



drishti

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/pradhan-mantri-garib-kalyan-ann-yojana

Why in News

Recently, thirteen states have started distributing foodgrains under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)**.

The scheme has been rolled out again for two months (May and June 2021) **as the country's healthcare infrastructure has reached its capacity** and several states have taken steps like complete **lockdown**, night curfew to contain the spread of the disease.

Key Points

- **About:**

- PMGKAY is a part of **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)** to help the poor fight the battle against **Covid-19**.

Its nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Finance**.

- It was **initially announced for a three month period** (April, May and June 2020), covering 80 crore ration cardholders. Later it was extended till **November 2020**.

However in April 2021, the government had announced its decision to **restart the PMGKAY**.

- The scheme aimed at providing each person who is covered under the **National Food Security Act 2013** with an **additional 5 kg grains** (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
- The new version of the PMGKAY **lacks one of its important components** which was there in 2020 PMGKAY i.e **free-of-cost 1 kg pulses per month** to each household covered under the NFSA.

- **Expenditure:**

Government of India will bear all expenditure of over Rs. 26,000 crore on account of food subsidy and Central assistance to states/UTs on account of intra-state transportation etc.

- **Allocation Till Now:**

- Out of a total **monthly allocation** of **39.69 lakh Metric Tonnes (MT)** under the PMGKAY, **15.55 lakh MT have been lifted by states.**
- 1.01 lakh MT have been distributed to **2.03 crore beneficiaries till May 2021.**

- **Challenge:**

A key issue is that **the beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act are based on the last census (2011).** The number of food-insecure people has increased since then and they remain uncovered.

Source: IE