

# Economy

## 1. National Productivity Council

### Why in News?

- National Productivity Council (NPC) has been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012 by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI).

### About NPC

- Parent body → NPC is an **autonomous body** under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, Government of India.
- Objective → NPC is a national level organization to **promote productivity culture** in India.
- Established in → **1958**.
- Status → It is an **autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization** and has been **registered as a Society** under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
- NPC is a **constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation** (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member.
- Functions → NPC teams up with its clients to work out **solutions towards accelerating productivity, enhancing competitiveness, increasing profits**, augmenting safety and reliability and ensuring better quality. It provides **reliable database for decision-making**, improved systems and procedures, work culture as well as customer satisfaction both internal & external.

## 2. Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice

### Why in News?

- Union Minister for Food & Consumer Affairs has said that Fifteen States have been identified for implementing Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System(PDS).

### About

- Type → It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** which aims to **address anaemia and micronutrients' deficiency** amongst beneficiaries consuming rice supplied under PDS.
- Duration of Scheme: The Scheme has been approved for a **period of three years beginning 2019-2020**.
- Implementation → **15 State Governments** have **identified** their respective districts (1 district per state) for implementing the Scheme.
- Already 5 states** of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh have **started the distribution of fortified rice** in their respective identified districts.

### 📌 Also Remember

- Food Fortification** → It is the **deliberate addition of one or more micronutrients to food** so as to correct or prevent a deficiency and provide a health benefit.
- Biofortification** → It is the **process** by which the **nutritional quality of food crops is improved** through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding or modern biotechnology.