

## **Year End Review| Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

### **About the Ministry**

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has its origin from the erstwhile **Ministry of Welfare.**
- Two departments have been under the Ministry
  - Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (Samajik Nyaya and Adhikarita Vibhag)
  - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
- The Ministry is entrusted with the welfare, social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalized sections - scheduled and backward classes, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, victims of drug abuse, transgenders, etc.
- **Union Minister** - Dr. Virendra Kumar

**Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**

**Initiatives for the welfare of Scheduled Class**

**KEY INITIATIVES**

**Scholarship Schemes**

Schemes	About
Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs	
Post Matric Scholarship for SC students	
SHREYAS- Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme for SCs	National Fellowship Scheme
	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme
	Top Class Education
	Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs

**SHRESHTA - Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas**

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has its origin from the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare.

- It is entrusted with welfare, social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged & marginalized sections - Scheduled & backward classes, Persons with disabilities, SCs, STs, etc.
- Objective** - To provide quality education and opportunities for the poorest SC students as per the Constitutional mandate.
- Eligibility** - SC students studying from class 9<sup>th</sup> to class 12<sup>th</sup> whose parental annual income is up to Rs. 25 lakh per annum.
- Selection** - The students are selected through National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA which is conducted by National Testing Agency.
- Project types**-
  - Residential schools
  - Non- residential schools and

Department of  
 Empowerment of  
 Persons with  
 Disabilities  
 (Divyangjan)



- Hostels, both for primary and secondary students.

## **Pradhan Mantri AnusuchitJaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)**

- **Launch year-** 2021-22
- **Unified scheme-** [PM-AJAY](#) is framed by merging the 3 erstwhile schemes
  - Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
  - Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)
  - Babu Jagjivan Ram Chatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)
- **Objectives-**
  - Reduce poverty of the SC communities
  - Improve socio-economic developmental indicators
  - Increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SCs in schools and higher educational institutions
- **Adarsh Gram-** To ensure integrated development of SC majority villages with adequate infrastructure and to realise the objectives of the scheme.

## **Statuary provisions**

- **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955-** Prescribes punishment for enforcement of any disability arising from preaching and practice of untouchability, which usually emanate from caste-based discrimination.
- **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989-** To prevent atrocities and hate crimes against SC and ST.
  - National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA) is available on toll free number '14566' across the country.
- **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013-** Prohibits the employment of manual scavengers for the hazardous manual cleaning of septic tanks and sewers.

## **National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)**

- **About-** It is a [central sector scheme](#) for improving the living standards of sanitation workers in urban areas.
- **Launch year-** 2022
- **Origin-** Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers is modified as NAMASTE.
- **Aim-** To provide alternate livelihood support and entitlements to reduce their vulnerabilities.
- **Joint initiative-** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Implementation agency-** National Safai Karamchari Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- **Objective** - It envisages safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India by
  - Recognizing sanitation workers as one of the key contributors in the maintenance of sanitation infrastructure
  - Providing them with sustainable livelihood

- Enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines

Commission/ Institutes for SCs	About
National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fully owned Government of India Company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.</li> <li>• <b>Function</b> - Financing, facilitating and mobilizing funds for the economic empowerment of persons having annual family income up to Rs. 3.00 lakh for both rural and urban areas.</li> </ul>
National Safai Karamchhari Finance and Development Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporated in 1997 as a not for profit organization under Section 25 of Companies Act.</li> <li>• <b>Objective</b>- To eradicate terrible inhumane and evil practice of manual scavenging by providing financial assistance.</li> </ul>
National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established as statutory body in 1994 as per provision of NCSK Act 1993, now it acts as non-statutory body.</li> <li>• <b>Objective</b>- To monitor the implementation of the Prohibition of employment as manual scavengers and their rehabilitation Act, 2013.</li> </ul>
Dr. Ambedkar Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A society set up in 1992 under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 and fully funded by the Government of India.</li> <li>• Implements Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE) for coaching SC students for Civil Services Examination (CSE)</li> </ul>
Dr. Ambedkar International Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established in 2017 in New Delhi</li> <li>• Centre of Excellence for research and policy making in the field of socio-economic transformation.</li> </ul>

## Initiatives for the welfare of Backward Class

### Scholarship schemes

#### PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)

- **Coverage**- Other Backward Class (OBC), Economically Backward Class (EBC) and DNT students for pursuing studies from Class IX to XII in reputed school shortlisted by the government.
- **Implementation agency**- National Scholarship Portal.
- **Preference**-30% of the slots shall be reserved for girl students.

#### National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

- Incorporated under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 in 1992 as a Company not for profit.
- **Objective** - To promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes.
- It provides financial assistance and micro financing and also facilitates skill development of poor persons.

## Initiatives for Senior Citizens

### Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)

- It is a central sector scheme under which grants in aid are given for running and maintenance of senior citizens homes, mobile medicare units etc.,
- It is previously known as Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) which was launched in 1992.

### **Elderline**

- The Ministry has launched National Helpline for Senior Citizens (Toll free No. 14567) to address their grievances.
- **Launch year-** During International Day for Older Persons on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

### **Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity (SACRED) portal**

- **Launch year-**2021
- It allows bringing people together by virtual matching of preferences by providing the senior citizens a platform to connect with the private enterprises for certain positions.

