



Recognition of Prior Learning Programme

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Why in News

The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** is conducting a **Special Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** programme for workers, with the **Department of Panchayati Raj (DoPR)**.

The programme, implemented under **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Programme** of MSDE, has been rolled out in **Varanasi** and **Chandauli**, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Key Points

- **RPL Programme:**
 - It aims to **promote decentralization and local governance for better planning and implementation** of skill development programmes.
 - It is being implemented by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
 - It **recognizes the value of learning** acquired outside a formal setting and provides a **government certificate** for an individual's skills.
 - Candidates receive **exposure to concepts of digital and financial literacy and accidental insurance coverage for three years** at free of cost.
 - **No fee is charged** from a candidate for participating in the RPL programme and every **successfully certified candidate receives Rs. 500**.
 - MSDE is supporting the **State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)** and **District Skill Committees (DSCs)** in the selection and onboarding of the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and facilitating the successful execution of the programme.
 - **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) along with MSDE is monitoring it** and are being supported by Directorate of Panchayati Raj, UP and the SSDM, UP.
 - This initiative is part of a larger programme on **'Skill Development Planning at the level of Gram Panchayat'** that focuses on introducing RPL in a structured manner in various gram panchayats across the country.

- **Significance:**
 - The inclusion of gram panchayats is **crucial for the success of District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs)** and will provide a huge **fillip to the Skill India Mission**.
 - RPL will **align the competencies of the pre-existing workforce** of the country to the standardized framework and will provide confidence, respect and recognition to the candidates.
 - Supporting formalization of the informal learning of youth will **supplement their efforts in finding sustainable livelihood opportunities** and **reduce inequalities** based on privileging certain forms of knowledge over others.
 - It will also **link them with work opportunities** emanating from the Gram panchayat's development work.
 - Down-streaming the skill development planning to the gram panchayat level would **contribute to decentralization**.

Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion

- It is an **outcome-oriented programme of MSDE** with a special focus on **decentralised planning and quality improvement**.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** which is collaborated with the **World Bank**.
- It aims to implement the mandate of the **National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)**.
- It contributes to the **development of rational and realistic state skill development plans**, leading to a well-grounded national plan for skill development.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Convergence:** Creating convergence among all skill training activities, both State-led and Government of India funded, at the state level.
 - **Quality:** Improving the quality of skill development programs through building a pool of quality trainers, developing model curriculum and content, and standardizing assessment and certification.
 - **Evaluation System:** Establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation system for skill training programs.
 - **Inclusiveness and Opportunity:** Providing access to skill training opportunities to the disadvantaged sections. Creating industry-led and demand-driven skill training capacity.

Source: PIB