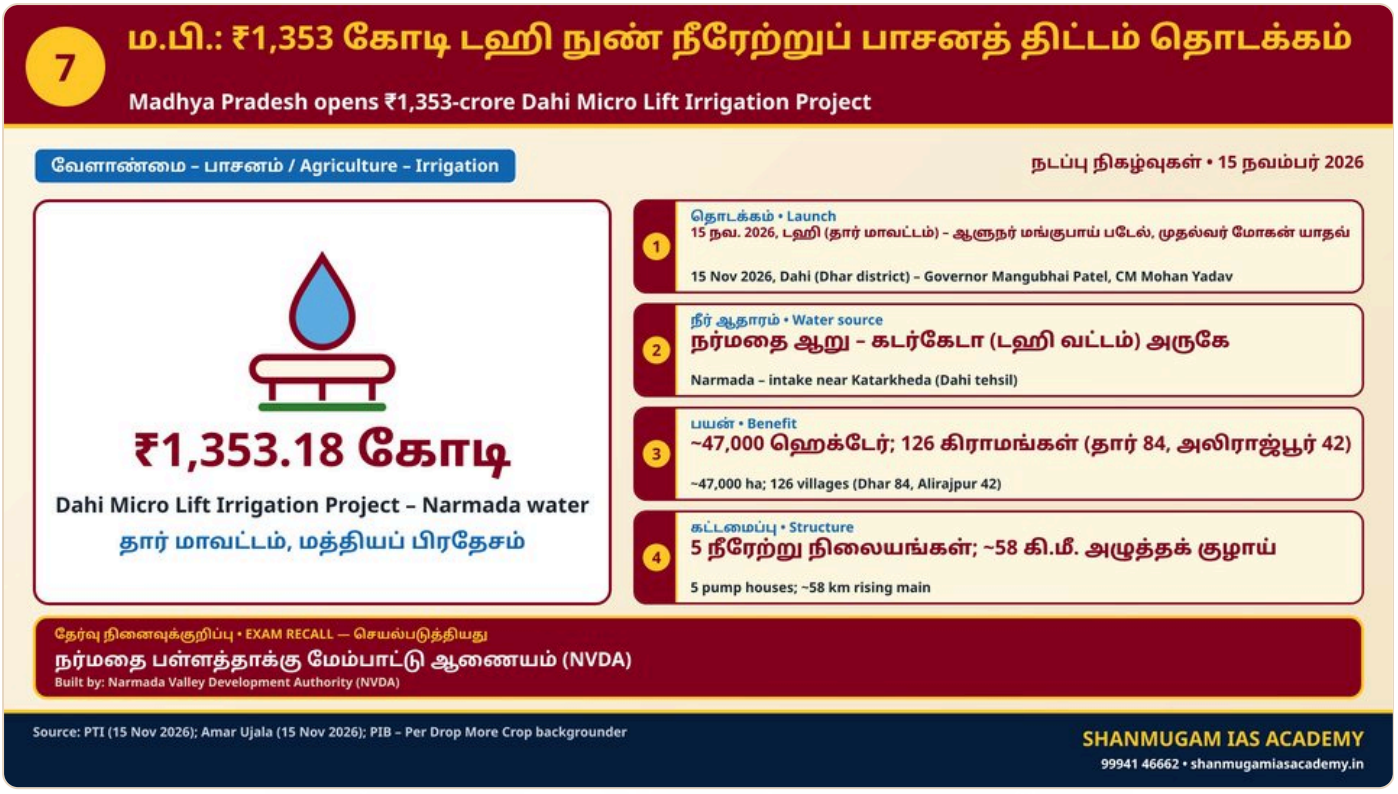
Madhya Pradesh opens ₹1,353-crore Dahi Micro Lift Irrigation Project

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News

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the 'Dahi Micro Lift Irrigation Project' on 15 November 2026 at the State-level Janjatiya Gaurav Divas event at Dahi in Dhar district. The Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA) built it at a cost of ₹1,353.18 crore. Water is pumped from the Narmada at an intake near Katarkheda village in Dahi tehsil and carried to the fields through 5 pump houses, about 58 km of rising main and an underground pressurised pipe network. Reports say about 47,000 hectares in 126 villages – 84 in Dhar and 42 in Alirajpur district – will be irrigated, benefiting about 1.26 lakh farmers. Water will be supplied mainly in the rabi season for wheat, gram, vegetables and fodder crops. Union Minister of State Savitri Thakur and State ministers Kailash Vijayvargiya and Vijay Shah attended; the Prime Minister's address to the national programme was relayed by video.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Project	Dahi Micro Lift Irrigation Project
Launch	15 Nov 2026, Dahi (Dhar district) – Governor Mangubhai Patel, CM Mohan Yadav

Point	Details
Cost	₹1,353.18 crore
Water source	Narmada – intake near Katarkheda (Dahi tehsil)
Built by	Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA)
Benefit	~47,000 ha; 126 villages (Dhar 84, Alirajpur 42)
Farmers	About 1.26 lakh
Structure	5 pump houses; ~58 km rising main
Narmada source	Amarkantak (Anuppur district)

