District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs)

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Why in News?

The Union government has invited proposals to set up District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs) in 291 "gap" districts identified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- **Gap districts** – It have been identified as those that currently ***have no Centrally supported infrastructure*** to treat or rehabilitate people who are dealing with substance abuse or dependence.
- **Gap Districts** - Highest number of gap districts have been identified in Chhattisgarh.
- Other states having highest gap districts are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Assam.
- **Under** - National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.
    - It provides for the Social Justice Ministry to support
        - Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs),
        - Community-based Peer Led Initiatives (CPLIs),
        - Outreach and Drop-in Centres (ODICs), and DDACs.
- DDAC is supposed to house a treatment cum rehabilitation centre, an area for drop-in centre facilities, and an area for CPLI facilities.
- The DDACs can have the capacity to house 15 or 30 patients at a time, with specific norms of minimum requirements prescribed for them.
- DDACs would conduct primary prevention activities through awareness programs among the vulnerable and affected community and engage in risk mitigation of substance use among children/adolescents/youth.
- This will include
    - Preventing substance use,
    - Identifying peer educators in the communities,
    - Implementing early prevention education,
    - Identifying adolescents or children using substances and referring them to rehabilitation centres or treatment facilities, among other activities.

The National Survey of Extent and Pattern of Substance Use 2017-18 estimated, that about 1.18 crore children and adolescents using various psychoactive substances.

Reference

The Hindu | De-addiction centres



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