

# 'Maternity scheme reaches only one-third of beneficiaries'

PMMVY scheme benefitted just 31% eligible mothers, say researchers who extrapolated data obtained under RTI

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

A vital programme to support lactating mothers and pregnant women by compensating them for loss of wages during their pregnancy has been able to reach less than a third of the eligible beneficiaries, researchers who extrapolated from data obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act said.

Almost 61% of beneficiaries registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) between April 2018 and July 2019 (38.3 lakh out of the total 62.8 lakh enrolled) received the full amount of ₹6,000 promised under the scheme, according to an RTI reply. However, the researchers, who are development economists, assert that since the scheme failed

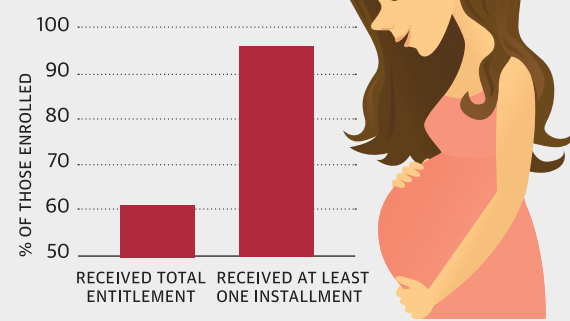
to reach at least 49% of all mothers who would have delivered their first child (an estimated total of 123 lakh for 2017 according to the researchers), the scheme was able to benefit only 31% of its intended beneficiaries.

The PMMVY is targeted only at women delivering their first child. A cash amount of ₹6,000 is transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary in three instalments upon meeting certain conditions including early registration of pregnancy, having at least one ante-natal check-up and registration of child birth.

Given the stipulated conditions, the scheme brings under its ambit 23% of all births and pays full benefits to a mere 14% of all births, which was at 270.5 lakh for 2017. The meagre reach calculated is also an overesti-

## Baby steps

Only about 61% of mothers enrolled in the scheme received their total entitlement of ₹6,000



mate, asserts Ritika Khara, Assistant Professor, IIM Ahmedabad. The actual number of beneficiaries would have been higher for 2018-2019, she contends, as the figure increases from one year to the next.

The data extrapolated from the RTI reply is also

consistent with a survey coordinated by three development economists Jean Dreze, Anmol Somanchi and Ms. Khara. The survey was conducted to assess the implementation of the scheme. The survey team covered a district each in six States – Chhattisgarh, Hi-

machal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha – in 2019 to interview women and inspect anganwadis. A total of 706 women were interviewed, including 342 pregnant and 364 lactating women.

## Inadequate awareness

The study found that only 50% of pregnant women and 57% of nursing women surveyed were eligible for the scheme. It also throws light on the need for higher awareness among the pool of beneficiaries – only 66% of pregnant women and 69% of nursing women knew about the scheme. Only 8% of pregnant women and 23% of nursing mothers received some benefits.

Several factors impeded proper implementation of

the programme that aims to fight malnutrition among children. These include an application form of about 23 pages, a slew of documents such as mother-child protection card, Aadhaar card, husband's Aadhaar card and bank passbook aside from linking their bank accounts with Aadhaar.

The requirement to produce the husband's Aadhaar card results in excluding women who may be living with men they are not married to, single mothers and those who may be staying at their natal home. Women must also have the address of their marital home on their Aadhaar card, which often results in newly weds being either left out or forced to go from door-to-door when pregnant and needing rest and care.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy rainfall likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Rayalseema. Moderate to dense fog likely in isolated pockets over south Assam & Meghalaya.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	30.2	19.3	Kozhikode	...	34.5	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	31.6	18.8	Kurnool	...	33.4	22.9
Aizawl	...	23.1	12.1	Lucknow	...	28.0	14.9
Allahabad	...	31.4	15.7	Madurai	...	33.4	24.5
Bengaluru	...	29.4	20.0	Mangaluru	...	34.4	23.8
Bhopal	...	28.3	14.8	Mumbai	...	34.8	24.0
Bhubaneswar	...	31.0	20.0	Mysuru	...	30.1	18.8
Chandigarh	...	25.7	13.0	New Delhi	...	26.5	15.3
Chennai	2.8	32.4	25.6	Patna	...	29.6	16.6
Coimbatore	...	31.4	22.3	Port Blair	0.5	31.2	24.3
Dehradun	...	26.6	11.1	Puducherry	...	32.2	23.8
Gangtok	0.8	16.8	12.4	Pune	...	30.1	16.2
Goa	...	34.8	24.5	Raipur	...	30.9	18.1
Guwahati	...	29.7	18.3	Ranchi	...	28.0	13.8
Hubballi	...	29.0	21.0	Shillong	...	18.0	9.1
Hyderabad	...	31.7	17.6	Shimla	...	19.9	9.7
Imphal	...	26.5	8.9	Srinagar	...	...	...
Jaipur	...	27.0	18.4	Thiruvananthapuram	37.4	33.3	24.1
Kochi	6.4	32.0	24.8	Tiruchi	...	32.7	24.0
Kohima	...	24.2	11.5	Vijayawada	...	32.5	24.5
Kolkata	...	31.0	20.1	Visakhapatnam	...	31.8	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing					Yesterday	
CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	121	179	34	113	...	...
Bengaluru	...	13	93	97	...	...
Chennai	...	6	12	28	...	...
Delhi	...	...	82	72	320	220
Hyderabad	...	...	4	56	165	137
Kolkata	...	...	9	79	39	283
Lucknow	...	...	3	28	90	232
Mumbai	...	...	4	48	28	178
Pune	...	...	75	13	55	173
Visakhapatnam	...	...	10	29	33	75

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Wonders happen, says Rajini while taking a dig at T.N. CM

Film star's speech at Kamal Haasan's event triggers buzz about 2021 alliance

UDHAV NAIG  
CHENNAI

At what was meant to be a concert by Ilayaraja to celebrate actor Kamal Haasan completing 60 years in cinema, fellow film star Rajinikanth gave a speech about how 'wonders' could happen, opening up the possibility of Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Haasan joining hands to take on the Dravidian parties in the 2021 Assembly election.

