The Poshan Abhiyaan, earlier known as the National Nutrition Mission is Government of India’s (GoI’s) flagship scheme that aims to holistically address the prevalence of malnutrition in India through the use of technology, convergence, behavioural change, training, and capacity building.

This brief uses government data to report on the following:
- Trends in GoI allocations, releases, and expenditures;
- Trends in expenditure of selected individual components of Poshan Abhiyaan; and
- Trends in participation by gender and activities conducted under the Mission.

Cost share and implementation:
Cost sharing ratio between the GoI and state governments and Union Territories (UTs) with legislatures is 60:40. For North Eastern Region (NER) states and Himalayan states the cost sharing ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, GoI bears 100 per cent of the cost. 50 per cent of GoI’s share comes from Externally Aided Project (EAP).

Allocations by GoI for Poshan Abhiyaan have been high. Between Financial Year (FY) 2017-18 and FY 2019-20 Revised Estimates (REs), GoI allocated ₹7,411 crore under Poshan Abhiyaan, nearly triple its anticipated share of ₹2,850 crore.

In FY 2020-21 Budget Estimates (BEs), GoI allocated another ₹3,700 crore for the Mission, a 9 per cent increase from previous year’s REs.

Utilisation of funds, however, have been low. On average, only 34 per cent of funds released by GoI were spent over the cumulative period from FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20 till 30 November 2019.

Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) for the development and setting up of Common Application Software (CAS) and expenditure on components under behavioural change such as advocacy and Community-Based Events (CBE) together comprised 72 per cent of total expenditure.

A one-time grant is given as an innovation fund for selected successful pilot projects that have achieved desirable nutritional outcomes. However, only 12 states had utilised this grant by the end of November 2019.

In September 2019, Gujarat, Bihar, and Maharashtra constituted the highest share in activities conducted during the month of Poshan Maah.
TRENDS IN OVERALL ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

On 8 March 2018, Government of India (GoI) launched the Poshan Abhiyaan, earlier known as the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) to reduce malnutrition in a phased manner through a lifecycle approach. The scheme subsumes the previous Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Program (ISSNIP).

The purpose of the Poshan Abhiyaan is to serve as an apex body to assist a multi-ministerial convergence Mission. The scheme focusses on reducing the prevalence of malnutrition among children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women within a three-year, time-bound approach.

The specific targets indentified by the Mission are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevent and reduce stunting in children (0-6 years)</td>
<td>From 38.4 per cent (as per the fourth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) to 25 per cent by 2022.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)</td>
<td>By 6 percentage points at a reduction rate of 2 per cent per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among young children (6-59 months)</td>
<td>By 9 percentage points at a reduction rate of 3 per cent per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among women and adolescent girls in the age group of 15-49 years</td>
<td>By 9 percentage points at a reduction rate of 3 per cent per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW)</td>
<td>By 6 percentage points at a reduction rate of 2 per cent per annum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scheme falls under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and all states and Union Territories (UTs) are to be covered under the scheme in a phased manner.

Financing for Poshan Abhiyaan comes from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) from GoI, funds from Externally Aided Programmes (EAPs) including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)/Multi-lateral Development Banks (MDBs), and states/UTs.

The sharing pattern varies across states and activities. For activities to be carried out at the central level, funds are shared between GoI and EAPs in a 50:50 ratio. For remaining activities, funds are shared between GoI and states in a 60:40 ratio for most states except North Eastern Region (NER) states and Himalayan states where the ratio is 90:10. Half of GoI's share is from EAPs.

Allocations

At the time of its launch, the total cost of the Mission between FY 2017-18 and FY 2019-20 was fixed at ₹9,046 crore. Of this, GoI’s share was anticipated at ₹2,850 crore, and the remaining costs were to be borne by states/UTs and through EAPs.

Allocations by GoI have been high. Between FY 2017-18 and FY 2019-20 Revised Estimates (REs), GoI allocated ₹6,940 crore as the Programme Component under Poshan Abhiyaan, more than double its anticipated share. After accounting for funds under EAPs, a total of ₹7,411 crore had been allocated to the scheme till FY 2019-20.

There are, however, year-on-year differences in GoI allocations. In FY 2017-18, Budget Estimates (BEs), including EAP share, stood at ₹1,500 crore. These, however, decreased in the Revised Estimates (REs) to ₹950 crore.
Between FY 2017-18 and FY 2019-20, there was more than a three-fold increase in total GoI allocations (including EAP).

