

**30 – 07 – 2022**

**News:** Agricultural Census

## **Agricultural Census**

- Agricultural Census is **conducted every five years** in India for the collection of data on the structure of operational holdings by different size classes and social groups.
- Primary (fresh data) and secondary (already published) data on the structure of Indian agriculture are collected under this operation with the help of State Governments.
- Agricultural Census is carried out as a **Central Sector Scheme under which 100% financial assistance is provided to States/Union Territories.**

Agricultural Census operation is carried out in three phases.

- During Phase-I, a list of all holdings with data on area, gender, and social group of the holder is prepared with the help of the listing schedule.
- During Phase-II detailed data on tenancy, land use, irrigation status, area under different crops (irrigated and un-irrigated) are collected in holding schedule.

- Phase-III, which is called Input Survey, relates to the collection of data of input use across various crops, States, and size groups of holdings, in addition to data on agriculture credit, implements, and machinery, livestock, and seeds.
- It is undertaken by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- The first Agricultural Census in the country was **conducted with the reference year 1970-71**.

### **Eleventh Agricultural Census**

- The **field work of the agricultural census will start in August 2022**.
- This is the **first time that data collection for agricultural census will be conducted on smartphones and tablets, so that data is available in time**.

#### **It includes**

- **Use of digital land records** like land title records and survey reports
- **Collection of data through app/software** using smartphone/tablet.
- **Complete enumeration of all villages in states with non-land records during Phase-I** was done in states having land records.
- **Real time monitoring of progress and processing**.
- **Most of the States have digitized their land records and surveys**, which will further accelerate the collection of agricultural census data.

- The use of digitized land records and the use of mobile apps for data collection will enable the creation of a database of operational holdings in the country.

### **News: Malnutrition and target**

- Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has released targets to curb Malnutrition in India.

### **Targets**

- Aims at reducing stunting and under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) among children below 6 years by 2% each year.
- Aims to Reduce, low birth weight by 2% per annum, Anaemia among children between six and 59 months, as well as women and adolescent girls (15 to 49 years), by 3% per annum.
- Anaemia is a medical condition in which the blood doesn't have enough healthy red blood cells.
- Highlighted the NFHS-5 Report, which comprises of detailed information on key domains of population, such as: health and family welfare, fertility, family planning, infant and child mortality, maternal and child health, nutrition and anaemia, morbidity and healthcare, women's empowerment etc.

# Findings of the NFHS-5

## Data on Stunted Children

- Meghalaya has the highest number of stunted children (46.5%), followed by Bihar (42.9%).
- Maharashtra has 25.6% wasted children (weight for height) — the highest — followed by Gujarat (25.1%).
- Jharkhand has the highest percentage of women (26%), between 15 and 49 years, who have a below-normal Body Mass Index (BMI).

## Other Findings

- The Total Fertility Rates (TFR), an average number of children per woman, has declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5.
- Overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54% to 67% in the country.
- Institutional Births have increased substantially from 79% to 89% in India.
- Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, wasting from 21.0% to 19.3% and underweight prevalence is down from 35.8% to 32.1%.
- Women (15-49 years) whose BMI (Body Mass Index) is below normal has reduced from 22.9% in NFHS-4 to 18.7% in NFHS-5.

## Malnutrition and Related Initiatives

- Malnutrition is the condition that develops when the body is deprived of vitamins, minerals and other nutrients it needs to maintain healthy tissues and organ function.
- Malnutrition occurs in people who are either undernourished or over nourished.

## Initiatives by Governments

### Anemia Mukh Bharat 6\*6\*6 Strategy

- Anemia Mukh Bharat Strategy is a strategy focused on benefitting 6 target beneficiary groups, through 6 interventions and 6 institutional mechanisms to achieve the envisaged target of anemia reduction under the POSHAN Abhiyan.