Background

- The Narmada: it rises on the Amarkantak plateau (Maikal range) in Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh, flows west through a rift valley between the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, and enters the Gulf of Khambhat near Bharuch in Gujarat. About 1,312 km long, it is the longest west-flowing river of India and forms an estuary, not a delta. The Marble Rocks of Bhedaghat and the Dhuandhar falls near Jabalpur lie on it.
- Sharing the Narmada: the final decision of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (published in the Gazette on 12 December 1979) divided the 28 million acre-feet (MAF) of water usable at 75% dependability – Madhya Pradesh 18.25, Gujarat 9, Rajasthan 0.5 and Maharashtra 0.25 MAF. Though the Narmada does not flow through Rajasthan, it gets its share through the Sardar Sarovar canal. Such inter-State river disputes are settled under Article 262 and the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- Micro irrigation: drip and sprinkler systems take water straight to the root zone, saving water, fertiliser and power. It began in 2006 as a centrally sponsored micro-irrigation scheme and in 2015-16 became the 'Per Drop More Crop' (PDMC) component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY – 'Har Khet Ko Pani'). Since 2022-23 it is implemented by the Agriculture Ministry under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). Small and marginal farmers get 55% assistance and others 45%; about 115 lakh hectares had come under micro irrigation by July 2026.
- Lift irrigation: where farmland lies higher than the river and canal water cannot flow by gravity, electric pumps lift the water. In a 'micro lift' scheme, underground pressurised pipes replace open canals and deliver water to every field, cutting evaporation and seepage losses and needing less land acquisition. The Dahi project is reported to need 58.87 MW of power through the 220 kV Susari and 132 kV Jobat substations.
- Dhar – history: Dhar (old name 'Dhara Nagari') was the capital of the Paramara dynasty that ruled Malwa. The Paramara king Bhoja (c. 1010–1055) was a patron of art and learning; works such as the 'Samarangana Sutradhara' are attributed to him, and he is credited with the Bhojpur Shiva temple and Bhojpur lake near Bhopal. Dhar, Alirajpur and Jhabua districts have large Bhil and Bhilala tribal populations.

Tamil Nadu link: CM M.K. Stalin inaugurated the Athikadavu–Avinashi scheme, Tamil Nadu's big lift-irrigation project, on 17 August 2024. Built at ₹1,916.41 crore, it pumps 1.5 TMC ft of surplus Bhavani water a year from below the Kalingarayan anicut through 1,065 km of underground pipes to fill 1,045 tanks and ponds in Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur districts. Tamil Nadu also gives small and marginal farmers 100% subsidy for micro irrigation, and was among the six leading States in area added under 'Per Drop More Crop' in 2025-26.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the 'Dahi Micro Lift Irrigation Project' on 15 November 2026 at the State-level Janjatiya Gaurav Divas event at Dahi in Dhar district.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Project: Dahi Micro Lift Irrigation Project; Launch: 15 Nov 2026, Dahi (Dhar district) – Governor Mangubhai Patel, CM Mohan Yadav; Cost: ₹1,353.18 crore; Water source: Narmada – intake near Katarkheda (Dahi tehsil).

What is the background to this news?

The Narmada: it rises on the Amarkantak plateau (Maikal range) in Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh, flows west through a rift valley between the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, and enters the Gulf of Khambhat near Bharuch in Gujarat.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The Narmada, whose water the Dahi project lifts, rises at which place?

A) Multai

B) Mahabaleshwar

C) Amarkantak

D) Trimbakeshwar

Answer: C – Explanation: Amarkantak (Anuppur, MP). Multai is the source of the Tapti, Mahabaleshwar of the Krishna and Trimbakeshwar of the Godavari.

2. Since 2022-23, the 'Per Drop More Crop' micro-irrigation component runs under which scheme?

A) PM-KISAN

B) PM-RKVY

C) PMFBY

D) PM-KUSUM

Answer: B – Explanation: PM-RKVY (Agriculture Ministry). It began in 2015-16 as a PMKSY component; small and marginal farmers get 55% aid, others 45%.

3. Which State, though the Narmada does not flow through it, got a share of its water in the 1979 tribunal award?

A) Andhra Pradesh

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Karnataka

Answer: C – Explanation: Rajasthan – 0.5 MAF via the Sardar Sarovar canal. Of 28 MAF, MP got 18.25, Gujarat 9 and Maharashtra 0.25.

4. Dhar, where the project was launched, was the capital of which dynasty in King Bhoja's time?

A) Chandela

B) Paramara

C) Kalachuri

D) Pratihara

Answer: B – Explanation: The Paramaras of Malwa. Bhoja (c. 1010–55) patronised art and learning. Chandelas built Khajuraho; Kalachuris ruled from Tripuri (Jabalpur).

5. Tamil Nadu's Athikadavu–Avinashi lift scheme, opened in 2024, uses surplus water of which river?

A) Amaravathi

B) Noyyal

C) Siruvani

D) Bhavani

Answer: D – Explanation: Bhavani – drawn below the Kalingarayan anicut to fill 1,045 water bodies in Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur.

Sources: PTI (ThePrint / Free Press Journal, 15 Nov 2026); Amar Ujala (15 Nov 2026); PIB backgrounder – Per Drop More Crop (29 Aug 2026); Central Water Commission (Narmada Tribunal award); DT Next (Athikadavu–Avinashi, 17 Aug 2024). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.