

Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana

***Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Government Policies & Interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation and operational restructuring of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for a five-year period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.

- The umbrella initiative has been officially renamed the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana, supported by a total financial outlay of Rs.53,428 crore.
- **Administered by** - The Ministry of Rural Development.
- This **centrally sponsored welfare program** provides financial safety nets via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to below-poverty-line (BPL) households across all 36 States and Union Territories.

Scheme Restructuring

Existing Scheme Name	Renamed Scheme Name	Operational Updates & Status
National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana	Approved for a 5-year extension (FY 2026-27 to 2030-31).
Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana	Continues under existing eligibility frameworks.
Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)	Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana	Continues under existing eligibility frameworks.
Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)	Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana	Major policy changes in eligibility thresholds, age restrictions, and financial assistance levels.
National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)	Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana	Continues under existing operational guidelines.



PRADHAN MANTRI SAMAJIK SAHAYATA YOJANA

Social Security | Dignity | Inclusive Growth



Total Financial Outlay:

₹53,428 Crore

(FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31)



Target Beneficiaries:

~3.20 Crore

across all 36 States/UTs



**OLD AGE
PENSION**

(Formerly
IGNOAPS)



**WIDOW
PENSION**

(Formerly
IGNWPS)



**DISABILITY
PENSION**

(Formerly
IGNDPS)



**FAMILY
BENEFIT**

(Formerly
NFBS)



Supporting the most vulnerable. Building a stronger, inclusive India.

Major Policy Changes

- **Lowering the Benchmark Disability Threshold**
 - **Previous Requirement** - Beneficiaries required a minimum of **80% severe disability** to qualify.
 - **Revised Criterion** - Lowered to **40% Benchmark Disability**, aligning the scheme directly with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**.
- **Removal of Minimum Age Restriction**
 - **Previous Requirement** - Restricted to individuals aged **18 years and above**.
 - **Revised Criterion** - The lower age limit of 18 years has been abolished, making financial assistance available **from birth (0 years)**.
- **Enhancement of Central Assistance Rates**
 - **Age Bracket 0-79 Years** - Central financial assistance increased to **Rs.375 per month**.
 - **Age Bracket 80 Years & Above** - Central assistance increased to **Rs.625 per month**.
 - In compliance with the RPwD Act 2016, pension assistance for persons with benchmark disabilities is structured to be at least **25% higher** than assistance offered under other social security categories.

Strategic Significance

- **Constitutional Imperative** - Originally launched on **August 15, 1995**.
- Social assistance schemes operationalize state obligations under **Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, which directs the State to secure public assistance in cases of old age, sickness, and disablement.
- **National Coverage** - The scheme covers approximately **3.20 crore beneficiaries** across all 36 States and Union Territories.

- **Implementation Roadmap** - Revised operational guidelines are scheduled to be formally issued and adopted by state governments within three months of the Cabinet announcement.

Reference

[PIB | Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana](#)