Beneficiaries	Intervention	Institutions
Children (6-59 months)	Prophylactic IFA supplementation	Intra-ministerial coordination
Children (5 - 10 years)	Deworming	Nutritional Anemia Mukh Bharat Unit
Adolescents under	Behavior Change	National Centre of Excellence and Advanced

19	Communication	Research on Anemia Control (NCEAR -A)
Women in Reproductive Age group	Test and Treat approach for nutritional anemia	Convergence with other ministries
Pregnant Women	Food fortification	Strengthening Supply Chain and logistics
Lactating Mothers	Addressing non nutritional causes of anemia	Digital Dashboard

## Poshan Abhiyaan / National Nutrition Mission

- Poshan Abhiyaan is the flagship programme of **Women and Child Empowerment Ministry** which aims at **improving nutritional outcomes among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children by reducing the level of stunting, underweight, anemia reduction 6\*6\*6 strategy, and low birth weight by 2022.**
- 50% of total budget comes from **World Bank** or other multilateral development banks and rest comes from **Centre's budgetary support.**

- The Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, under nutrition, 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.
- **More than a third of the children** under five face **stunting and wasting** and **40%** aged between one and four are anemic.
- Over **50%** of pregnant and other women were found to be anemic, said the National Family Health Survey 4 released in 2016.
- The **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** is formed under the Poshan Abhiyaan.

## **Poshan Tracker Application**

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has rolled out **Poshan Tracker application**.
- The goal is to **follow nutrition systems strengthening approach for improving maternal and child undernutrition, focused on strengthening implementation bottlenecks at all levels**.
- The Poshan Tracker is built **using centralized data architecture that** also aligns with the digital technology systems of other ministries and programs.

- The system provides a digital identity to each beneficiary through a digital card, and allows convergence of call centre with the technology platform.
- The system generates automated alerts to the critical last-mile beneficiaries.
- It also ensures efficient audit of the delivery system, by documenting real time attendance of beneficiaries and duty bearers. Such a robust digital technology platform and management information system will help the mission to scale efficiently, thereby generating and documenting significant positive impact.

### **Purpose**

- The purpose of POSHAN Tracker application is to provide a 360-degree view of the activities of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. The proposed system should enable real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on the defined indicators.



# Food Fortification

- Fortification is the **addition of key vitamins and minerals** such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt **to improve their nutritional content**.
- These **nutrients may or may not have been originally present** in the food before processing.
- Food fortification is a **“complementary strategy”** and not a replacement of a balanced & diversified diet to address malnutrition.
- Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs recently approved **a centrally-sponsored pilot scheme on fortification of rice and its dispersal through the Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
- **Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018** has **prescribed standards for fortification** of various food products such as all fortified foods must not fall below the minimum level of micronutrients.

## Mandatory food Fortification

- Some **food items are to be compulsorily fortified in India**.
- Last year, **FSSAI considered it mandatory to fortify edible oil with vitamin A and D ‘so that people of India can enjoy better immunity with good health’**.

- The country is also considering ‘compulsory’ fortification of **rice with Vitamin B12, Iron, and Folic Acid from 2024 to address malnutrition and anaemia crisis in the country.**
- The Union Government has also started **distributing fortified rice through the mid-day meal scheme and Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) programme** citing widespread nutritional deficiencies.
- The central government has also **initiated a three-year pilot scheme on rice fortification and supply via public distribution (PDS) in 15 districts across the country.**
- Recently, **experts have flagged issues against mandatory food fortification.**
- In the letter, the signatories including Right to Food Campaign, a non-profit working for food rights, and the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture, an informal network working to strengthen food diversity and nutrition, pointed out that the **mandatory fortification is detrimental to health and “it would bring socio-economic impacts such as market shifts in favor of large corporations, loss of livelihoods for small and informal players, monocultures in diets and reliance on packaged foods.”**
- Experts also pointed out that **in undernourished populations such as India’s, the key problem is protein inadequacy** as a result of monotonous cereal-based diets along with low consumption of vegetables and animal source foods such as

meat, poultry, eggs, and fish. The fortification can lead to toxicity, including gut inflammation, they say.

## **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a centrally sponsored maternal benefit scheme implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

### **Beneficiaries**

- All pregnant women and lactating mothers excluding those who are in regular employment in Central / State Government.
- All eligible pregnant women and LM who have their pregnancy on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 for the first child of the family.
- Recently, the Government has clarified that Aadhaar of Husbands is not mandatory under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, to facilitate the inclusion of single mothers and abandoned mothers.

