

“If you want to find happiness, find gratitude.” Steve Maraboli

NATIONAL

POSHAN ABHIYAN (NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION)

The Government of India has set-up POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) which was launched by the PM Modi on 8th March, 2018 from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

The programme through use of technology, has a targeted approach and convergence strives to reduce the level of Stunting, Under-nutrition, Anemia and Low Birth Weight in Children, as also, focus on Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers for holistically addressing malnutrition.

POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters over the next few years.

To ensure a holistic approach, all 36 States/UTs and 718 districts will be covered in a phased manner by the year 2020. Never before has nutrition been given such prominence at the highest level in the country.

As part of this Abhiyaan, initiative to mobilize a peoples' movement or Jan Andolan on Nutrition, the MoWCD has developed a Caller Tune and Ring Tone to popularize and create a connect with the Abhiyaan's goal of Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan.

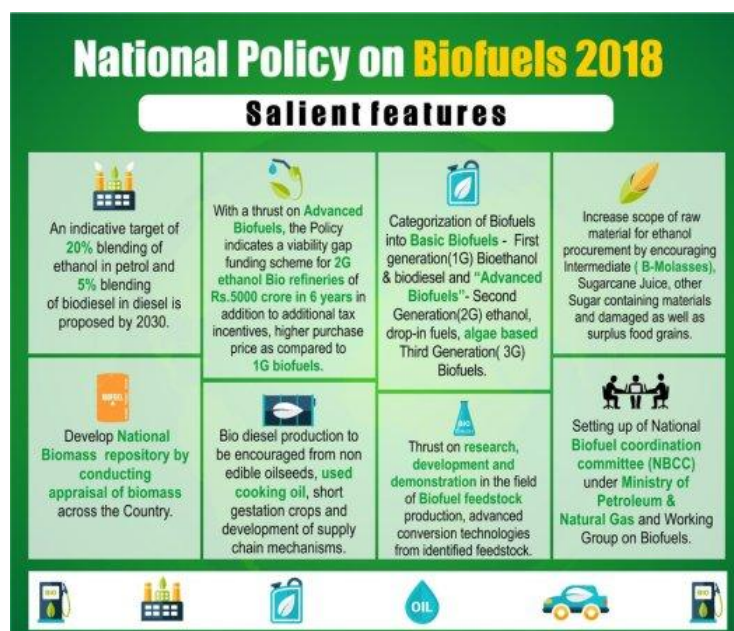
It was decided that the activities to be carried in the month of September to celebrate as National Nutrition Month and this will be celebrated every year.

NATIONAL POLICY ON BIO-FUELS-2018

Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has notified the National Policy on Biofuels-2018.

Aim: Ensuring adequate and sustained availability of domestic feedstock for biofuel production, increasing Farmers Income, Import Reduction, Employment Generation and Waste to Wealth Creation, Provisions of the Policy.

The policy categorizes biofuels as “Basic Biofuels” such as bio ethanol & biodiesel and “Advanced Biofuels” such as Second Generation (2G) ethanol, bio-CNG, Third Generation Biofuels, etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.



It also includes promotion of advanced biofuels through various incentives, off-take assurance and viability gap funding.

Damaged and Surplus foodgrains to be utilised.

With an objective of increasing production of ethanol, this Policy allows production of ethanol from damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice etc. which are unfit for human consumption.

Additionally, during an agriculture crop year, when there is projected over supply of food grains as anticipated by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, the policy allows conversion of surplus quantities of

food grains to ethanol, based on the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

Use of damaged food grains and surplus food grains for production of ethanol will increase its availability for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

This will result in increasing the blending percentage, increasing farmer's income, saving of foreign exchange and addressing environmental issues.

COMMITTEE TO CHECK MOB LYNCHING

Considering the increasing incidents of mob lynching, the Union Government has constituted a High Level Committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba to deliberate in the matter and make recommendations. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Government within four weeks.

The move comes after a number of mob lynching incidents were reported in several areas, stemming from fake social media rumours of child kidnappers as well as cow vigilantism.

Need for coordination between the centre and states on this matter:

The Union Government is highly concerned about the incidents of mob violence in some parts of the country. Government has already condemned such incidents and made its stand clear in the Parliament that, as per the Constitutional scheme, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects.

State Governments are responsible for controlling crime, maintaining law and order, and protecting the life and property of the citizens. They are empowered to enact and enforce laws to curb crime in their jurisdiction.

Recent directions of the Supreme Court on the issue of mob violence:

Condemning mob lynching incidents across the country and the Supreme Court had urged the Parliament to enact a new law to deal with the crime. The court passed a slew of directions in this regard to deal with the mob lynching. Here are the directions:

There shall be a "separate offence" for lynching and the trial courts must ordinarily award maximum sentence upon conviction of the accused person to set a stern example in cases of mob violence.

The state governments will have to designate a senior police officer in each district for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching.

The state governments need to identify districts, sub-divisions and villages where instances of lynching and mob violence have been reported in the recent past.

The nodal officers shall bring to the notice of the DGP about any inter-district co-ordination issues for devising a strategy to tackle lynching and mob violence related issues.

Every police officer shall ensure to disperse the mob that has a tendency to cause violence in the disguise of vigilantism or otherwise.

Central and the state governments shall broadcast on radio, television and other media platforms about the serious consequences of mob lynching and mob violence.

Despite the measures taken by the State Police, if it comes to the notice of the local police that an incident of lynching or mob violence has taken place, the jurisdictional police station shall immediately lodge an FIR.

