Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme

Prelims: *Current events of national importance | Polity and Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, The Ministry of Minority Affairs has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna under the PM VIKAS Scheme.

- **Aim –** To build the capacity of ***minority communities*** through modern and traditional skilling, education, entrepreneurship, and cultural heritage preservation, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth.
- **Type –** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Launched in –** 2024
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA).
- **Implementing Agency**
  - Minority community institutions
  - Industry bodies with placement linkages
  - Central/State institutions, PSUs, universities, institutions of national importance
- **Integration of schemes** - It integrates 5 earlier livelihood schemes — Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni, and Nai Manzil.
- **Objectives -** Provide targeted skill training and employment opportunities.
- Preserve and promote cultural heritage, including Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).
- Offer formal education and certification to school dropouts (Classes 8, 10, 12).
- Empower minority women through leadership and entrepreneurship support.
- Improve employability via market and credit linkages.

- **Eligibility and Identification**
- Indian nationals from notified minority communities (Muslims, Christians,

Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis).

- Aadhaar + Aadhaar-linked bank account mandatory.
    - **Age –** 14–45 years (skilling/education); 18–45 years (women leadership).
    - **Reservation –** 33% women (skilling), 50% women (education), 100% women (leadership).
    - **3% seats reserved for PwDs –** Limited inclusion of EWS non-minorities (25% in traditional, 15% in other components).
- **Coverage –** Pan-India implementation through convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) infrastructure and partnerships with IITs, NITs, CSIR institutes, and state agencies.
- **Features**
    - **Skilling –** (National Skills Qualifications Framework) NSQF-aligned training for both traditional crafts and modern sectors, ensuring placement-linked outcomes.
    - **Education –** Bridge programmes via the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for school dropouts with certification up to Class 12 and a 40% pass-rate target.
    - **Women Empowerment –** Leadership and entrepreneurship training with Biz Sakhis mentoring, career counselling, and enterprise support.
    - **Infrastructure –** Convergence with PMJVK community assets; new infrastructure only where gaps exist or augmentation is required.
    - **Employment –** Placement target of **75% beneficiaries**, with at least 50% in the organized sector; self-employment allowed in informal trades.
    - **Cultural Preservation –** Documentation, GI tagging, cultural tourism, and minority "Parvs" to showcase and sustain Intangible Cultural Heritage.

References

1. PIB | PM VIKAS
2. PM VIKAS | Minority Affairs

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