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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (13 December 2024)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- GELEPHU PROJECT & HYDROPOWER PLANS OF INDIA & BHUTAN
- INDIA RUSSIA DEFENCE COOPERATION
- HEALTHCARE IN INDIA
  - RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAH
- MCQs

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# GELEPHU PROJECT & HYDROPOWER PLANS OF INDIA & BHUTAN



**Date of Event:** December 5, 2024

**Key Participants:**

- **Bhutan:** King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Queen Jetsun Pema
- **India:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## OVERVIEW OF THE VISIT

- On December 5, 2024, **King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** and **Queen Jetsun Pema** of Bhutan visited India to engage in discussions aimed at strengthening **bilateral relations**, particularly in the areas of **electricity, urban planning, and infrastructure**.

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- During the visit, the Bhutanese King met with Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and both sides discussed important bilateral projects, including the **Gelephu Mindfulness City project** and ongoing **hydropower projects**.

## ABOUT GELEPHU MINDFULNESS CITY PROJECT

### Key Aspects of the Project:

- The **Gelephu Mindfulness City** project is a **major urban development initiative** in Bhutan that aims to create a smart city with an emphasis on mindfulness, well-being, and sustainable urban living.
- It is designed to **enhance Bhutan's economy** and improve the **quality of life** for its citizens, especially in **border regions**, while also fostering **cross-border connectivity**.

### India's Role and Support:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** reaffirmed **India's continued support** for the project, which aims to bring **prosperity** not only to Bhutan but also to the **border areas**.
- The project is seen as an important element of **India-Bhutan economic and investment relations**, and India's cooperation is expected to bolster Bhutan's **economic development** and regional **infrastructure**.

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## Significance:

- India's commitment to supporting the Gelephu project is seen as **strategically important**, especially considering India's ongoing efforts to maintain strong **diplomatic relations** with its neighbors.
- The assurance from India on this project is timely, coming against the backdrop of **diplomatic setbacks** India has experienced in its neighborhood, especially in countries like **Bangladesh** and **Nepal**.

## ADANI GROUP'S ROLE

- The **Adani Group** has been reported to be in discussions with the **Bhutanese government** for potential investment in the **Gelephu project**.
- The Adani Group is considering projects related to **airport development, infrastructure, and renewable energy** in the region.
- In July 2024, Bhutan's King Wangchuk and Prime Minister **Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay** visited **Gujarat**, where they sought cooperation from the Adani Group in these sectors.
  - The **Adani Group** has been facing **international controversies**, with reviews of its projects being conducted in countries like **Sri Lanka** and **Bangladesh**.

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- However, **Bhutan** has not publicly commented on these controversies, and discussions with the Adani Group seem to be ongoing for the **smart city project** in Gelephu, with particular interest in **solar power** and **hydropower** projects.

## HYDROPOWER COOPERATION

- **Punatsangchhu-II Hydropower Project (1020 MW):** One of the key focus areas of the talks was the progress on **hydropower projects**.
  - The **Punatsangchhu-II** project, with a capacity of **1020 MW**, is an important hydroelectric project that is **nearing completion**.
  - Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress and discussed **timelines** and **further cooperation** in the hydropower sector.
- **Punatsangchhu-I Hydropower Project:** The two sides also discussed the **Punatsangchhu-I** project, another major hydropower initiative.
  - The completion of this project is considered critical for Bhutan's electricity needs and energy exports. Both leaders agreed on the **need for the early conclusion** of the **Punatsangchhu-I** project to ensure the timely availability of power.

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## PAST & FUTURE OF HEPs

- Both India and Bhutan emphasized the **importance of continuing cooperation** in the hydropower sector, particularly in terms of **new hydroelectric projects**.
- The discussions also focused on the need to **finalize modalities** for **reservoir-based hydro projects** and other future ventures.
- The two nations highlighted the **urgency** of advancing new projects to **meet Bhutan's growing energy needs** and further enhance cooperation between the two countries.

India has so far constructed **four Hydroelectric Projects** in Bhutan:

- The 60 MW **Kurichhu HEP**;
- 1020 MW **Tala HEP**;
- The 336 MW **Chukha HEP**;
- The 720 MW **Mangdechhu HEP**.

## CROSS BORDER CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS

- **Rail Connectivity**: The two leaders discussed the possibility of enhancing **cross-border connectivity**, particularly through the development of a **rail line** between India and Bhutan.
- The proposed rail project aims to facilitate **better transportation**, trade, and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries.