### **Action Groups Aimed at Social Reconstruction (AGRASR) Groups**

- It was launched in 2021 for senior citizens to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### **Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative**

- It was launched in 2021 to act as a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups to promote the silver economy.

### **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**

- **Launch year-** 2017
- **Aim-** To assist Below Poverty Line senior citizens suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities
- Assistive devices will be distributed free of cost.

### **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana**

- **Launch year-** 2021
- **Aim-** To improve the quality of life of the Senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing.

### **Vayoshreshtha Samman**

- National Award for Senior Citizens (Vayoshreshtha Sammans) are conferred to eminent and outstanding institutions or organizations and individuals from different categories.
- The Awards are given on 1<sup>st</sup> October every year by President of India.

### **Initiatives for Transgender**

#### **Transgender persons (Protection of rights) Act, 2019**

- The Act provides legal recognition of transgender individuals as a third gender, and recognizes their right to self-identification based on their gender identity.
- It criminalizes offenses against transgender persons, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse.

### **National Council for Transgender Persons**

- **Launch year-** 2020
- **Aim-** To advise government on policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.

### **National Portal for Transgender Persons**

- **Launch year-** 2020
- **Role-** To obtain certificates and identify cards online without any physical interface with the office of issue.

### **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**

- The ministry has signed MoU with National Health Authority for providing a comprehensive medical package to transgenders in convergence with the [Ayushman Bharat Yojana](#).
- **Coverage-** All aspects of transition related healthcare for transgender including hormone therapy, gender reassignment surgery that can be redeemed at all private and government facilities.

### **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise ([SMILE](#))**

- **Launch year-** 2022
- **Aim-** To provide welfare and rehabilitation to transgenders and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- **Garima Greh-** It is a housing facility to provide food, clothing, recreational facilities etc., to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

### **Initiatives for Drug Abuse**

#### **[Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan](#)**

- **Launch year-** 2020
- **Aim-** To tackle the issue of substance abuse and a vision to make India drug free.
- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Campaign-** It is a three pronged approach to deal with drug use.



- **Navchetna Modules**- Developed for sensitizing students (6th-11th standard), teachers and parents on drug dependence, related coping strategies and life skills.
- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction scheme (NAPDDR)** - Provides financial assistance to governments, NGOs and government hospitals for drug demand reduction, awareness, capacity building, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation.

## Other Initiatives

### Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH)

- It is a *national action plan* for skilling the marginalized persons of SC, OBC, EBC, Senior Citizens, DNTs, Safai karamcharies including waste pickers, and women.
- Provides skill development training programmes at free of cost on,
  - Up-skilling/Re-skilling
  - Short Term Training
  - Long Term Courses
  - Entrepreneurship Development Program

### National Institute of Social Defence

- It has become an *autonomous body* and is registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860 with the Government of NCT, Delhi.
- **Central advisory body**- For the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a **Centre of Excellence** on research and training in the field of social defence.

## Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

### Key Initiatives/ Schemes

#### India's 1<sup>st</sup> Festival of Inclusion

- **Theme**- "Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity" held at Goa.
- **Aim**- To showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.

## Sign Language Day

- **23<sup>rd</sup> September** is declared by the United Nations as the International Day of Sign Languages.
- Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, celebrated the Sign Language Day.
- **Theme** - A world where deaf people everywhere can sign anywhere

## Felicitation of Abilympics winners

- Abilympics is a global competition for persons with disabilities, to recognize their achievements and encourage them to pursue their dreams.

## Unique Disability ID (UDID)

- It is a national database for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) that issues a [Unique Disability Identity Card](#) to each PwD.

## Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016

- **Aim-** To establish accessibility standards and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The act mandates that persons with at **least 40% of a disability** are entitled to certain benefits such as reservations in education and employment, preference in government schemes, etc.,

## Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports

- India's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan equipped with state of the art facilities at **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It aims to promote sports among persons with disabilities and provide them with opportunities to excel in their chosen fields

## Disability sector pact

- It is signed between **India and South Africa**.
- It holds the promise of strengthening bilateral ties, with specific proposals for cooperation to be implemented during its period of validity, promoting a shared commitment to advancing inclusivity and empowerment for individuals with disabilities in both nations.

## E-initiatives

- **PM Daksh-DEPwD Portal-** A comprehensive digital platform for skill training and employment opportunities.
- **Sugamya Pustakalaya-** An online library that contains books accessible to the blind, people with low vision or to persons with any other print disability.
- **ARJUN Portal-** Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing/fitting of



aids/appliances (ADIP) and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana Joint Interface for Unique Nomination facilitates empowerment and inclusion of PwDs.

### **Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) Scheme**

- **Aim-** To assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable and scientifically manufactured appliances.
- **Implementation-** Through NGOs, National Institutes under tMinistry of Social Justice & Empowerment and ALIMCO (a PSU that manufactures artificial limbs).
- **Eligibility-**
  - Any Indian citizen with 40% disability or more
  - Monthly income not more than Rs.20000
  - Must not have received assistance during the last 3 years and for children its last 1 year

### **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)**

- It is a not for profit company registered under Companies Act, 2013.
- It is 100% owned Govt. of India Central Public Sector Enterprises.

### **References**

1. [PIB - Year End Review MoSJ&E](#)
2. [PIB- Year End Review of Department of Empowerment of PwDs](#)
3. [M0SJ&E- Annual report 2022-23](#)

