

Building an Inclusive Society

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The vision of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, in tune with our constitution, is to build an inclusive society where the most oppressed and backward sections of our population can live a life of dignity, pride and actively contribute to the nation's human capital. Our mandate is the economic, educational and social empowerment of the SC, OBC and other vulnerable sections of the society. One of the prime functions of this department is to be visible and vocal about the rights of the marginalised and flag their concerns in all the policies and programmes of the government.

These sections of the population are an important target group for the policies and programmes of the Government, and this focus has translated in the country wide missions such as the ongoing Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Aspirational Districts Program, the Mission Antyodaya (MA) etc

Scheduled Caste Development

To meet its goal of educational empowerment of the SC population, a large portion of the department's budget is directed to scholarships and there has been considerable success in its distribution within the target group. The flagship scheme of the Department, Post-Matric Scholarship

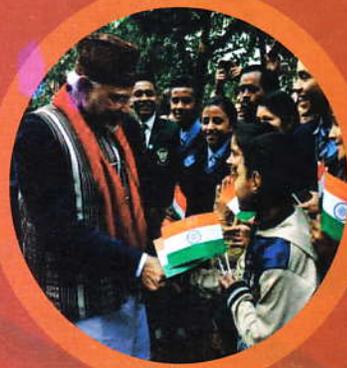
(PMS-SC) for SC students has been in operation since 1944 and is the single largest intervention by the Government of India for the educational empowerment of scheduled caste students. It covers approximately 55 lakh students per year, studying at the post matriculation or post-secondary stage, right up to PhD. Between 2014 to 2018, 2,29,30,654 students have availed the scholarships and an amount of Rs 10,388 crores has been utilised. We are certain that it has had positive outcomes on literacy levels of the target groups, on dropout rates, participation in higher education, and

Statistics on Target Population-

- SCs comprise 16.6 per cent of the country's population as per census 2011
- 46859 villages in the country spread over 522 districts, which have more than 50 per cent SC population
- No enumeration of OBC castes done after independence. Mandal Commission estimated OBC population at 52 per cent while NSSO estimated 41.7 per cent (2009-10).
- Senior Citizens number 10.36 crore.
- Victims of substance abuse believed to be around 1 per cent of the total population

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Over 3.3 crore students benefitted from scholarships worth Rs. 7,565 crore



Empowering through education

- Over 3.3 crore students benefitted during 2014-15 and 2015-16 by distribution of scholarships worth Rs. 7,565 crore
- For Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students, income eligibility increased from Rs. 44,500 per annum to Rs. 2.5 lakh per annum
- For Pre-Matric scholarship for SC students, the income eligibility raised from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh
- Stipend for day scholars has been raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 225 and for hostellers from Rs. 350 to Rs. 525

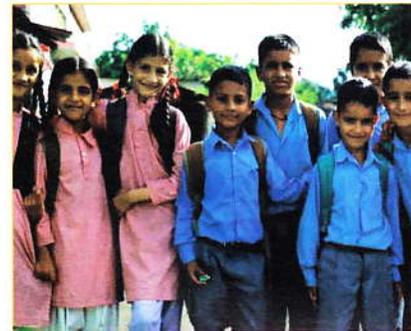
finally in achievement of excellence and building human capital for the service of the nation. Recently, the cabinet has approved clearance of accumulated arrears of Rs. 8737 cr. to the States/UTs and in 2018-2019, Rs 3000 cr has been allocated for this purpose. Other scholarship schemes for SC students are the Pre-Matric Scholarship, Top Class Education Scheme for studying in premier educational institutions and

the National Fellowship Scheme run in conjunction with UGC.

Welfare of SCs

An important act for protection and dignity of members of SC and ST community is the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. It has been strengthened considerably by this government, with effect from 14.04.2016. The amendments broadly relate to provisions of relief amount for 47 offences of atrocities, rationalization of the phasing of payment of relief amount, enhancement of relief amount between Rs. 85,000/- to Rs. 8,25,000/-, depending upon the nature of the offence, payment of admissible relief within seven days and completion of investigation and filing of charge sheet within sixty days to enable timely commencement of prosecution.

This department, apart from implementing schemes directly, also keeps track of the 'Allocation for the Welfare of SCs' (AWSC), which is the new name of the SC Sub Plan. The concept of Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes is in existence since 1979-80 to ensure proportionate flow of plan resources for the development of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs). As per consolidated guidelines of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) issued by erstwhile Planning Commission all the States/Ministries/Departments are required to earmark funds under SCSP



Rs. 95,000 crore
for welfare of SC/ ST Communities

41% 41% rise
in budget allocation for OBCs welfare

- For free coaching for SC and OBC students, income eligibility raised from Rs. 4.5 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh
- Stipend raised from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,500 for local students and from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 for outstation students
- For Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, the rates of scholarships increased substantially

Added resources, fulfilled aspirations

- Historic budget of Rs. 95,000 crore for welfare of SC/ ST communities
- Unprecedented rise of 41% in the budget allocation for OBC welfare in 2018-19 over 2017-18

out of their Plan outlay, in proportion to the percentage of SC population in the States/Country.¹ The nomenclature was changed to "Allocation for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes" (AWSC) in 2017. Allocation under AWSC has increased from Rs. 30850.88 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 56618.50 crore, an increase of 83.52 per cent.

