

HEALTH, LEGAL & SAFETY

# Anganwadi Centre

## WHAT THIS INSTITUTION IS

An Anganwadi Centre (AWC) is the ground-level service delivery unit of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), now subsumed under Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0. It provides supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunisation (in convergence with the health department), health check-ups and referral services to children below six years, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls aged 14–18 in Aspirational Districts and the North-Eastern Region. Each AWC covers approximately 400–800 population in both rural and urban projects, with smaller mini-AWCs in remote hamlets. There are approximately 13.9 lakh AWCs nationally. For a young person, an Anganwadi is usually the first government institution their mother encountered and where their younger siblings now go – it is the most universal touchpoint of the welfare state.

### WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you have a younger sibling, a pregnant sister-in-law or friend, or a child of your own, the Anganwadi is where supplementary nutrition, routine immunisation, growth monitoring, and early childhood learning are supposed to happen. Whether the Anganwadi is functional determines whether a generation of children enters Class 1 ready to learn.

## GOVERNANCE

LAW / POLICY	SCOPE
ICDS Scheme Guidelines (merged into Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0, 2021)	Core operating framework for Anganwadis
National Food Security Act, 2013	Guarantees supplementary nutrition, free meals, and maternity benefit (under NFSA §4 and §5)
POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment)	Coordination mission with Jan Andolan and growth-monitoring targets
Saksham Anganwadi norms (2022)	Upgraded model with digital Poshan Tracker, piped water, separate toilets, LED lighting

- **Centre:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) → Mission Shakti / Poshan 2.0
- **State:** Department of Women and Child Development / ICDS Directorate
- **District:** District Programme Officer, ICDS (DPO). District Nutrition Committee (DNC) – chaired by the District Magistrate/Collector, with district officers from WCD, Health, Education, and allied departments; oversees Poshan/ICDS administration in the district and reviews reports from village-level Poshan Panchayats.
- **Project (block):** Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) – manages typically 75–150 Anganwadis
- **Supervision:** Supervisor / Mukhya Sevika – supervises 25–30 Anganwadis
- **Centre:** Anganwadi Worker (AWW) + Anganwadi Helper (AWH)
- **Funding:** Centrally sponsored – 60:40 Centre:State (90:10 for North-Eastern / Himalayan states); 100% central for administrative costs

**KEY POSITIONS**

POSITION	RESPONSIBILITY
Anganwadi Worker (AWW)	Head of the centre; conducts pre-school, supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, Poshan Tracker data entry, home visits
Anganwadi Helper (AWH)	Cooks meals, assists AWW, fetches children from the community
Supervisor / Mukhya Sevika	Supervises 25–30 AWCs; monthly reviews and on-site inspections
Child Development Project Officer (CDPO)	Block-level head; Poshan outcomes, community mobilisation
ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist)	Convergence partner for immunisation, antenatal referral, and growth monitoring

**MANDATED SERVICES**

- **Supplementary Nutrition (SNP):** Take-home ration for pregnant women, lactating mothers, children 6 months–3 years, and severely malnourished children; hot cooked meals for children 3–6 years
- **Pre-school Non-Formal Education** for children 3–6 years, 3–4 hours daily, using the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (2022)
- **Growth Monitoring** – monthly weighing and height measurement; Poshan Tracker digital entry; identification of SAM (severe acute malnutrition) and MAM (moderate acute malnutrition) children for referral
- **Immunisation Support** in convergence with the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) on Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs)
- **Nutrition and Health Education (NHED)** sessions for mothers
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG):** Supplementary nutrition under SNP for out-of-school girls aged 14–18, restricted to Aspirational Districts and the North-Eastern Region.
- **Fixed monthly Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Day:** mandatory at every AWC, every month, under the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) initiative of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Sessions of at least 2 hours bring caregivers to the AWC for thematic, academic-calendar-aligned activities – covering parent–AWW meetings, language and motor-skill talent shows, numeracy and creativity days, do-it-yourself toy workshops, early-childhood-development milestone discussions, AWC improvement days, and a year-end graduation/enrolment drive. Reporting flows through Poshan Tracker's Community Based Events module.
- **CMAM protocol (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition)** – identification, referral, and management of severely or moderately malnourished children at the Anganwadi Centre, per the Ministry of Women and Child Development's CMAM framework.
- **Early stimulation for children 0–3 (Navchetana):** activity-based curriculum from the MWCD's National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation, delivered via home visits, monthly meetings, and AWC contact points.
- **Poshan Vatikas (kitchen gardens / nutri-gardens):** community-level gardens established at or near Anganwadi Centres to supply local produce for supplementary nutrition.
- **Referral services** – severely malnourished children, pregnancies at risk, and children with disabilities are referred to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) or Community Health Centre (CHC)
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** – Rs 5,000 maternity benefit for first live birth; Rs 6,000 for second if a girl; AWW often assists with application



