



Take-Home Ration

For Prelims: NITI Aayog, World Food Programme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Take Home Ration (THR)

For Mains: Take Home Ration Scheme, Its Challenges and What Could be the Way Forward.

Why in News?

Recently, a report titled-Take Home Ration-Good Practices throughout the State/Union Territories was released by [NITI Aayog](#) and the [World Food Program](#).

What is World Food Program?

- It is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world, saving lives in times of need and utilising food aid to help people recover from war, [natural disasters](#), and the effects of [climate change](#) create a road to peace, stability, and prosperity.
- The WFP was given the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 2020.
- It was founded in 1961 by the [Food and Agriculture Organisation \(FAO\)](#) and [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) with its **headquarters in Rome, Italy**.
- It is also a **member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)**, a coalition of UN agencies and organisations aimed at fulfilling the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

- The report presents a set of **good and innovative practices** adopted in the implementation of the **Take Home Ration value chain** by the States and UTs.
- The government adopted innovative models to reach remote areas.
- It appreciated the **production, formulation, delivery, labelling, packaging, supervision, quality control, and changes in social and behavioural norms** adopted by the **Government by JAN BHAGIDARI**, and **sourcing local networks of Anganwadi's**, etc.

What is Take Home Ration?

- The government of India provides Take Home Ration under the **Supplementary Nutrition component of the [Integrated Child Development Services \(ICDS\)](#)** to **fill the gap in nutrition among children as well as Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW)**.
- It offers **fortified rations** for use at home, provided in **two ways**:
 - **Take-Home Rations** and **Hot-Cooked Meals at Anganwadi Centers**.
 - It's given as **raw ingredients** or in **packets that have already been cooked**.

What are the Challenges?

- **Leakages in Delivery Mechanism:**
 - Due to faulty practices and corruption in the delivery system, **the whole scenario is very complex**, and siphoning off rations to the black market is easy.
- **Poor Quality:**
 - Often the goods are of poor quality due to the negligence of the procuring department.
 - **Lack of warehouse and cold storage often led to wastage** of food grains.
- **Lack of Transparency:**
 - The whole delivery mechanism lacks **transparency as it's almost unable to track the logistics** and various other mechanisms involved to keep a check on them.
- **Poor Implementation:**
 - The use of **traditional methods to procure, sort, and deliver the product keeps the system inefficient**, which leads to very poor implementation in the delivery of food grains.

What are the Other Similar Government Schemes?

- **National Health Mission (NHM):**
 - Launched in 2013, it subsumed the National Rural Health Mission and the National Urban Health Mission.
 - It is being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- **PM-POSHAN:**
 - In September 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM-POSHAN for providing one **hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools** with the financial outlay of Rs 1.31 trillion.
 - The scheme replaced the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- **National Nutrition Strategy:**
 - The Strategy aims to reduce all forms of undernutrition by 2030, with a focus on the most vulnerable and critical age groups.

Way forward

- The THR programme needs to be strengthened more in order to meet the nutritional goals in a timely manner.
- Need to learn the **best practices** and analyses of novel THR programmes from various States and Union Territories.
- Need for **innovation in the field of THR in terms of production, distribution, quality control, monitoring, and use of technology.**

Source: PIB