

## February 06<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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## **1. Budget 2019: The relief provided by various schemes is a drop in the ocean for farm distress**

- What are the schemes announced in budget 2019-20 to improve the status agriculture sector?
- What are the immediate challenges to implement these schemes?

### **GS paper 2 ( Government budgeting )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Ashok

Gulati. ( 2019, February , 6). Why budget relief a drop in the ocean for farm distress.. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/why-budget-relief-a-drop-in-the-ocean-for-farm-distress/1472477/>

### **What is the context about?**

- Farmers' hopes for a meaningful package from Modi government have evaporated with the announcement in the Union Budget 2019 i.e. Rs 6000 per annum direct income support to farmers seems like a drop in the ocean, if not rubbing salt on their wounds.
- Even states like Telangana and Odisha have done much better with their Rythu Bandhu and KALIA schemes, respectively.

- ❑ The Modi government had a golden chance to compensate farmers for their losses due to low prices, and even invite states to join the Centre's scheme for a major relief package for farmers. But, that chance is lost.

**What are the schemes announced in budget 2019-20 to improve the status agriculture sector?**

- ❑ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna (PM KISAN):** Under this scheme farmers who have land holding of up to 2 hectare will be given Rs. 6000 per year in different installments. This will lay expenditure of Rs 75,000 Crore which will benefit 12 crore small and marginal farmers. However this is meagre amount and like a drop in ocean which needs to be enhanced after creation of a database of land records as being made in different states like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ **Rashtriya Gokul Mission:** To generate income from non-farm activities, this initiative will provide Rs. Rs 750 crore under Rashtriya Kaamdhenu Ayog. It will upgrade cow resources and will enhance productivity of cows.
- ❑ **Interest subvention scheme:** 2 % interest subvention will be provided to farmers who will take loan under "Kisan credit Card Yojna" for improving the activities of animal husbandry and fisheries. It will increase the income of farmers apart from farm activities which is a welcome move by government.

**What are the immediate challenges to implement these schemes?**

- ❑ Tenants without farm records cannot avail benefit of this PMKSN scheme unlike KALIA scheme.
- ❑ Interest subvention have limited impact, focus need to be given to improve Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- ❑ A major concern in dairy sector is unavailability of veterinary doctors, Rashtriya Gokul Mission need to incentivize state Govt. to address this concern.
- ❑ Existing schemes need to improved and strengthened before creating new ones.