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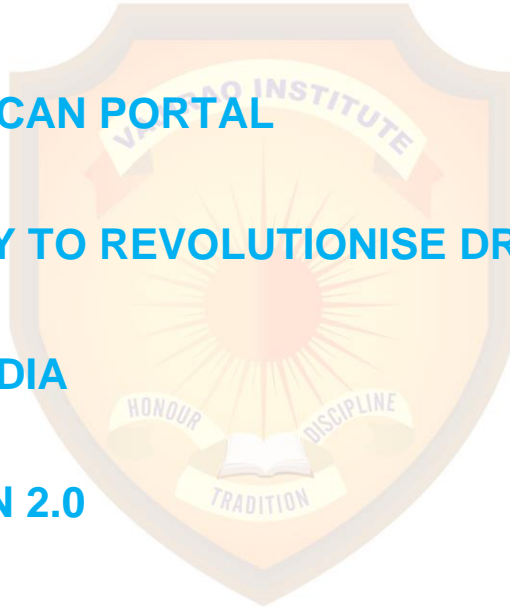
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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (12 December 2024)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- ANNA CHAKRA & SCAN PORTAL
- GLOBAL STRATEGY TO REVOLUTIONISE DRYLAND FARMING
- HEALTHCARE IN INDIA
  - MISSION POSHAN 2.0
- MCQs



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# ANNA CHAKRA & SCAN PORTAL

Government of India  
Department of Food & Public Distribution  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution



Launch of

**'Anna Chakra'**

**PDS Supply Chain Optimisation Tool**



**SCAN Portal**

**Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA**

**5th December, 2024**

**Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**



**Sh. Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



**Sh. Pralhad Joshi**  
Hon'ble Mo CA, F&PD and MNRE



**Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai  
Bambhaniya**  
Hon'ble MoS CA, F&PD



**Sh. B. L. Verma**  
Hon'ble MoS CA, F&PD and SJ&E

## Introduction

On **5th December 2024**, Shri **Pralhad Joshi**, Union Minister for **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, and **Renewable Energy**, launched two key initiatives aimed at modernizing India's **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and the **subsidy claim mechanisms** for food security:

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- **'Anna Chakra'** – A **PDS Supply Chain Optimization** tool.
- **SCAN Portal** – A **Subsidy Claim Application** for the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.

These initiatives are designed to **improve the efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness** of India's **PDS**, which serves over **81 Crore beneficiaries**.

## **ANNA CHAKRA: PDS SUPPLY CHAIN OPTIMISATION TOOL**

- **'Anna Chakra'** is an advanced tool developed by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)**, in collaboration with:
  - **World Food Programme (WFP)**
  - **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT-Delhi**
- The tool utilizes **advanced algorithms** to identify the **most efficient routes for food grain transportation** across the country, ensuring the seamless movement of food from **warehouses to Fair Price Shops (FPS)**.
- The PDS supply chain involves various stakeholders, including **farmers, warehouses, and retailers**, making this tool crucial for improving logistics and reducing inefficiencies.

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## OBJECTIVES & IMPACT OF ANNA CHAKRA

- **Efficiency Enhancement:** Anna Chakra will **speed up the movement** of food grains, improving **timeliness** and **reliability**.
- **Cost Savings:** By optimizing delivery routes, the tool is expected to save **Rs. 250 Crore annually** by reducing **fuel consumption, transportation costs, and time**.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The tool's route optimization will lower the **carbon footprint** of transportation, reducing fuel consumption and transportation-related emissions.
- **Wide Coverage:** The optimization process covers **30 states, 4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops,** and approximately **6700 warehouses**.

## KEY INTEGRATIONS

- **Freight Operations Information System (FOIS):** Optimizes **railway transportation**.
- **PM Gati Shakti Platform:** Maps geo-locations of FPSs and warehouses for better coordination.

These integrations will help streamline the **PDS logistics network**, ensuring timely and efficient delivery of food to beneficiaries.

