

Examining POSHAN – Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment.

GS Paper 2: Issues relating to development and management of social sector/ Services relating to health, education, human resources.



Despite India's 50% increase in GDP since 1991, more than one third of the world's malnourished children live in India. Among these, half of the children under three years old are underweight and a third of wealthiest children are over-nutrient. The prevalence of underweight children in India is among the highest in the world, and is nearly double that of Sub Saharan Africa with dire consequences for mobility, mortality, productivity and economic growth.

The POSHAN Abhiyan

POSHAN Abhiyaan is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022. The objective of POSHAN Abhiyaan to reduce stunting in identified Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden by improving utilization of key Anganwadi Services and improving the quality of Anganwadi Services delivery. Its aim to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

POSHAN Abhiyaan proposal consists of

- Mapping of various Schemes contributing towards addressing malnutrition**
- Introducing a very robust convergence mechanism**
- ICT based Real Time Monitoring system**
- Incentivizing States/UTs for meeting the targets**
- Incentivizing Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT based tools**
- Eliminating registers used by AWWs**
- Introducing measurement of height of children at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)**
- Setting-up Nutrition Resource Centres**

Integration with other schemes

POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, which ensures convergence



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with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh-Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS), Department Food & Public Distribution, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

Coverage of the scheme

More than 10 crore people will be benefitted by this programme. All the States and districts will be covered in a phased manner i.e. 315 districts in 2017-18, 235 districts in 2018-19 and remaining districts in 2019-20.

The targets of the scheme

- The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies.
- NNM targets to reduce stunting, under- nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- By ministry of women and child development
- To improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant & lactating mothers
- \$200 mn loan agreement with world bank for Poshan Abhiyaan
- Reduce low birth weight & anaemia by 3% and 2% respectively
- Reduce stunting by 2 % p.a & by 25% by 2022 (Mission 2022)
- Poshan Abhiyaan as apex body to monitor & guide all nutritional activities

Questions

1. How can POSHAN be a breakthrough in addressing India's appalling nutritional status? Discuss and analyse the relevance of key nutrition strategies for a 'Kuposhan Mukh Bharat'.