Beneficiaries receive a cash benefit of 5000 in 3 installments on fulfilling the conditions;

- Early registration of pregnancy.

- Ante-natal checkup.
- Registration of birth and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The scheme is combined with another scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, under which nearly ₹1,000 is given for an institutional birth, so that a woman gets a total of ₹6,000.
- The funds are distributed under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.
- The implementation of this scheme is closely monitored using web software PMMVY – Common Application Software.
- A beneficiary is eligible to receive benefits under the scheme only once. That is, in case of infant mortality, she will not be eligible for claiming benefits under the scheme, if she has already received all the installments of the maternity benefit under PMMVY earlier.
- Recently, this provision has been amended that the cash benefit would be transferred to second child also, provided that the second child is a girl one.

## **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**

- The Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a **centrally sponsored scheme** implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in 1975.

### **Six Schemes under Umbrella ICDS**

#### **Anganwadi Services Scheme:**

- It is a **unique programme for early childhood care and development.**
- The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the **age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.**
- It provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services.
- Supplementary Nutrition includes Take Home Ration (THR), Hot Cooked Meal and morning snacks and holds importance for many vulnerable households as it impacts the nutritional outcome of the children.

## **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**

- It provides **cash incentive amounting to Rs.5, 000/- in three installments directly to the Bank/Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mother (PW&LM) in DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) Mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions.**

## **National Creche Scheme**

- It **provides day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women.**
- The facilities are provided for seven and half hours a day for 26 days in a month.
- Children are provided with supplementary nutrition, early childcare education, and health and sleeping facilities.

## **Scheme for Adolescent Girls**

- It aims at out of **school girls in the age group 11-14, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills and home skills.**
- The scheme has nutritional and non nutritional components which include nutrition; iron and folic acid supplementation; health check up and referral service; nutrition and health education; mainstreaming out of school girls to join

formal schooling bridge course/ skill training; life skill education, home management etc, counseling/ guidance on accessing public services.

### **Child Protection Scheme**

- It aims to contribute to the improvement and well-being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as, reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from parents.

### **POSHAN Abhiyaan**

- It targets to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies by reducing mal-nutrition/undernutrition, anemia among young children as also, focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

### **Objectives of ICDS**

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
- To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child.

- To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout.
- To achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development.
- To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child.
- To facilitate, educate and empower Adolescent Girls (AGs) so as to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens.

**News:** Coffee Board of India

- Government of India has decided to bring Coffee Promotion Bill to give more powers to the Coffee Board of India.

## **Coffee Promotion Bill**

- Coffee Promotion Bill aims to modernize the functioning of the Coffee Board of India.
- It would address several functional areas of the Coffee Board, such as support for production, research, extension, and quality improvement, promotion of coffee, and skill development of growers.



- Many such activities were originally not included in the mandate of the Coffee Board but now need to be incorporated into its functions and powers.

## Significance

- With the expansion of the coffee industry, there would be the creation of jobs and chances for business entrepreneurship in all sectors of the coffee value chain, from production to consumption.
- Furthermore, consumers will receive high-quality coffee comparable to those of other countries.
- It will also protect the interests of the labor in plantations, processing units, and coffee communities.
- It will promote ease of doing business by simplifying documentation and procedures, including replacing the existing five-year validity of Registration cum Membership Certificate (RCMC) with a one-time exporter registration and bringing in a one-time registration of curing units.
- There will be a time-bound procedure in the Bill for issuing the Registration Certificate.

## Coffee Board of India

- Coffee Board of India is a statutory organization that was constituted under **Section (4) of the Coffee Act, 1942**.
- It functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.
- The Board comprises **33 Members including the Chairperson, who is the Chief Executive and it functions from Bangalore**.
- The Board mainly focuses its activities in the **areas of research, extension, and development, and market intelligence, external & internal promotion for coffee**.
- It is headquartered in **Bangalore**.
- Recently, **government of India has decided to bring Coffee Promotion Bill to empower the Coffee Board of India**. The revised bill addresses several functional areas of the Coffee Board, such as support for production, research, extension, and quality improvement, promotion of coffee, and skill development of growers.