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- **Digital Networks:** In addition to physical infrastructure, the discussion also covered **digital connectivity**.
  - Both countries are committed to improving their **digital networks** to facilitate smoother communication, trade, and cooperation in various sectors.

## REGIONAL DYNAMICS

- **Diplomatic Setbacks for India:** India's diplomatic position in the region has faced **challenges** in recent months:
  - **Bangladesh:** Relations with **Bangladesh** have become strained since the fall of the **Sheikh Hasina government** in August 2024. India's ties with the new **interim government** have **yet to stabilize**, adding uncertainty to regional relations.
  - **Nepal:** Similarly, India's influence in **Nepal** has been diluted. Prime Minister **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli** has prioritized ties with **China**, even signing a new **Framework for Belt and Road Cooperation** with China in December 2024. This move further **solidified Nepal's ties with Beijing**, reducing India's influence in the region.

Despite these challenges, India remains committed to strengthening its relationship with Bhutan, which is seen as a critical ally in maintaining regional stability and counterbalancing China's growing influence in South Asia.

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# INDIA RUSSIA DEFENCE COOPERATION



**Date:** December 10, 2024

**Location:** Moscow, Russia

**Key People:**

- **Rajnath Singh:** India's Defense Minister
- **Vladimir Putin:** President of Russia
- **Andrey Belousov:** Russian Deputy Prime Minister
- **IRIGC- M&MTC:** 21st India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military

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On December 10, 2024, India's Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** visited Moscow for the **21st India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC)**. The visit aimed to strengthen the long-term **military and defense cooperation** between India and Russia, especially amidst growing global tensions due to Russia's war with Ukraine.

## INDIA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR RUSSIA

- **Rajnath Singh's Statement:**

- Rajnath Singh emphasized that **India has consciously decided** to not just **maintain** but also **deepen its relationship with Russia**, despite **global pressure** over the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- He said India's ties with Russia are "**stronger than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest ocean**", showing the special and long-lasting relationship between the two countries.
- Singh made it clear that India will continue to support Russia in the future, underlining the importance of **strategic independence** in India's foreign policy.

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## IRIGC & M&MTC MEETING

- **Meeting between Indian and Russian Leaders:**

- Rajnath Singh co-chaired the **21st IRIGC-M&MTC** meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister **Andrey Belousov**.
- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and **expand military and defense cooperation** between India and Russia.
- The discussions focused on **joint defense projects, sharing technology,** and improving military ties in areas such as **air defense systems, naval cooperation,** and **joint military production.**

- **Key Outcome: Military Cooperation Agreement:**

- The **India-Russia military technical cooperation agreement** for **2021-2031** was formally **activated** during this meeting.
- This agreement is crucial for the **joint development and production of defense technologies.**
- The agreement will help support India's **"Make in India"** initiative, which focuses on **indigenous defense production** and **self-reliance** in military equipment.

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- **Protocol Signed:**

- At the end of the meeting, both countries signed a **protocol** that outlines future areas of collaboration, including **military technology exchange, joint defense production, and collaborative research.**

## MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PUTIN

- **Discussions with Putin:**

- After the IRIGC-M&MTC meeting, Rajnath Singh had a 1-hour meeting with **Russian President Vladimir Putin** at the **Kremlin.**
- The two leaders discussed the **future of India-Russia relations** and **current global challenges.**
- Singh assured Putin that **India's commitment** to its relationship with Russia remains **strong** and will continue to grow.

- **S-400 Delivery Delays:**

- One of the main issues discussed was the delay in the delivery of **S-400 air defense systems** to India.
- Singh raised the issue and asked Russia to **speed up the deliveries.**

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- The remaining two regiments of S-400 systems are now expected to be delivered to India by **2025**.

## DELAYS IN DEFENCE DEALS

### • Delays in Major Defense Deals:

- Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in **2022**, several major defense deals between India and Russia have experienced delays. These include:
  - **S-400 Air Defense Systems:** The supply of these missile systems to India has been delayed.
  - **Krivak-class Stealth Frigates:** The construction of two stealth warships for India has faced delays.
    - The first, **INS Tushil**, was recently commissioned.
    - The second, **INS Tamal**, is expected to be delivered in early **2025**.
    - It is likely to be the **last warship** India will import from Russia, as India plans to produce its own warships domestically.
  - **Nuclear Submarine (INS Chakra-III):** India is also building the **INS Chakra-III**, a nuclear attack submarine, in Russia.

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- This could also be one of the **last submarines** India imports from Russia, as India is now focused on **domestic submarine production**.

