

Week-Ending News updates in Social Justice & Empowerment  
From 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**PRESS RELEASES IN THE WEEK**

24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- ❖ **‘SAMAJIK ADHIKARITA SHIVIRS’ AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF AIDS AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES TO DIVYANGJAN UNDER ADIP SCHEME IN DATIA, MADHYA PRADESH**

A ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivar’ for distribution of aids and assistive devices to ‘Divyangjan’ under the ADIP Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India will be organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in association with ALIMCO and District Administration, Datia on 25.03.2023 at 10:00 AM at Stadium Ground in Datiya District of Madhya Pradesh. The main event at Datiya (M.P) will be connected online with 17 various other locations across the country wherein more than 13000 pre-identified Divyangjan beneficiaries will be provided free of cost aids and assistive device of different categories under the scheme of government of India and CSR initiatives of corporates implemented by ALIMCO.

**Source : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1910440>**

23<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- ❖ **3-DAY WORKSHOP ON WEB ACCESSIBILITY ORGANIZED BY THE REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA FROM 21.03.2023 TO 23.03.2023.**

Focus on making disabled - friendly digital platforms. Workshop aimed to create awareness and impart knowledge of fundamentals of digital accessibility including social media accessibility. Workshop inaugurated by Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD and Chairperson, RCI. The objective of the workshop was to help software developers to acquire the know-how for making digital platforms more disabled-friendly.

**Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1910198>**

22<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- ❖ **NASHA MukT Bharat Abhiyaan- MOU SIGNED BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT AND SANT NIRANKARI MANDAL ON 22ND MARCH 2023**

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of SJE highlighted that if we work together then only our country will be able to fulfill the dream of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi by becoming socially and economically self-reliant. Km. Pratima Bhoumik, MoS and Anjali Bhawra (Secretary), Ministry of SJE also attended the ceremony

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909616>

22<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### ❖ **NOMADIC AND DE-NOTIFIED TRIBES**

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT Communities (SEED) launched in 2022 for next 5 years with total outlay of Rs 200 crore

Central Sector Scheme of Top Class School Education and Top Class College Education for OBC, EBC and DNT students being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

A National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted by Government of India in February 2014, inter-alia, to prepare a state-wise list of castes belonging to De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes. NCDNT submitted its report on 08.01.2018.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909564>

22<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### ❖ **RESERVATION TO MARGINALIZED SECTIONS IN PRIVATE SECTOR**

As per the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), a Coordination Committee for Affirmative Action in the Private Sector was set up by the Prime Minister's Office in 2006. Secretary (DoPT), Secretary (SJ&E), Secretary (Tribal Affairs) and Secretary (DPIIT) are the members of the Committee. DPIIT is providing the secretarial assistance to the committee. So far 9 meetings of Coordination Committee have been held. In the 1st Coordination Committee meeting, it was stated that the best course for achieving progress on the issue of affirmative action is through voluntary action by the industry itself.

Source <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909562>

22<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### ❖ **FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR OBCS, EBCS AND DNTs INCREASED TO Rs 394.61 CRORE IN 2022-23 AS COMPARED TO Rs 250 CRORE IN 2021-22**

Objective to cover approximately 5.67 crore students under the pre matric scholarship scheme for obcs, ebc and dnts. The budget provision for financial year 2021-22 under the Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) and De-Notified Tribes (DNTs) was Rs. 250.00 crore. Whereas in financial year 2022-23, the budget provision is Rs. 394.61 crore.

Source <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909560>

22<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS UNDER DAPSC 15.74 % OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TOWARDS DAPSC OUT OF TOTAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION IN 2022-23**

The Budgetary Allocation of funds under DAPSC is done by NITI Aayog for the welfare schemes implemented by the participating Ministries/Departments for improving the socio-economic and educational conditions of the SCs and STs. It is the prerogative of the Ministries/Departments to further re-allocate the funds allocated by NITI Aayog under their respective Schemes. The percentage of allocation under DAPSC remains proportional with the total percentage of the SC population.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909559>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **WORLD DOWN-SYNDROME DAY: 21 MARCH 2023. FREE WEBINAR ORGANIZED ON WORLD DOWN-SYNDROME DAY BY REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (RCI) IN ASSOCIATION WITH DOWN-SYNDROME FEDERATION OF INDIA**

Webinar attended by about 1000 participants from across the country. Achievements of children with Down Syndrome also highlighted during the webinar

Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), New Delhi, celebrated the World Down-Syndrome Day by organizing a Free Webinar for about 1.5 hours, open for all, in association with Down-Syndrome Federation of India. This was first such attempt by RCI on this special occasion to grant CRE scores to CRR professionals on a web platform. Webinar was addressed by renowned team of four experts from across the India and it was attended by about 1000 professionals, personnel, parents, children with down syndrome, self advocacy and interest groups and others from across the country.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909194>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **IMPLEMENTATION OF PM-AGY:CRITERIA REVISED FOR SELECTION OF VILLAGES UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHYUDAY YOJANA(PM-AJAY) FOR CATERING TO MORE SCHEDULED CASTE (SC)POPULATION**

- Selection criteria for villages revised in 2022-23 from 'more than 50%' SC population to 'more than 40%'
- Rs.18944.54 lakh released for 2018 villages selected under Phase-II of 'Adarsh Gram' since 2018-19

The Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), which is now being implemented as the 'Adarsh Gram' component of the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana(PM-AJAY), has been designed with an area based approach, wherein villages having high percentage of Scheduled Castes(SCs) population are taken up for holistic development. In order to cater to more SC population, the selection criteria for villages has been recently revised in 2022-23 from 'more than 50%' SC population to 'more than 40%'.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909120>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **IMPLEMENTATION OF NOS SCHEME:EXPENDITURE INCURRED UNDER THE NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP (NOS) SCHEME INCREASED APPRECIABLY SINCE 2018-19.MORE THAN 200 CRORE FUNDS DISBURSED UNDER THE NOS SCHEMES SINCE 2018-19 TIL L DATE**

