom up' approaches** in identified **ground water stressed blocks in seven states**, representing a range of geomorphic, climatic and hydrogeologic and cultural settings.

ATAL JAL has been designed with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for participatory ground water management and bringing about behavioral changes at the community level for sustainable ground water resource management.

The scheme envisages undertaking this through various interventions, including awareness programmes, capacity building, convergence of ongoing/new schemes and improved agricultural practices etc.

The scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation in **identified priority areas in seven States**, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these States.

ATAL JAL has **two major components**:

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iInstitutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component for strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable ground water management in the States including improving monitoring networks, capacity building, strengthening of Water User Associations, etc.

iiIncentive Component for incentivising the States for achievements in improved groundwater management practices namely, data dissemination, preparation of water security plans, implementation of management interventions through convergence of ongoing schemes, adopting demand side management practices etc.