In FY 2020-21, ₹3,700 crore was allocated for Poshan Abhiyaan, a 9 per cent increase from the previous year.

### ₹11,111 CRORE ALLOCATED FOR POSHAN ABHIYAAN TILL 2020-21

**GoI allocations - Programme component (in ₹ crore)  GoI allocations - EAP component (in ₹ crore)**


**Note:** Figures are in Rupees crore and are Revised Estimates (REs) except for FY 2020-21 which are Budget Estimates (BEs).

**Releases**

- Releases by GoI have been lower than allocations. Cumulatively, from FY 2017-18 till 30 November 2019, GoI released a total of ₹4,249 crore, 57 per cent of its cumulative allocation during the same period.

- There are year-on-year differences. In FY 2017-18, GoI released ₹640 crore— including unspent balances from ISNNIP. With the inclusion of additional districts, releases increased significantly to ₹2,544 crore in FY 2018-19. In FY 2019-20, till 30 November 2019, ₹1,065 crore had been released by GoI to states.

**Coverage**

- The roll-out of the scheme was to be done in a phased manner.
  - Phase 1 was launched in FY 2017-18 and targeted at a total of 315 districts. Of these, 201 were identified by the NITI Aayog based on a high prevalence of stunting as per NFHS-4; 162 districts were covered under the ISSNIP programme, and 106 districts under the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
  - Phase 2, launched in FY 2018-19, covered 235 districts based on the prevalence of undernutrition and another 32 were added in September 2019. Finally,
  - Phase 3 was launched in FY 2019-20 covering all remaining districts.

- More than half of Uttar Pradesh’s districts were covered in Phase 1 (20 per cent of the total 315 districts covered). Other states with high coverage of their districts in Phase 1 included Bihar (12 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (12 per cent), and Rajasthan (8 per cent).
There are differences in the quantum of funds received by states and the year of implementation of the scheme in the state.

Given the phased manner of implementation, state-wise release of funds has been analysed cumulatively from the start of the programme till 30 November 2019 (latest data available).

While Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of districts to be covered, and most were covered in the first year of implementation, release of funds in Uttar Pradesh was relatively low with only 9 per cent (₹380 crore) of total GoI releases earmarked for the state, till November 2019.

Instead, Maharashtra received the highest share of GoI releases (13 per cent of the total at ₹566 crore).

Release of funds was relatively low in Jharkhand (2 per cent of the total at ₹75 crore) and Manipur (1 per cent of the total at ₹42 crore).

In FY 2019-20, there was no release of GoI funds for 15 states including Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal till November 2019.

8 STATES ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN 60% OF THE TOTAL GOI FUNDS RELEASED OVER 3 YEARS

Expenditures

There are two metrics for analysing expenditures. First, is the utilisation with respect to funds received from GoI. Second, is the total funds spent (including both GoI and expected state shares) as a proportion of total funds received. In the absence of information on the exact quantum of funds released by states, for this analysis state releases are assumed to be the same as the expected state share that state governments submit to the MWCD before allocations are made.

Using either metric, utilisation of funds has been low. Cumulatively, since the start of the programme till 30 November 2019, ₹1,452 crore (34 per cent) out of the ₹4,249 crore received from GoI was spent.

Taking into account expenditures out of expected state shares, utilisation increased marginally to ₹1,933 crore. However, as a proportion of total releases (GoI share and expected state share), this amounts to only 39 per cent of the total funds released till 30 November 2019.

There are, however, state variations. Expenditure as a percentage of total funds received was relatively high in Mizoram (71 per cent), Bihar (66 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (63 per cent).

On the other hand, utilisation was low in West Bengal (21 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (14 per cent), and Kerala (10 per cent). Interestingly, while both Odisha and West Bengal had spent 21 per cent of their total funds received, they had not utilised any of their GoI funds received.

LESS THAN 40% OF TOTAL FUNDS RELEASED TILL NOVEMBER 2019 HAD BEEN UTILISED

![Expenditure chart]


COMPONENT-WISE TRENDS IN EXPENDITURES

The implementation of Poshan Abhiyaan is based on the following pillars:

I) Convergence: The Mission seeks to ensure the convergence of all nutrition related schemes (such as Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, etc.) by setting achievable targets and joint monitoring visits.