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## SCAN PORTAL: SUBSIDY CLAIM APPLICATION FOR NFSA

The **SCAN portal** is a key initiative designed to **simplify and expedite** the process of claiming food subsidies under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**. The portal allows states to:

- **Submit Subsidy Claims:** States can now submit their food subsidy claims through a **single window** system.
- **Claim Scrutiny and Approval:** Ensures quick **scrutiny and processing** of subsidy claims by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)**.
- **End-to-End Automation:** The portal automates the entire process using **rule-based processing**, which speeds up the release and settlement of subsidies.

## BENEFITS & SIGNIFICANCE OF SCAN PORTAL

- **Transparency:** States can track the status of subsidy claims on a **centralized platform**.
- **Faster Processing:** Automation eliminates delays, ensuring faster approval and settlement of subsidies.

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## Significance of These Initiatives

- **Optimizing the World's Largest Food Security Program: India's Public Distribution System (PDS)** is one of the largest in the world, and initiatives like 'Anna Chakra' will make it more **efficient** and **responsive** to beneficiaries' needs.
- **Economic Impact:** By optimizing transportation and automating subsidy claims, these tools will lead to significant **cost savings** and more **efficient service delivery**.
- **Environmental Impact:** Reducing fuel consumption and emissions aligns with the government's goals for **sustainability** and **eco-friendly practices** within the public distribution system.

These initiatives aim to make India's **food distribution system more resilient, cost-effective, and future-ready** in the face of evolving challenges.

## EVOLUTION OF PDS SYSTEM

The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** is a government-run program designed to provide **essential food items** like rice, wheat, sugar, and kerosene oil at subsidized rates to **economically vulnerable populations**. The system is one of the key mechanisms used to ensure food security in India.

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- **Ministry:** The PDS is managed by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.**

## Evolution of PDS

- **Pre-1992:** PDS was a general entitlement system.
- **1992: Revamped PDS (RPDS)** focused on serving poor families, especially in remote areas.
- **1997: Targeted PDS (TPDS)** established **Fair Price Shops (FPS)** to distribute subsidized food grains.

## OBJECTIVES OF PDS

- **Affordable Food:** Provide essential food items at subsidized prices to vulnerable populations.
- **Price Stabilization:** Stabilize the prices of essential commodities in the market.
- **Combat Hoarding:** Prevent hoarding and black marketing of food grains.
- **Address Hunger and Malnutrition:** Combat hunger and malnutrition, especially in economically disadvantaged communities.

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## Significance of Targeted PDS (TPDS)

- **Supreme Court Ruling:** In the case **People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India**, the Supreme Court recognized the **right to food** as an essential part of the **right to life** under **Article 21** of the Constitution.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013:** Made the **right to food** a legal entitlement, providing subsidized food grains to **nearly two-thirds of the population**. The **TPDS mechanism** is the primary tool for distribution.

## IMPORTANCE OF PDS

- **Subsidized Prices:** PDS provides food grains at prices lower than those in private markets.
- **Farmer Support:** The government purchases food grains from farmers at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, ensuring better income for farmers.
- **Essential Commodities:** Supplies staples like **rice, wheat, sugar, and kerosene oil**.
- **Targeting the Poor:** PDS primarily targets **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families, though the identification process has evolved over time.

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## FUNCTIONS OF PDS

The PDS process involves **four key steps**:

- **Procurement of Food Grains:**

- The **Central Government** procures food grains from farmers at MSP set by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

- **Procurement Methods:**

- **Centralized:** Managed by **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**.
- **Decentralized:** Some states/UTs procure grains on behalf of FCI.

- **Storage of Food Grains:**

- Food grains are stored in **godowns and silos**.
- **Issues:**
  - Inadequate storage capacity.
  - Improper storage methods leading to **damage or rotting**.

- **Allocation of Food Grains:**

- Food grains are allocated from the central pool to state governments at a **uniform Central Issue Price (CIP)**.

