



# IAS PARLIAMENT

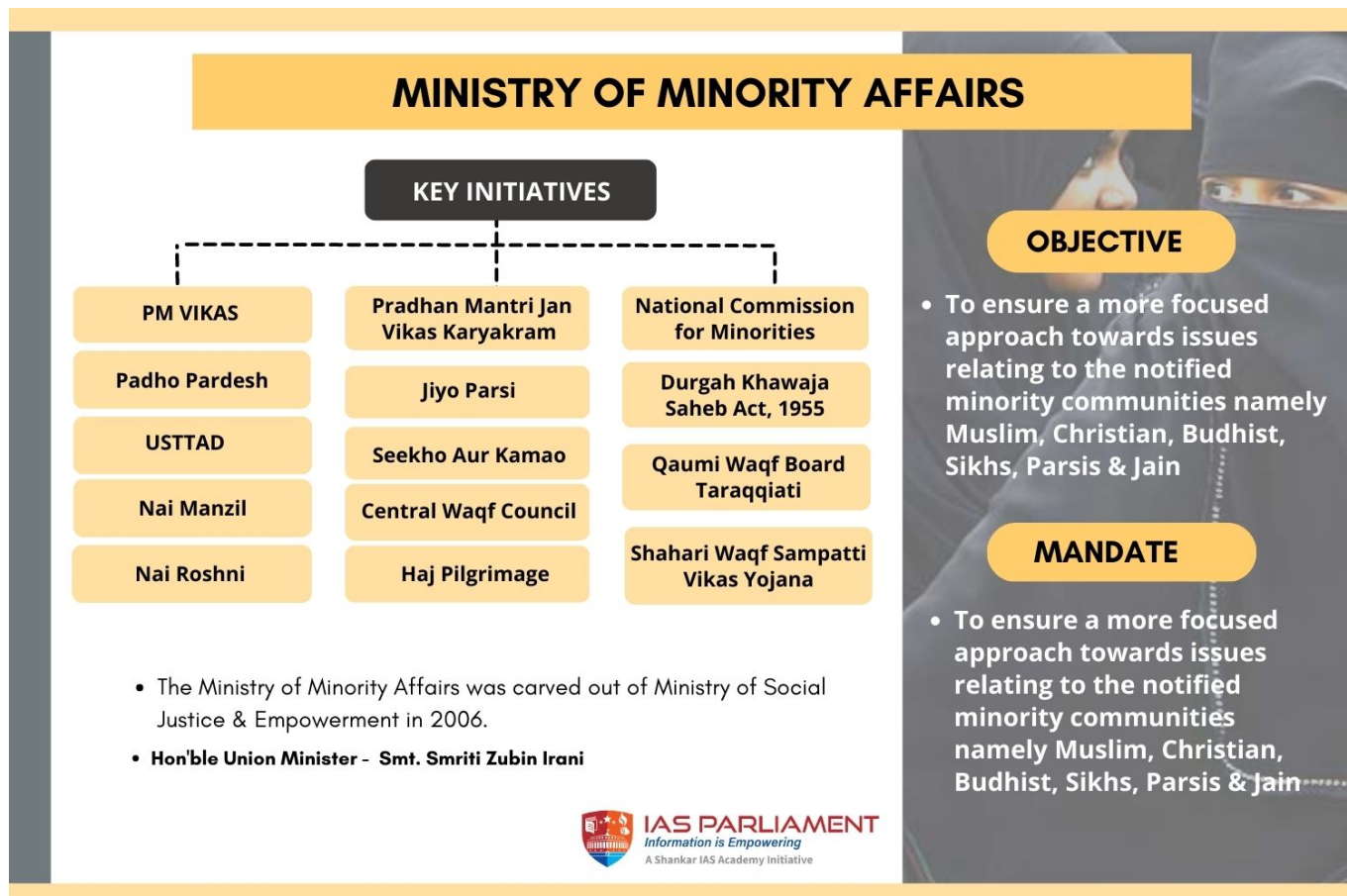
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## Year End Review - Ministry of Minority Affairs

### Ministry of Minority Affairs

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs was carved out of **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** in 2006.
- **Objective** - To ensure a more focused approach towards issues relating to the notified minority communities namely Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikhs, Parsis and Jain.



## Constitutional Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities

*The term "minority" is **not defined in the Indian Constitution**. However, the Constitution recognises religious and linguistic minorities.*

- The Central Government notifies minority communities at the national level under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.
- Six communities notified as minorities under the Section 2 (c) of NCM Act are Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.
- Article 29** - Right of any section of the citizens residing in India with a distinct language, script or culture of its own to conserve it.
- It grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.
- The Supreme Court held that the scope of this article includes minorities as well as the majority.
- Article 30** - All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- The protection under Article 30 is confined **only to minorities** and does not extend to any section of citizens.
- Article 347** - If the President is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that state, he may direct such language to be officially recognised.
- Article 350** - It gives the right to submit representation for redressal of grievances to any authority of the union or a state in any of the languages used in the Union/States.

