

National Food Security Act - Odisha, UP & Andhra top 3 in implementation

By TIOL News Service

NEW DELHI, JULY 05, 2022: ODISHA

has been adjudged the top ranked State followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2nd spot and Andhra Pradesh at third amongst the General Category States in 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'. Among the Special Category states/UTs, Tripura stood first followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively. Further, among the 3 UTs where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)- Cash is operational, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu is the top ranked UT.

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal released the 1st edition of 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' during the conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India' organized by Department of Food and Public Distribution here today. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Rural Development along with Secretary DFPD, Sudhanshu Pandey along with Food Ministers and senior officials of 8 states were present at the daylong conference.

This "State ranking Index for NFSA" attempts to document the status and progress of implementation of NFSA and various reform initiatives across the country, post consultation with states. It highlights the reforms undertaken by States and UTs and create a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all states and union territories. The present Index is largely focused on NFSA Distribution and will include procurement, PMGKAY Distribution in future. The Index for ranking the states and UTs is built on three key pillars which covers the end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS. These pillars are: i) NFSA- Coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, ii) Delivery platform, and iii) Nutrition initiatives. The detailed list of the States is at Annexure-I.

The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted on July 5, 2013 and in order to celebrate the day, the conference was organized to deliberate and discuss nutritional security, food security, best practices followed in Public Distribution System, crop diversification, reforms in PDS and storage sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Goyal said that India is now 100% connected under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC). He complemented Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi for visualizing this pathbreaking initiative and all those associated with it. He said that 45 crore transitions have taken so far providing the beneficiaries the freedom to collect ration from any State/UT in the country. He said that during COVID, ONORC supported migrants.

Goyal said that going forward, the system of digitized, Aadhaar linked Public Distribution will be used to issue Ayushman Bharat Card. He mentioned that Uttar Pradesh is using the system to issue Ayushman Bharat card. He urged other states to consider this system to provide nutritional security as well as health security. He said that immunization of migrant kids can also be linked with the system to ensure medical facility to them.

Talking about the food subsidy to states, Goyal announced that the deadline to submit claims of pending dues till the year 2019-20 is August 15, 2022. He reiterated that no dues will be entertained after the deadline. He added that the pending bills of the States/UTs that will finalize the audited accounts with supporting documents by August 15, 2022, will be cleared within 60 days (October 15, 2022). However, the States/UTs that will provide details in next 3 months (July-Sept 2022), their bills will be paid by January 31, 2023. And the States/UTs that will take longer than that, will not be paid any interest. He further said that the subsidy claims are pending not because the funds are not available with the Centre, but because the States/UTs are not providing relevant data. As many participating States/UTs raised concern over delay in CAG audit, he directed the officials to get in touch with CAG for expediting the audits. Adding on he said that all claims after April 2020, will be digitized. Goyal said that the absence of states Telangana, Orissa, Jharkhand, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Nagaland reflects poorly.

Earlier, the Conference began with a moderated discussion on food security, rice fortification and food-basket diversification. The panel discussion was moderated by Vinay Kumar, Secretary, Food & Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar and joined by Smt Mamta Shankar, Sr. Economic Advisor, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India; Dr Kapil Yadav, Additional

Professor, Community Medicine, AIIMS; Dr Shariqua Yunus, Head Nutrition Unit, World Food Programme; Dr MS Radhika, Sr. Scientist, ICMR-NIN; and Dr Konda Reddy Chavva, Consultant, FAO (India).

State rankings: 2022

Ranks and scores obtained by general category states and union territories

State or union territory	Index score	Rank
Odisha	0.836	1
Uttar Pradesh	0.797	2
Andhra Pradesh	0.794	3
Gujarat	0.790	4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu	0.787	5
Madhya Pradesh	0.786	6
Bihar	0.783	7
Karnataka	0.779	8
Tamil Nadu	0.778	9
Jharkhand	0.754	10
Kerala	0.750	11
Telangana	0.743	12

Maharashtra	0.708	13
West Bengal	0.704	14
Rajasthan	0.694	15
Punjab	0.665	16
Haryana	0.661	17
Delhi	0.658	18
Chhattisgarh	0.654	19
Goa	0.631	20

*The UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu is covered under both category-for urban areas under DBT category and for other areas under non DBT category.

Ranks and scores obtained by states and union territories belonging to special 2 categories (North Eastern states, Himalayan states, and the Island Regions)

State or union territory	Index score	Rank
Tripura	0.788	1
Himachal Pradesh	0.758	2
Sikkim	0.710	3
Nagaland	0.648	4

Uttarakhand	0.637	5
Mizoram	0.609	6
Assam	0.604	7
Arunachal Pradesh	0.586	8
Lakshadweep	0.568	9
Jammu & Kashmir	0.564	10
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.562	11
Manipur	0.522	12
Meghalaya	0.512	13
Ladakh	0.412	14

Ranks and scores obtained by union territories operating in DBT (cash transfer) mode

Union territory	Index score	Rank
Dadra & NH and Daman Diu	0.802	1
Puducherry	0.709	2
Chandigarh	0.680	3

2Based on complexity in providing services owing to geographical constraints

Comprehensive country level Index 3

State or union territory	Index score	Rank
Odisha	0.836	1
Uttar Pradesh	0.797	2
Andhra Pradesh	0.794	3
Gujarat	0.790	4
Tripura	0.788	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu	0.787	6
Madhya Pradesh	0.786	7
Bihar	0.783	8
Karnataka	0.779	9
Tamil Nadu	0.778	10
Himachal Pradesh	0.758	11
Jharkhand	0.754	12
Kerala	0.750	13

Telangana	0.743	14
Sikkim	0.710	15
Maharashtra	0.708	16
West Bengal	0.704	17
Rajasthan	0.694	18
Punjab	0.665	19
Haryana	0.661	20
Delhi	0.658	21
Chhattisgarh	0.654	22
Nagaland	0.648	23
Uttarakhand	0.637	24
Goa	0.631	25
Mizoram	0.609	26
Assam	0.604	27
Arunachal Pradesh	0.586	28

Lakshadweep	0.568	29
Jammu & Kashmir	0.564	30
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.562	31
Manipur	0.522	32
Meghalaya	0.512	33
Ladakh	0.412	34

3DBT cash UTs-Chandigarh and Puducherry have not been listed in the country level index due to variation in the scoring criteria, however separate ranks and scores have been generated for these UTs in all categories.