

Digitalising Fair Price Shops in Himachal Pradesh

Source: PIB

The **Department of Food and Public Distribution**, Government of India, launched a pilot program to onboard **Fair Price Shops (FPSs)** onto the **Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform** in Una and Hamirpur districts of Himachal Pradesh.

- It is the **first time** that Fair Price Shops are on-boarded on ONDC and aims at providing additional avenues of income generation for FPS dealers along with enhancing beneficiary satisfaction.
- **FPS** means a shop which has been licensed to distribute essential commodities to the ration card holders under the **Public Distribution System**.
 - The term is defined in **Section 2(4) of National Food Security Act**, 2013.
 - It offers daily food products like rice, oil, sugar, wheat, and other daily useful commodities at a much lower price than the market price.
- ONDC is a freely accessible government-backed platform that aims to democratise e-commerce
 by moving it from a platform-centric model to an open network for buying and selling of goods and
 services.
 - It was launched by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in 2021.

Read more: Public Distribution System, ONDC

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