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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