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- **Transportation of Food Grains:**

- The **FCI** manages **interstate transportation** of food grains from surplus to deficit states.
- State governments distribute food from depots to **Fair Price Shops (FPS)** for distribution to consumers.

## CHALLENGES IN PDS

- **Identification of Beneficiaries:** Issues such as **bogus cards** and **incorrect identification** can lead to inefficiencies in distribution.
- **Storage Problems:** Limited storage facilities and poor storage practices can result in food grain wastage.
- **Logistical Constraints:** Delays and inefficiencies in transportation affect timely distribution.

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# GLOBAL STRATEGY TO REVOLUTIONISE DRYLAND FARMING

## Introduction

A **Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands (GSRD)** was unveiled at the **16th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP16)** in Riyadh, aimed at transforming agriculture in some of the world's most arid regions. The initiative was launched by **CGIAR**, a global leader in agricultural research, in collaboration with two of its key centers:

- **International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)**
- **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**

The strategy targets the **2.7 billion people** living in **drylands**, particularly across **Asia** and **Africa**, regions facing extreme challenges like water scarcity, land degradation, and desertification.

## WHY DRYLAND MATTERS?

Drylands are critical to the world's population and food systems, as they:

- **Host 1 in every 3 people globally.**

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- House nearly half of the world's livestock.
- Contribute to 44% of global food systems.



However, **20-35% of drylands** are **degraded**, threatening food security, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

## OBJECTIVES OF GSRD

The **2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands (GSRD)** aims to:

- **Enhance food security** by transforming dryland agriculture.
- **Conserve biodiversity** while ensuring sustainable farming practices.
- **Build resilient livelihoods** for people in dryland regions.

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The strategy was developed over **five decades of research** in dryland regions and presents a roadmap to tackle some of the most urgent challenges exacerbated by **climate change**.

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

The GSRD introduces innovative, climate-smart solutions to combat the unique challenges of dryland farming, focusing on:

1. **Water Scarcity:** Implementing solutions such as **solar-powered agrivoltaics** to maximize the use of limited water resources.
2. **Land Degradation and Desertification:** Advanced techniques in **agroforestry** and improved land management to reverse soil erosion and restore degraded lands.
3. **Climate-Resilient Crops:** Developing drought-tolerant crops like **barley, lentils, chickpeas, and cacti** to ensure food security even in harsh climates.
4. **Sustainable Livestock Practices:** Enhancing livestock feeding practices to improve productivity and resilience against environmental stressors.

By leveraging the combined expertise of CGIAR and its partners, the strategy aims to create **context-specific** and **lasting solutions** that empower communities dependent on drylands for their livelihoods.

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## WHY GSRD MATTERS?

Drylands are at the **frontlines of climate change**, with temperatures rising **20-40% faster** than other regions. With **70% of the world's hungry** living in **environmentally fragile** and **conflict-affected** areas, transforming dryland agriculture is essential to addressing global **food insecurity**.

The strategy emphasizes **five key areas of focus**:

- **Adapting agrifood systems to climate change:** Ensuring that agricultural systems can withstand and thrive in changing environmental conditions.
- **Conserving biodiversity:** Protecting dryland ecosystems and the rich variety of life they support.
- **Sustainably managing soil and water resources:** Optimizing the use of limited natural resources to maintain agricultural productivity.
- **Promoting healthy diets:** Ensuring that agricultural practices lead to nutritious and diverse food systems.
- **Fostering inclusive development:** Empowering communities, particularly marginalized groups, and ensuring that the benefits of these innovations reach everyone.

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These actions will enhance resilience not only in dryland regions but also globally, as the solutions pioneered by GSRD can be scaled to other regions vulnerable to climate change.

## COLLABORATION & IMPACT

- The GSRD is the result of extensive collaboration among national research organizations, governments, and private sector partners.
- It highlights **Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)** commitment to addressing one of the most pressing challenges in agriculture today.
- As **climate change** drives the expansion of drylands, the **solutions** outlined in the strategy provide hope for **sustainable agricultural practices** that can benefit both **dryland regions** and the broader **global community**.

