



Nutrition Smart Village Initiative

Why in News

A programme on “**Nutrition Smart Village**” will be initiated to strengthen the [Poshan Abhiyan](#).

- It will be part of the [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#), to commemorate the 75th year of Independence of India.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The initiative is **in line with the Prime Minister's call to adopt and transform 75 villages**.
- A total of 75 villages **will be adopted by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres and Indian Council of Agricultural Research -Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA)**.

▪ Objective:

- To **promote nutritional awareness, education and behavioural change** in rural areas involving farm women and school children.
- **Harnessing traditional knowledge** through the local recipe to overcome [malnutrition](#).
- Implementing **nutrition-sensitive agriculture** through homestead agriculture and Nutri-garden.

▪ Poshan Abhiyan:

◦ About:

- Also called **National Nutrition Mission**, was launched on the occasion of the [International Women's Day](#) on 8th March, 2018.
- The Abhiyan targets to **reduce Stunting, undernutrition, Anemia** (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- It also targets to **bring down stunting among children** in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

◦ Poshan 2.0:

- Recently, the **Ministry for Women and Child Development inaugurated Poshan 2.0** and urged all [Aspirational Districts](#) to establish a **Poshan Vatika (nutrition garden)** during the [Nutrition Month \(Poshan Mah\)](#) (from 1st September, 2021).

▪ Scenario of Malnutrition in India:

- Despite decades of investment to tackle this malaise, **India's child malnutrition rates** are still one of the most alarming in the world.
 - The [Global Hunger Index \(2021\)](#) — which is calculated on the basis of total

undernourishment of the population, child stunting, wasting and child mortality — places India at the **101st spot among 116 countries.**

- The bane of child and maternal malnutrition is **responsible for 15% of India's total disease burden.**
 - According to the data from the **fifth round of [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS\) \(2019-2021\)](#)** from the 22 states surveyed so far, only 9 showed a decline in the number of stunted children, 10 in wasted children and six in underweight children.
 - Research suggests that USD 1 spent on nutritional interventions in India could generate USD (34.1 to 38.6) in public economic returns three times more than the global average.
 - Studies reveal that **India loses up to 4% of its [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) and up to 8% of its productivity** due to child malnutrition.
- **Other Related Government Initiatives:**
- [Anemia Mukht Bharat Abhiyan](#)
 - [Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman \(PM POSHAN\)](#)
 - [The National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#)
 - [Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana \(PMMVY\)](#)
 - [Integrated Child Development Scheme \(ICDS\)](#)

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