

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.



- **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



Chillai Kalan



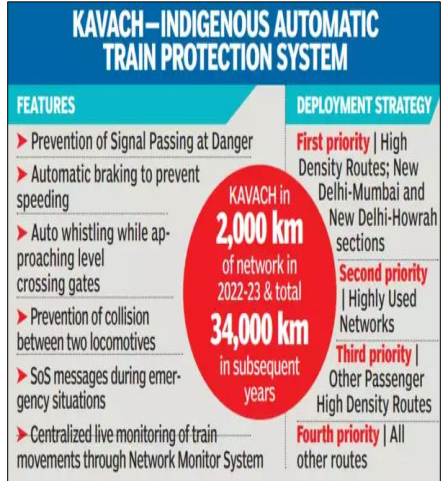
❖ Context

- 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 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

- Akademi gives **24 awards annually to literary works** in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
- Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has **recognised English and Rajasthani as languages in which its programme may be implemented.**
- The award comprises a **plaque and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000.**
- The award's purpose is to recognise and promote excellence in Indian writing and also acknowledge new trends.
- The plaque awarded by the Sahitya Akademi was designed by the Indian film-maker **Satyajit Ray.**

Gelbot



❖ Context

- Recently, John Hopkins University scientists built a soft robot named Gelbots.

❖ Key highlights

- Gelbots Made out of **gelatin.**
- A gelbot is capable of **moving without requiring an extra power source.**
- Gelbot is reportedly a **significant advance in the world of 'soft robotics,'** or robots that are fashioned out of organic and non-metallic materials.
- The gelbot is able to move because of the way its shape, dimensions and patterning of gel are designed.
- Water-based gels, which feel like gummy bears, are believed to be extremely promising materials for soft robotics.
- They rely on the principle that gels that swell or shrink in response to temperature can be used to create smart structures.
- **Benefits**
 - The gelbots are created by 3D printing.
 - Researchers say they could be used for moving on surfaces through the human body to deliver targeted medicines.
 - 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.

Vadnagar



❖ Context

- Recently, **Vadnagar** sites in Gujarat have made it to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

❖ Key highlights

- Vadnagar is a city known by names like Vridhanagar, Anandapur, Anantapur and Nagar.
- It is said to have been **inhabited uninterruptedly for over 2,700 years.**
- Vadnagar was situated at a **strategic location of two major ancient trade routes-**
 - One joining central India with the Sindh and further northwest regions.
 - Another connected the port towns on Gujarat's coast to northern India.
- The **town's fortifications, arched gateways (toranas), temples, wells, residential structures (kothis)** and excavated sites like **Buddhist monasteries** and **dedicated stupas** showcase the architectural influence of various cultural periods.
- The extensive water management system here has also played a role in the town's continuity.
- A gold coin, believed to be from the **Mamluk dynasty of Egypt** that dated back to the 15th century, was also found here.
- 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.
- "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.