

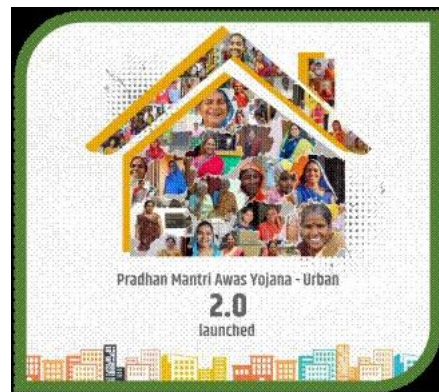
14th August 2024

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0, with the aim of constructing 1 crore houses, while also focusing on equity among different segments of the populations.

Aim

- ❖ The scheme is aimed to give financial support to the middle class as well as impoverished urban families for building, buying, or renting reasonably priced urban homes.



Scope

- ❖ PMAY-U 2.0 is designed to extend financial assistance to urban poor and middle-class families for constructing, purchasing, or renting houses at affordable costs in urban areas.
- ❖ This initiative aligns with the Government of India's vision to ensure that every citizen has access to a pucca house, thereby enhancing their quality of life.

Impact

- ❖ The scheme aims to benefit 1 crore families, with a particular focus on equity among different segments of the population.
- ❖ Special attention will be given to marginalized groups, including slum dwellers, SC/STs, minorities, widows, persons with disabilities, and other underprivileged sections of society. Additionally, groups like Safai Karmi, street vendors, artisans, anganwadi workers, and residents of slums/chawls will receive focused support under this scheme.

Eligibility Criteria

- ❖ The PMAY-U 2.0 scheme is open to families belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG), and Middle Income Group (MIG) segments who do not own a pucca house anywhere in the country. The income criteria for eligibility are as follows:

- EWS households: Annual income up to ₹3 lakh.
- LIQ households: Annual income from ₹3 lakh to ₹6 lakh.
- MIG households: Annual income from ₹6 lakh to ₹9 lakh.

Components of PMAY-U 2.0

The scheme includes the following key verticals to address the housing needs in urban areas:

1. **Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC):** Financial assistance will be provided to eligible EWS families to construct new houses on their own available vacant land.
2. **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP):** This component provides financial assistance to EWS beneficiaries for owning houses constructed in partnership with States/UTs, cities, public, and private agencies.
3. **Affordable Rental Housing (ARH):** This vertical focuses on creating rental housing for working women, industrial workers, urban migrants, and other eligible beneficiaries.
4. **Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS):** The ISS vertical offers a 4% interest subsidy on home loans up to ₹25 lakh for EWS/LIQ and MIG families. The subsidy will be provided in five yearly installments, with a maximum subsidy of ₹1.80 lakh.

Women and Men in India 2023

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, released the 25th issue of its publication titled "Women and Men in India 2023".

Key Points

- ❖ The publication is a comprehensive and insightful document that attempts to bring a holistic view of the situation of women and men in India and provides data on a wide range of topics such as **Population, Education, Health, Participation in Economy, Participation in Decision making** etc. among others.

- ❖ It presents data disaggregated by gender, urban-rural divide, and geographical region, which helps to understand the disparities that exist between different groups of women and men.
- ❖ The publication includes important indicators as derived from published official data of different Ministries/Departments/Organizations.
- ❖ “Women and Men in India 2023” not only highlights the progress made towards gender equality but also identifies the areas where significant gaps remain.

Some of the highlights of the publication are as follows:

- ❖ By 2036, the population of India is expected to reach 152.2 Crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8% as compared to 48.5 percent in 2011.
- ❖ The proportion of individuals under 15 years is projected to decrease from 2011 to 2036, likely due to declining fertility. Conversely, the proportion of the population aged 60 years and above is anticipated to substantially increase during this period.
- ❖ Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is one of the SDG indicators and to bring it down to 70 by 2030 is explicitly laid down in the SDG framework.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

On 12th August 2024, the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the 2024 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking.