II) Use of technology (ICT) for real-time growth monitoring (RTM) and tracking of women and children: The development of the Common Application Software (CAS) involves a mobile phone application which can be used by frontline workers as a job aid and by government as a six-tier real-time monitoring dashboard. Both Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Lady Supervisors (LSs) are trained on the application to digitise information that was previously recorded manually and are given reminders, on conducting their daily tasks, through the application.
III) **Training and capacity building:** The Mission provides training to personnel through the Incremental Learning Approach (ILA) to plan and execute tasks methodically.

IV) **Behavioural change:** A critical part of the Mission is the mobilisation of grassroots communities to combat misinformed or uninformed practices that lead to persistent malnutrition through generations. Some of the ways in which the Mission seeks to bring about behaviour change include: Community Based Events (CBE), Information, Education and Communication (IEC), advocacy, and converting activities into a Jan Andolan (People’s mission).

V) **Innovation:** The Mission prioritises innovation by identifying pilot projects locally that have shown to improve service delivery for better nutritional outcomes. The Abhiyaan has earmarked funds for every state to identify such projects with a vision to scale them up to state or district level.

- From FY 2017-18 till November 2019, a total of ₹1,787 crore was spent on these components.
- The two largest expenditure components were ICT-RTM including the procurement of phones, maintenance, and network costs of devices; and activities related to behaviour change including Jan Andolans, IEC, etc. Each accounted for 36 per cent of the total spending under Poshan Abhiyaan till November 2019.
- Procurement of growth monitoring devices constituted 11 per cent of the total, while administration costs (8 per cent) and training and capacity building (7 per cent) made up the rest of the component shares. In addition, 2 per cent of the total funds were also spent for flexi-funds – untied funds given to states to enable them to meet local needs, and less than 1 per cent under “awards” and the “innovation” grant.

**72% of total expenditure on Poshan Abhiyaan till November 2019 was spent on ICT-RTM and behaviour change**

![Pie chart showing expenditure distribution]

- Share of ICT-RTM
- Share of training and capacity building
- Share of behavioural change
- Share of procurement of growth monitoring devices
- Share of innovation
- Share of administration
- Share of flexi-funds
- Share of incentives

**Source:** RTI response from MWCD dated 6 January 2020.
Given the phased roll out of the scheme, the share of different components across states varies significantly. At least 50 per cent of the total expenditure was incurred on ICT-RTM in six states including Kerala (74 per cent), Uttarakhand (62 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (60 per cent).

In contrast, Chhattisgarh (14 per cent), Jharkhand (10 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (3 per cent) spent a relatively lower share on ICT-RTM. These states instead spent a relatively larger proportion on CBE. For instance, 71 per cent of total expenditure incurred by Uttar Pradesh was on CBE. Similarly, CBE also constituted a bulk of the expenditure incurred by Karnataka (94 per cent), Chhattisgarh (59 per cent), and Jharkhand (33 per cent).

States spending the highest share of total expenditure on procurement of growth monitoring devices were Haryana spending ₹1,556 lakh (53 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh spending ₹610 lakh (36 per cent), and Assam spending ₹3,010 lakh (26 per cent). In contrast, states such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh spent a negligible share of their total expenditure on growth monitoring devices.

94% of total expenditure in Karnataka were for CBE

In terms of ILA, states which spent the highest proportion of their total expenditure were Uttar Pradesh (17 per cent), Chhattisgarh (14 per cent), Jharkhand (14 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (11 per cent). In contrast, ILA expenditure as a share of the state’s total expenditure was only 2 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, and only 1 per cent in Assam.

ICT-RTM

ICT-RTM is one of the largest activities within Poshan Abhiyaan. Till November 2019, ₹640 crore has been spent by GoI on the programme. In addition, funding is also provided through EAPs.

The programme involves a number of activities for which expenditure is incurred. First, mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets are given to AWWs and LSs to ensure daily measuring, updating, and digitisation of records. The devices are provided at the cost of ₹10,000 as a one-time payment, as per MWCD, to frontline workers. Second, funds are also spent on the recharge and maintenance of mobile devices. Third, frontline workers are trained on how to fill the CAS forms and use the data. Finally, incentives are provided to frontline workers directly for the implementation of ICT-RTM.

