



# MoU to Empower Unemployed Youth

## Why in News?

Recently, **Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC), Gurugram**, and **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Bilaspur**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to start a **vocational training program** for underprivileged youth from **economically weaker sections**.

## Key Points

- **About the Agreement:**
  - The program aims to **uplift underprivileged youth** from economically weaker sections by providing **skill-based training**.
- **CSR Initiative:**
  - The initiative is part of SECL's **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** efforts.
  - A total of Rs 3.12 crore has been allocated to train 400 candidates.
  - **Training Program Structure:**
    - **Non-Residential Training:**
      - ATDC will set up **training centers for 300 candidates** under the **Self-Employed Tailor Program**.
      - Training centers will be established in SECL Bishrampur, Sohagpur, and Korba areas.
    - **Residential Training:**
      - **100 candidates** will undergo a **fully residential training program** at the ATDC Training Center in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.
      - The program will provide **free boarding and lodging**.
      - Candidates will be selected from within a 25-kilometer radius of SECL establishments.
- **Objective and Vision:**
  - Under the guidance of **the Ministry of Coal**, this initiative aims to:
    - Empower underprivileged youth in **coalfield regions**.
    - Create self-employment and job opportunities.
    - Contribute to the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

## Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **CSR** in general can be referred to as a **corporate initiative** to assess and take responsibility for the **company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare**.
- **It is a self-regulating business model** that helps a **company to be socially accountable**. By practising corporate social responsibility, **companies can be conscious of the impact they are having on economic, social, and environmental factors**.
- **India is the first country to mandate CSR spending** under **clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013**, with a framework for identifying potential CSR activities.
  - Unlike India, **most countries have voluntary CSR frameworks**. **Norway and Sweden**, which have moved to mandatory CSR provisions, began with voluntary models.

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