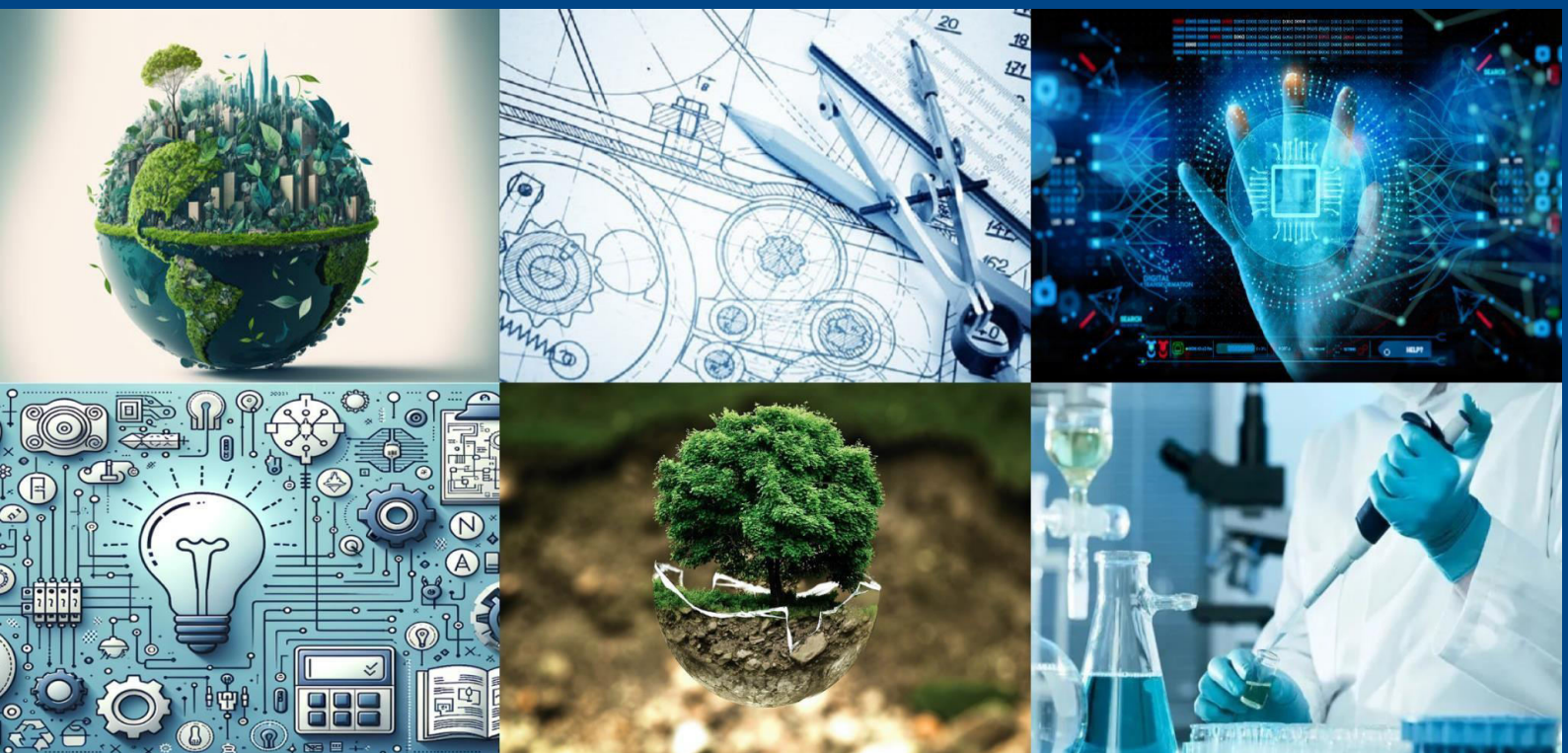




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Food Security Schemes Improves Living Standard of People

