



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



SMILE

(SUPPORT FOR MARGINALISED INDIVIDUALS FOR LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE)

An initiative aimed at putting a smile on the face of the marginalised

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)

March 05, 2022

Introduction

The [Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment](#) launched an umbrella scheme “SMILE - Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” on February 12, 2022. This umbrella scheme would cover several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for the transgender community and for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development, economic linkages etc. with the support of State Governments/UTs/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/Institutions and others.

The Ministry has allocated **Rs. 365 crore** for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.¹



¹<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1797968>

Sub-Schemes of SMILE

The scheme strengthens and expands the reach of the Rights that give the targeted group the necessary legal protection and a promise to a secured life. It keeps in mind the social security that is needed through multiple dimensions of identity, medical care, education, occupational opportunities and shelter.

This is to be achieved through two sub-schemes:

A. Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons.²

This sub-scheme includes the following components:

- **Scholarships for Transgender Students:** Scholarships for students studying in Class IX and till post-graduation to enable them to complete their education.
- **Skill Development and Livelihood:** Skill Development and Livelihood under [PM-DAKSH](#) scheme, which in turn is focused on holistically improving the competency levels of its target group comprising members of Scheduled Castes communities and the poorer section of the Other Backward Classes Communities, Sanitation Workers.³
- **Composite Medical Health:** A comprehensive package in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries through selected hospitals.
- **Housing in the form of ‘GarimaGreh’:** Shelter Homes ‘GarimaGreh’ where food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, recreational activities, medical support etc. will be provided. Ministry has initiated 12 pilot shelter homes and provided financial assistance to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for setting up of these shelter homes 'Garima Greh' for Transgender persons. These pilot shelter homes are in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.⁴
- **Provision of Transgender Protection Cell:** Setting up of Transgender Protection Cell in each state to monitor cases of offences and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences.
- **E-Services** (National Portal & Helpline and Advertisement) and other Welfare Measures. The provision of National Portal & Helpline (transgender.dosje.gov.in) will provide

²<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1797628>

³<https://pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in/>

⁴<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1794773#:~:text=Ministry%20has%20also%20initiated%2012,up%20of%20these%20shelter%20homes>

necessary information and solutions to the problems of the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.



Source: <https://transgender.dosje.gov.in/> (as on 23.02.2022)

B. Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging.⁵

This sub-scheme focuses on the following:

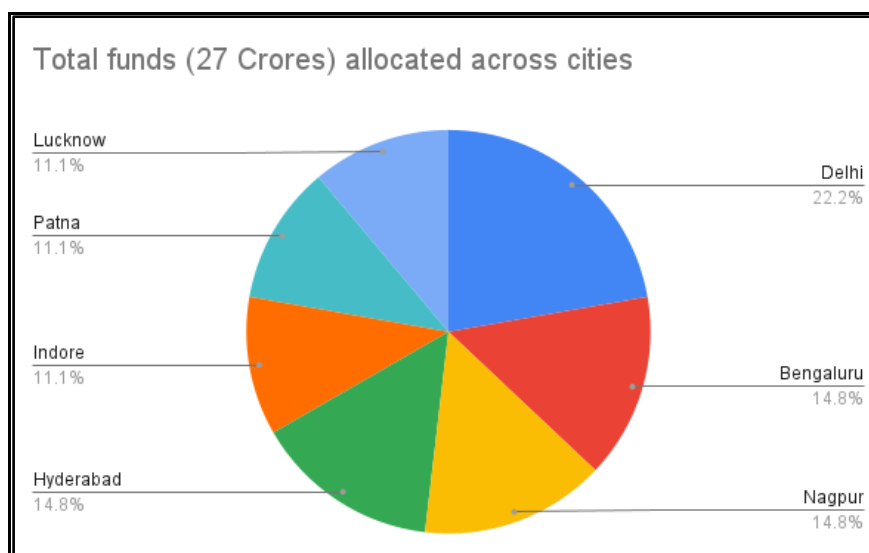
- **Survey and identification:** Survey and Identification of beneficiaries shall be carried out by the Implementing Agencies
- **Mobilisation:** Outreach work will be done to mobilise the persons engaged in begging to avail the services available in the Shelter Homes
- **Rescue/ Shelter Home:** The shelter homes will facilitate education for children engaged in the act of Begging and children of persons engaged in the act of Begging
- **Comprehensive resettlement**

Implementation of the Scheme

- **The National Portal for Transgender Persons** is a one-stop centre for availing welfare schemes for Transgender Persons.
- Candidates interested in the scheme should have a Transgender Certificate and Identity card issued by the National Portal for Transgender Persons which they can apply from anywhere in the country with a single application for both certificate and Identity card.

⁵<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1797628>

- Ministry has initiated 12 pilot shelter homes namely '**Garima Greh': Shelter Home for Transgender Persons** and provided financial assistance to community-based organizations (CBOs) for setting up of these shelter homes. The portal maintains a real-time database of the shelter homes being run nationwide for transgender persons through a robust online monitoring system.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated pilot projects on **Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging** in seven cities of the country including Delhi, Patna, Nagpur, Indore, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Lucknow. The objective of this project is awareness generation, identification, rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling skill development, sustainable settlement and education to person engaged in Begging⁶.