The department has developed a web-portal (e-utthaan.gov.in) in 2017 for online capturing of data from various Ministries/ Departments on the financial, physical and outcome based monitoring indicators as per the formats designed by the NITI Aayog. The financial monitoring has been linked with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and accordingly, the monitoring is carried





out on a real time basis. In case of physical achievements, all the nodal officers have been provided log-in and passwords to submit the information directly to the portal.

Beyond education, the department has adopted an area based approach for the development of SC habitations, which focuses on education, health and nutrition, Swacch Bharat, livelihood and skill development. The Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) envisages an integrated development of SC majority villages, primarily through convergent implementation of central and state schemes, by providing

central gap-filling assistance. The programme is being taken up in villages which have more than 50 per cent SC population. The department is working on leveraging the available resources within the department and to converge with the on-going efforts of the other departments and ministries.

Backward Classes Development

Another important target group is the Backward Classes, and for whose welfare, the overall allocation in 2018-19 has been increased by 41.03 per cent, from, Rs. 1237.30 crore in

2017-18 to Rs 1747.00 crore in 2018-19. Scholarship schemes remain the mainstay of interventions for the BC population too, with schemes such as Pre and Post-Matric Scholarships and the National Fellowship.

Skill development is an important intervention and is being undertaken through the National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC). The way forward is to build upon basics and move towards the development of entrepreneurship abilities of this group, resulting in job creation as well. We are intending to start a Venture Capital Fund for the OBCs, to cater to this need.

Social Defence

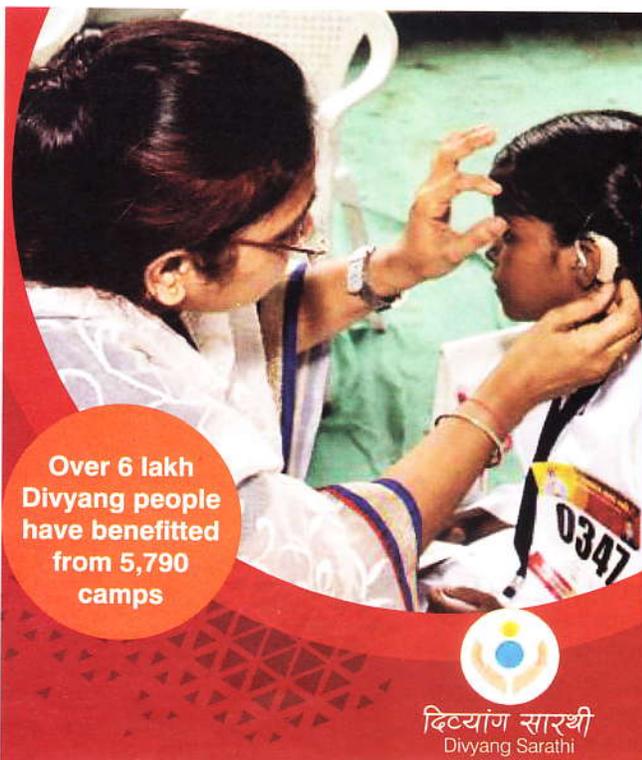
An important but often neglected target group, is the senior citizens; whose numbers as well as the old age dependency ratio is growing exponentially. Keeping in view the changing demographics, socio-economic needs of the senior citizens, social value systems and advancements in technologies, a revised policy for senior citizens is being drafted. Under the existing scheme of **Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens**, cost norms had been increased up to 110 per cent w.e.f. 01.4.2015, which have further been increased, up to 104

Accessible India, accomplished India



- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan launched by the Government on 3rd December, 2015 to provide a life of ease and dignity to Divyang sisters and brothers
- Efforts has been taken to make at least 50% of all Government buildings in the national capital and all State capitals "fully accessible"
- Special camps organized for distribution of Aids and Assistive devices to 8 lakh persons with disabilities
- Access audit of 1,662 important buildings in 50 cities completed so far
- All 34 international airports and all 48 domestic airports have been provided with accessible features such as ramps, accessible toilets, lifts with Braille symbols and auditory signals
- 644 out of 709 A1, A, B category railway stations and 12,894 out of 1,41,572 buses have been provided with accessibility features
- 917 identified websites of State Governments/UTs are in the process of being made accessible through ERNET India





More Opportunities for Divyang sisters and brothers

- Reservations for Divyang persons in government jobs raised from 3% to 4%
- Unprecedented increase in camps for Divyang sisters and brothers. Over 6 lakh Divyang people have benefitted from 5,790 camps organized across the country since May 2014

