

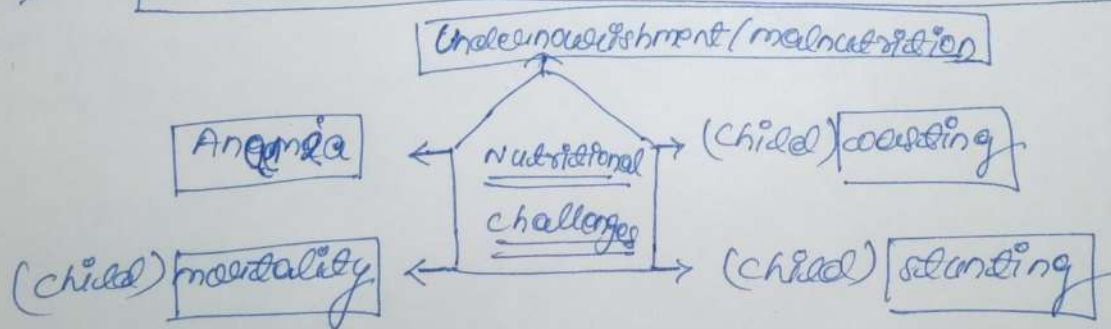
10.02.21

Ques The country's present nutritional challenge can be effectively addressed with the help of private sector engagement. Elaborate. [200 words]

Ans. The Global Hunger Index 2020 ranked India at 94 among 107 countries on undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality parameters. Also, acc. to NFHS-5; India continues to exhibit a high prevalence of malnutrition among children below five.

The aforementioned data highlights the country's present nutritional status which needs to be addressed effectively, because —
“malnutrition not only negatively affects people's physical growth but has also been identified as one of the principal limitations inhibiting India's global economic potential.”

STEPS TAKEN TO ADDRESS NUTRITIONAL CHALLENGES



→ Various govt. initiatives have been launched over the years which seek to improve the nutrition status in the country. poshan Abhiyan (Nat. Nutrition Mission),
↳ These include; ICDS, Nat. Health Mission, Mid Day meal scheme, Nat. Food Security Mission, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Matruva Sahyog Yojana, among others.”

- However, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted significantly hampered the availability of nutritious food in large parts of the country due to disruptions in food systems and supply chains.
- In such situation private sector in some part of the country take lead in ensuring availability of fortified food to the last mile in the country through; Take Home Rations (THR), Poshan Abhiyan Jan Aardhan, Impact 4 Nutrition (I4N), vertical-gardens, etc.
- This highlights that, this is the right time to explore public-private-partnership (PPP) opportunities for creating a sustainable public health ecosystem.

⇒ CONCLUSION :-

To make Zero Hunger vision (SDG-2) by 2030 a reality, stakeholder engagement and a community-based management of nutritional challenges is the best way to be adopted in the present scenario.