



# Rise in Sex Ratio at Birth in Haryana

## Why in News?

According to officials, **Haryana has improved its sex ratio from 871 in 2014 to 910 in 2024**, marking a 39-point rise. This progress underscores Haryana's dedication and the success of the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative**.

## Key Points

- **Combating Female Foeticide:**
  - Haryana has intensified its campaign against **female foeticide** and strengthened enforcement of **the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994**.
    - Since 2014, the state has filed 1,217 **First Information Report (FIR)** under the Act, including **397 through interstate raids**.
  - These actions have led to over 4,000 arrests, targeting doctors, quacks, and touts involved in **illegal sex determination** and female foeticide.
- **Focus on Maternal Healthcare and Education:**
  - Haryana has made significant strides in **maternal healthcare**, with institutional deliveries increasing from 35.7% in 2005-06 to 94.9% in recent years.
  - Secondary education enrollment has risen from 3,85,624 in 2015-16 to 4,00,736 in 2023-24.
- **Promoting Gender Equality and Support for Families:**
  - Over 5,23,056 families have benefited from a one-time payment of Rs 21,000 for the birth of a girl child.
  - The **Poshan Abhiyan**, launched in 2018, has **targeted anaemia and improved nutrition**, benefiting 2,24,136 participants through **Anganwadi centres**.
- **Empowering Adolescent Girls and Financial Support Initiatives:**
  - **The Adolescent Girls Scheme** in Mewat has supported 13,439 girls aged 14-18 in 2024-25 with self-development, skill-building, and health services.
  - **The Sukanya Samridhi Scheme** has facilitated the opening of 8,23,522 savings accounts for daughters under 10 years old.
  - Financial support has been provided to survivors of the **POCSO Act**, with Rs 1.31 crore disbursed across 778 cases by October 2024.
- **Promoting Gender Awareness Through Media:**
  - In 2024, Haryana launched the **"Mahri Lado" radio programme on All India Radio** to reshape societal attitudes towards girls.
  - The programme, covering health, nutrition, financial independence, and leadership, has engaged over 1,60,000 participants.

## Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

- The PCPNDT Act, 1994 is an Act of the Parliament of India that was enacted to **stop female foeticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India**. The act banned **prenatal sex determination**.
- The main objective of enacting the act is to **ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception** and prevent the **misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex-**

selective abortion.

## Poshan Abhiyan

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)** was launched by the government on **8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**.
- The Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls)** and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

## Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme

- It aims to **promote the welfare of girl children in India**.
- Parents or legal guardians can open deposits for **up to two daughters aged below 10**, and **in the case of twin girls or three girl children**, the scheme allows three accounts to be opened.
- **Minimum initial deposit is Rs 250 and Maximum annual ceiling is Rs 150,000**.
- Deposits can be made for a maximum of 15 years. The account matures on completion of **21 years from the date of opening or on the marriage of the account holder**, whichever is earlier.

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