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# HEALTHCARE IN INDIA MISSION POSHAN 2.0

**Ministry of Women and Child Development  
Government of India**

**#AatmaNirbharBharatKaBudget**

**MISSION POSHAN 2.0  
& SAKSHAM ANGANWADI**

- 2 lakh Anganwadis to be upgraded as 'Saksham Anganwadis'
- Nutritional norms and standards to be improved
- Quality and testing of Take-home Ration to be strengthened
- Traditional community food habits to be promoted
- Delivery of food under the Supplementary Nutrition Program to be optimised

- Mission Poshan 2.0 is a strategic shift and an integrated approach that aims to address **malnutrition among vulnerable groups (children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers)** through various programs under the umbrella of **Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0**.

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- The scheme has been approved by the Government of India for implementation during the **15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

- **Maternal Nutrition:** Emphasis on improving the nutrition of pregnant women.
- **Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Norms:** Promoting breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding.
- **Treatment of MAM and SAM:** Addressing **Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)** and **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)**.
- **Promoting Wellness through AYUSH:** Incorporating traditional Indian knowledge on health and wellness.
- **Technology Integration:** The use of the **Poshan Tracker**, an **ICT-enabled platform**, helps monitor **nutritional provisioning** and ensure the timely delivery of services.

## DIETARY STRATEGIES

- **Diet Diversity:** Encouraging a balanced diet by including a variety of foods in the diet.
- **Use of Millets:** Millets are promoted for their high nutritional content, helping address issues like **anemia** and **micronutrient deficiencies** in women and children. These are

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being used in **hot cooked meals** and **take-home rations** for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

- **Fortified Rice:** The scheme now ensures the allocation of only **fortified rice** in States/UTs under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

## PROGRESS & IMPACT

### NFHS Reports (2015-16 to 2019-21):

The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** provides a comprehensive overview of the nutritional status of children and women in India. A comparison of data from **NFHS-4** (2015-16) and **NFHS-5** (2019-21) reveals the following improvements:

- **Stunting (Height-for-Age):** Reduced from **38.4%** (NFHS-4) to **35.5%** (NFHS-5).
- **Wasting (Weight-for-Height):** Decreased from **21.0%** (NFHS-4) to **19.3%** (NFHS-5).
- **Underweight (Weight-for-Age):** Declined from **35.8%** (NFHS-4) to **32.1%** (NFHS-5).
- **Underweight Women (Age 15-49):** Reduced from **22.9%** (NFHS-4) to **18.7%** (NFHS-5).

These improvements indicate a **positive trend** in addressing **child malnutrition** and **women's undernutrition**, largely attributed to the various nutrition-focused government schemes.

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## MCQs

1. With which of the following International organisations has the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) collaborated to create Anna Chakra?
- (A) World Health Organisation
  - (B) International Fund for Agriculture & Development
  - (C) International Labour Organisation
  - (D) UN World Food Program

**Ans. (D)**

2. Which of these is a target area of Public Distribution System?
- 1. Price Stabilization
  - 2. Combat Hoarding
  - 3. Address Hunger and Malnutrition
- (A) Only 1 & 3
  - (B) Only 3
  - (C) Only 2 & 3
  - (D) All of the above

**Ans. (D)**

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

1. Drylands are home to around half of the world's livestock.
2. They contribute to more than half of the global food systems.

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

**Ans. (A)**

4. Which of the following are the key focus areas of Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands?

1. Water Scarcity
2. Climate Change
3. Desertification
4. Climate Resilient crops

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

**Ans. (A)**

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5. Consider the following statements wrt POSHAN 2.0 and mark the correct one:

1. POSHAN 2.0 was launched in 2023 for upgrading the Anganwadi centres.
2. POSHAN 2.0 aims at positively impacting Child & maternal health.

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

**Ans. (B)**



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