The State Governments shall prepare a lynching/mob violence victim compensation scheme in the light of the provisions of Section 357A of CrPC within one month from the date of this judgment.

If a police officer or an officer of the district administration fails to fulfill his duty, it will be considered an act of deliberate negligence.

Need for an anti-lynching law:

At present there is no law that criminalises mob killings. The Indian Penal Code has provisions for unlawful assembly, rioting, and murder but nothing that takes cognisance of a group of people coming together to kill (a lynch mob).

Under Section 223 (a) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), to prosecute together two or more people accused of the same

offence committed in the course of the “same transaction”. But the provision falls far short of an adequate legal framework for prosecuting lynch mobs.

PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST PM AND DEFENCE MINISTER

The Congress has submitted a notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan for a privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allegedly misleading the House on the commercial value of the deal to buy Rafale fighter jets from France.

Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”. When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.

A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege. Each House also claims the right to punish as contempt actions which, while not breach of any specific privilege, are offences against its authority and dignity.

Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook governs privilege. It says that a member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a committee thereof. The rules however mandate that any notice should be relating to an incident of recent occurrence and should need the intervention of the House. Notices have to be given before 10 am to the Speaker or the Chairperson.

The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first

level of scrutiny of a privilege motion. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges consisting of 15 members as per respective party strengths. A report is then presented to the House for its consideration. The Speaker may permit a half-hour debate while considering the report. The Speaker may then pass final orders or direct that the report be tabled before the House.

A resolution may then be moved relating to the breach of privilege that has to be unanimously passed. In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges, that consists of 10 members.

SC PULLS UP CENTRE FOR ITS DELAY IN APPOINTING A LOKPAL

The government affidavit on Lokpal is “wholly unsatisfactory” says Supreme Court.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, filed a contempt petition against the government for not appointing a Lokpal despite an April 2017 judgment by the court

On this the court said that government’s stand on completing the appointment of a Lokpal, an ombudsman to protect the common man from corruption in public service and power centres, was “wholly unsatisfactory.”

Recently, the selection committee led by PM

<p>A long-drawn debate</p> <p>A short history of the Lokpal Bill from the 1960s to the present</p> <p>1963: The idea of an Ombudsman first came up in Parliament during a discussion on budget allocation for the Law Ministry</p> <p>1966: The First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended two independent authorities — one at the Centre and one at the</p>	 <p>State level — to probe complaints against public functionaries, including MPs</p> <p>1968: Lokpal Bill introduced in Parliament, but was not passed. Eight attempts were made till 2011 to pass the Bill, but all in vain</p> <p>2002: The Constitution review commission headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah recommended appointment of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas. It also recommended that the Prime Minister be kept out of the Lokpal's ambit</p>	<p>2005: The second ARC recommended that a Lokpal be established without delay</p> <p>2013: Lokpal Act, 2013, passed in Parliament</p> <p>2016: Lok Sabha agreed to amend the 2013 Act</p> <p>2017: The SC on April 27 clarified that the Lokpal appointment process need not be stalled merely due to the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, who is a member of the Lokpal selection committee as per the 2013 Act</p>
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Modi met on the choice of a search committee for the Lokpal.

Search Committee:

The committees will shortlist the candidates for Lokpal.

It will comprise 50% members from the SC/ST category, OBCs and the minorities and women.

The committee will comprise seven persons, including the chairperson.

The members will be experts from the diverse background such as banking, law, insurance, management etc.

Reasons for not implementation of the Lokpal act:

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013 was not implemented till now because there was no Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the 16th Lok Sabha.

The 2013 statute include the LoP as a member of the selection committee.

The act intends the LoP to be the part of the selection committee of the PM, the CJI, and the Speaker, which has to first appoint an eminent jurist among their ranks.

INDIA NEEDS SMART URBANISATION

Over 34% of India's current population lives in urban areas, rising by 3% since 2011. According to one estimate, India's urban population could increase to 814 million by 2050.

Urban cities are facing following challenges on 'smart cities' front:-

- Poverty and poor infrastructure
- Poor urban planning
- Increasing population led to increasing demands for basic services.
- Over 90 'smart cities' have identified 2,864 projects; India lags on implementation, with about 148 projects completed.
- Shortage of affordable house despite government initiative.

- Instances of floods in Mumbai, dengue in Delhi, lakes on fire in Bengaluru presents a worst picture.
- Slow work on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project and the bullet train.
- Low level of urban infrastructure investment and capacity building.
- India spends about \$17 per capita annually on urban infrastructure projects, against a global benchmark of \$100 and China's \$116.
- Various government schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission not implemented properly.
- Urban institutions also suffer from a shortage of skilled people.

Solutions:

- Needs systematic policy to deal with urban migration.
- Internal migration in India helps in reducing poverty or prevents households from slipping into it.
- Lowering the cost of migration, along with eliminating discrimination against migrants, while protecting their rights.
- Revitalizing cities such as Meerut, building transport links and connectivity.
- Urban policy makers also need to be cognizant of the historical context for urban development.
- The creation of hill stations in northern India and the advent of the plantation economy, along with industrial township transformatinal trading networks.
- The creation of cantonment and civil lines areas, along with railway stations in major cities led to the haphazard growth of urban areas.
- Need different model of urbanization.
- Need to empower cities, with focus on land policy reforms, granting urban local bodies the freedom to raise financing and enforce local land usage norms.
