

## Anganwadi Services

### Why in news?

The Government of India incentivizes and encourages Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers, through various initiatives.

### What is Anganwadi?

*The meaning of the word 'Anganwadi' in English is "courtyard shelter".*

- Anganwadi Services is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs in India.
- **Coverage-** Children in the 0-6 age group, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- **Established-** In 1975 as part of the [Integrated Child Development Services](#) program
- **Need-** To combat child hunger and malnutrition.
- **Anganwadi centre-** It provides basic health care facilities in Indian villages as a part of the Indian public health-care system.
- **Basic health-care activities-** It include contraceptive counselling and supply, nutrition education and supplementation, as well as pre-school activities.
- The centres may also be used as depots for oral rehydration salts, basic medicines, contraceptives and child care.

### What are the key components of Anganwadi services?

Components	About
<b>Nutrition services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of supplementary nutrition to children below six years of age, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.</li> <li>• This includes nutritious meals, take-home rations, and other nutritional support.</li> </ul>
<b>Health check-ups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular health check-ups for children and mothers to monitor their health and growth.</li> <li>• Immunization services are also often provided at Anganwadi Centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-school education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood care and education activities to promote the overall development of children.</li> <li>• It also includes cognitive, social, and emotional development</li> </ul>
<b>Health and nutrition education</b>	Awareness programs on health, hygiene, and nutrition for mothers and caregivers to improve their understanding of essential health practices

<b>Referral services</b>	Identification and referral of children and mothers in need of specialized medical care or support services to appropriate healthcare facilities.
<b>Community mobilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with the local community to create awareness about health, nutrition, and early childhood development.</li> <li>• Anganwadi Workers play a crucial role in fostering community participation</li> </ul>
<b>Pregnant and lactating women support</b>	Support and counseling for pregnant and lactating women to ensure proper care during these critical periods.
<b>Services for adolescent girls</b>	Programs targeting the nutritional and health needs of adolescent girls, including awareness about menstrual hygiene.
<b>Record keeping</b>	Maintenance of records related to the health and development of children and mothers attending the Anganwadi Centres.

### **What are the steps taken by government to encourage anganwadi workers and helpers?**

- **Social Security Insurance Schemes**- Insurance benefits have been extended to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

*The coverage includes life risk, death due to any reason, accidental death, and permanent disability.*

- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package**- Those engaged in Covid-19 related tasks, including Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, are provided insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh.
- **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM)**- States and UT Administrations are encouraged to enroll eligible Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under the voluntary and contributory pension scheme.
- **Ayushman Bharat Coverage**- In the interim budget for 2024-25, the coverage of [Ayushman Bharat](#) has been expanded to include all Anganwadi Workers and Helpers across the country, providing health coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary medical care.
- **Promotional prospectus**-
  - **50% of Anganwadi Workers positions**- It will be filled by promoting Anganwadi Helpers with 5 years of experience.
  - **50% supervisor positions**- It will be filled by promoting Anganwadi Workers with 5 years of experience
- **Leave policies**- Anganwadi Workers are now entitled to a paid maternity leave of 180 days, paid leave for abortion/miscarriage for 45 days, and 20 days of annual leave.
- **Uniform provision**- A provision has been made for a set of two uniforms (saree/suit per annum) for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers.
- **Leverage IT through Poshan Tracker**- It utilizes IT systems to enhance transparency and delivery support systems at Anganwadi Centres.

- Anganwadi Workers have been provided with smartphones to facilitate the digitization and automation of their work.

*Poshan Tracker is a mobile based application rolled out in 2021 through National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0*

- **Upgradation of Mini AWCs-** Mini-Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been upgraded to regular AWCs, leading to an increase in the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers from existing mini AWCs to Rs. 4,500 per month.
- **Uniform retirement date-** States and UTs have been urged to adopt a uniform retirement date of April 30th each year for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers for proper human resource planning.

## References

1. [PIB- Incentives to anganwadi workers](#)
2. [MoWCD- Integrated Child Development Services](#)

