

## Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

### ❖ Context

- A total of **4,026 project proposals** (from various state governments and entrepreneurs) under various sub-schemes of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** have been received during the period from 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- Out of these, a total of 1,002 project proposals have been approved.

### Key Highlights

- In May 2017, the Centre launched **SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** with an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore.
- Later, it was **renamed the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana' (PMKSY)** to be implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**.
- It's a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Objectives**
  - To create modern infrastructure for food processing, mega food parks/clusters and individual units.
  - To link farmers, processors and markets.
  - To create robust supply chain infrastructure for perishables.
- **Schemes under PMKSY**
  - **Mega Food Parks.**
  - **Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure.**
  - **Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme).**
  - **Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters.**
  - **Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages.**
  - **Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure.**
  - **Human Resources and Institutions.**
  - **Operation Green.**

### Significance

- The implementation of PMKSY will result in the **creation of modern infrastructure** with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- It will provide a **big boost to the growth of the food processing sector** in the country.
- It will help in providing **better prices to farmers** and is a big step towards **doubling farmers' income**.
- It will create **huge employment opportunities**, especially in rural areas.
- It will also help in **reducing the wastage of agricultural produce**, increasing the processing level, and availability of safe and convenient processed foods at an affordable price to consumers.
- It will **enhance the export of processed foods**.



## National Food Security Act (NFSA)

### ❖ Context

- Recently, The Union Cabinet decided to provide **free foodgrains to all 81 crore beneficiaries** covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** for one year.

### Key Highlights

- This decision was taken to extend the benefits of the **Antyodaya Ann Yojana, Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY)** and the **NFSA** to more people by merging them.
- The beneficiary families who used to pay ₹1 for coarse cereals, ₹2 for wheat and ₹3 for rice per kg will now get 35kg of foodgrains **free for the next year**.
- Others will get **5kg for free in a month till December 2023**.
- The Centre has estimated an additional amount of ₹2 lakh crore for the scheme.

### National Food Security Act 2013

- It aims to **ensure people food and nutritional security** by assuring **access to a sufficient quantity** of high-quality food at reasonable prices.
- NFSA 2013 includes almost two-thirds of the Indian population in its entirety.
- **Provisions.**

- **75% of the Rural and 50% of the Urban population** Entitled to receive highly subsidised foodgrains under two categories of beneficiaries-
  - **Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** households and **Priority Household (PHH)**.
- The Act entitles 35 kg of foodgrain per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of foodgrain per PHH person per month.
- Eligible households receive foodgrains at subsidised price—rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Rs 1/kg — under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
  - **Coverage**
    - Identification of beneficiaries/households under NFSA is done by the respective State/UT Government, which is required to frame its criteria.
    - based on Census 2011 figures and the national rural and urban coverage ratios, 81.35 crore persons are covered under NFSA currently.

### Face to Face Centres

24 December 2022

- **Women Empowerment**
  - Eldest woman of the beneficiary household (18 years or above) is considered as 'Head of Family' to issue ration cards.
- **Grievances Redressal**
  - Under this act, every state of India is required to create a mechanism for the redressal of any grievances.
  - The systems under this may include helplines, nodal officers, call centres, etc.

- **Special Focus on Women and Children**
  - Lactating and pregnant women can avail of a free meal at any time during their pregnancy and this entitlement is valid for 6 months beyond childbirth.
  - Children, in the age range of 6 months to 6 years can receive meals free of cost.
  - Additionally, children in the age range of 6 years to 14 years have the right to receive a meal at **midday from government schools**.

## News in Between the Lines

### Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme



#### ❖ Context

- Recently, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries said that Centre's share of **credit-linked subsidy** provided under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme** is Rs 110.86 crore.

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- Launched under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- Nodal Ministry- **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**.
- **Aims**
  - To **enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises** in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry.
  - To **provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives** along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore **over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.
- The **scheme adopts the One District One Product (ODOP) approach** to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.

### Minimum Support Price for Copra



#### ❖ Context

- Recently, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for 2023 season.

#### ❖ About Minimum Support Price

- The MSP is a **minimum price guarantee** that acts as a safety net or insurance for farmers when they sell particular crops.
- These crops are **procured by government agencies** at a promised price to farmers and the MSP cannot be altered in any given situation.
- The MSP is set by the central government for select crops, based on **recommendations it receives from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- MSP based on a calculation of **at least one-and-a-half (1.5) times** the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
- The **present MSP** has been calculated based on the A2+FL method.
  - **A2+FL**= It covers actual **paid-out costs plus an imputed value of unpaid family labor**.
  - **1.5 times MSP Formula** = 1.5 times the A2+FL costs.
- **As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities**, which comprise.
  - 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi).
  - 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil).
  - 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, niger seed).
  - 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

## Face to Face Centres

**DELHI** MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR** : 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR**: 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH** PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA**: 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR**: 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR** : 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA** BHUBANESWAR: 9818244644/7656949029



