



Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana | Maharashtra | 10 Mar 2025

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government provided over **Rs 17,000 crore** in financial assistance to 2.38 crore women since launching [the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana](#) in 2024.

Key Points

- **Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana:**
 - The scheme aims to **rehabilitate, economically develop, and empower women** aged 21 to 65 years by disbursing Rs 1,500 per month.
 - Up to December 2024, the total disbursement under the scheme amounted to Rs 17,505.90 crore.
- **Gender Budget Allocation:**
 - The share of the gender budget in the total State budget increased from 3.1% in 2023-24 to 3.3% in 2024-25.
 - The financial allocation for gender-related initiatives rose marginally from Rs 20,391 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 21,951 crore in 2024-25.
- **Decline in Women-Specific Schemes:**
 - **Shelter Homes, Hostels, and Protective Homes:**
 - Expenditure fell from Rs 15.31 crore (2023-24) to Rs 9.82 crore (2024-25 up to December).
 - The number of beneficiaries dropped from 6,654 to 4,527.
 - **Women's Counselling Centres:**
 - Budget reduced from Rs 4.2 crore (previous year) to RS 1.32 crore (current year).
 - Beneficiaries decreased from 25,734 to 18,322.
 - **Manodhairya Scheme (Rehabilitation for Rape and Acid Attack Survivors):**
 - Funding dropped nearly 50%, from Rs 48 crore last year to Rs 19.48 crore this year.
 - However, the number of beneficiaries increased from 374 to 422.
 - **Pink E-Rickshaw Scheme:**
 - Announced in July 2024, but **no disbursement** has been recorded yet.
 - The scheme targets 10,000 women (ages 20-40 years) in major cities across eight districts.

Panchaganga River | Maharashtra | 10 Mar 2025

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government has **appointed a panel**, led by the executive engineer of the Kolhapur irrigation department, to investigate the **causes of pollution** in the **Panchaganga River**.

Key Points

- **State's Response to River Pollution Concerns:**
 - The State Environment Minister provided a written response on the causes of pollution and the death of fishes in the Panchaganga and Warna rivers.
- **Pollution and Fish Deaths in Warna River:**
 - Recently, **dead fish were found at Bhadole and Chikurde along [the Warna River](#)**.
 - The inspection revealed that **untreated effluent from sugar mills caused the pollution**.
 - The **Warna Cooperative Sugar Mill** was identified as the source of untreated sewage discharge during that period.
- **Action Taken Against Polluters:**
 - Officials conducted an **inspection in December 2024** to assess the pollution levels.
 - Based on the findings, **the government imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh** on the sugar factory responsible for the pollution.
- **Investigation Panel:**
 - To further investigate pollution in the Panchaganga River, the government appointed a panel which will **examine the sources of pollution and recommend corrective measures**.

Panchaganga River

- **About:**
 - It is a **major tributary of [the Krishna River](#)**, flowing through Maharashtra.
 - The river **originates from Prayag Sangam** in the **[Sahyadri mountain ranges](#)**.
 - Its **birthplace is Chikhlee Taluka**, a small village in Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.
 - It is formed by the confluence of five rivers—**Kasari, Kumbhi, Tulsi, Bhogawati, and Saraswati**.
 - The river flows for approximately 80 km before merging with the Krishna River in Maharashtra.
- **Spiritual and Agricultural Importance:**
 - The river holds immense spiritual significance, with **its banks lined with numerous temples and shrines**.
 - The Panchaganga valley is **highly fertile, producing rich winter crops**.
 - The river's water is extensively used for **[sugarcane cultivation](#)**.