Till November 2019, 74 per cent of the total expenditure incurred under ICT-RTM was on the procurement of mobile phones. This was followed by 11 per cent for recharge and maintenance of mobile phones and 7 per cent for training. Incentives to frontline workers accounted for the remaining 8 per cent.

There are state differences in the proportion of expenditure within ICT-RTM expenditure. The highest share on procurement of mobile phone was in Kerala (98 per cent), Gujarat (94 per cent, and Assam (91 per cent).

Madhya Pradesh (32 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (4 per cent) spent far less at ₹1,1191 lakh and ₹18 lakh, respectively.

Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra spent the highest proportion on training frontline workers on ICT-RTM. Rajasthan spent ₹249 lakh (19 per cent), Chhattisgarh spent ₹80 lakh (15 per cent), and Maharashtra spent ₹1,278 lakh (10 per cent).

Till November 2019, 74% of the total expenditure incurred under ICT-RTM was for the procurement of mobile phones.

Costing of ICT-RTM versus Expenditures on ICT-RTM

- While ICT-RTM is rolling out in a continuous and phase-wise basis, it is useful to see the total estimated cost of the programme. These costs of providing ICT-RTM are calculated on the basis of i) the total number of devices provided to AWWs and LSs; ii) costs of providing cellular network; iii) cost of devices (smartphones provided to AWWs and tablets provided to LSs); and iv) cost of training frontline functionaries. The cost of providing growth monitoring devices and the costs for administrative support such as setting up the Central and State Programme Monitoring Unit have been excluded from this analysis.

- The ‘per unit’ cost of provision of components has been taken from the figures as mentioned in the Mission guidelines. Other than provision of internet connectivity, which is a per month cost, all other costs are assumed as one-time costs.

- The total annual cost of ICT-RTM related components, therefore, depends on the cost of phones, of training AWWs and LSs (and also master trainers), the provision of cellular network, and maintenance of mobile phones.

- At full coverage, it is estimated that ICT-RTM excluding administrative costs at the GoI level would cost ₹1,998 crore. On average across states, 32 per cent of the estimated ICT-RTM costs had been spent by states till November 2019.

- States which had utilised a high share of their estimated costs were Mizoram (97 per cent or about ₹3 crore), Arunachal Pradesh (96 per cent or ₹9 crore), and Nagaland (91 per cent or ₹5 crore). Other states with relatively high share of utilisation of total cost of provision were Maharashtra (84 per cent or ₹133 crore), Bihar (80 per cent or ₹133 crore), and Tamil Nadu (79 per cent or ₹62 crore).

- In contrast, states which spent less than 10 per cent of the estimated total cost of provision were Chhattisgarh (7 per cent), Jharkhand (5 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (2 per cent).

![Percentage of ICT-RTM expenditure as a share of total estimated cost for this component](https://icds-wcd.nic.in/nnm/NNM-Web-Contents/UPPER-MENU/AdministrativeApproval-Guidelines/Administrative_Guidelines_NNM-26022018.pdf)

**ON AVERAGE, 32% OF THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF PROVISION OF ICT-RTM WAS SPENT BY NOVEMBER 2019**

Training of AWWs on CAS

- Not all AWWs had been trained on CAS till November 2019. On average, 44 per cent (6 lakh AWWs out of 14 lakh AWWs) had been trained. As of November 2019, 6 states had 100 per cent of their workers trained, and 11 states had over 90 per cent of their AWWs trained.

- States like Mizoram (2,244 AWWs), Kerala (33,110 AWWs), Gujarat (53,010 AWWs), Andhra Pradesh (55,586 AWWs), Tamil Nadu (54,413 AWWs), and Himachal Pradesh (18,869 AWWs) had 100 per cent of their AWWs trained on CAS.

- The share of workers trained on CAS was low in Jharkhand (29 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (29 per cent), Chhattisgarh (20 per cent), and Assam (19 per cent).

![9 STATES HAD 98% OR MORE AWWS TRAINED ON ICT-RTM TILL NOVEMBER 2019](chart.png)


Behaviour Change

- A key component of Poshan Abhiyaan is on inducing behaviour change by increasing awareness of malnutrition through both convergence and community engagement. Specifically, the objectives include:
  - Building recognition across sectors on the impact of malnutrition and a ‘call to action’ to reduce malnutrition;
  - Mobilising communities to create intent to consume nutrient rich food;
  - Building knowledge, attitudes and behavioural changes to ensure optimal breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and maternal and adolescent nutrition practices to prevent malnutrition, including severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and anaemia.

