

## National Girl Child Day

### Why in News?

The National Girl Child Day was celebrated every year on January 24.

- It is an opportunity to raise awareness about the rights of girls and ensure they are provided with equal opportunities and support, free from gender biases.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Focus on** - Changing societal attitudes towards girls.
  - Addressing issues like female foeticide.
  - Raising awareness about the declining sex ratio and fostering a more inclusive.
  - Equitable environment for the girl child.

### Initiatives for Girl Child Development

#### Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

- **Launched in** - 2015.
- **Aim** - To address declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls & women over a life cycle continuum.

#### UDAAN - A program to give wings to girl students

- **Launched in** - 2014.
- **Aim** - At addressing the low enrollment of girl students in prestigious engineering institutions and bridging the gap between school education & engineering entrance examinations.

#### Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

- **Launched in** - 2010.
- **Aim** - At providing nutritional support to out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years for improving their health and nutritional status.

#### National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education

- **Launched in** - 2008.
- **Aim** - To enhance educational opportunities for girls, particularly those from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.
- Now integrated into the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

#### Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among Adolescent Girls in Rural India

- **Launched in** - 2011.
- **Aim** - Enhancing menstrual hygiene practices for girls aged 10-19 in rural areas.

#### Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme

- **Launched in** - 2015.
- **Part of** - Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.
- It encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child.

#### Child Protection Services Scheme

- **Launched in** - 2009-10.
- **Aim** - At building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances.

### **POSHAN Abhiyaan**

- **Launched in** - 2018.
- **Aim** - To address malnutrition issues across the nation through components like Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Application.

- **Legal measures** - To empower and protect the girl child includes,
  - Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
  - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
  - Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
  - Child Helpline and Track Child Portal.
  - PM CARES for Children Scheme.

### **Reference**

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