Atal Bhujal yojana

Syllabus subtopic: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

About Atal Bhujal Yojana:

- It is a Rs.6000 crore World Bank approved Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.
- It aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.

Priority areas:

The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India.

They also cover two major types of groundwater systems found in India – alluvial and hard rock aquifers- and have varying degrees of institutional readiness and experience in groundwater management.

Implementation of the scheme:

Funds under the scheme will be provided to the states for strengthening the institutions responsible for ground water governance, as well as for encouraging community involvement for improving ground water management to foster behavioural changes that promote conservation and efficient use of water. The scheme will also facilitate convergence of ongoing Government schemes in the states by incentivizing their focussed implementation in identified priority areas.

Expected outcomes:

The implementation of the scheme is expected to have several positive outcomes like better understanding of the ground water regime, focused and
integrated community based approach for addressing issues related to ground water depletion, sustainable ground water management through convergence of on-going and new schemes, adoption of efficient water use practices to reduce ground water use for irrigation and augmentation of ground water resources in targeted areas.

**Status of groundwater in India:**

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is regulating ground water development in States/UTs. As per the assessment of dynamic ground water resources of country carried out jointly by CGWB and State Ground Water Departments, out of the total 6584 numbers of assessment units (Block/ Taluks/ Mandals/ watershed/ Firkka), 1034 units have been categorized as ‘Over-exploited’. This may be due to increase in population, rapid urbanization & industrialization and other related factors.