- In order to undertake these activities, funds under Poshan Abhiyaan have been spent on IEC, advocacy, Jan Andolan, and other CBEs.

- Overall, ₹635 crore was spent on these activities till November 2019. Within this, while ₹78 crore (12 per cent) was spent on IEC, Advocacy and Jan Andolan, ₹558 crore or 88 per cent was spent on CBE.

- Of all states, Uttar Pradesh spent the highest share of total CBE expenditure at ₹13,059 lakh (23 per cent). The share of Uttar Pradesh in total IEC, Advocacy and Jan Andolan, however, was only 4 per cent.

- Till November 2019, other states which spent a relatively high share on CBE out of total expenditures on that activity included Madhya Pradesh (13 per cent) and Maharashtra (12 percent).

- The share of total expenditure on IEC, Advocacy and Jan Andolan was also high in Madhya Pradesh (18 per cent), Maharashtra (15 per cent), and Gujarat (11 per cent).
In contrast, the share of expenditure on both CBE and IEC, Advocacy and Jan Andolan was negligible in Punjab, Kerala, and Arunachal Pradesh.

### MADHYA PRADESH AND MAHARASHTRA SPENT RELATIVELY HIGH SHARES ON BOTH CBE AND IEC, ADVOCACY AND JAN ANDOLAN OUT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

![Graph showing state share of total expenditure on IEC, Advocacy and Jan Andolan out of total expenditure on this component till 30 November 2019](image)

- **State share of total expenditure on IEC, Advocacy and Jan Andolan out of total expenditure on this component till 30 November 2019**

- **State share of total expenditure on CBE out of total expenditure on this component till 30 November 2019**

**Source:** RTI response from MWCD dated 6 January 2020.

### ILA Trainings

- Training of frontline workers is a crucial element of improving service delivery. The MWCD has formulated a comprehensive training strategy for frontline workers which is implemented on a regular basis.

- The ILA is used on thematic modules. These modules include the following information: i) the importance of monthly meetings; ii) updating home visit planners; iii) observing breastfeeding in newborn babies; iv) what constitutes complementary feeding; and v) how to prevent malnutrition and the other important aspects of care.

- States spent a total of ₹11,712 lakh on ILA trainings with Uttar Pradesh (27 per cent or ₹3,144 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (14 per cent or ₹1,691 lakh), and Maharashtra (10 per cent or ₹1,193 lakh) spending the highest share of total ILA expenditure. Karnataka, Punjab, and Kerala, by contrast, spent less than 1 per cent of total ILA expenditure.

### SHARE OF TOTAL ILA SPENDING WAS HIGH IN UTTAR PRADESH, MADHYA PRADESH, AND BIHAR

![Graph showing state share of funds spent on ILA training out of total expenditure on this component till 30 November 2019](image)

- **State share of funds spent on ILA training out of total expenditure on this component till 30 November 2019**

**Source:** RTI response from MWCD dated 6 January 2020.
Till November 2019, approximately 9.8 lakh AWWs had been trained under ILA. All AWWs had been trained in seven states including Mizoram, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Haryana, and Goa.

Proportions of AWWs trained on ILA was also high in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh at 99 per cent each.

In contrast, no AWW had been trained in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

71% OF AWWS WERE TRAINED ON ILA TILL 30 NOVEMBER 2019

Innovation

Poshan Abhiyaan envisages states to undertake innovative activities intended to improve the service delivery system, capacity building of frontline functionaries, and community engagement for better nutritional outcomes. These activities are to be implemented at the block/district/state level.

The earmarked funds, also known as innovation grants, are solely for the development and implementation of pilot programmes that have been identified as successful programmes of innovation and have achieved desirable nutritional outcomes.

The norms for allocation of funds to states/UTs under innovation activities is ₹27.85 lakh per district for the entire duration of the project up to March 2020. The funds are allocated at the state level while the distribution to districts is up to the discretion of the states themselves.

In FY 2018-19, ₹168 crore had been allocated for innovation activities to states.

Utilisation rates of different states vary considerably. Sixteen states have not spent any funds allocated to them till the end of November FY 2019-20.