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ABSTRACT: Though India achieved rapid economic growth, it is unfortunate but important to note that country is still fighting against high percentages of poverty and malnutrition on its land. Regional economic inequality as well as climatic factors, and income distribution patterns all serve to intensify food shortages in India. The goal is to eliminate hunger by protecting needy people from food deprivation because of budget limitations. The Government of India introduced different food schemes which prioritise the provision of proper nutrition and safety, coupled with sufficient food to all population segments, especially those facing sectional vulnerabilities. These national programmes solves issues of food security, problems related to hunger and malnutrition. It create a protective network for numerous people across the country for receiving adequate food. The Indian government Introduced many schemes and took multiple initiatives simultaneously to guarantee food price stability, together with affordability, and reduce the food insecurity in India

KEYWORDS: Hunger, Malnutrition, Food security, Affordability, poverty, population, climate?

I. INTRODUCTION

In India production of food grains had widely fluctuated from 1951-2025. The aim of the food security was to save the vulnerable group of people from the adverse impact of agricultural production and increasing prices of food grains. Since 1950s the average growth rate of food grains production increased by 2.5% per year and in 1980s the growth rate increased to more than 3%. Food grain production reached 176 million tonnes in 1990. During (1990-2010), the average growth rate of food grains production increased by 1.6%, whereas the average growth rate of population increased by 1.9%. Hence supply of major agricultural crops had not kept pace with demand. Food grain production was affected in 2009-10 due to the failure of monsoon in the country. Since 2011 government of India took initiative to increase food grain production and strengthen its distribution. In the last ten years rice production in the country keep increasing it has reached a record level of one thousand 501 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, which was higher than the year 2023-24. In 2024, India produced one thousand 378 lakh tonnes of food grains. Though production was higher the question arises whether distribution and storage of food grains are taking place properly or not? On the other hand food grains were wasted due to the nonavailability of proper storage facilities. Hence the Supreme Court of India had instructed the government to distribute the food grains to the poor at free of cost. Will the distribution of food grains be enough to achieve food security in India and improve the living standard of people.

Objective

1. To know the overall food grains production, storage and distribution of it in India
2. To analyse the government schemes which supports food security

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Need for Food Security in India

Some two hundred years ago when world population was around 1 billion, Thomas Malthus (Economist) had predicted that population growth will be more than the growth of food production.

He stated that, "The number of mouths to be fed will have no limit; but the food that is to supply them cannot keep pace with the demand for it; we must come to a stop some where even though each square yard, by extreme improvements in cultivation, could maintain its man." Increasing growth of population, changes in tastes and preference of the people, urbanisation and economic growth had changed the supply and demand prospects for food.



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In order to supply food grains to all the people in the country, agricultural production should be increased without directly jeopardising the goal of sustainable development. Hence the Indian government took efforts since 1947 and framed new agricultural policy for providing food to its entire people. The aim of the agriculture policy in India was reducing hunger, malnourishment, poverty and attaining food security at a rapid rate. Initially government took steps to achieve food security at the national level and subsequently at the household and individual level.

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that there has been a record growth rate of eight per cent in total foodgrain output. The Minister stated that India has witnessed an increase of over 106 million tonnes in total foodgrain output over the last 10 years, rice production in the country has reached a record level of one thousand 501 lakh tonnes, higher than last year's one thousand 378 lakh tonnes. Wheat also has registered record growth of 46.53 lakh tonnes over last year's output of one thousand 132 lakh tonnes. Mr Chouhan also pointed out that the assurance of Minimum Support Price in the procurement of tur, urad, chana and moong dal is significantly benefiting large numbers of farmers across the country. He also reiterated that the government will continue to make efforts, giving top priority to agriculture and farmers.

Research Analysis

In India total foodgrain output increase by 106 million tonnes in the last 10 years, rice production also reached a record level. At the same time poverty is there in the Country.