[‘Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging’ Pilot Project Allocation](#)

Other Schemes for inclusivity of Transgenders in India

The transgender persons face several issues of discrimination, exclusion from the families, absence of dignified livelihoods, inadequate access to health, shelter, welfare and employment.⁷The Government has enacted and issued several welfare acts and rules to address these issues for the provision of identity, protection of rights against these communities, some of which are:

⁶<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1796874#:~:text=Ministry%20of%20Social%20Justice%20and%20Empowerment%20has%20initiated%20pilot%20projects,%2C%20Hyderabad%2C%20Bengaluru%20and%20Lucknow.>

⁷<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1739901>

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019⁸

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 seeks to mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society. It will lead to greater inclusiveness and will make the transgender persons productive members of the society.⁹

The Bill has following provisions:

- i. **Non-discrimination** against a Transgender person in educational institutions, employment, healthcare services etc.
- ii. **Recognition of identity of Transgender persons** and confer upon them right to self-perceived gender identity.
- iii. Provision of the **Right of Residence** with parents and immediate family members.
- iv. **Provision for formulation of welfare schemes** and programmes for education, social security and health of Transgender Persons.
- v. Provision for **National Council for Transgender Persons** to advice, monitor and evaluate measures for the protection of their rights.

The Bill is designed to make all the stakeholders responsive and accountable for upholding the principles underlying the Bill. It also brings greater accountability on the part of the Central Government and State Governments/Union Territories Administrations for issues concerning Transgender persons.

CABINET DECISIONS: 10 JULY 2019

Empowering Transgender Persons

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 Approved

- To mitigate the **stigma, discrimination & abuse** against transgender persons
- To bring **transgender into the mainstream** of the society & make them productive members
- To bring **greater accountability of all stakeholders** dealing with Transgender persons, and make them more responsive

National Council for Transgender Persons¹⁰

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (40 of 2019), the Central Government constituted a **National Council for Transgender Persons** on 21st August 2020. The rules under the act, 'The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules 2020' were formulated and published in Gazette of India on 29th Sept, 2020. The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment is the Chairperson (ex-officio) and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment is the Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio) of the council.

⁸<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1593871>

⁹<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1593871>

¹⁰<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselFramePage.aspx?PRID=1648221>

The National Council performs the following functions, namely:

- (a) advises the Central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
- (b) monitors and evaluates the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
- (c) reviews and coordinates the activities of all the departments of Government and other Governmental and non-Governmental Organisations which are dealing with matters relating to transgender persons;
- (d) redresses the grievances of transgender persons; and
- (e) performs such other functions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

The other members of the Council include representatives of various Ministries/Departments, five representatives of the transgender community, representatives of NHRC and NCW, representatives of State Governments and UTs and experts representing NGOs.

Schemes for the Rehabilitation of Beggars in India

As per the Census of 2011 data available on the website of the Registrar General of India, there are 4,13,670 beggars and vagrants in the country¹¹.

Issues related to begging include:

- Non-availability of social security
- Lack of shelter and food
- Discrimination and Stigma
- Unemployment
- Poverty

Apart from SMILE, some of the major initiatives taken by the government for the issues of beggars in India include the following:

- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)¹²:**
 - As per information by Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely **Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme** to create a safe and secure environment for children in need of care and protection including those children who are found begging.
 - The scheme provides **financial assistance to the States/UTs on sharing pattern** for, inter-alia, undertaking a situational analysis of children in difficult

¹¹<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1781351>

¹²<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1778853>

circumstances, for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

- Under the scheme **institutional care is provided through CCIs**, as a rehabilitative measure.
- In these CCIs, children are provided **age-appropriate education** either within the institution or outside in a formal education system through convergence with other schemes and programs of the Government or civil society. Under the non-institutional care component, support is extended for adoption, foster care and sponsorship.
- Further, section 2 (14) (ii) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides that a child who is found working in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force or **is found begging, or living on the street is included as a “Child in Need of Care and Protection”**.



- **Various Other Initiatives for Rehabilitation of Beggars¹³**

- According to [National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation \(NBCFDC\)](https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1564072), an MoU was signed with NGOs/VOs for mobilizing & handholding 400 members of the beggar’s community in five districts of Ghaziabad, Rampur, Moradabad, Madhepura and Kolkata for providing **skill training programme** through Government Training Institutes and Sector Skill Councils in Handicraft, logistics apparel & Furniture trades.
- During 2017-18, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released an amount of Rs. one crore and Rs. 50.00 lakh for 2018-19 to National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) for skill development programmes for beggars on pilot basis.

¹³<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1564072>
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1606946>

- The Corporation has so far conducted **skill development training programme for 400 members of beggar's community** in Warehouse Packer, Hand-rolled Agarbatti making, Hand Embroidery etc.
- Further, the Corporation has also sanctioned skill development training programme for 160 members of beggars' community in the job roles of Self-Employed Tailor, Coir Artisans, Asst. Carpenter etc.
- During the year **2019-20**, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released an amount of Rs. One crore** to National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) and Rs. 70.00 Lakh to National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) for skill development programmes for beggars.

References:

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1564072>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1781360><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1781355>

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<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1606946>

Video references:

https://youtu.be/trf_Xxm-Rns

<https://youtu.be/qv-PgFUY19c>

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Further readings:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=93124>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1592196>

<https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s335051070e572e47d2c26c241ab88307f/uploads/2018/04/2018042886.pdf>

[https://thc.nic.in/Central%20Governmental%20Rules/Transgender%20Persons%20\(Protection%20of%20Rights\)%20Rules,%202020.pdf](https://thc.nic.in/Central%20Governmental%20Rules/Transgender%20Persons%20(Protection%20of%20Rights)%20Rules,%202020.pdf)

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<https://transgender.dosje.gov.in/Applicant/Registration/CitizenCharterPage>

AG/HP/RC/KM