

■ **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Extended for Five Years**

The Union Cabinet has announced the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for five years, starting from January 1, 2024. This initiative, estimated to cost approximately Rs. 11.80 lakh crore over the five-year period, positions PMGKAY as one of the world's largest social welfare schemes, benefiting 81.35 crore individuals. The move aims to strengthen food security, alleviate financial hardships for the poor, and create nationwide uniformity in free food grain distribution across all states and union territories through a network of over 5 lakh Fair Price Shops.

■ **Ministry of Mines Launches First 5**