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

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

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- **Objective** - Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India.
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- It was launched to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) (0-6 years) and address other related issues of disempowerment of women.
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- It is a tri-ministerial, convergent effort of
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1. Ministry of Women and Child Development
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2. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
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3. Ministry of Human Resource Development
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- The programme focusses on
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1. awareness and advocacy campaign
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2. multi-sectoral action in selected 161 districts (low on Child Sex Ratio)

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3. effective enforcement of Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act
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4. enabling girls' education
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- **Outcome** - Nearing completion of 3 years, the programme has been successful in establishing improvement in CSR as a National Agenda.
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- Positive outcomes in the selected 161 BBBP districts are evident from -
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1. improving trend in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)
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2. progress in first trimester registration as against the reported Anti Natal Care registrations
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3. improvement in institutional deliveries
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4. increase in girl’s enrolment in secondary education
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5. construction of girl’s toilets in every school in selected districts
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- **Expansion** - The Cabinet has recently approved the Pan-India expansion of BBBP Scheme, from 2017-18 to 2019-20, to be funded 100% by the Central Government.
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- It would now include multi-sectoral intervention in 244 districts in addition to the existing 161 districts.
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- The physical implementation of the scheme will happen under the leadership of Collector.
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- Another 235 districts are to be covered through Alert District Media, Advocacy and Outreach.
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- BBBP would thus cover all the 640 districts (as per census 2011) of the

Country, to have a deeper positive impact on Child Sex Ratio.
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Cradle Baby Reception Center

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- The Ministry has stressed upon the need to place cradles at important locations such as hospitals, Primary Health Centres, etc.
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- This is aimed at saving the lives of uncared new born babies.
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- And placing them in the adoption net managed by CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority), to rehabilitate them in the familial care.
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Integrated Child Development Scheme

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- **Supplementary Nutrition** (under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017 has been notified.
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- This is to regulate the entitlement specified under provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
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- This would be applicable for every pregnant woman and lactating mother till 6 months after child birth.
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- And every child in the age group of 6 months to 6 years (including those suffering from malnutrition) for 300 days in a year.
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- The Government has also revised the cost norms for supplementary nutrition with annual indexation under the Anganwadi Services.
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- **Direct Benefit Transfer** - Transfer of benefits/services under ICDS using Aadhaar as the primary identifier has been planned.
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- Accordingly, two components of ICDS Scheme have been identified:
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1. payment of honorarium to Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helpers
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2. providing supplementary nutrition to pregnant women & lactating mothers and children in the age group of six months to six years
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- **Anganwadi Centre** - Construction of Anganwadi Centre (AWC) buildings would be taken up under the MGNREGS in convergence with Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella ICDS Scheme.
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- Besides, cleanliness drive and toilet constructions were taken up in AWCs as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission initiatives.
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Integrated Child Protection Scheme

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- The Ministry is executing an Integrated Child Protection Scheme for ensuring implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act.
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- The scheme has recently been brought under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Scheme as its sub-scheme.
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Universal Scheme for Adolescent Girls

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- This is aimed at providing nutrition support and vocational /skill training for out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years.
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- The scheme has been extended to around 300 districts in addition to the existing nearly 200 districts across the country.
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- The fund released so far has benefitted around 80 lakh out-of-school adolescent girls.
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Child Marriage

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- An amendment has been proposed by the Ministry to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
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- The changes aim at making child marriages henceforth invalid in law so as to deter the still prevalent practice.
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- The Ministry also took up the issue for dichotomy between IPC Section 375 (rape) and the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012.
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- Accordingly, the Supreme Court has recently criminalized sex between a man and his underage wife (below 18 years).
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- The Ministry is also working to prosecute Panchayat members for promoting or permitting solemnization of child marriages at village level.
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Trafficking

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- The Ministry has conceptualized a comprehensive **Bill on Trafficking**, which is under consideration.
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- It clearly outlines and differentiates between Regulatory and Rehabilitation aspects.
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- **Railway CHILDLINE** is an initiative currently operating at 33 identified railway stations that serve as ‘source’ and ‘destination’ centres for child trafficking.
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- Rescue services have been started in these stations by the WCD ministry, in collaboration with Ministry of Railways.
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- Proposal for extending the service in 55 more new railway stations have been approved by the Ministry.
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Online content

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- An Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, with membership of MWCD.
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- It has issued an advisory to all Internet Service Providers within the country.
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- This is to prevent the distribution and transmission of child sexual abuse material/imagery.
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- Fast track mechanisms are planned to complain and enable swift and speedy removal/blockage of online content offensive to women and children.
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- A Public Grievance Cell is also active in the Ministry, which gives women and children a way to send their grievances directly to the government.
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Hausala 2017

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- Hausla 2017 is the child rights week celebrated by the WCD Ministry, by hosting an inter-Child Care Institution festival.
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- Children from child care institutions across the country participated in various events and competitions.
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Missing Children

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- Khoya-Paya Portal is a citizen friendly web portal for Khoya Paya (Lost and Found).
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- The portal was launched in 2015 for reporting and searching missing children.
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Source: PIB

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