Rice Production in India-2023-2025

Product	year	Tonnes
Rice	2023-2024	1.132 lakh
Rice	2024-2025	1,501 lakh

Source: Komal Bajpai, What Are The Top Food Security Schemes in India?<https://jaagrukbharat.com/top-food-security-schemes-in-india-8346268>, September 21 st 2025

As part of its monetary policy operations, the Reserve Bank of India controls inflation through its adjustments in repo rates

- By maintaining Buffer Stocks which refers holding sizable strategic reserves of fundamental commodities which helps to control supply-demand dynamics.
- Through implementation and removal of export-import regulations, domestic prices of food grains could be controlled. The abolition of 20% onion export taxes served to stabilise Indian market onion prices.

During 1950-60 population was less and their food intake was 366 grammes cereals and 66 grammes pulses per day they had consumed. From the following table one can understand the level of food intake especially pulses and cereals



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Percapita Net Availability of Cereals and Pulses

Per capita net availability of Cereals (grammes per day)		
Year	Cereals	Pulses
1951-60	366	66
1961-70	393	55
1971-80	396	43
1981-90	395	37
1991-2000	440	36
2001-2008	408	34
Source: Economic Survey 2009-10; 2008 figures provisional		

Source: “Indices Analytics: The great Indian food challenge”, <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/indicus-analyticsgreat-indian-food-challenge/422285/>, January 20th 2011

The Government of India introduced different food schemes which prioritise the provision of proper nutrition and safety, coupled with sufficient food to all population segments, especially those facing sectional vulnerabilities. These national programmes solve issues of food security, problems related to hunger and malnutrition. It creates a protective network for numerous people across the country for receiving adequate food. The Indian government introduced many schemes and took multiple initiatives simultaneously to guarantee food price stability, together with affordability, and reduce the food insecurity in India.

India eliminates hunger and malnutrition by adopting various approaches, such as establishing food security programmes. The nation advances towards nutritional equality for every resident by adopting and upgrading these nutrition-based schemes.

Top food security schemes in India	Target Beneficiaries	Key Benefits
National Food Security Act (NFSA)	Priority Households & Antyodaya Anna Yojana families	Legal entitlement to subsidised food grains
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana	NFSA beneficiaries	Additional free food grains during emergencies
PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal Scheme)	School-going children	Nutritious meals to enhance learning and health
Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	Poorest of the poor households	35 kg of food grains per family per month at highly subsidised rates
Public Distribution System (PDS)	All ration card holders	Distribution of essential commodities at subsidised prices



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Source: Komal Bajpai, What Are The Top Food Security Schemes in India? <https://jaagrukbharat.com/top-food-security-schemes-in-india-8346268>, September 21 st 2025

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) provides food support to specially targeted households in the most vulnerable situation. The scheme started in 2000 as a food protection mechanism with monthly distributions totalling 35 kilogrammes of rice or wheat at deeply discounted prices amounting to ₹3 for rice and ₹2 for wheat. The scheme extends its benefits to the poorest families who typically get lost in other social welfare programmes by enabling this group to secure their basic nutritional requirements regularly.

In order to increase the nutritional outcomes of children enrolled in schools. The PM POSHAN Scheme, formerly operated as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was introduced, which is considered to be one of the main food security programmes. Cooked meals were provided to the children studying in government and government-aided schools to support children from the first to eighth grades. This programme combats classroom hunger and enhances both student school-attendance rates and their ability to stay enrolled, especially for children who are from economically disadvantaged sections. Pre-primary students have been added to the PM POSHAN scheme.

III. CONCLUSION

Though India achieved rapid economic growth, it is unfortunate but important to note that country is still fighting against high percentages of poverty and malnutrition on its land. Regional economic inequality as well as climatic factors, and income distribution patterns all serve to intensify food shortages in India. The goal is to eliminate hunger by protecting needy people from food deprivation because of budget limitations. The government increases agricultural budget allocations alongside agricultural production support to decrease agricultural imports. The Indian government introduced many schemes and took multiple initiatives simultaneously to guarantee food price stability, together with affordability, and reduce the food insecurity in India. India eliminates hunger and malnutrition by adopting various approaches, such as establishing food security programmes.

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