



Rajasthan Expands Urban Jobs Scheme to New Municipal Bodies | Rajasthan | 05 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, In a major victory for the villagers who lost employment opportunities after the conversion of village panchayats into urban local bodies, the **Government of Rajasthan** has agreed to launch the [Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme](#) in 42 newly created **Municipal Councils**.

Key Points

- **Guaranteed Employment Works in Municipal Councils:** The Local Self Government Department has initiated guaranteed employment works in newly constituted Municipal Councils across **27 districts**. Urban bodies nearest to the councils are designated as in-charge until regular posts of officials are created.
- **Concerns of Villagers:** Works under the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme](#) were halted in village panchayats converted into urban local bodies in July last year, affecting villagers who relied on the **scheme for livelihood**.
- **Indefinite Dharna:** Villagers initiated an indefinite dharna at Bhim in January-end to demand the restart of employment works.
- **Role of Rajasthan Unorganised Labour Union:** The agitation was led by the Rajasthan Unorganised Labour Union, associated with the **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)**, known for its role in the [right to information](#) movement.
- **Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme:** Introduced by the Congress government in September 2022, the scheme aimed to provide economic support to urban poor by offering 100 days of work annually.
- **Memorandum Submission:** Participants submitted a memorandum to the Block Development Officer, urging prompt issuance of job cards and work allocation in the Bhim Municipal Council.
- **Types of Works:** Works under the scheme include tree plantation, pond cleaning, garbage collection, segregation, and catching stray animals, among others.

Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme

- The urban employment guarantee scheme, named after former **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**, was rolled out in the State of Rajasthan in September 2022 to provide economic support to the poor and needy families living in the cities.
 - The scheme stipulates the allocation of work on demand to the laborers for 100 days in a year.
 - The Rajasthan Government had touted it as the country's biggest scheme to give guaranteed jobs to the people residing in cities, on the lines of **MGNREGA** for villagers started at the Centre in **2006**.
 - Those in the age group of **18 to 60 years** residing within the limits of **urban local bodies** are eligible to demand and get employment in the identified segments.
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Rajasthan Government: Innovative Tourism Policy for Economic Boost | Rajasthan | 05 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government is **planning to announce a new policy to boost tourism** in the state, which could include the regularization of hotels in residential areas and tweaking the rules for granting bar licenses to heritage restaurants.

Key Points

- **Regularisation of Hotels in Residential Areas:** The policy aims to regularise hotels operating in residential areas, addressing a long-standing demand of the hotel industry in the state.
- **Changes in Bar Licensing for Heritage Restaurants:** There will be adjustments in the rules for granting bar licenses to heritage restaurants.
- **Inclusion of Service Apartments in the Tourism Sector:** The policy will likely link service apartments with the tourism sector, expanding the accommodation options for tourists.
- **Opening of Resorts in Eco-Sensitive Zones:** Changes in the master plan are proposed to allow the opening of resorts in [eco-sensitive zones](#), potentially promoting sustainable tourism development.
- **Collaboration with Other Departments:** The state government plans to collaborate with other departments to effectively implement the policy.
- **Rural Tourism, Guest House, and Heritage Restaurants:** The new policy may include provisions for rural tourism, guest house regulation, and support for heritage restaurants.
- **Involvement of Tour Operators and Travel Agents:** This time, the policy aims to involve tour operators and travel agents in its formulation, ensuring broader stakeholder participation.
- **Development of Important Sites, Fairs, and Festivals:** The policy may outline strategies for the development of important tourist sites, as well as support for fairs and festivals to enhance tourism experiences.