## SHIFT TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

- India is **moving towards self-reliance** in defense production.
- The **INS Tamal** will likely be the **last warship India imports from Russia**, signaling the end of large-scale naval purchases from Russia.
- India is also planning to build more of its own **submarines** and **warships**, reflecting a broader trend toward **self-sufficiency** in defense manufacturing.

## MAKE IN INDIA

- **Focus on Indigenous Defense:**
  - Rajnath Singh highlighted India's commitment to boosting its **indigenous defense industry**.
  - He emphasized the need for **Russian industries** to actively participate in India's **defense production projects**.

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- Singh also encouraged **closer cooperation** between Indian and Russian defense industries to help **develop new technologies** and **enhance the capabilities** of India's defense forces.
- **Joint Ventures and Technology Transfer:**
  - Singh stressed the importance of **joint ventures** and **technology transfer** from Russia to help India build more of its own defense equipment.
  - India is looking for **advanced technologies** and **expertise** from Russia to strengthen its defense systems, particularly in areas like **air defense**, **missiles**, and **space technology**.

## THE GEOPOLITICS & RELATED PRESSURES

- **Russia-Ukraine War and Global Pressure:**
  - The visit occurred against the backdrop of **global pressure on Russia** due to its involvement in the **Ukraine war**.
  - Many countries have imposed **sanctions** on Russia, but India has continued to maintain strong defense ties with Russia.

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- India's approach of **strategic autonomy** has allowed it to maintain strong relations with both **Russia** and the **West**, despite the tensions arising from the war.
- **Syrian Crisis:**
  - During the visit, news surfaced that **Syrian President Bashar al-Assad** had reportedly been given **asylum** in Russia after being overthrown.
  - This highlights Russia's continued role in **global geopolitics** and its involvement in the **Middle East**.



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## HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

### RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAH

- The **7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah (Poshan Maah 2024 : 1st-30th Sep 2024)** was a transformative national initiative aimed at promoting **nutrition awareness** and fostering action towards building a **healthier India**.
- This year, the campaign focused on critical themes such as **anaemia prevention, growth monitoring, effective service delivery through technology and governance, and complementary nutrition**.
- Since its inception in 2018, the **Poshan Maah** initiative has become a significant platform for spreading nutrition awareness.
- This year's edition, held throughout **September 2024**, built on the successes of the previous six campaigns, with over **100 crore nutrition-centric activities** carried out across the country.

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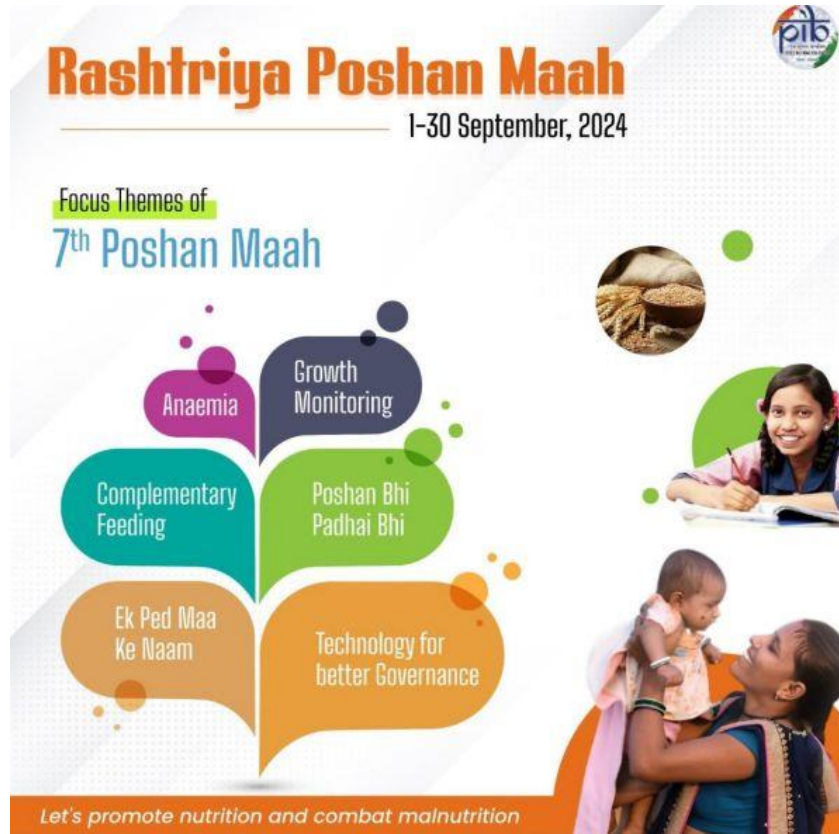
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## FOCUS THEMES OF THE 7th POSHAN MAH



