



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 03-May-2018

**General studies-1**

**150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, chaired the first meeting of the National Committee for the Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 2, 2018).

The Committee has a total of 125 members, including 116 from India and encompasses the President (as chair), the Vice-President, Prime Minister, Union Ministers, former Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, senior MPs and political leaders from across party lines, and eminent Gandhians, social thinkers and activists representing a cross-section of Indian society and regional diversity.

The Committee also has nine international members, including two former Secretaries General of the United Nations – Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Ban Ki-moon – and Nobel laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and former US Vice-President Al Gore. Today's meeting was attended by 82 members of the Committee, including two from abroad. [Lists of Committee members and of those who attended are attached.

The Prime Minister stressed that all programmes associated with this celebration should be designed around the theme of "Karyanjali" - or "Gandhi in action".

**General studies-2**

**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme**

**Why in News?**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development will hold National Conference of 244 Districts under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) in New Delhi tomorrow.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development will share experiences from their sectoral interventions on improving the Sex Ratio at Birth and initiatives to encourage girl child education.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi announced the All India expansion of BBBP scheme in 640 districts across the country (as per Census 2011) on 8th March, 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.



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### **About the scheme:**

**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** (*translation: Save girl child, educate a girl child*) is a personal campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls.

The scheme was launched with an initial funding of ₹100 crore (US\$15 million). It mainly targets the clusters in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Bihar and Delhi.

The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched on 22 January 2015 by Modi.

It aims to address the issue of the declining child sex ratio image (CSR) and is a national initiative jointly run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

It initially focused multi-sector action in 100 districts throughout the country where there was a low CSR.

Reason for launch of Scheme:

According to census data, the child gender ratio (0–6 years) in India was 927 girls per 1,000 boys in 2001, which dropped to 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.

A 2012 UNICEF report ranked India 41st among 195 countries.

In the Population Census of 2011 it was revealed that the population ratio of India 2011 is **943 females** per 1000 of males. The Sex Ratio 2011 shows an upward trend from the census 2001 data.

Speaking on the occasion of [International Day of the Girl Child] in 2015, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi had called for the eradication of female foeticide and invited suggestions from the citizens of India via the MyGov.in portal.

### **PradhanMantriSwasthyaSurakshaYojana**

#### **Why in News?**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister ShriNarendraModi has given its approval for continuation of PradhanMantriSwasthyaSurakshaYojana (PMSSY)



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beyond 12th Five Year Plan for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a financial outlay of Rs. 14,832 crores.

**About the Yojana:**

PMSSY aims at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also at augmenting facilities for quality medical education in different regions of the country.

The various initiatives under PMSSY will lead to development of apex level medical education and nursing education and connected research facilities.

It will also lead to creation of tertiary level health care infrastructure through establishment of new AIIMS and will improve the referral system and enhance cross linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary level health care facilities.

Schemes under PMSSY will result in reduction of disparities to access quality health services between the States and regions.

He further stated that the scheme will also address imbalances in human resources development and in the availability of quality trained medical, nursing manpower for public health care delivery system through establishment of medical and nursing colleges.

The schemes will lead to improvement in health outcomes through adequate and timely intervention of medical/health services.

**General studies-3**

**"Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana"**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the Umbrella Scheme, "Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana" in agriculture sector beyond 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with the Central Share of Rs. 33,269.976 crore.

**About the Yojana:**

The Umbrella scheme comprises of 11 Schemes/Missions.

These schemes look to develop the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner to increase the income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.



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The Schemes that are part of the Umbrella Schemes are :-

(i) **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):** aims to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector; to enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm Households.

(ii) **National Food Security Mission (NFSM),** including National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), with a total central share of Rs.6893.38 crore.

It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a suitable manner in the identified districts of the country, restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level and enhancing farm level economy.

It further aims to augment the availability of vegetable oils and to reduce the import of edible oils.

(iii) **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** aims at promoting sustainable agriculture practices best suitable to the specific agro-ecology focusing on integrated farming, appropriate soil health management and synergizing resource conservation technology.

(iv) **Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)** aims to strengthen the ongoing extension mechanism of State Governments, local bodies etc., achieving food and nutritional security and socio-economic empowerment of farmers, to institutionalize programme planning and implementation mechanism, to forge effective linkages and synergy amongst various stake-holders, to support HRD interventions, to promote pervasive and innovative use of electronic / print media, inter-personal communication and ICT tools, etc.

(v) **Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)** aims to increase production of certified / quality seed, to increase SRR, to upgrade the quality of farm saved seeds, to strengthen the seed multiplication chain, to promote new technologies and methodologies in seed production, processing, testing etc., to strengthen and modernizing infrastructure for seed production, storage, certification and quality etc.

(vi) **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM)** aims to increase the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low.



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### **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY)**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.

#### **About PMVVY**

The PMVVY is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.

The scheme provides an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly / quarterly / half yearly and annual basis.

The differential return, i.e. the difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis.

#### **Algal bloom due to global warming:**

The phenomenon of Mumbai's beaches glowing in the dark maybe a consequence of global warming and not industrial pollution, according to a year-long investigation by Indian and American scientists.

The *Noctiluca* algae, commonly known as sea tinkle, is a parasite and occurs in patches or 'blooms' in the northern Arabian Sea.

Their bioluminescence has earned them the name 'sea sparkle'.

However, these patches ring an alarm bell for ecologists because the algae compete with fish for food and choke their supply.



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*Noctiluca* devours one of the most important planktonic organisms at the base of the fish-food chain, namely diatoms, and also excretes large amounts of ammonia, which is linked with massive fish mortality.

A warming ocean means greater temperature differences among layers of the sea water.

This slows the upward transport of nutrients like silicate from the ocean bottom, lowering its concentration at the surface. Diatoms growing in surface water need both sunlight and silicate to build their glass skeletons and thus, will fail to thrive when silicate is in short supply.

On the other hand, *Noctiluca* remains unaffected by these changes and prey on the remaining diatoms.

“Remarkably, the waters in the study area were observed to have sufficient oxygen clearly opposing any linkage between low oxygen and *Noctiluca* growth.

Intensifying global-warming conditions may be expected to disrupt the fish-food chain and cause a decline of fisheries in the region,” the researchers stated.