



Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise

Towards Dignity, Opportunity and Inclusion

5th May, 2025

Introduction

भिक्षावृत्ति मुक्त भारत

VISION

Reintegration of persons engaged in the act of begging in the mainstream society to lead a life with dignity and self confidence

MISSION

To make identified urban spaces, mainly religious cities, tourist places and historical cities, free from beggary.

The Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme is an umbrella scheme. The larger scheme includes the ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’ and ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging’. These two schemes provide comprehensive

welfare and rehabilitation measures to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

The scheme has been formulated keeping in mind the social security that is needed through multiple dimensions of **identity, medical care, education, occupational opportunities and shelter**. The Ministry has allocated **Rs. 365 Crore** for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Details of funds allocated:

Year	Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons (In Crores)	Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the Act of Begging (In Crores)	Total (In Crores)
2021-22	25.00	10.00	35.00

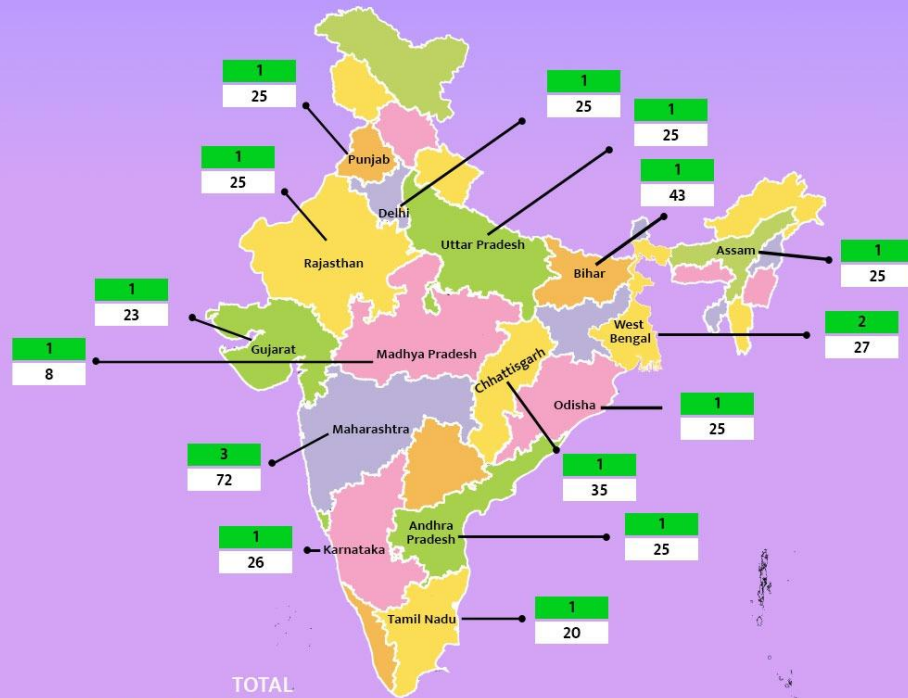
Year	Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons (In Crores)	Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the Act of Begging (In Crores)	Total (In Crores)
2022–23	46.31	15.00	61.31
2023–24	52.91	20.00	72.91
2024–25	63.90	25.00	88.90
2025–26	76.88	30.00	106.88
Total	265.00	100.00	365.00

Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons

The scheme provides **Scholarships for Transgender Students** studying in IX and till post-graduation to enable them to complete their education. It has provisions for **Skill Development and Livelihood** under PM-DAKSH scheme (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana- National Action Plan designed to skill marginalized communities). **Composite Medical Health** provides a comprehensive package in convergence with PM-JAY supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries through selected hospitals. The **Provision of Transgender Protection Cell** in each state monitors cases of offences and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences. The **National Portal & Helpline** provides necessary information and solutions to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging when needed.