Key Points

- ❖ **Categories:** The institutions were ranked under 16 categories overall, university, colleges, research institutions, engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture and planning, dental, research, agriculture and allied sectors, open universities, skill universities, state public universities and innovation. Open universities, skill universities, and State public universities were the new categories.

- ❖ **Parameters:** Five parameters, including teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practice, graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity, and perception were checked during evaluation.

National Institutions Ranking in NIRF


- ❖ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** was adjudged the best education institution in the country for the **sixth** time since 2019.
- ❖ In the **University** category, **IISC Bengaluru** leads, with **JNU** and **Jamia Millia Islamia** following.
- ❖ **IIT Madras**, **IIM Ahmedabad**, and **AIIMS Delhi** secured top positions in the Engineering, Management, and Medical categories, respectively.
- ❖ **Delhi University's Hindu College** topped the list in the 'college category'.
- ❖ In agriculture and allied sectors, the **Indian Agriculture Research Institute New Delhi** has topped the ranks. In the innovation category, **IIT Bombay** was selected first. **Anna University, Chennai** has been selected for the first rank in the category of State Public Universities.
- ❖ In the category of Open Universities, **Indira Gandhi National Open University** has been selected for the first position.

Uttar Pradesh institutes in NIRF 2024


- ❖ For the third year in a row, **eight higher educational institutions in the state** secured their position among the top 100 in the overall category of the ninth NIRF ranking 2024. Five of them are central, two private and one state-run institutions.
- ❖ **Two Lucknow-based universities** – **Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU)** and **King George's Medical University (KGMU)** -- are among these institutions.
- ❖ For the third consecutive year, **Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K)** and **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** retained their fifth and 11th position, respectively.
- ❖ This time, **Aligarh Muslim University** climbed three spots from 19th last year to 16th this time. **Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University)** moved up from 31st rank to 30th rank this year. However, **IIT-BHU** is still placed below its best 29th rank in 2022.

- ❖ *Amity University, Gautam Buddha Nagar, was ranked 49th against last year's 57th spot.*
- ❖ *For the second consecutive year, BBAU's ranking showed steady progress as it jumped from 69th rank last year to 58th rank this year.*
- ❖ *KGMU, ranked 88th this year, was the only state-run higher educational institution on this year's top 100 list.*
- ❖ *Shiv Nadar University in Gautam Buddha Nagar retained its 95th rank.*


Person In News- Appointment

<p>T.V. Somanathan</p>	<p>The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet has appointed 1987-batch IAS officer T V Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary of India. He will remain in office for a tenure of two years, starting August 30.</p> <p>He is presently serving as the Finance Secretary of India.</p> <p>He will take over from outgoing 1982-batch officer Rajiv Gauba, who had occupied the post since August 30, 2019.</p>	
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Person In News- Obituary

<p>Kunwar Natwar Singh</p>	<p>He was a former External Affairs Minister and Congress leader. Who passed away at the age of 93.</p> <p>He joined the Congress party in 1984 after leaving the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984.</p>	
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Person In News- Worldwide

<p>Paul Kagame</p>	<p>He became Rwanda's President consecutively for the fourth term.</p> <p>Countries surrounding Rwanda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Uganda (to the north) ❖ Tanzania (to the east) ❖ Burundi (to the south) ❖ Democratic Republic of the Congo (to the west) 	
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Important Days/Dates

<p>August 12</p>	<p>World Elephant Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is observed every year on 12 August. It is an annual international event which aims to promote the protection and conservation of animals worldwide. ❖ The theme for World Elephant Day 2024 is "Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance."
<p>August 12</p>	<p>International Youth Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The idea for International Youth Day was first proposed in 1991 by young people gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the World Youth Forum. ❖ The first International Youth Day was celebrated on August 12th, 2000 ❖ Theme: International Youth Day 2024 is "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development."

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan was feted with a lifetime achievement award at Locarno Film Festival 2024.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd, India's most valuable company, plans to commission its first solar giga-factory in the current fiscal as it pivots a green pathway to achieve net zero carbon emissions from operations by 2035.

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