

Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi: Anganwadi Scheme for Early Childhood Care, Education Launched

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Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) recently launched the Centre's flagship programme 'Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi', which will focus on **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** at anganwadis across the country.
- ECCE is an important component of **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0** (Mission Poshan 2.0) and envisaged under the **National Education Policy 2020**.

Anganwadi Ecosystem in India:

- Considering global evidence that **85% of brain development is achieved by the age of 6 years**, the Anganwadi eco-system becomes a critical access point for building the children's base.
- Close to **13.9 lakh** operational Anganwadi centres across the country are providing **supplementary nutrition and early care and education** to around 8 crore beneficiary children (under the age of 6 years).
 - This makes it the largest public provisioning of such services in the world.
- MoWCD has allocated **Rs 600 crore for the training** of anganwadi workers to implement the ECCE.
 - The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (**NIPCCD**) has been roped in for the training of Anganwadi workers.

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0:

- It is an **Integrated Nutrition Support Programme** approved for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- It seeks to **address the challenges of malnutrition** in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through –
 - A strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and
 - Creation of a **convergent eco-system** to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.
- The existing components (of the on-going nutrition programme) have been re-organised (to improve implementation) under Poshan 2.0 into the primary verticals given below:
 - **Nutrition Support through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)** for children (06 months to 6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM); and for Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) in Aspirational Districts and North Eastern Region (NER);
 - ECCE [3-6 years] and early stimulation for (0-3 years);
 - Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi; and
 - **Poshan Abhiyaan:** Launched in 2018, its focus is to lay emphasis on nutritional status of adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children from 0-6 years age.

What is the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi Programme?

- It is a pathbreaking ECCE program **to ensure that India has the world's largest, universal, high-quality pre-school network**, as suggested by the NEP 2020.
- The aim is not only to make anganwadi centres **nutrition hubs** but also **education-imparting centres** - providing at least two hours of high-quality preschool instruction on a daily basis.
- Under this, the government will target children's development in every domain mentioned in the **National Curriculum Framework**, viz., physical and motor development, cognitive development, socio-emotional-ethical development, etc.

- It will also ensure the **use of developmentally appropriate pedagogies** and emphasising the links with primary education as well as early childhood health and nutrition services.
 - It will help build a **Jan Andolan**, to involve communities in strengthening the foundations of the country's future generations.
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Q1) What is POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition)?

Principal goal of the POSHAN Abhiyaan is to improve nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. It is a three-year programme to ensure a holistic approach, covering all 36 states and UTs.

Q2) What are National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs)?

The National Education Policy 2020 aims to devise four NCFs, for which a comprehensive strategy has been worked out jointly by the Ministry of Education and NCERT. They will serve as a guideline for designing the syllabus, and textbooks, and inform teaching practices in the country.

Source: [Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi Anganwadi scheme for early childhood care, education launched](#) | [PIB](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/poshan-bhi-padhai-bhi-anganwadi-scheme-for-early-childhood-care-education-launched/>
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