## CORE FOCUS AREAS

- **Anaemia Mukht Bharat:**
  - Aimed at reducing **anaemia** through a **6x6x6 strategy** (6 age groups, 6 interventions, and 6 institutional mechanisms). By August 2024, **95% of pregnant women** and **65.9% of lactating women** across India had received **Iron and Folic Acid (IFA)** tablets as part of the efforts to tackle anaemia.

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- **Tech-Driven Solutions:**

- Digital platforms like the **POSHAN Tracker** were employed to monitor nutrition delivery in real time for over **10 crore beneficiaries**, ensuring effective service delivery and improved outcomes.

- **Community-Led Jan Andolan:**

- Local communities actively participated in spreading nutrition awareness and ensuring every household was engaged in nutrition-focused activities.

- **Complementary Feeding:**

- Focused on infants aged **6 months to 2 years**, emphasizing the need for **complementary foods** to prevent **undernutrition**. The campaign included activities to educate communities on the correct time to start complementary feeding, its nutritional quality, quantity, and frequency.

## TOP PERFORMING STATES

The success of **Poshan Maah 2024** can be attributed to the collective efforts of various states. The **top-performing states** in terms of activities organized were:

1. **Maharashtra:** Leading the way with **1.93 crore** activities.

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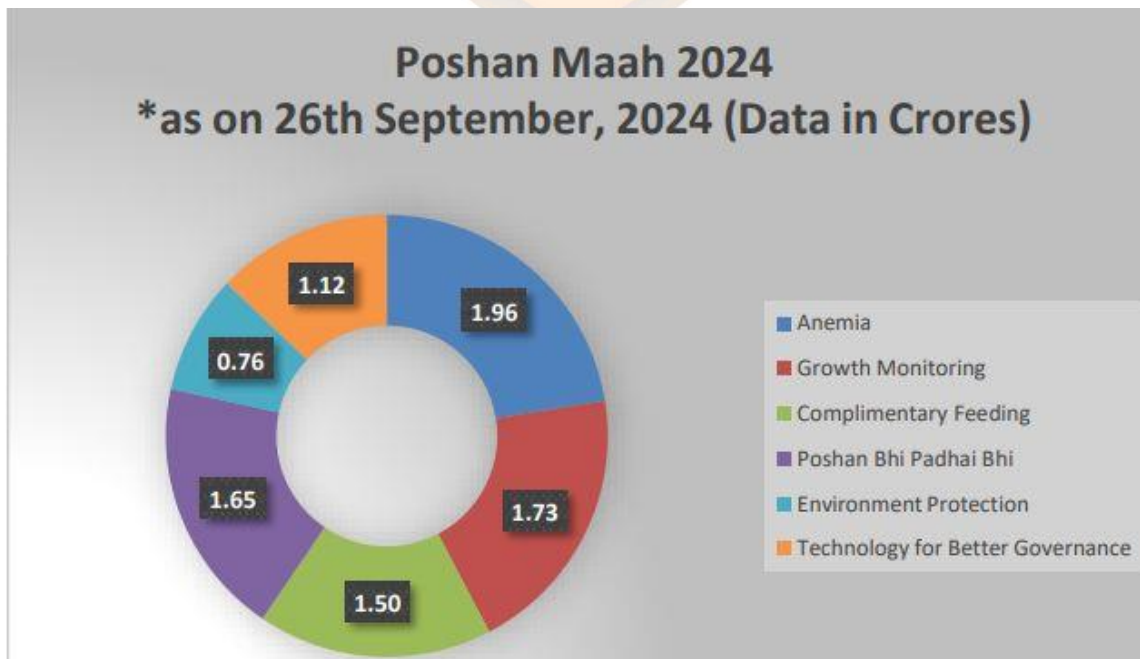


2. **Bihar:** Following closely with **1.27 crore** activities.
3. **Madhya Pradesh:** With **85.58 lakh** activities.
4. **Uttar Pradesh:** Engaging through **79.07 lakh** activities.
5. **Andhra Pradesh:** Organizing **73.27 lakh** activities.

**Gujarat** also made significant contributions with **72.06 lakh activities**, further boosting the nationwide efforts to improve nutrition.