Of the states that had utilised some of the funds allocated under innovation, Mizoram (56 per cent), Nagaland (52 per cent), and Bihar (33 per cent) had the highest rates of utilisation out of allocated funds, having spent ₹119 lakh, ₹150 lakh and ₹283 lakh, respectively. Out of the three states, only Bihar was allocated a relatively high share of funds allocated under the innovation grant.

TOTAL PARTICIPATION AND TOTAL ACTIVITIES

- A total of 5.89 crore people (till the end of December 2019) had participated in activities related to Poshan Abhiyaan. Of these, 1.04 crore or 18 per cent were adult males, 2.01 crore or 34 per cent were adult females, 1.33 crore (23 per cent) were girls, and 1.21 crore (21 per cent) were boys.

- There are differences in the participation rate across states. Maharashtra (23 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (20 per cent), and Rajasthan (13 per cent) had the highest percentage share of participants out of the total all-India participation. Participation rates were low in Punjab (0.4 per cent), Kerala (0.6 per cent), and Karnataka (0.7 per cent).

- Till the end of December 2019, a total of 16 lakh activities had been undertaken. States with the highest share of activities undertaken included Maharashtra (22 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (18 per cent), and Rajasthan (26 per cent).

Poshan Maah

As part of the progress and achievement of Poshan Abhiyaan, the Rashtriya Poshan Maah is celebrated in September every year.

The main focus of the month was on the following:

i) First 1000 days of a child;
ii) Diarrhoea prevention;
iii) Paushtik aahar;
iv) WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene); and
v) Anaemia prevention.

In September 2019, approximately 25 crore people had participated in Poshan Maah, and more than 3 crore activities were conducted across the country.

Six states namely Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh accounted for about 83 per cent of the total number of activities conducted during Poshan Maah.

6 STATES ACCOUNTED FOR 83% OF TOTAL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING POSHAN MAAH 2019

Home visits accounted for the largest share (60 per cent) of total activities conducted during Poshan Maah. This was followed by CBE (5 per cent) and Poshan Mela (4 per cent). Other activities included were school-based activities (3 per cent), Poshan rally (2 per cent), and anaemia camps (2 per cent).

STATUS OF MALNUTRITION IN INDIA

The Mission has set itself a target of achieving progress on a set of 5 main malnutrition indicators for which the reference year is 2015-16. Malnutrition among children is usually measured using 3 indicators: a) stunting which is the difference in the height-for-age less than two standard deviations from the average value; b) underweight measured as the difference between weight-for-age less than two standard deviations from the average value; c) and wasting or the difference between the height-for-weight less than two standard deviations from the average value.

Prior to the start of the Mission, 38 per cent of children under 5 were stunted, 36 per cent were underweight, and 21 per cent were wasted.
■ States with the highest share of children who were stunted include Bihar (48 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (46 per cent), Jharkhand (45 per cent), Meghalaya (44 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (42 per cent).

■ States with the highest share of children who were underweight include Jharkhand (48 per cent), Bihar (44 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (43 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (40 per cent).

**STATUS OF MALNUTRITION RATES IN 2015-16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2015-16 Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children aged 6-59 months who are anaemic (&lt;11.0 g/dl)</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All women aged 15-49 years who are anaemic</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age)</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height)</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Coverage under Anaemia-Mukt Bharat**

■ As per the data, in 2015-16, before the start of the Mission, India had a high level of anaemia with 59 per cent of children (6 months to 59 months) and 53 per cent of women (15 to 49 years) diagnosed as anaemic.

■ In March 2018, GoI launched the Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) - an intensified Iron-plus Initiative to holistically target, tackle, and reduce the prevalence of anaemia by 3 per cent per year. This is to be done by focusing on six target beneficiary groups, through six interventions, and six institutional mechanisms to achieve the envisaged target under the Poshan Abhiyaan.

■ As per the AMB Portal, at the end of the first quarter of FY 2019-20, Assam was amongst the best performing states with IFA coverage of 31.5 per cent for children under 5 years. Himachal Pradesh (26.8 per cent), Gujarat (20.5 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (19.7 per cent) also had relatively high coverage.

**IFA COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS WAS HIGH IN ASSAM AND HIMACHAL PRADESH TILL JUNE 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>IFA Coverage for Children Under 5 Years (6-59 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
