



Decline in Budgetary Allocation for Ministry of Minority Affairs

For Prelims: Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, Education Scheme for Minorities, USTTAD

For Mains: Welfare Schemes related to Minorities, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

Budgetary allocation for the [Union Ministry of Minority Affairs](#) decreased by **38%** in **2023-24** compared to 2022-23.

Where did Budgetary Allocations Decline the Most in Minority Affairs?

- The major decline was in the allocation for pre-matric scholarships, free coaching for minorities, skill development and livelihoods programmes (including **USTTAD scheme, Nai Manzil and Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women**).
- Also, allocation for the **Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities**, which includes the [Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram](#) and [Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities](#), fell from **₹1810 crore to ₹610 crore**, which is a dip of **66.2% in allocation**.

What are the Major Schemes in India for the Welfare of Minorities?

- **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme:** For **educational empowerment** of students, through [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\)](#) mode.
- **Naya Savera- Free Coaching and Allied Scheme:** The Scheme aims to provide **free coaching to students/candidates belonging to economically weaker sections of minority communities** for preparation of entrance examinations of technical/ professional courses and competitive examinations.
- **Padho Pardesh:** Scheme of [interest subsidy](#) to students of economically weaker sections of minority communities on **educational loans for overseas higher studies**.
- **Nai Roshni:** Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities.
- **Seekho Aur Kamao:** It is a **skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age** group and aiming at improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK):** It is a Scheme designed to address the **development deficits of the identified Minority Concentration Areas**.
 - The areas of implementation, under PMJVK, have been identified on the basis of minority population and **socio-economic and basic amenities data of Census 2011** and will be known as **Minority Concentration Areas**.
- **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development):** Launched in May 2015 aims to preserve the **rich heritage of traditional skills of indigenous artisans/craftsmen**.
 - Under this scheme [HunnarHaats](#) are also held all over the country to provide a **nation-**

wide marketing platform to Minority artisans & entrepreneurs and to create employment opportunities.

- **Prime Minister-Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM Vikaas):** New PM Vikas has been added to the Ministry of Minority Affairs' Budget in 2023.
 - It is a **skilling initiative focussing on the skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of the minority** and artisan communities across the country.
 - The scheme is intended to be implemented in **conjunction with the 'Skill India Mission' of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and through integration with the Skill India Portal (SIP).**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q.1 In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to? (2011)

1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.
3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Q.2 In India, which of the following review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance, electricity, etc.? (2019)

1. Ad Hoc Committees set up by the Parliament
2. Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committees
3. Finance Commission
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
5. NITI Aayog

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 3, 4 and 5
- (d) 2 and 5

Ans: (a)

Q.3 With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary Committees scrutinises and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws, etc., conferred by the Constitution or delegated by the Parliament are being properly exercised by the Executive within the scope of such delegation? (2018)

- (a) Committee on Government Assurances
- (b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- (c) Rules Committee
- (d) Business Advisory Committee

Ans: (b)

[Source: TH](#)

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