

## October 8<sup>th</sup> news;

### International issues:

#### - **Saudi Arabia agrees to purchase S400 missile defence systems from Russia**

Saudi Arabia agreed to purchase S400 missile defence systems from Russia on the sidelines of a visit by Saudi King Salman to Moscow. The S-400 Triumf is an anti-aircraft, anti-ballistic missile and anti-cruise missile defense system that has been in service with the Russian Army since 2007.

The system uses four missiles, a very-long-range 400 km missile, a long-range 250 km missile, a medium-range 120 km missile and a short-range 40 km missile. This missile system will give Saudi Arabia a multi-layer defense ability against aerial threats.

**US agrees to sell THAAD missile:** The US government has approved the sale to Saudi Arabia of its advanced Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defence system

#### **What is THAAD?**

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), formerly Theater High Altitude Area Defense, is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short, medium, and intermediate range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase (descent or reentry) by intercepting with a hit-to-kill approach

#### - **BRICS-themed subway train debuts in China**

A BRICS-themed subway train with carriages representing the five member nations, including India, has started test operations in China's south-eastern Xiamen city where the grouping's summit was held last month.

- The Indian carriage depicts elephants and yoga
- The Chinese carriage is red and displays icons such as the Great Wall and Tian'anmen Square
- The Brazilian carriage is green and decorated with images of footballs and football stars
- The Russian carriage shows off the country's ballet and Matryoshka dolls, while the South African carriage displays pictures of diamonds
- The sixth carriage combines cultural elements from all the five BRICS countries. The subway's test operations will last until 11<sup>th</sup> October.

### National issues:

#### - **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao led to improvement in sex ratio at birth**

According to the Union Government, there has been an improvement in sex ratio at birth in 104 districts selected for the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, which aims at checking female infanticide and educating the girl child.

According to the Secretary, Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry, RK Shrivastava, out of the total 161 districts where the programme is being implemented, an increasing trend in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is visible in 104 districts.

The WCD ministry now plans to extend this programme to all the districts of the country with the focus on the 56 of the total 161 districts that have shown a decline in SRB.

**WCD Ministry to celebrate Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week (10-14 Oct.):** Women and Child Development Ministry will celebrate the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> of October

- The theme of the week is- the daughters of New India. States, union territories, districts have undertaken several innovative initiatives to address the issue of declining child sex ratio and promote value of girl child.
- The collective and coordinated efforts undertaken at national, state and districts level has been successful in establishing a substantial improvement in the number of girls being born in the target districts.
- The government has said, there has been an improvement in sex ratio at birth in 104 districts selected for the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

#### **About Beti Bachao Beti padao**

The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), defined as number of girls per 1000 of boys between 0-6 years of age, has been unabated since 1961. The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011 is alarming. The decline in the CSR is a major indicator of women dis-empowerment. CSR reflects both, pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender biased sex selection, and post birth discrimination against girls. Social construct discriminating against girls on the one hand, easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools on the other hand, have been critical in increasing Sex Selective Elimination of girls leading to low Child Sex Ratio.

Since coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure survival, protection and empowerment of the girl child, Government has announced **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** initiative. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme has been introduced in October, 2014 to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR). The Scheme was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

#### **Objectives**

- Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination
- Ensure survival & protection of the girl child
- Ensure education of the girl child

#### **Strategies**

- Implement a sustained Social Mobilization and Communication Campaign to create equal value for the girl child & promote her education.
- Place the issue of decline in CSR/SRB in public discourse, improvement of which would be a indicator for good governance.
- Focus on Gender Critical Districts and Cities low on CSR for intensive & integrated action.
- Mobilize & Train Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban local bodies/ Grassroot workers as catalysts for social change, in partnership with local community/women's/youth groups.
- Ensure service delivery structures/schemes & programmes are sufficiently responsive to issues of gender and children's rights.
- Enable Inter-sectoral and inter-institutional convergence at District/Block/Grassroot levels.

#### **Economy issues:**

##### **- Aadhaar mandatory for small saving schemes**

The government has made biometric identification Aadhaar mandatory for all post office deposits, Public Provident Fund, National Savings Certificate scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra.

Finance Ministry has issued four separate Gazette notifications making Aadhaar mandatory for opening all post office deposit accounts, Public Provident Fund, National Savings Certificate scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra deposits.

Existing depositors who have not provided Aadhaar number at the time of application for such deposit "shall submit his Aadhaar number to the post office savings bank or deposit office concerned, on or before December 31, 2017.

The government has insisted on quoting Aadhaar for bank deposits, obtaining mobile phone and several other utilities to weed out benami deals and black money.

##### **- PAN, Aadhaar card not mandatory for jewellery purchase above Rs 50,000**

The Finance Ministry announced that **PAN** (Permanent Account Number) card and **Aadhaar card** details will not be mandatory for jewellery purchases above **Rs. 50,000**.

Any entity dealing in gems, jewellery that has a turnover of Rs. 2 crore or more in a financial year will not be covered under PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002). This decision was taken at the 22nd GST Council meeting.