In 2021, shelter homes named **Garima Greh** were piloted for transgender persons and provided financial assistance to community based organizations (CBOs) for setting up of these shelter homes. The main aim of Garima Greh is to provide shelter to transgender persons with basic amenities like food, medical care, and recreational facilities. It also provides support for the capacity-building/skill development of transgender persons. As of April 1, 2025, **INR 6.8 crore** has been released and utilized by Garima Grehs.

GARIMA GREHS ACROSS INDIA



TOTAL

No. of Garima Grehs 18
No. of transgender persons residing 429

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MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDER TRANSGENDER SUB-SCHEME UNDER SMILE SCHEME FROM JANUARY- NOVEMBER 2024

- 01 Setting up of 6 new Garima Greh shelter homes for destitute transgender persons in 6 States
- 02 62 Lakh+ visitors on National Portal for Transgender Persons and 23,811 certificates issued.
- 03 11 Transgender Protection Cells & 19 Transgender Welfare Boards (TWB) set up
- 04 Equal Opportunities Policy for Transgender Persons issued for Transgender community to have equal access to employment opportunities
- 05 725 transgender persons have been trained in various trades by training partner Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (Lucknow).

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Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging

The scheme is aimed at comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging.

OBJECTIVES



Make places begging-free and preparing strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of Begging



SURVEY AND IDENTIFICATION

Mobilization of the persons engaged in the act of Begging



Provision of a whole range of basic services for the persons engaged in begging such as **shelter, rehabilitation, hygiene, food, clothing, bedding, medical facilities, counseling and education**



Facilitate **skill development training** for the persons engaged in the act of Begging so as to ensure their reintegration in mainstream society to lead a life with dignity and self confidence



Sustainable settlement of the persons engaged in the act of Begging.

The objective is to create a ‘**Bhiksha Vritti Mukh Bharat**’ (Begging-free India) by ensuring the reintegration of beggars into mainstream society. The major components of the scheme are area-specific surveys, awareness campaigns, mobilization, and rescue operations, access to shelter-homes and basic services and skills training, alternative livelihood options, and formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

The scheme is active in 81 cities/towns, including pilgrimage, historical, and tourist places, as of December 2024. The next phase will expand to 50 more cities.

Progress so far:

- **Identified persons engaged in begging:** 9958
- **Rehabilitated individuals:** 970

On April 25, 2025, the Delhi government issued an ‘Expression of Interest’ inviting applications from eligible NGOs/voluntary organizations for implementation of the SMILE scheme. The target areas included are **Karol Bagh, Dwarka, Munirka/Vasant Vihar, RK Puram, Nizammudin, Rohini, Shahdara, Old Delhi and Bangla Sahib Gurudwara.**

Details of funds allocated under the scheme so far:

S. No.	Component / FY	2023-24 (In crores)	2024-25 (In crores)	2025-26 (In crores)	Total (In crores)
1	Survey/Identification	0.70	1.42	1.88	4.00
2	Mobilization	0.50	1.25	1.75	3.50

3	Rescue/Shelter home	15.00	16.00	17.00	48.00
4	Comprehensive Resettlement	11.00	12.00	14.00	37.00
5	National Portal	1.00	0.50	0.50	2.00
6	IEC (Information, Education, Communication)/Media, etc.	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50
7	Admin. cost for implementing agency	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50
8	Formation of TSU (Technical Support Unit)	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50
9	Admin cost etc.	0.30	0.33	0.37	1.00
	TOTAL	30.00	33.00	37.00	100.00

Conclusion:

The SMILE scheme reflects a significant step toward inclusive development by addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by transgender persons and individuals engaged in the act of begging. Through dedicated financial allocations, structured rehabilitation programs, skill development initiatives, and targeted outreach in vulnerable urban zones, the scheme seeks to ensure dignity, security, and opportunity for some of the most marginalized communities in India. The phased rollout, data-backed implementation, and collaborative approach with NGOs and voluntary organizations underline the government's commitment to building a more equitable and compassionate society.

References:

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