



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANN YOJANA (PMGKAY) SCHEME

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "PMGKAY Scheme". This topic has relevance in the Social Justice section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

*GS 3: Social Justice*

### Why in the news?

The PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme, originally set to conclude in December, has now been extended for an additional five years.

### About PMGKAY

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, is part of the broader Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) designed to assist the economically disadvantaged in their battle against the challenges posed by Covid-19. This scheme offers crucial support through the following key points:

- **Additional Grain Allocation:** PM-GKAY seeks to provide each individual covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 with an extra 5 kilograms of grains, which can be either wheat or rice. This allocation is provided free of cost, in addition to the 5 kilograms of food grains already available at subsidized rates through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **Duration:** Initially introduced for a three-month period encompassing April, May, and June of 2020, PM-GKAY was aimed at benefiting 80 crore ration cardholders. However, recognizing the prolonged effects of the pandemic, it was subsequently extended until December 2023.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the implementation and administration of the PM-GKAY scheme.
- **Portability Feature:** The benefits of free rations offered under PM-GKAY are made accessible to beneficiaries through the concept of portability. This means that migrants and eligible individuals can avail these rations from nearly 5 lakh ration shops located across the country. This feature is facilitated by the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan, ensuring that individuals can access their entitled provisions conveniently, even when they are away from their registered place of residence.

### Positive Impacts:

- **Food Security:** The PMGKAY scheme ensures continued food security for vulnerable sections of society. It plays a crucial role in addressing the issue of hunger in the country by providing free food grains to approximately 80 crore beneficiaries.
- **Social Welfare:** This scheme serves as a vital social welfare program, offering essential food items at highly subsidized rates. It plays a critical role in alleviating poverty and malnutrition among underprivileged individuals.

### Negative Impacts:

- **Economic Implications:** Sustaining the PMGKAY scheme may raise concerns about its long-term economic implications. The substantial cost of providing free food grains poses challenges in terms of budgetary allocation and fiscal pressure.
- **Dependency:** Continuous extension of free food distribution may potentially create a sense of dependency among certain sections of society, reducing their self-sufficiency and economic independence.
- **Highlights Economic Distress and Inequality:** The PMGKAY scheme reflects the prolonged financial struggles faced by a significant portion of the populace. It underscores the lack of substantial income growth in parallel with the rising prices of essential goods, signifying persistent economic distress and growing economic inequality across the country.

### Way Ahead:

- **Empowerment Programs:** The government can initiate skill development and empowerment programs alongside the PMGKAY to facilitate the transition of beneficiaries towards self-sustainability.
- **Long-term Planning:** There should be a focus on initiatives for economic growth and job creation that can uplift the living standards of individuals, reducing their dependence on welfare schemes.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Strong monitoring mechanisms should be implemented to ensure that the benefits of these welfare schemes are reaching the intended beneficiaries and making a positive impact.
- **Rationalization:** Periodic evaluations should be considered to rationalize the scheme, ensuring that it remains targeted, efficient, and caters to those who need it the most while preventing misuse or leakage of resources.

**SOURCE:**

[Free ration to 800 million for five more years; PM announces extension of Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana – India News | The Financial Express](#)

### Q.1 Which of the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PM-GKAY) is/are correct?

1. It provides additional free food grains to beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in addition to the regular subsidized grains provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
2. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry responsible for the implementation of PM-GKAY.
3. The Scheme can also be availed by migrants not living in their home state.

**How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**ANSWER: B**

**Q.2 Food security is a critical aspect of India's socio-economic development. How has the National Food Security Act contributed to addressing the issue of food security? Analyze the role of food distribution systems, public policies, and their impact on food security in India.**

**Rishabh**

## DEEPAKE TECHNOLOGY

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Deepfake Technology". This topic has relevance in the "Science and Technology" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*What is Deepfake Technology?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS3: Science and Technology developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.*

### **Why in the news?**

Following the viral spread of a deepfaked video featuring a celebrity, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) reminded social media companies of their legal obligation to remove such content from their platforms under the IT Act 2000 and IT Rules 2021.