The MSJ & E implements two National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) schemes. One is implemented by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment for students from Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans. The other is implemented by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DoEPwD) for students with disabilities. Both the Departments review their schemes from time to time and make changes for the betterment of the scheme.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909118>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- Focus on vulnerable and at risk children/adolescents through Community based Peer led Intervention (CPLI) Centres by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- Rs. 4.95 Crore funds released for 25 projects in Tamil Nadu during 2021-22 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Massive community outreach being done through more than 8000 youth volunteers under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)
- 9.55 crore people reached out so far under NMBA including 3.12 crore youth and 2.08 crore women

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909115>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### ❖ MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM

- Rs. 200 crores allocated for National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for FY 2022-23
- 2.39 crores released to various NGOs/VOs of Andhra Pradesh till now to run IRCA/ODIC/CPLI projects under NAPDDR scheme
- 71 Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs) being currently funded by the M SJ& E for treatment and rehabilitation for substance users
- Sustained and coordinated action taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment through National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for addressing the problem of Drug Abuse among children and women
- More than 9.54 crore people reached out so far under NMBA including 3.12 crore youth and 2.08 crore women

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909114>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### ❖ PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR OBCS, EBCS AND DNTS

Budget for Pre Matric Scholarship for OBCS, EBCs AND DNTs increased to Rs. 394.61 crore in 2022-23 as compared to Rs. 250 crore in 2021-22

The budget provision for financial year 2021-22 under the Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) and De-Notified Tribes (DNTs) was Rs. 250.00 crore. Whereas in financial year 2022-23, the budget provision is Rs. 394.61 crore.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909112>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **WELFARE SCHEMES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

- Free of cost facilities provided to senior citizens under 'Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens' (IPSrC), a component of 'Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana' (AVYAY) by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 566 Senior Citizens Home maintained across the country for special care of old age people

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909113>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **FREE COACHING FOR SCs/OBCs STUDENTS**

- More than 74 crore spent in the last five years under the Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching Scheme (FCS) for SC and OBC students
- 8761 students benefited under the Free Coaching Scheme (FCS) for SC and OBC students during the last 5 years

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909110>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **INCOME LIMIT FOR POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP**

Persons whose family has gross annual income below Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum are identified as EWSs for the benefit of reservation. Family here, includes the person who seeks benefit of reservation, his/her parents and siblings below the age of 18 years as also his/her spouse and children below the age of 18 years. Also income includes income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=190910>

21<sup>th</sup> March 2023

❖ **FUNDS FOR DRUG ABUSE VICTIMS**

More than 9.54 crore people reached out so far under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 372 most vulnerable districts

340 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA), 48 Community based Peer led Intervention (CPLI) Centres and 71 Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs) supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under NAPDDR scheme

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909109>

## News Paper Highlights

23<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### ❖ Workshop on web accessibility deliberates on developing disabled-friendly digital platforms

The workshop aimed to create awareness and impart knowledge of fundamentals of digital accessibility including social media accessibility.

Source: [https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/workshop-on-web-accessibility-deliberates-on-developing-disabled-friendly-digital-platforms/nt\\_news\\_2023-](https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/workshop-on-web-accessibility-deliberates-on-developing-disabled-friendly-digital-platforms/nt_news_2023-)

24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### ❖ Rajasthan govt raises incentive for inter-caste marriage to Rs 10 lakh

Under this scheme, 75% of the amount is borne by the state government and 25% by the central government. The decision has come into force from Thursday under which Rs 10 lakh will be given to the couples

Source: [http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/98956533.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/98956533.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### ❖ Release fast compensation in sewer death cases: Panel

A parliamentary panel has asked the government to expedite release of compensation to the next of kin of 74 persons who died due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks but are yet to be paid in keeping with the Supreme Court guidelines.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/release-fast-compensation-in-sewer-death-cases-panel/articleshow/98955283.cms>

24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### ❖ Family systems therapy mandatory for de-addiction treatment: Fr Joe Pereira

At Kripa Foundation, the largest NGO affiliated to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, over the last 40 years, a variety of preventive and healing self-help models have been introduced for the afflicted and affected.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/family-systems-therapy-mandatory-for-de-addiction-treatment-fr-joe-pereira-8517237/>

❖ **No specially-abled student availed free coaching scholarship scheme from 2019-2022: Parliamentary committee report**

The committee said it was displeased to note that only seven students were selected for 2019-20, six for 2020-21 and five for 2021-22, out of the 20 scholarships fixed under the National Overseas Scholarships for the year 2019-20, 2020- 21 and 2021-22.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/no-specially-abled-student-availed-free-coaching-scholarship-scheme-from-2019-2022-7835533/>

## Twitter in News

Dr. Virendra Kumar @Drvirendrakum13 - Mar 21

रंगभेद जैसी कुदृति को मिटाने के लिए प्रतिवर्ष 21 मार्च को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रंगभेद उन्मूलन दिवस मनाया जाता है।  
इस सृष्टि का प्रत्येक मानव ईश्वर का अंश है, यह दृष्टि और भावना ही समरसता और प्रगति का प्रमाण है।

"रंगभेद समाज में फैली एक कुदृति है, जो मानवता पर सीधा प्रहार करती है।"

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रंगभेद उन्मूलन दिवस  
के अवसर पर हम समाज से रंगभेद के पूर्ण खाले का संकल्प ले।

- डॉ. वीरेन्द्र कुमार

@dr\_virendrakumar drvirendrakumrmp @Drvirendrakum13