

NEWS TODAY

ACTION PLAN 2020-21 RELEASED FOR ALL SCHEMES OF DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT


• It sets clear targets and milestones for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), participating State Governments and NGOs.


Scheme	About the scheme and proposed actions
Free Coaching for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central sector scheme to provide coaching of good quality to economically disadvantaged SCs and OBCs candidates. ▷ New mode of implementation under which eligible SCs and OBCs students can obtain assistance for undertaking coaching in institute of their choice.
Top Class Education For SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under this, SC students, who secure admission in the notified institutions, will be awarded scholarship to meet the tuition fee, living expenses etc. ▷ It has been expanded from 1500 seats to 4200 seats per annum. Top institutions like IITs/NITs/Top NIRF ranked institutions have been added.
Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To ensure integrated development of villages having total population ≥ 500 and with more than 50% persons belonging to scheduled Castes (SC) into model villages. ▷ 3584 more SC majority villages have been taken up taking the total to 13199 villages.
Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comprehensive scheme covering identification, rehabilitation, counselling, skill development of beggars with the support of State Governments/UTs/Local Urban Bodies and Voluntary Organizations, institutions etc. ▷ A project for comprehensive rehabilitation has been taken up by the Ministry. This project would be run in 10 pilot cities.
Swachhta Udyami Yojna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launched by National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (under MoSJE) to promote mechanized cleaning and to minimize the incidents of Manual Hazardous cleaning.
Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta Yojana (VISVAS Yojana)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SC and OBC Self Help Groups and Individuals will be able to avail Interest Subvention on bank loans at 5%
National Action Plan on Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. ▷ Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, for 2020-21 has been launched in 272 Districts most affected in substance use.
Post Matric Scholarship for SCs/ Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To provide financial assistance to the SC/ OBC students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education
National Action plan for Senior Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan takes care of the top four needs of senior citizens viz financial security, food, health care and human interaction /life of dignity. ▷ At least one Senior Citizen Home in each District will be ensured in this year. ▷ Setting up a National Helpline for Senior Citizens during the Year which would link Centre, State Governments, District Administrations and NGOs. ▷ Self Help Groups for Senior Citizens-Day Care Centre restored.


FIRST INDIA-FRANCE-AUSTRALIA TRILATERAL DIALOGUE HELD

- Focus of the dialogue, to be held annually, was on **enhancing cooperation in Indo-Pacific region** by building on strong bilateral relations that the countries share with each other.
 - ▷ Besides Quadrilateral (India-USA-Japan-Australia), India is part of other trilaterals **India-USA-Japan; India-Japan-Australia; India-Australia-Indonesia; Russia-India-China.**
- The dialogue has been shaped by think-tank experts, illustrating **influence of Track 2 and Track 1.5 diplomacy in the region.**
 - ▷ Track 1 diplomacy – Official; Track 2 – unofficial representatives, with no government participation; Track 1.5 – government officials who participate in unofficial capacity and non-official actors work together.
- **Key issue discussed:**
 - ▷ **Economic and geostrategic challenges and cooperation** in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in context of the COVID pandemic and domestic responses to it.
 - ▷ **Cooperation on Marine Global Commons** - blue economy, marine biodiversity and marine pollution.
 - ▷ **Cooperation at trilateral and regional level** including through regional organisations such as ASEAN, IORA and Indian Ocean Commission.
 - ▷ **Priorities and challenges in multilateral institutions**, including ways to strengthen and reform them.
 - ▷ Possibility of **enhancing maritime security cooperation** in areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime domain awareness, mutual logistics support etc.

