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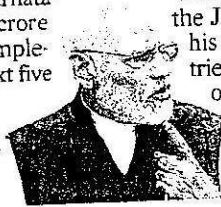
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PM launches Atal Bhujal, state to gain

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the Atal Bhujal Yojana, aimed at improving groundwater levels in 78 districts of seven states including Karnataka. The Rs 6,000-crore scheme will be implemented in the next five years.

Speaking at the launch of



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the scheme, Modi said the Atal Bhujal Yojana will benefit more than 8,300 villages in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

He said that by forming the Jal Shakti Ministry, his government has tried to free the subject of water from a compartmentalised approach to a

more comprehensive and holistic one.

The scheme is aimed at contributing towards the goal of doubling farmers' incomes, promoting participatory ground water management, improving water use efficiency on a mass scale, improving cropping pattern and promoting efficient and equitable use of ground water resources and behavioural change at the community level.