### **What are deepfakes?**

- Deepfakes, a fusion of "deep learning" and "fake," represent the result of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning advancements.
- They can effectively modify individuals' visual and auditory aspects, including their appearances, speeches, and actions, within video and audio content.
- Deepfake technology relies on a complex interplay of two key algorithms, a generator and a discriminator, operating within a generative adversarial network (GAN). These algorithms use deep learning techniques like neural networks to create highly realistic and convincing fake content.
  - **Generator Algorithm:** The generator's primary role is to produce initial fake digital content, including audio, photographs, or videos. It aims to closely mimic the target individual's appearance, voice, or behaviour.
  - **Discriminator Algorithm:** The discriminator evaluates the generator-generated content to assess its authenticity or fakeness.
- The generator and discriminator engage in a continuous feedback loop, repeating the process multiple times to enhance the quality and realism of the generated content. This iterative cycle drives the improvement of deepfakes.

## Concerns About Deepfakes:

- **Spread misinformation and disinformation:** Deepfakes can create false content that misrepresents individuals, organisations, or events, leading to the dissemination of inaccurate information.
- **Undermine trust in institutions:** Distrust in online content can erode confidence in institutions like the media, government, and law enforcement.
- **Damage reputations:** Fake videos and audio can tarnish a person's image, affecting their professional and personal life.
- **Enable blackmail and extortion:** Threats to release fabricated content can be used for blackmail and extortion.
- **Inciting social and political unrest:** Deepfakes can fuel division by depicting individuals from various groups engaging in actions designed to provoke anger or offence.
- **Invasion of privacy:** Deepfakes violate personal privacy by creating explicit content using regular images or videos.
- **Financial fraud:** Deepfakes may facilitate fraud by impersonating individuals in video calls or creating fraudulent money requests.

## Preventing and Detecting Deepfakes

Preventing the creation and spread of deepfakes and identifying them when they appear is crucial in mitigating their potential harm.

### Prevention:

- **Education and Awareness:** Educating the public about the existence and implications of deepfakes can reduce the likelihood of people believing or sharing them.
- **Watermarking and Authentication:** Content creators can add digital watermarks or authentication mechanisms to their media to verify authenticity.
- **Blockchain Technology:** Implementing blockchain to track the provenance of digital media can help verify its source and integrity.
- **Secure Storage:** Storing original media in secure and tamper-proof environments can make it more challenging for malicious actors to access and manipulate content.
- **Strengthening Copyright Laws:** Enhancing legal protections for content creators and stricter enforcement of copyright laws can deter the creation and distribution of deepfakes.

### Detection:

- **Deepfake Detection Tools:** Developing and utilising AI-based tools and software designed to identify inconsistencies or anomalies in audio, video, or image content that may indicate deepfake manipulation.
- **Media Forensics:** Experts in media forensics can scrutinise content for irregularities in lighting, shadows, reflections, and facial features that may indicate manipulation.
- **Metadata Analysis:** Analyzing the metadata of media files, such as timestamps and geolocation data, can help confirm the authenticity of the content.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Comparing the suspected deepfake with known, authentic content of the same subject can reveal discrepancies.
- **User Verification:** Implement user verification mechanisms on social media platforms and websites to ensure the authenticity of content creators.

- **Algorithm Development:** Continuously improve AI algorithms for detecting deepfakes to keep pace with evolving deepfake technology.
- **Reporting Mechanisms:** Establish clear and accessible reporting mechanisms for users to flag suspicious content on social media and online platforms.
- **Legislation and Regulation:** Enact laws and regulations that hold creators and distributors of deepfakes accountable for their actions.

A comprehensive approach to prevention and detection involves a combination of technological advancements, public awareness, legal measures, and collaborative efforts by tech companies, law enforcement, and the general public to combat the potential harm caused by deepfakes.

**Sources:**

[Explained | What are deepfakes and how to spot them? \(wionews.com\)](https://www.wionews.com)

**Q1. With reference to the Deepfakes, consider the following statements:**

1. Deepfakes use artificial intelligence (AI) to create highly realistic and convincing manipulations.
2. They can effectively modify individuals' visual and auditory aspects, not their actions.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

**Answer: (a)**

**Q2. Consider the following:**

1. Media Forensics
2. Comparative Analysis
3. Metadata Analysis
4. AI based tools

**How many of the above techniques can be used to detect Deepfakes?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Answer: (d)**

**Q3. Explain the concept of deepfakes and their potential societal impact. Discuss the strategies and technologies that can be employed to prevent and detection.**

**Gaurav**