## LINKED SCHEMES

- **Mission Poshan 2.0** – integrated nutrition mission
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan** – Jan Andolan, community convergence, growth-monitoring outcomes
- **PMMVY** – conditional cash transfer for pregnant women and lactating mothers
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** – girl-child awareness; Anganwadis are frontline convergence units
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Anganwadi building)** and Swachh Bharat Mission–Gramin (SBM-G) latrine convergence for AWC infrastructure
- **AWC–school co-location:** Joint Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres with Schools, issued 3 September 2025 by the MWCD and the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL). Two models: (i) physical co-location inside school premises, or (ii) mapping each AWC to the nearest primary school – within 500 metres in urban areas and 1 kilometre in rural areas.
- **AWC building construction (Poshan 2.0 + VB-G RAM G convergence):** provision to construct 50,000 new AWC buildings over five years (10,000 per year) under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 (which replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme / Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)), with funding split Rs 8 lakh from the VB-G RAM G wage-employment programme, Rs 2 lakh under the 16th Finance Commission grant window (2026-31) or other untied funds, and Rs 2 lakh from the MWCD per AWC.

## HOW TO LOCATE

**Portal:** poshantracker.in (backend is restricted; public-facing data on some state WCD portals). District-level public snapshots (state, district, scheme, age-group cuts) are at poshantracker.in/statistics. Also mahilakalyan.up.nic.in for UP, mpwcdmis.gov.in for MP

**Also:** Every village / urban ward has one; ask the Sarpanch / ward member, the local ASHA, or the CDPO at the block headquarters.

## KEY FACILITIES

A functioning Anganwadi should have: own pucca building (or rented room in the absence), at least one classroom-cum-activity space with play and learning materials, a kitchen area, drinking water, separate toilet, storage for ration and utensils, a growth chart and weighing scale (salter and adult), a thermometer and first-aid kit, a Poshan Tracker-enabled smartphone or tablet, and visible timetable and menu chart. Saksham Anganwadi norms additionally require piped water, LED lighting, and a dedicated play area.

## WHAT A FUNCTIONING ANGANWADI LOOKS LIKE

- Anganwadi is open during posted hours; AWW is present; children are physically present
- Supplementary nutrition is being served today, matching the weekly menu on the wall
- Growth chart for enrolled children is updated for the current month
- Poshan Tracker entries for the current week are done (verifiable on the AWW's phone)
- Take-home ration distribution is recorded and signed
- Pregnancy register and immunisation register are current
- A Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) has been conducted in the last quarter with ANM / ASHA convergence
- Adolescent girls who should be enrolled under SAG are actually attending



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## GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

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**During service delivery.** The Anganwadi Worker is the first point of contact. Issues with meal quality, absenteeism, ration under-delivery, or ICDS service denials are raised first to the AWW and then to the local Supervisor / Mukhya Sevika. **Community-level forums.** Poshan Panchayats (village-level Poshan committees), Mothers' Groups, and Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) provide local grievance redressal and participate in social audit; their reports feed into the District Nutrition Committee.

**After service.** Escalation is to the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) at the block, then to the District Programme Officer (DPO), ICDS. Anganwadi Sahayogini Samitis (local monitoring committees) exist in several states as an intermediate community-level forum.

**External.** The MWCD runs the POSHAN grievance function through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) at [pgportal.gov.in](http://pgportal.gov.in) and state-specific helplines (e.g., ICDS toll-free numbers in most states). The POSHAN Helpline (Poshan Tracker & PMMVY) is 1515 – for queries on Poshan Tracker entries and PMMVY applications/payments; live since 1 November 2025; replaces the earlier 14408. For PMMVY grievances, the portal [pmmvy.wcd.gov.in](http://pmmvy.wcd.gov.in) has a dedicated complaint-tracking function. National Food Security Act (NFSA) supplementary nutrition denial can be escalated to the State Food Commission under Section 16 of the NFSA.

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