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News: National Food Safety Act Ranking

- Recently, the **first edition of the State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** was released.

National Food Safety Act Ranking

- The **index seeks to document the status and progress of the implementation of NFSA across the country and various reform initiatives after consultation with the states.**
- It **highlights the reforms undertaken by the States and Union Territories and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all the States and Union Territories.**
- The **current index is largely focused on NFSA distribution and will include future buyouts, PMKGAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana) distributions.**

Basis of the Assessment

- The index for ranking of States and UTs is built on three key pillars, which cover end to end implementation of NFSA through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

These pillars are-

- NFSA- coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act
- Delivery platforms and
- Nutrition initiatives

Performance of the States

General Category States

- Odisha is ranked first followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in second and third position.

Special Category States

- Tripura ranks top among the special category states (the North-eastern States, Himalayan States, and Island States).
- Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are in second and third place, respectively.

Worst Performers

- Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are among the states at the bottom five.

National Food Security Act (NFSA)

- The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, legally entitles up to **75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.**
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 gave practical form to the **Article 47** of our constitution, which is a directive to the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health.
- The **eldest woman** of the household of age **18 years or above is mandated to be the head of the household** for the purpose of issuing of ration cards under the Act.
- It provides for **legal rights and entitlements of persons belonging to eligible households to receive 5 kg.**
- **Food security allowance to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains** or meals.
- Food grains were given per person per month at a subsidized price of 3, 2 and 1 for rice, wheat and coarse grains, respectively for the first 3 years and are now revised periodically by Central Government. It is known as Central Issue Price.
- **Central Issue Price is the price at which food grains are sold through the network of fair price shops. It is decided by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).**

➤ A framework of partnership between the Central Government and the State Governments has been built into the legislation in which the Central Government shall determine the numbers, criteria and the scheme, while the State Governments shall identify the households and implement the provisions of the Bill.

➤ NFSA is in line with Sustainable Development Goals.

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