



Himachal Pradesh Sukhashraya Act, 2023

For Prelims: Himachal Pradesh Sukhashraya Act, 2023

For Mains: Benefit and Significance of Himachal Pradesh Sukhashraya Act, 2023

Why in News?

Himachal Pradesh passed Sukhashraya (Care, Protection, and Self-Reliance of Children of the State) Act, 2023 to ensure the [welfare of orphans](#) and persons with special needs.

What are the Key Details of Sukhashraya Act, 2023?

▪ About:

- The Act defines **orphans as those without biological parents or whose parents are incapacitated** and includes children in need of care and protection such as those without homes or those at risk of forced marriage, crime, or drug abuse.
- The Act offers **financial and institutional benefits to the beneficiaries between the age of 18-27 years**, along with vocational training, skill development, and coaching to help them become active members of society.
- The Act is a step towards ensuring the protection and care of the most vulnerable section of society.

▪ Benefits under the Act:

- A **Mukhya Mantri Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh fund** of Rs 101 crore has been formed, and a **child welfare committee will be established in each district** to oversee the scheme.
- Orphans and persons with special needs will **become 'children of the state'**.
- **Financial benefits** include **Rs 5,000 in summer and winter, Rs 500 for major festivals, and Rs 4,000 monthly allowance for daily expenses** in college.
- **Institutional benefits** include sponsored **train tickets and accommodation for 10 days** within the state, and **hostel fees** for beneficiaries in **ITI and government colleges**.
- The government will give **a fixed amount of money at the time of marriage and three biswas of land to build their own homes**.
- **Orphans** who wish to establish their own **start-ups will be given a token corpus** to incentivize entrepreneurial pursuits.
 - **Ph.D. students will also receive the monthly allowance.**

▪ Other Safeguards Mentioned in the Act:

- Ex-residents of child care institutions will be supported by the state government till the age of 21 years.
- **Recurring deposit accounts will be opened for each child and orphan**, and the state government shall make contributions to these accounts as per prevalent rates.
- The **child welfare committee will carry out surveys to identify orphans** and will look into the demands of children in need.

Note: As per the [Juvenile Justice \(Care and Protection of Children\) Act, 2015](#), orphan and destitute children in the country are “Children in need of care and protection (CNCP). The primary responsibility of execution of the Act lies with the States/UTs.

What is the Similar Initiative of Union Government?

▪ Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme or “Mission Vatsalya”:

- Launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Under the provisions of the CPS, Central Government is **providing financial assistance to the States/UTs for undertaking a situational analysis of children** in difficult circumstances, inter-alia.
- Under the scheme institutional care to Children in need of care and protection and Children in Conflict with Law is provided in Child Care Institutions (CCIs).
- The scheme also **provides for non-institutional care** wherein support is extended for adoption, foster care and sponsorship.

Source: IE

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