

24– 12 – 2022

News: 81 cr. people to get free foodgrains for one year

- The Union Cabinet on Friday decided to provide free foodgrains to all 81 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year.
- The beneficiary families which used to pay ₹1 for coarse cereals, ₹2 for wheat and ₹3 for rice per kilogram will now get 35 kg of foodgrains a month free of cost for the next one year, and others will get five kilogram free each month till December 2023.

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.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, adopted by all **United Nations Member States in 2015**, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
- At its heart are the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership
- 17 Goals are: No poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Decent work & Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities & Communities, Responsible Consumption & Production, Climate Action, Life Below water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions and Partnership for the Goals.



News: Joynagar Moa

- Recently, the **GI tag for Joynagar Moa has been extended for the next 10 years, till 2032.**

Joynagar Moa

- Joynagar Moa is a **sweet meat available in West Bengal, that too only in winter times.**
- Joynagar Moa was **awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015**, for the next 10 years. However, considering that the application for the recognition was submitted in 2012, the tag became valid from that year until 2022. The moa is a popped rice ball held together with fresh date palm jaggery, extracted from the beginning of December till the end of February.
- Its manufacture is so synonymous with Joynagar, a settlement on the outskirts of Kolkata.
- Said to date back to **1904**, the moa is made of aromatic khoi (popped rice) that is mixed with jaggery, sugar, cashew nuts and raisins.
- Its **only drawback is that it has a short shelf life, lasting not more than five days** without refrigeration.
- The **high perishability has prevented it from being shipped abroad all these decades.** Its export began, on a very small scale, only in 2020.

- IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur are in the process to develop packaging material that would dramatically increase the shelf life of the sweetmeat.