



## PM-KISAN Scheme | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India granted the disbursement of the **17<sup>th</sup> installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**, reflecting the commitment of the government towards [farmer welfare](#).

### Key Points

- The 17<sup>th</sup> installment will be given to more than **Rs 20,000 crore** to around **9.26 crore** beneficiary farmers under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** through [Direct Benefit Transfer](#).
  - So far, more than **11 crore** eligible farmer families have received benefits of more than **Rs. 3.04 lakh crore** under **PM-KISAN**.
- Certificates to more than 30,000 women from [Self Help Groups \(SHGs\)](#) as **Krishi Sakhis** were also granted.
- **Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP)** aims to transform rural India through the **empowerment of rural women as Krishi Sakhi**, by imparting training and certification of Krishi Sakhis as **Para-extension Workers**.
- This certification course **also aligns** with the objectives of the "[Lakhpati Didi](#)" Program.

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- Under the scheme, the Centre **transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments**, directly into the bank accounts of **all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings**.
  - It was launched in **February 2019**.
- 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**.
- The entire responsibility of **identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments**.
- **Objective:**
  - 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.

### Lakhpati Didi Scheme

- The government's goal is to create **two crore "lakhpati didis" (prosperous sisters) in villages**. This scheme aligns with the broader mission of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.
- Under this scheme, **women will be provided skill training so that they can earn over Rs 1 lakh per year**.
- **Features:**
  - Drones will be **provided to women SHGs for agricultural activities**.
  - This initiative aims to leverage technology to transform the agricultural landscape while empowering women **in rural communities**.

- Around **15,000 women's SHGs will be given training in operating and repairing drones.**
    - This training will not only create new avenues for income generation but also equip women with cutting-edge skills.
  - Drones have the potential to revolutionize agriculture by enabling [precision farming](#), **crop monitoring, and pest control.**
  - Under the scheme, women will be trained in skills like [LED bulb making](#), **plumbing, among others.**
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## Development of Varanasi International Airport | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved a comprehensive development plan for [Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi](#), with a projected cost of **Rs 2869.65 crore.**

- The [Airports Authority of India \(AAI\)](#) will oversee the project, which aims to significantly **enhance the airport's passenger handling capacity.**

### Key Points

- The project involves building a **fresh terminal, lengthening the runway, and enlarging the apron.**
  - The upcoming terminal will span **75,000 square meters**, catering to **6 million** passengers annually and handling up to **5,000 passengers** during peak hours.
  - This will showcase **Varanasi's cultural heritage**, providing travelers with a unique experience.
- The airport is on track to transform into an **eco-friendly airport** by prioritizing [environmental sustainability](#) through [energy efficiency](#), [recycling waste](#), [reducing carbon emissions](#), [harnessing solar power](#), and **maximizing natural light.**

### Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- It was **constituted by an Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 of Parliament and came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1995** by merging erstwhile **National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India.**
- The merger brought into existence a single organisation entrusted with the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and air space in the country.