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Important Facts for Prelims (25th January 2019)

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National Girl Child Day

- The Ministry of Women & Child Development has celebrated National Girl Child Day (NGCD) on 24th January 2019 in Delhi.
- The theme of NGCD 2019 was **“Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow”** and was celebrated with objectives of generating **awareness** on the issue of declining **Child Sex Ratio** (CSR) and create a positive **environment around valuing the girl child**.
- The celebrations also marked the **4th anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** Scheme which was launched in 2015.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

- The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), defined as the 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 disempowerment.
- CSR reflects both, pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender-biased sex selection, and post-birth discrimination against girls.
- Two most prominent reasons for the decline in child sex ratio are:
 - Social construct discriminating against girls
 - Easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools
- The government has announced the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative** to ensure **survival, protection, and empowerment of the girl child**.
- This is being implemented through a national campaign and focussed multisectoral action in 100 selected districts low in CSR, covering all States and UTs.
- This is a joint initiative of **the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
- The objectives of this initiative are:
 - Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination
 - Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child

- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child

Bio-fuel Standard for Aviation

- To use bio-jet fuel on all military and civilian aircraft, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), in collaboration with IAF and the oil industry, has brought out a new standard for Aviation Turbine Fuels (ATF).
- This standard would enable the oil companies to **manufacture bio-jet fuel for the Indian aviation industry** and align Indian standards with **current international standards**.
- This step will help in **reducing the carbon emissions** and will help India become a **green fuel production hub**.
- Increased demand of bio-jet fuel would give impetus to **increase in collection of tree-borne non-edible oil seeds**, which, in turn, will help **generate ancillary income**, increase remuneration **for tribal and marginal farmers**, and enthruse cultivation/ collection of oilseeds.
- This will also help in achieving global emission target under **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)**.

CORSIA addresses the increase in total CO2 emissions from international aviation above 2020 levels.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a **UN specialized agency**, established in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the **Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)**.

India's First Military Flight using Blended Bio-Jet Fuel