**Syllabus subtopic:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections

**Prelims and Mains focus:** About KALIA and PM-KISAN schemes and their significance

**News:** The Odisha government has decided to merge its flagship scheme- Kalia with the Centre’s Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana, apparently due to financial constraint.

**Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Scheme:**

- Involves payments to encourage cultivation and associated activities.
- Primary targets are small farmers, cultivators and landless agricultural labourers.
- All farmers will be provided Rs 10,000 per family as assistance for cultivation.
- Each family will get Rs 5,000 separately in the kharif and rabi seasons, for five cropping seasons between 2018-19 and 2021-22.
- Targets 10 lakh landless households, and specifically SC and ST families. They will be supported with a unit cost of Rs 12,500 for activities like goat rearing, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, poultry farming and fishery.
- **Exception:** A critical trade, dairy production, has deliberately been kept out because keeping a cow is more expensive, while milk production needs to have a collection route or agency that processes and refines this low shelf-life product.
- **It will assist the elderly, sick and differently-abled population** who are unable to take up cultivation, by providing Rs 10,000 per household per year.
- **The scheme includes a life insurance cover** of Rs 2 lakh and additional personal accident coverage of the same amount for 57 lakh households.
- Crop loans up to Rs 50,000 are **interest-free.**
- This is also going to be an area-specific scheme in the sense that an input support for a particular trade, say mushroom cultivation, will be provided if it is prevalent throughout that locality so that there is aggregation of produce.

**About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:**

- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- Under this programme, landholding farmer families, having cultivable land up to 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.
- This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.