## Coffee

- Coffee is a **high – land plantation crop** which is cultivated in regions having moderate temperature with heavy rainfall.

- It thrives well in Monsoon type of climate.
- India ranks 7<sup>th</sup> among the world's 80 coffee producing countries in a list topped by Brazil, with some of the finest robusta and some top-notch arabica cultivated.
- India cultivates 3.7% of entire coffee in the world. Nearly 70% of India's coffee is exported, largely to European and Asian markets.
- According to The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics, India is the eighth largest exporter of coffee by volume.
- Coffee in India is traditionally grown in the rainforests of the Western Ghats in South India, covering Chikmagalur, Kodagu (Coorg), Wayanad, the Shevaroy Hills and the Nilgiris.
- Karnataka accounts to nearby 3/4<sup>th</sup> of coffee production in India followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

### **Climatic Conditions**

- Coffee plant requires hot and humid climate with temperatures ranging between 15°C and 28 °C and rainfall from 150 to 250 cm.
- Frost, snowfall, high temperature above 30°C and strong sun shine is not good for coffee crop and is generally grown under shady trees.

- Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level.
- Well drained, loams containing good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.
- India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.
- Two types of coffee varieties are produced in India; Arabica and Robusta. Robusta variety of coffee is produced more than Arabia variety in India.

**News: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**

- Singapore and USA have emerged as top 2 sourcing nations in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity flows into India in FY 2021-22 followed by Mauritius, Netherland and Switzerland.
- UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2022 has ranked India at 7<sup>th</sup> rank among the top 20 host economies for 2021, in terms of FDI.
- India received the highest annual FDI inflows of USD 84,835 million in FY 21-22, overtaking last year's FDI by USD 2.87 billion.
- In 2021, FDI inflows increased from USD 74,391 million in FY 19-20 to USD 81,973 million in FY 20-21.

- Top 5 FDI Sourcing Nations are Singapore (27.01%), USA (17.94%), Mauritius (15.98%), Netherland (7.86%) and Switzerland (7.31%).
- Top Sectors are Computer Software & Hardware (24.60%), Services Sector (12.13%), Automobile Industry (11.89%), Trading (7.72%) and Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (5.52%).
- Top Destinations are Karnataka (37.55%), Maharashtra (26.26%), Delhi (13.93%), Tamil Nadu (5.10%) and Haryana (4.76%).
- FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing Sectors have increased by 76% in FY 2021-22 (USD 21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21 (USD 12.09 billion).

## Foreign Direct Investment

- A Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.
- FDI lets an investor purchase a direct business interest in a foreign country.
- Investors can make FDI in a number of ways.
- Some common ones include establishing a subsidiary in another country, acquiring or merging with an existing foreign company, or starting a joint venture partnership with a foreign company.

- Apart from being a critical driver of economic growth, **FDI has been a major non-debt financial resource** for the economic development of India.
- It is different from Foreign Portfolio Investment where the foreign entity merely buys stocks and bonds of a company.
- **FPI does not provide the investor with control over the business.**

**News:** Manas reserve has 2.4 tigresses for every tiger

- **Assam has 2.4 tigresses for every tiger**, the annual wildlife monitoring results of the transboundary wildlife preserve has revealed. According to the latest camera trapping assessment stipulated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the 2,837.31km<sup>2</sup> reserve with a critical tiger habitat area of 536.22 km<sup>2</sup> has 52 adult tigers along with eight cubs.

## **Manas National Park**

- Manas is simultaneously a **National Park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, Project Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and an Important Bird Area** in Assam.
- It is contiguous with Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.

- Together with Royal Manas Park in Bhutan, Manas National Park constitutes the TraMCA which was awarded the Tx2 conservation award.
- The name comes from River Manas, a major tributary of Brahmaputra River.
- The National Park is famous for Assam roofed turtle, Golden Langur, Hispid Hare, Pygmy Hog and Wild Water Buffalo.
- Recently, a Himalayan Serow was also seen there.
- In June 2020, 8 Critically Endangered Pygmy Hogs were reintroduced in the National Park.
- Recently, Manas was accredited with Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) for its excellence in Tiger conservation.