INSTANCES OF COLLABORATION IN INDO-PACIFIC

 Australia's \$50-b purchase of French submarines, which cemented a strategic partnership for security in the Indo-Pacific

 France's support of the International Solar Alliance on the margins of the Paris Agreement, creating the first international organisation headquartered in India

 Australia establishing a Space Agency last year, which led to partnerships with CNES, France's space agency, of which ISRO is a major global partner

SHGs TO PREPARE VILLAGE POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN (VPRP) FOR INTEGRATION WITH GRAM PANCHAYAT DEVELOPMENT PLANS (GPDP)

- Since 2018-19, Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) are **mandated to participate in annual GPDP planning process** and to prepare VPRP.
 - > It allows poor families, who are members of SHGs formed under DAY-NRLM, **to raise their demands in a participatory method** and submit the final plan to the Gram Panchayats for consideration.
 - > DAY-NRLM aims to **reduce rural poverty, by mobilizing 10-12 crore rural households into SHGs.**
- Gram Panchayats are **constitutionally mandated for preparation of GPDP** for economic development and social justice utilizing resources available with them.
- VPRP is prepared by SHGs and their federations which **need to be integrated with GPDP.**
- **Objectives of VPRP:**
 - > Prepare a **comprehensive and an inclusive demand plan** of the community for local development.
 - > Facilitate an **interface between the SHG federation and Panchayati Raj institutions** for development of demand plan.
 - > **Strengthen the community-based organisations** and their leadership for active participation in poverty reduction activities.
- **Demands under VPRP are categorized into five major components:** Social inclusion, Entitlement, Livelihoods, Public Goods and Services, Resource Development and Social Development.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF) RELEASES THE LIVING PLANET REPORT 2020 (LPR)

- LPR, released every two years, is a **comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and health of the planet.**
 - > WWF is the leading **organization in wildlife conservation and endangered species.**
- **Key Findings**
 - > **68% fall in global wildlife population** between 1970 and 2016.
 - > **75% of Earth's ice-free land surface** has been significantly altered.
 - > Almost **one in three freshwater species are threatened with extinction.**
 - > Almost **90% of global wetlands have been lost** since 1700 (start of industrial revolution).
 - > **Largest wildlife population loss has been in Latin America** at an alarming rate of 94%.
 - > **India has lost nearly one-third of its natural wetlands** to urbanisation, agricultural expansion and pollution over the last four decades.
- **Key threats to biodiversity:** Changes in land and sea use, including habitat loss and degradation; Species overexploitation; Invasive species and disease; Pollution and Climate change.
- **Suggestions:** transforming food production and consumption, aggressive movement to tackle climate change, and investments that conserve, protect, and restore nature, need to transform our economic systems to reflect the natural capital etc.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>India Angola first Joint Commission Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sides agreed to diversify their trade relationship and discussed cooperation in health, pharmaceuticals, defence, agriculture, food processing, digitization etc. • India offered to share its expertise to help Angola in economic diversification and also leverage Angola's strength in petroleum and diamond sectors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Angola is a country on the west coast of Africa.
<p>Convalescent plasma therapy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study by Indian Council of Medical Research has found that Plasma therapy didn't help COVID-19 patients. • Plasma therapy seeks to obtain plasma from the blood of people who have recovered from COVID-19 to inject into patients undergoing treatment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Blood Plasma is the liquid component of blood in which the blood cells float. It also has antibodies.
<p>ANIC - ARISE (Atal New India Challenges in Applied Research and Innovation for medium and Small Enterprises) launched</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a program launched by Atal Innovation Mission to promote research & innovation and increase competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It provides funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product. • It will be driven by Indian Space Research Organization, four ministries—Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—and associated industries.
<p>Ancient Universities in India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University at Takshashila (often called Taxila) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Built around 5th century BC, located in modern-day Pakistan. > Both Buddhist and Hindu theologies taught. > Noted personalities from Takshashila include Chanakya, Charaka, Panini, Jivaka, Prasenajit, etc. • Nalanda University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Established in modern day Bihar, in 5th Century CE, during the reign of Kumaragupta. > Visited by Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang and also by scholar I-Tsing. > Famous scholars include Nagarjuna (Madhyamika Shunyavad) and Aryabhata. • Vikramshila University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Founded by King Dharampala of Pala dynasty (Bhagalpur district of Bihar). > Primarily a Buddhist learning centre - Vajrayana sect flourished here and Tantric teachings were taught. • Vallabhi University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maitrak King, Bhattarka established it in Saurashtra, Gujarat. > This existed between 600A.D and 1200A.D and was an important place to learn the Hinayana Buddhism.

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