Ministry of Women & Child Development - Year End Review, 2017 - Part I

National Nutrition Mission (NNM)

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- **Need** - Malnutrition indices have shown a relative decline as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 in 2015-16.
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- However, the overall malnutrition scenario still continues to look bleak across the country.
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- Notably, around 35% children under 5 years of age remain underweight and around 38% remain stunted.
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- Further, around 23% women (15-49 years of age) have chronic energy deficiency (BMI less than 18.5).
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- **Objective -** The National Nutrition Mission was launched recently with a three year budget commencing from 2017-18.
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- NNM aims at improving the nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
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- The goals include-
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1. preventing and reducing stunting in children (0-6 years)
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2. preventing and reducing underweight prevalence in children (0-6 years)
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3. reducing Low Birth Weight (LBW)
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4. reducing the prevalence of anaemia among young Children (6-59 months)
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5. reducing the prevalence of anaemia among Women and Adolescent Girls

in the age group of 15-49 years
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- **Scheme** - Accordingly, the reduction would be by 6% at 2% per year for first there goals and by 9% at 3% per year for the rest, during the next three years beginning 2017-18.
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- **Implementation** - The mission ensures convergence with various other programmes related to women and child.
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- It includes -
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1. Anganwadi Services
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2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
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3. Scheme for Adolescent Girls (WCD Ministry)
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4. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
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5. National Health Mission (Health & Family Welfare Ministry)
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6. Swachh Bharat Mission (Drinking Water & Sanitation Ministry)
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7. Public Distribution System (Consumer Affairs Ministry, Food & Public Distribution)
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8. MGNREGS (Rural Development Ministry)
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- One of the key activities is Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).
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- Accordingly, a customized mobile based Common Application software (ICDS-CAS) has been developed.
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- Through this, Anganwadi workers feed the information regarding the

services delivered.
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Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

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- The Maternity Benefit Programme was announced for its Pan-India implementation from December, 2016.
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- The Programme has since been named as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
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- Under this, eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers would receive cash incentive of Rs 6000 as per approved norms.
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Mahila Shakti Kendra

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- The scheme was launched recently to address women’s issues at the village level.
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- Over 300 thousand **student volunteers** are being sent out in 115 most backward districts under this new scheme.
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- Volunteers, mobilised through local colleges, NCC, NSS, NYK etc., work with local women helping them access government schemes.
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- Also, **District Level Centres for Women** are being set up in all 640 districts, providing convergence at the district level for all women related initiatives.
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- Likewise, **State Resource Centres for Women** are the state-level mechanism ensuring coordination between blocks, districts, state and centre.
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Women safety and security

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- A number of projects are being implemented under the **Nirbhaya Fund**, for women safety and security.
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- A robust online Management Information System has been developed to track implementation of all the projects under Nirbhaya.
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- A focussed project for women's safety in 8 prominent cities is being prepared under the Nirbhaya Fund.
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- This will cover Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Lucknow.
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- A project for Integrated Emergency Response Management under Nirbhaya is run by the Railways.
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- CCTVs and monitoring rooms are being installed at major Railway Stations.
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- Central Victim Compensation Fund has been created under the Nirbhaya fund, to support States/UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme.
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- **Mahila Police Volunteers** are being appointed to encourage women to report crime and are serving as role models in their communities.
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- The scheme is currently operational in 5 States.
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- **New Taxi Policy Guidelines** have been put in place in consultation with the Ministry, which have much improved safety measures for women.
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- **SHe-Box** is a newly established online complaint mechanism, to help women report incidents of Sexual harassment at the workplace.
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- Any female employee, whether employed by the government or private, can file an online complaint of sexual harassment.
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- **Swadhar Greh Scheme** targets the women victims of difficult circumstances.
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- It envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for them.
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- More than 500 Swadhar Greh are functioning at present in the country

benefiting more than 1500 women.
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- In addition one Widow Home with a capacity of 1000 inmates fully funded by the Ministry has been constructed at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.
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Political representation

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- Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions are being trained through the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development.
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- This is to aid them take up their responsibilities as development planners and exercise their power effectively.
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Legislation

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- The **National Policy for Women, 2017** was drafted with multi-stakeholder views and is currently under consideration.
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- It has been prepared keeping in view the socio economic changes that have occurred since the last policy of 2001.
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- The draft Policy addresses the diverse needs of women including
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1. health - food security and nutrition
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2. education
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3. economy including agriculture, industry, labour, employment, NRI

women, soft power, service sector, science and technology
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4. governance and decision making
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5. protection against violence
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6. creation of an enabling environment
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Other measures

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- **Maternity leave** for working women has been extended to a period of 26 weeks (6 months).
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- Benefitting **single mothers**, passport rules have been amended in their favour.
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- Now either mother or father’s name can be provided in application form and do not have to provide certificate of marriage/divorce during application.
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- **One Stop Centres (OSCs)** offer a single window to a range of services including access to police, medical, legal and psychological support, and temporary shelter.
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- 10 new **Women Helplines** with the uniform code 181 have been started, taking the total coverage now in 28 States during 2017.
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- **Women of India Festival** 2017 was organised to encourage women producers of organic products.
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- More than 500 women farmers and entrepreneurs from even remotest parts of the country participated in the Festival.
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- **Sattvik Food Festival** provided an opportunity to around 100 women entrepreneurs and farmers who produce organic products to exhibit and sell their products.
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Source: PIB

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