

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

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Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years (2026-27 to 2030-31).

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NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)



PARTICULARS	DETAILS
 Launch date	15 August 1995
 Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development
 Nature	Social assistance programme
 Funding	100% Central assistance
 Constitutional basis	Article 41, Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)
 Coverage under latest approval	3.20 crore beneficiaries
 Geographical coverage	All 36 States/UTs
 Approved period	2026–27 to 2030–31
 Total outlay	₹53,428 crore

- **Approved changes** - It includes the renaming of the programme and its sub-schemes, as well as revisions to the eligibility criteria and pension assistance within the disability pension scheme.

Renaming of NSAP and Its Sub-Schemes

Existing Name	Approved New Name
 National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) →	Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana
 Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) →	Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana
 Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) →	Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana
 Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) →	Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana
 National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) →	Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana

DPSP (Article 41) - It directs the State to make effective provisions to secure the right to work, education, and public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, disablement, and other instances of undeserved want, subject to the State's economic capacity and development.

- **Benefits** - A total of 3.20 crore beneficiaries across all the 36 States/UTs will benefit from this approval.
- **Implementation within** - 3 months.

Major Changes in the Disability Pension Scheme



Parameter	Earlier provision	Revised provision
 Benchmark disability requirement	80%	40%
 Minimum age criterion	Existing age restriction	Eligibility from birth, subject to other scheme conditions
 Monthly assistance: 0-79 years	Earlier rate	₹375
 Monthly assistance: 80 years and above	Earlier rate	₹625

- **Key Revised Provisions**

- The eligibility threshold for benchmark disability has been lowered from 80 % to 40 %.
- The removal of the minimum age criterion permits eligibility from birth, provided that all other conditions of the scheme are met.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, establishes the legal framework for aligning the benchmark disability criterion with 40 %.
- According to the Cabinet announcement, disability-related assistance must be 25 % higher than assistance provided under comparable schemes for other categories.
- Other schemes, including the old-age pension, widow pension, and the National Family Benefit Scheme, will continue in their current form.

Reference

[PM India | National Social Assistance Programme \(NSAP\)](#)

