



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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## Maternity Benefit Programme - Pan-India Expansion

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### What's the news?

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- Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in his address to the nation on 31.12.2016 has **announced pan-India expansion of MBP in all the districts** with effect from 01.01.2017.

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- It is expected that annually about 51.70 lakh beneficiaries would avail of the benefit.

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- Government of India is committed to ensure that every woman attains optimal nutritional status - especially from the most vulnerable communities.

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- A woman's nutritional status has important implications for her health as well as the health and development of her children.

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### What are the ill-effects of under-nourishment?

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- An under-nourished mother almost inevitably gives **birth to a low birth weight baby**. When poor nutrition starts in-utero, it extends throughout the life cycle, particularly in women.

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- More on "Why the health of a mother matters?" - [Click Here](#)

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## Why MBP is needed?

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- Owing to economic and social distress many women **continue to work to earn a living right upto the last days of their pregnancy.**

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- Furthermore, they resume working soon after childbirth, even through their bodies might not permit it - thus **impending their ability to exclusively breastfeed** their young infant in the first six months.

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## What is MBP?

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- To address the above issues, the MWCD, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(b) of National Food Security Act, formulated a scheme for pregnant and lactating mothers called Maternity Benefit Programme - a conditional cash transfer scheme.

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- **The Scheme provides cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women.**\n

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- for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery;

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- to improve her health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactation;

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- to breastfeed the child during the first six months of the birth, which is very vital for the development of the child.

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## Who gets the benefits?

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- Under the scheme, all Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM),

excluding the PW&LM, who are in regular employment with the Government or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible.

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- The cash incentive of **Rs.6,000/- is payable in three instalments** for the first two live births in three stages.

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- The cash transfer would be Aadhaar linked through the individual bank/post office account etc. in DBT mode.

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### **Why the expansion of MBP matters?**

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- Expansion of MBP will have huge impact on the PW&LM as it will not only provide them compensation for the wage loss but will also provide them adequate nutrition and rest before and after delivery.

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- Mothers will have sufficient time to breastfeed the child during first six months of the birth. Resultantly, it is expected that **it will reduce mother mortality rate, IMR, under-nutrition and its adverse effects.**

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### **What about the cost sharing?**

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- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the cost sharing between Centre and States is 60:40 for all the States and UTs (with legislature), 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% GoI share for UTs without legislatures.

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**Category: Prelims & Mains | GS - II | Social Justice**

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**Source: PIB**

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