## Wonders possible

After actor Vijay's father S.A. Chandrasekaran set the ball rolling by saying he wished to see Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Haasan in an alliance for the 2021 polls, Mr. Rajinikanth appeared to take a dig at Chief Minister Edappadi



MNM party President Kamal Haasan and actor Rajinikanth seen together at an event earlier in November. FILE PHOTO

K. Palaniswami.

"Two years ago, Edappadi Palaniswami wouldn't even have dreamt of becoming CM. [But] it happened. And then, they said he will be the CM for only a few days. But he has been in the post for

two years. So, wonders will happen," Mr. Rajinikanth said during Sunday's event.

"It happened yesterday, it is happening today and it will happen tomorrow," he added.

Just as Mr. Rajinikanth

was about to finish his speech, Mr. Haasan signalled to him to stay put, and ran up on stage to join him.

"Only love has seen us last 43 years together in this industry – don't you think we will last longer?" Mr. Haasan asked. Just like our cinema careers took off in different directions after we acted together, we may move separately in the next facet of our lives. But no matter where our paths take us – and we don't know what the future holds for either of us – our friendship will never fade," Mr. Haasan said.

"Rajinikanth's seen it all during his time in this industry. That's why he is still supporting me and standing by me. Only love wins in the end," he added.

# ISRO gets set for launch of Cartosat-3 next week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) returns to launching its operational satellites this month after a hiatus of six months.

Cartosat-3, an advanced earth imaging and mapping satellite, will be flown on November 25 on the PSLV-C47 vehicle, subject to weather conditions, the space agency announced on Monday.

The 1,560 kg satellite will have 13 small U.S. customer satellites riding as secondary passengers. They will be placed in a polar orbit.

Although ISRO sent up

Chandrayaan 2, the lunar orbiter probe, in July, its previous functional satellite was RISAT-2B, launched in May.

## Best resolution

Cartosat-3, with an ISRO-best resolution of 25 cm, will be the first of a series of high resolution, third generation satellites planned for observing the Earth.

The satellite will be able to pick up objects of that size (25 cm) from its orbital perch about 509 km away. This will make Cartosat-3 among the few sharpest, if not the best, civil earth imagers worldwide.

## IN BRIEF



### Bill Gates bats for seed development

NEW DELHI To support small farmers, it is important to double investment in technology innovations to develop new seeds which are resistant to heat, drought, humidity and pests, said billionaire philanthropist and tech mogul Bill Gates. Mr. Gates was speaking at an international agricultural statistics conference on Monday.

### Dalit man's family to receive compensation

CHANDIGARH The Punjab government on Monday offered to pay compensation of ₹20 lakh and a government job to the deceased Dalit man's wife and free education for his children. The family of 37-year-old Jagmel Singh who was mercilessly thrashed and forced to drink urine earlier this month ended their protest after the announcement. PTI

### TikTok causes religious hate, says petition

MUMBAI A Public Interest Litigation has been filed at Bombay High Court seeking ban on TikTok because it claims that the app is "causing hatred, disbalance and enmity among religious groups and has affected the country's diversity".

### 3 professors quizzed over IIT-M student's death

CHENNAI A special team on Monday interrogated three professors, whose names allegedly figured in the notes left by 19-year-old Fathima Latheef, the first year student who ended her life in her hostel room at the IIT Madras 10 days ago.

# Revisiting Jallianwala Bagh through Victoria Memorial

Kolkata monument to hold exhibition

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

Victoria Memorial Hall, a symbol of the grandeur of the colonial era, will for the first time host an exhibition on what is considered the worst blot on the British Empire, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.

The installation exhibition titled, 'Ways of Remembering Jallianwala Bagh & Rabindranath Tagore's Response to the Massacre' is unique not only because it links Punjab and Bengal almost 100 years after the killings but because of the venue hosting it. It was only a couple of years after the massacre that Victoria Memorial was opened to the public in 1921 and this is the first time that the hall is holding some event around the killings.

"It was a conscious choice to approach the Victoria Memorial Hall and we are happy that they agreed," Sarmistha Dutta Gupta, a Kolkata based scholar and writer who is curating the exhibition, told *The Hindu*. "The VMH and Ministry of Culture are providing full support for putting up the installation," she added.

Ms. Dutta Gupta said that the exhibition was not about providing information to people as to what happened on April 13, 1919, but to place it in context. "There is something called the politics of memory. This installation is to question our forgetfulness around many significant facets of this episode in our history," she remarked.

In Bengal, the response to the massacre was not limited to a letter by Tagore to Viceroy Chelmsford on



Victoria Memorial was opened to the public a few years after the massacre.

May 31, 1919, giving up his knighthood. Tagore engaged with the atrocities in Punjab in a major way in 1919-20 till the matter was discussed in the British Parliament.

His letters with C.F. Andrews and other public figures and various other kinds of archival documents have been used in the installation.

Ms. Dutta Gupta is collaborating with Sanchayan Ghosh, who teaches at Kala Bhawan Santiniketan, for the artistic direction of the installation and both of them travelled to Punjab to trace local memories around the massacre.

"We are using oral narratives recorded in the form of videos of families who were directly affected by the massacre," she said. "We have also explored parts of the city of Amritsar that faced brutally racist martial law orders like the Crawling Order and traced the changing meanings of the Jallianwala Bagh site for local people," she added.