DoLR Secretary reviews World Bank-aided REWARD programme in Odisha

Topics: Governance & Schemes · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

Dilip Kumar, Secretary of the Department of Land Resources, Union Ministry of Rural Development, and the CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) reviewed watershed programmes in Odisha, the Ministry of Rural Development said on 27 November 2026. At Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, they reviewed Odisha's progress under the World Bank-assisted REWARD (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development) programme; Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Odisha, briefed them. Odisha's technical work in Land Resource Inventory (LRI) and hydrology was commended. In Tangi block of Khordha district they inspected works under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) and interacted with water users' groups, self-help groups and farmers. Odisha has spent about 89% of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 funds (38 of 60 projects at completion stage); seven slow projects are to be speeded up, and all WDC-PMKSY 2.0 and REWARD activities are to be completed by 31 March 2027.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Reviewed by	Dilip Kumar, Secretary, DoLR (Ministry of Rural Development)

Point	Details
Accompanied by	CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority
Ministry release	27 November 2026
Places	Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar; Tangi block, Khordha district
REWARD states	Karnataka, Odisha (+ DoLR)
World Bank loan	$115 million (IBRD) – Karnataka 60, Odisha 49, DoLR 6
Total outlay	$167.71 million
Deadline	31 March 2027

Background

- A watershed is the land area whose run-off drains to a common stream or river point. Ridge-area treatment, drainage-line treatment, soil and water conservation and rainwater harvesting are its core activities.
- The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) ran from 26.02.2009 and was later subsumed into the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) as its Watershed Development Component (PMKSY operational guidelines, 26.10.2015). WDC-PMKSY develops rainfed cultivated land and culturable wasteland, with 60:40 Centre–State funding (90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States).
- The World Bank's Board approved the $115 million REWARD loan on 10 December 2021. It is from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the World Bank Group, with a 15-year maturity including a 4.5-year grace period. It aims to help national and state institutions adopt science-based watershed management and to raise farmers' climate resilience.
- A key REWARD tool is the Land Resource Inventory (LRI) – fine-scale mapping of soil, terrain and water resources, used for digital advisories to farmers. A Centre of Excellence on watersheds is being strengthened in Bengaluru.
- The ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), headquartered at Dehradun (1974), has research centres at Agra, Ballari, Chandigarh, Datia, Kota, Koraput (Odisha), Udhagamandalam (Tamil Nadu) and Vasad.

Tamil Nadu link: REWARD covers only Karnataka and Odisha; Tamil Nadu is not part of it. But one of the research centres of ICAR-IISWC, India's soil and water conservation institute, is at Udhagamandalam in the Nilgiris; its Odisha centre is at Koraput. WDC-PMKSY is implemented in Tamil Nadu too.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Dilip Kumar, Secretary of the Department of Land Resources, Union Ministry of Rural Development, and the CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) reviewed watershed programmes in Odisha, the Ministry of Rural Development said on 27 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Reviewed by: Dilip Kumar, Secretary, DoLR (Ministry of Rural Development); Accompanied by: CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority; Ministry release: 27 November 2026; Places: Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar; Tangi block, Khordha district.

What is the background to this news?

A watershed is the land area whose run-off drains to a common stream or river point. Ridge-area treatment, drainage-line treatment, soil and water conservation and rainwater harvesting are its core activities.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which World Bank Group institution provides the $115 million loan for the REWARD programme?

A) IBRD

B) IDA

C) IFC

D) MIGA

Answer: A – Explanation: IBRD – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (15 years, 4.5-year grace). IDA lends to the poorest nations; IFC funds the private sector.

2. Besides Odisha, in which other State is the World Bank's REWARD watershed programme being implemented?

A) Telangana

B) Maharashtra

C) Andhra Pradesh

D) Karnataka

Answer: D – Explanation: Karnataka – $60 million; Odisha – $49 million; the Union Department of Land Resources – $6 million.

3. The Department of Land Resources, which runs watershed development schemes, is under which Union Ministry?

A) Agriculture

B) Rural Development

C) Jal Shakti

D) Environment

Answer: B – Explanation: The Ministry of Rural Development. Other PMKSY components are with the Jal Shakti and Agriculture ministries; the watershed component is with DoLR.

4. WDC-PMKSY, the watershed component, mainly develops which kind of land?

A) Canal-irrigated land

B) Urban wetlands

C) Coastal mangroves

D) Rainfed & wasteland

Answer: D – Explanation: Rainfed cultivated land and culturable wasteland. Its forerunner, IWMP, began in 2009.

5. The ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, with centres at Udhagamandalam and Koraput, is headquartered at?

A) Jodhpur

B) Bhopal

C) Dehradun

D) Hyderabad

Answer: C – Explanation: Dehradun (1974). Jodhpur has CAZRI (arid zone), Bhopal the Indian Institute of Soil Science, and Hyderabad CRIDA (dryland agriculture).