Shikshit Bharat, Saksham Bharat

- Scholarship scheme launched on 1st November, 2014 to provide scholarship to divyang students to pursue technical education
- Scholarship amount worth Rs. 30,000 is provided towards tuition fee reimbursement and Rs. 20,000 as contingency allowance. Under the scheme, 1,000 scholarships per annum are available
- Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) established

per cent, from 01/04/2018. Thus the cost norms prior to 01.4.2015 have been increased, up to 288 per cent (From Rs. 5.42 lacs to Rs. 21.6 lacs for an Old Age Home). Posts of physiotherapist attendant and yoga teachers have been created under the scheme. Provisions for registration, standardisation and rating of senior citizen homes have been made.

Under the **Rastriya Vayoshri Yojana**, a scheme meant for providing living assisted devices, a total of 292 districts have been selected; assessment camps

Financial and Physical Achievements Relating to various scheme

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/Project	2014-2018	
		Financial (Rs./Crore)	Physical Beneficiaries
1	National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation:		
	(i) Credit Based Schemes	1729.07	333245
	(ii) Skill Development Training Programme	52.12	62159
	Total:	1781.19	395404
2	National Safai Karmacharis Finance & Development Corporation:		
	(i) General Loan Scheme	440.88	41645
	(ii) Micro Finance Scheme	176.91	42890
	(iii) Skill Development Training Programme	50.36	35017
	Total:	668.15	119552
3	National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation:		
	(i) General Loan Scheme	732.58	132124
	(ii) Micro Finance Scheme	734.50	531870
	(iii) Skill Development Training Programme	59.78	57274
	Total:	1526.86	721268

have been held in 52 districts and distribution camps held in 39 districts, benefitting 43865 senior citizens. A total of 99431 devices have been provided to senior citizens belonging to the BPL categories.

Under the scheme of **Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse**, cost norms were increased by 30 per cent for de-addiction centres supported by the department w.e.f. 01/04/2018. These centres have also been provided with cooks, full time doctors and an additional chowkidar.

For the first time, a **National Survey** to identify victims of drug abuse has been taken up. This survey covers 185 districts, 1.5 lakh households and 6 lakh individuals. It is already underway and is expected to be completed shortly.

Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers

In the 150th birth year of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the department is committed to correct the historical injustice and indignity suffered by manual scavengers, and rehabilitate them to a life of dignity. To



Dr. Ambedkar International Centre

In order to further the ideas of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the department has set up Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the DAIC at 15, Janpath, New Delhi on December 7, 2017. The centre would play a key role in the dissemination of Dr. Ambedkar's teachings and vision, and it would be an important centre for research on social and economic issues and would function as a think tank for inclusive growth and related socio-economic issues.

The Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at Alipur Road, New Delhi on April 13, 2018 as a state of the art museum on the life and times of Dr. Ambedkar. The museum is attracting impressive daily footfall.

Conclusion

The Department is committed to fulfill the promise made in the Constitution, Article 38, to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people, which is in keeping with the guiding principle of this government in 'Sabka Saath & Sabka Vikas'. This goal will be realised only when the target population of this department, the marginalized and vulnerable are empowered to fulfill their true potential.

Endnote

¹SC's constitute 16.62 per cent of the country's population as per Census, 2011. □

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this end, a National Survey of Manual Scavengers in 170 identified districts of 18 states has been undertaken, coordinated and monitored by NSKFDC (National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation) in association with the representatives of State Government and social organizations. Survey Camps in 125 districts have been completed and so far 5365 persons have been identified as manual scavengers. Manual scavengers identified in the National Survey will be each given payment of One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) of Rs. 40000 and rehabilitated through subsequent measures.

Further, the NSKFDC will focus on areas of training, rehabilitation and awareness generation. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program will be utilized to train 10000 sanitation workers and waste pickers in safe, healthy and mechanised cleaning. Emphasis is also being laid on spreading awareness about the provisions of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) by organizing workshops in big municipalities with stakeholders including municipal engineers, sanitary inspectors, contractors etc.

Engagement with municipal corporations is imperative to this scheme. Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with panchayats and municipal corporations to purchase sanitation related vehicles and equipment are being entered into. In addition, loan facilities to Self Help Groups of sanitation workers will be extended for purchase of such vehicles and equipment. It would also protect the sanitation workers from the hazards of unsafe and unhealthy manual cleaning.

Corporations

This department has three Finance Development Corporations viz. NBCFDC (National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation), NSKFDC and NSFDC (National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation).

These corporations are not for profit companies with an objective to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of targeted groups and to assist them in livelihood, skill development and self-employment ventures. To this end, the corporations work as an extended arm of the government.



YOJANA

Forthcoming Issue

EMPLOYMENT AND
SELF EMPLOYMENT
(SPECIAL ISSUE)