## THEMATIC FOCUS

Poshan Mah 2024 was successful due to its multidimensional approach, covering various aspects of **nutrition, health, and well-being**.



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## 1. Anaemia Prevention:

- **1.95 crore activities** were held to raise awareness and combat **anaemia**, particularly among **adolescent girls** and **women**.

## 2. Growth Monitoring:

- **1.73 crore activities** focused on monitoring child growth, using the **POSHAN Tracker** to identify and address **wasting** and **undernutrition** early on.

## 3. Complementary Feeding:

- **1.50 crore activities** were dedicated to **complementary feeding** for infants, ensuring that **6-month-old children** received the proper nutrients they need during this critical stage.

## 4. Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi:

- With **1.65 crore activities**, the campaign integrated **education and nutrition**, reinforcing the idea that **healthy children learn better**.

## 5. Technology in Governance:

- **1.12 crore activities** highlighted the use of **digital tools** like **POSHAN Tracker** to improve governance and monitoring in the nutrition sector.

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## 6. Environment Protection:

- Linking **nutrition** with **environmental sustainability**, **76.07 lakh activities** focused on protecting the environment and promoting the connection between a healthy environment and better nutrition.

## 7. Nutrition-Specific Interventions:

- **97.69 lakh activities** promoted **healthy eating habits** and **dietary diversity**, emphasizing locally available nutritious foods.

## 8. Mass Sensitization:

- **57.11 lakh activities** were dedicated to **mass sensitization**, ensuring that nutrition awareness reached the widest possible audience.

## THE PROGRESS OF POSHAN ABHIYAN

In addition to Poshan Mah, the **Poshan Abhiyan** continues to make remarkable strides toward a **Suposhit Bharat**:

- **13,99,484 operational Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)** across **781 districts** in **36 states** and **UTs**.

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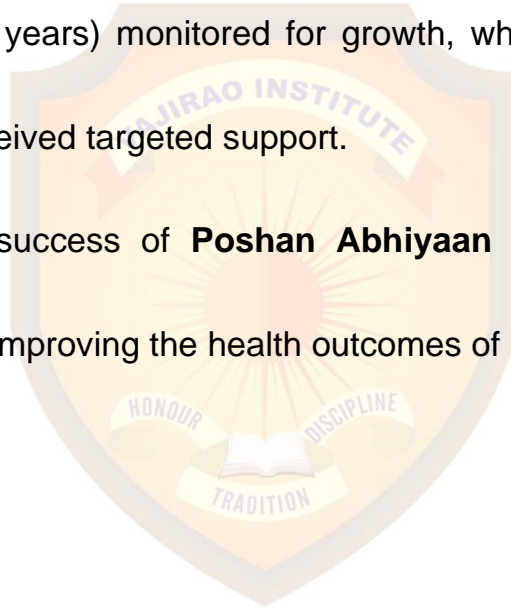
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- **98.49% Aadhaar verification** of beneficiaries, ensuring better tracking and service delivery.
- **1,95,497 AWCs** now have their own buildings, **2,73,680 AWCs with functional toilets**, and **3,38,645 AWCs with access to drinking water**.
- **8.55 crore children** (0-6 years) monitored for growth, while over **81.70 lakh pregnant and lactating women** received targeted support.

These efforts highlight the success of **Poshan Abhiyaan** in delivering **comprehensive nutrition interventions** and improving the health outcomes of **millions** across India.



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## MCQs

1. Which of the following HEPs built by India in Bhutan is the largest in capacity?

- (A) Mangdechhu HEP
- (B) Tala HEP
- (C) Chukha HEP
- (D) Kurichhu HEP

**Ans. (B)**

2. Which of these is the major theme of the Gelephu Mindfulness City Project?

- (A) Developing a skillful workforce in the city
- (B) Focussing on elementary & higher education.
- (C) Sustainable Development
- (D) None of the above

**Ans. (C)**

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3. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. India Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC) is an institutional mechanism established for deepening the strategic partnership in 2000.
2. India & Russia are co-developing S 400 air defence systems.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (A)**

4. Which of these was a focus theme in the Poshan Mah 2024?

1. Environment Conservation
2. Digitalisation
3. Anaemia
4. Poshan bhi padhai bhi

- (A) Only 3 & 4  
(B) Only 2,3 & 4  
(C) Only 1, 3 & 4  
(D) All of the above

**Ans. (D)**

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5. Which state was the top performing state in the POSHAN MAH 2024?

- (A) UP
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Rajasthan
- (D) Kerala

**Ans. (B)**



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