



UP Govt to Revise Madarsa Act, 2004 | Uttar Pradesh | 06 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government is set to revise the [Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004](#) excluding higher-level education from its purview and restricting its coverage only to institutions offering education up to **Class 12**.

- In an earlier judgment, the [Supreme Court](#) upheld the constitutional validity of the 2004 Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Law and set aside an Allahabad High Court verdict that had quashed it on the grounds **violating the principle of [secularism](#)**.

Key Points

- The revision of the Madarsa Act is part of a broader effort to **enhance the quality** and **oversight** of Madarsa education in Uttar Pradesh.
 - The government aims to improve secondary education in Madrasas by combining religious teachings with a standard secular curriculum.
- **Impact on Higher-Level Religious Degrees:**
 - Under the new amendments, Madrasas will no longer be able to offer higher-level religious degrees like [Kamil](#) and [Fazil](#).
 - These degrees, which have been a part of the madrasa education system, will **lose their recognition under the revised Act**.
 - The focus on secondary education is expected to bring about a more standardized approach to madrasa education, ensuring that **students receive a balanced education** that prepares them for further studies or vocational training.

Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004

- The Act aimed to regulate and govern the functioning of madrasas (Islamic educational institutions) in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
 - It provided a framework for the **establishment, recognition, curriculum, and administration of madrasas** across Uttar Pradesh.
 - Under this Act, the **Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education** was established to oversee and supervise the activities of madrasas in the state.
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Women Lead Over Half of Startups in Uttar Pradesh | Uttar Pradesh | 06 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Over **half of the registered startups** in Uttar Pradesh are now led by women, showcasing the state's progressive business landscape.

Key Points

- According to the [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade \(DPIIT\)](#), out of more than 13,370 startups in the state, over 6,812, almost 51%, are led by women entrepreneurs.
- The **state's startup policy, initially introduced in 2020 and amended in 2022**, aims to establish 100 incubators across all 75 districts, providing a robust infrastructure for new ventures.
 - The policy also **includes financial incentives and support systems** specifically designed to encourage women entrepreneurs.
- The startups in Uttar Pradesh have **collectively created over 100,000 jobs**, contributing significantly to the state's economy.
- Initiatives like the **single window clearance system, 'Nivesh Mitra'**, have been instrumental in creating a business-friendly environment.
 - It boasts a disposal rate of 97.22%, **earning recognition with an award from the central government.**
- Looking ahead, Uttar Pradesh **plans to develop India's first artificial intelligence city in Lucknow** and establish an exclusive fund to boost the AI ecosystem.
 - These initiatives are expected to further enhance the state's appeal as a hub for tech startups and innovation.

HC Grants Pension to 1965 War Widow After 58 Years | Haryana | 06 Dec 2024

Why in News?

In a landmark decision, the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has granted [pension](#) benefits to Anguri Devi, an 87-year-old widow of a soldier who died in the [Indo-Pak war 1965](#).

- This ruling marks the end of a **58-year** struggle for justice and financial support.

Key Points

- Anguri Devi's husband, Nater Pal Singh, served in the **Rajput Regiment** and was killed in a mine blast on the western front during the **1965 war**.
 - She received a special family pension from the Army after her husband's death.
- In 1972, the **government introduced the "Liberalised Family Pension" policy** with retrospective effect for operations from 1947 onwards, granting higher pensions.
 - The policy included financial effect and arrears starting 1st February, 1972.
- Despite her husband dying in 1965, the authorities did not apply the policy to Anguri Devi.
- A new policy was introduced on 31st **January, 2001**, with financial effect from **1st January, 1996**.
- The policy included the **"Liberalised Family Pension"** but applied only to **deaths/disabilities** after **1st January, 1996**.
- The Supreme Court later struck down the **cut-off date of 1996**.
 - However, Anguri Devi's claim was initially **denied due to cut-off dates** that excluded her case.
- Despite a **Supreme Court ruling** that struck down these cut-off dates, her claim remained unresolved.
- After years of legal battles, the [Armed Forces Tribunal \(AFT\)](#) provided partial relief, limiting her

arrears to three years before her filing date.

- However, the Punjab and Haryana High Court overturned this decision, ruling that **she is entitled to arrears from the effective date of the 2001 policy.**

Uttarakhand Govt to Build Homes Under PMAY Scheme | Uttarakhand | 06 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, in a significant move to address housing needs, the **Uttarakhand government** has announced the construction of **16,000 affordable homes** for **low-income families** under the [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \(PMAY\)](#).

Key Points

▪ About the Project:

- The project is being spearheaded by the [Uttarakhand Housing Development Council \(UHDC\)](#) and the [Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority \(MDDA\)](#).
 - These bodies are working in collaboration with private investors to ensure the timely and efficient construction of these homes.
- The initiative includes **15 projects** led by private investors, accounting for 12,856 homes, while various development authorities are constructing an additional 3,104 units. The target is to complete all projects by March 2025.

▪ About PMAY:

- This initiative aims to provide '**pucca**' houses to homeless families, aligning with the broader goal of '[Antyodaya](#)', uplifting the poorest of the poor.
- The scheme is designed for homeless families with an annual income of less than Rs. 3 lakh.
 - Eligible families must have been residents of Uttarakhand since before **June 15, 2015**.
- The construction of these affordable homes is **expected to significantly improve the living conditions of low-income families** in Uttarakhand.