- **Article 350A** - It provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- **Article 350B** - It provides for a special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities.

## **Key activities undertaken in the scheme**

### **1. Scholarship Schemes**

- Three scholarship schemes are implemented for the educational empowerment of students belonging to notified minority communities.
  - Pre-matric scholarship
  - Post-matric scholarship
  - Merit-cum-means based scholarship
- To improve transparency in scholarship schemes, a new and revamped version of **National scholarship Portal 2.0** was launched.

### **2. PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)**

- The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).
- PM VIKAS is a central-sector scheme that focusses on skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of the minority and artisan communities across the country.
- It is an integrated scheme that converges 5 erstwhile schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs - Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn), USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.
- **Components of the Scheme**
  1. Skilling and Training Component
    - Traditional Training (earlier Hamari Dharohar and USTTAD)
    - Non-traditional Skilling (earlier Seekho aur Kamao)
  2. Leadership and Entrepreneurship Component (earlier Nai Roshni)
  3. Education Component (earlier Nai Manzil)
  4. Infrastructure Development Component (through Hub and Spoke Villages)

### **Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn and Earn) Scheme**

- It is a placement-linked [skill development scheme for minorities](#) that was launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2013.
- It aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth (in the age group of 14-45 years) in various modern/ traditional skills.

### **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development) Scheme**

- It was launched in 2015 to preserve the rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities.

- **Hunar Haat** has been implemented as a component of the scheme since 2016-17.
- Hunar Haat is an effective platform for minority artisans, craftspersons and culinary experts to showcase and market their finest handicraft and exquisitely crafted indigenous products.

### **Nai Manzil Scheme**

- Nai Manzil aims to benefit the youth belonging to 6 notified minority communities of 17-35 years of age, who do not have formal school leaving certificate.
- The scheme provides a combination of formal education (Class VIII or X) and skills to enable beneficiaries seek better employment and livelihood.

### **Nai Roshni Scheme**

- It is a training programme conducted for women belonging to minority community between the age group of 18 years to 65 years.
- It covers areas related to programmes for women, health and hygiene, legal rights of women, financial literacy, digital literacy, swachh bharat, life skills, and advocacy for social and behavioural change.

<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>CLUSTER</b>
Black Pottery	Manipur
Soft Stone	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Chikankari	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Wooden cutlery	Udayagiri, Andhra Pradesh
Tilla embroidery	Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
Bidriware	Bidar, Karnataka
Chanapatna toys	Chanapatna, Karnataka

### **3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**

- The erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme that seeks to provide better socio-economic infrastructure assets and basic amenities to the notified minorities mainly in the field of education, health & skill development.
- 33 to 40% of resources under the PMJVK would be specifically allocated for women centric projects.

### **4. National Commission for Minorities**

- The Minorities Commission which was set up in 1978 became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, after which it was renamed as the [National Commission for Minorities](#).
- The first statutory National Commission was set up in 1993.
- It is a forum for appeal, set up by the Government to safeguard the rights and interests of India's minority communities.

## 5. Central Waqf Council

- It is a statutory body that was setup in 1964 as per the provision given in the Waqf Act, 1954.
- It acts as an advisory body to the Central Government on matters concerning the working of the Waqf Boards and Auqaf.
- The council consists of chairman and members not exceeding 20 in number.
- Union Minister in charge of Waqf is the ex-officio chairman of the council.

## 6. Durgah Khawaja Saheb Act, 1955

- It is an act to make provision for the proper administration of the Dargah and the Endowment of the Dargah of Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishty (Dargah Khwaja Saheb, Ajmer).
- **Mandate of the Dargah Committee** - To provide service to the public through development of infrastructure as per the provisions of Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955 and its Bye Laws of 1958.

## 7. Haj Pilgrimage

- Hajj refers to the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his/her lifetime.
- The hajj is the 5th of the fundamental Muslim practices and institutions known as the Five Pillars of Islam.
- Haj pilgrimage for the Indian Pilgrims is conducted either through
  - Haj Committee of India (HCoI), a statutory organization under the Ministry of Minority Affairs or through
  - Haj Group Organisers (HGOs)
- **e-MASIHA** (Medical Assistance System for Indian Hajis Abroad) is an online OPD System enabled to create and maintain health database of all Indian pilgrims who availed medical facilities during the Haj.

## 8. National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

- The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was incorporated in 1994, as a company not for profit, the Companies Act.
- It is a national level apex body for the benefit of minorities as defined under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992.
- **Mandate** - To provide concessional finance to minorities for self employment/ income generation activities.

## Reference

1. [PIB | Ministry of Minority Affairs](#)



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