GS-II: India unlikely to meet ‘Poshan Abhiyan’ targets, finds study

News

India is unlikely to meet targets under the ambitious Poshan Abhiyan or National nutrition Mission for reduction in prevalence of stunting, underweight, low birth and anaemia in women and children by 2022.

Poshan Abhiyan:

- There are many little things that can be employed in our country’s effective fight against malnutrition. Today, due to lack of awareness, both poor and affluent families are affected by malnutrition. The month of September will be celebrated as ‘Poshan Abhiyaan’ across the country. You must get connected with it, get information about this initiative, add some new facet to ‘Poshan Abhiyaan’ by contributing to it. If you manage to save a few people from malnutrition, it would mean that we can bring the country out of the circle of malnutrition.

- Poshan Month was launched last year by the government to improve the nutritional status of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to achieve specific targets for reduction in low birth weight babies, stunting growth, under nutrition and prevalence of anaemia over next three years.

- Ministry of Women and Child Development under POSHAN Abhiyaan.

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the government on March 8, 2018.

- The Abhiyaan 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.

- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

- POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters.

- Under the Abhiyaan, Swasth Bharat Preraks will be deployed one in each district for coordinating with district officials and enabling fast and efficient execution of the Abhiyaan across the country. Swasth Bharat Preraks would function as catalyst for fast tracking the implementation of the Abhiyaan.

Malnutrition Causes 45 Per Cent Child Deaths In India

Malnutrition is a medical condition caused due to an unbalanced diet that is deficiencies, excesses or imbalance in a person’s intake of one or more vital nutrients. Malnutrition is broadly classified into two categories – under nutrition and obesity. Mal means bad therefore malnutrition means bad nutrition. Earlier malnutrition implied undernutrition, but over the years the meaning has changed. It also includes obesity and being overweight.

India ranked 103 out of 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2018. India slipped by three positions as compared to 100th rank in 2017. With a score of 31.3, India suffers from a
level of hunger that is serious. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool that comprehensively measures and tracks hunger at global, regional, and national levels, while taking into account undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. All the four parameters are directly related to lack of food and malnutrition, which was the leading cause of death and disability in India in 2017, states the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 prepared by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

Way Forward

Health and nutrition are the priority areas of our government. Health remains one of the key areas in our quest of building an inclusive and new India. An integral part of our vision is achieving ‘kuposhan mukt bharat’ (malnutrition-free India) by 2022. Balanced and nutritious food is essential for all of us, more so for women and the new-born, since these two categories are the foundation of the future of our society. Under the ‘Poshan Abhiyaan’ campaign, nutrition made available with the help of modern scientific methods is being converted into a mass movement all over the country.