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Daily PIB summary**Improved Rice Procurement Framework and PMGKAY Quality Norms**

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WHY IN NEWS

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution revised broken-grain limits for paddy procurement for the Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27.
- Union Government set a targeted paddy procurement estimate of 708.64 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) for the season.

WHAT IS THE IMPROVED RICE QUALITY FRAMEWORK?

- A regulatory standard enforced by the Department of Food and Public Distribution governing foodgrain procurement for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes.
- Administered through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state procuring agencies under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**, 2013.

KEY CHANGES IN PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- **Before:** Raw rice procurement permitted up to 25% broken grains, while parboiled rice permitted up to 16% broken grains.
- **After:** Raw rice procurement capped at a maximum of 10% broken grains; parboiled rice capped at a maximum of 5% broken grains.
- Introduction of mandatory AI-based image validation for grain assessment under the Procurement Centre Smart-Assessment Portal (PCSAP).

WHY IT MATTERS

- Enhances nutritional quality and post-milling shelf life of foodgrains distributed under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).
- Requires modernizing state milling infrastructure to reduce grain breakage during processing.

KEY TERMS

- **Parboiled Rice:** Paddy that has been partially boiled in the husk before milling to retain essential nutrients in the kernel.

- **PMGKAY:** Central scheme providing free foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under the [National Food Security Act](#).

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PRELIMS FACTS

- **New broken-grain limits:** 10% for raw rice and 5% for **parboiled rice** under mandatory procurement norms.
- Integration of AI-based image validation on the PCSAP platform.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Impact of stricter foodgrain procurement specifications on rice millers and state infrastructure.
- Significance of foodgrain quality management in national food security systems.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** [National Food Security Act, 2013](#) - Provides legal entitlement for subsidized foodgrain supply through TPDS.
- **Raw Rice Broken Limit:** 10% - New operational quality standard introduced for KMS 2026-27.
- **Parboiled Rice Broken Limit:** 5% - Revised upper ceiling for parboiled rice procurement.

[Official source](#)

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