## Chillai Kalan



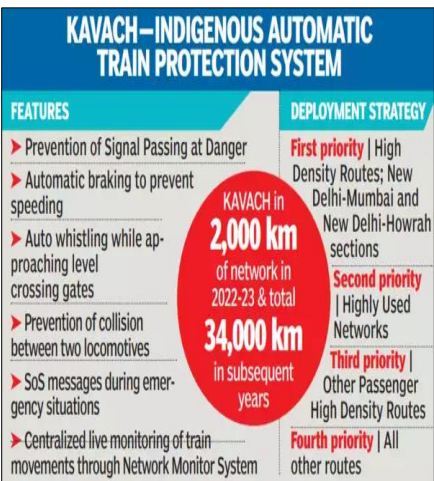
### ❖ Context

- The iconic Dal Lake froze overnight as the Valley recorded the coldest night of the season so far on Tuesday night, which marked the **commencement of Chillai Kalan**, a 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Chillai Kalan is a **Persian word** which literally means **forty days of Major cold**.
- It is the **harshest winter period** in Kashmir starting from **21st December to 29th January** every year.
- Chillai-Kalan is followed by **20-day long Chillai Khurd** (small cold) and a **10-days long Chillai Bachha** (baby cold).
- Due to subzero temperature, tap water pipelines freeze partially during this period and world-famous Dal Lake also freezes.
- Kashmiris celebrate with **sumptuous Harissa**, a dish made of lean mutton mixed with rice and flavoured with spices like fennel, cardamom, clove and salt.

## KAVACH



### ❖ Context

- Recently, Minister of Railways informed the Rajya Sabha that Indian Railways has **indigenously developed** an automatic train protection system rechristened as 'Kavach' (Train Collision Avoidance System).

### ❖ Key Highlights

- It is India's very own automatic protection system in development since 2012, under the name **Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)**.
- It was renamed as Kavach.
- **Mechanism**
  - It is a **set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices** installed in locomotives, in the signaling system as well as the tracks.
  - These devices talk to each other using **ultra high radio frequencies** to **control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers**.
- **Features**
  - It Includes the key elements from already existing, and tried and tested **systems like the European Train Protection and Warning System**, and the indigenous Anti Collision Routes Device.
  - It will also carry features of the **high-tech European Train Control System Level-2 in future**.
  - The current form of Kavach **adheres to the highest level of safety and reliability standard called Safety Integrity Level 4**.
- **Significance**
  - It prevents accidents due to human error resulting in Signal Passing at danger and over-speeding.
  - The devices continuously relay the signals ahead to the locomotive, making it useful for loco pilots in **low visibility, especially during dense fog**.

## Sahitya Akademi Awards



### ❖ Context

- Recently, The winners of the 2022 Sahitya Akademi awards were announced.

### ❖ Key highlights

- The awards are given to writers in 23 Indian languages, including translations.
- This year, **Anuradha Roy's All the Lives We Never Lived** won the award in the English language category.
- N Kalyan Raman's translation of Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel **Poonachi** into English won the Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation.
- Writer M. Rajendran from Tamil Nadu has received this award for his novel '**Kala Pani**'.
  - This 'Kala Pani' novel is a historical novel based on the war of Kalayarkovil or Kalayarkool.

### About Sahitya Akademi Awards

- Established in **1954**.
- It is a **literary honor** that is conferred annually by Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of letters.

## Face to Face Centres

**24 December 2022**

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|                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Akademi gives <b>24 awards annually to literary works</b> in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.</li> <li>Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has <b>recognised English and Rajasthani as languages in which its programme may be implemented.</b></li> <li>The award comprises a <b>plaque and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000.</b></li> <li>The award's purpose is to recognise and promote excellence in Indian writing and also acknowledge new trends.</li> <li>The plaque awarded by the Sahitya Akademi was designed by the Indian film-maker <b>Satyajit Ray.</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Gelbot</b></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recently, John Hopkins University scientists built a soft robot named Gelbots.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Key highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gelbots Made out of <b>gelatin.</b></li> <li>A gelbot is capable of <b>moving without requiring an extra power source.</b></li> <li>Gelbot is reportedly a <b>significant advance in the world of 'soft robotics,'</b> or robots that are fashioned out of organic and non-metallic materials.</li> <li>The gelbot is able to move because of the way its shape, dimensions and patterning of gel are designed.</li> <li>Water-based gels, which feel like gummy bears, are believed to be extremely promising materials for soft robotics.</li> <li>They rely on the principle that gels that swell or shrink in response to temperature can be used to create smart structures.</li> <li><b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The gelbots are created by 3D printing.</li> <li>Researchers say they could be used for moving on surfaces through the human body to deliver targeted medicines.</li> <li>Scientists hope to train the gelbots to crawl in response to variations in human biomarkers and biochemicals and test other worm and marine organism-inspired shapes and forms that could be designed to incorporate cameras and sensors on their bodies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Vadnagar</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recently, <b>Vadnagar</b> sites in Gujarat have made it to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Key highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vadnagar is a city known by names like Vridhanagar, Anandapur, Anantapur and Nagar.</li> <li>It is said to have been <b>inhabited uninterruptedly for over 2,700 years.</b></li> <li>Vadnagar was situated at a <b>strategic location of two major ancient trade routes-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One joining central India with the Sindh and further northwest regions.</li> <li>Another connected the port towns on Gujarat's coast to northern India.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The <b>town's fortifications, arched gateways (toranas), temples, wells, residential structures (kothis)</b> and excavated sites like <b>Buddhist monasteries</b> and <b>dedicated stupas</b> showcase the architectural influence of various cultural periods.</li> <li>The extensive water management system here has also played a role in the town's continuity.</li> <li>A gold coin, believed to be from the <b>Mamluk dynasty of Egypt</b> that dated back to the 15th century, was also found here.</li> <li>Vadnagar can be compared to the historic living cities of Mathura, Ujjain and Varanasi as cities inhabited since the early historic period and in the modern day.</li> <li>"Internationally, the Historic town of Vadnagar can be compared to the Historical City of Masuleh in Iran, Quanzhou in China, and the Historic Town of Beypazarý in Turkey.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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