



National Initiative for Promotion of Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN)

For Prelims: NIPUN, DAY-NRLM

For Mains: NIPUN initiative and its importance, Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

Recently, an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called '**NIPUN**' i.e. **National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman Workers** was launched.

- **NIPUN** is creating a **future labour force** for the construction industry which will propel **innovation** and **large-scale development** in the country.
- The construction sector is on track to become the **largest employer** by **2022**, and it will require **45 million more qualified workers** over the **next ten years**.

What is Project NIPUN?

- **About:**
 - The basic motive of the project is to **train over 1 lakh construction workers**, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes.
 - The project NIPUN is an initiative of the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
 - This project is running under the flagship programme of the [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission \(DAY-NULM\)](#)
 - The transformational impact of the **National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)** has reduced the **vulnerability of urban poor households** by providing **upskilling** and **employment opportunities** to urban dwellers, especially the youth.
- **Implementing Agency:**
 - **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
 - NSDC is the nodal agency and workers under the [Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship \(MSDE\)](#).
 - **NSDC** will be responsible for the overall execution of **training, monitoring and candidate tracking**.

How will the NIPUN Project be Implemented?

- The project implementation is divided into three parts:
 - [Training through Recognition of Prior Learning \(RPL\)](#) at construction sites.
 - Onsite skill training will be provided to approximately **80,000 construction workers through industry associations** under the **RPL certification**, co-branded with **MoHUA**.
 - **Training through Fresh Skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure Sector Skill**

Council (SSC).

- About **14,000 candidates** will receive fresh skilling through **plumbing and infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC)** in trades having promising placement potentials.
- **International Placement through industries/ builders/ contractors.**
 - The courses are aligned with the [National Skills Qualifications Framework \(NSQF\)](#).
 - It will be imparted at accredited and affiliated training centers only.
 - It is also envisaged that **NSDC** will place approximately **12,000 people** in foreign countries such as the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE** and other **GCC countries**.

What are the Benefits associated with the Project NIPUN?

- **Access to New Opportunity:**
 - **The NIPUN Project** will enable the construction workers to seek **better job opportunities**, increase their **wages** and even **pursue overseas placements**.
- **Spirit of Entrepreneurship:**
 - It has been encouraged and supported by giving **urban workers access to self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities**.
 - This initiative will enable **Nirman workers to be more proficient and skilled**.
- **Skill Advancement:**
 - **Nirman workers** can adopt **advanced skills** keeping in mind the **future trends** associated with the **construction industry** by upgrading their capabilities and diversifying their **skill sets**.
 - The Ministry also undertook **technology challenges** which led to implementation of [six Light House Projects](#) in a record time wherein technology and local material was used to construct **sustainable green buildings**.
- **Growth of Economy:**
 - Construction industry is a significant contributor to the **nation's GDP** so this scheme will catalyse the **GDP growth**.
- **Social Security:**
 - It will provide trainees with '**Kaushal Bima**', a **three-year accidental insurance** with coverage of **INR 2 lakhs, digital skills** such as **cashless transactions** and **EPF and BOCW facilities**.

Note

- [NIPUN Bharat Mission](#)
 - The Ministry of Education has launched a **National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)**, for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
 - It was launched in 2021 as part of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).

What do we Know about DAY-NRLM?

- **About:**
 - **DAY-NULM** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, being implemented since 2014-15.
 - Its aim is to **reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households** in the country by enabling them to **access self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities**.
 - **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in 2011**.
- **Aim:**
 - The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to **increase household income** through **sustainable livelihood and improved access to financial services**.

▪ **Salient Features:**

- **DAY-NRLM** lays special emphasis on targeting the **poorest of the poor and the** most vulnerable communities and their **financial inclusion**.
- Innovative projects are to be undertaken under **NRETP** to pilot alternate channels of financial inclusion, creating value chains around rural products, introduce innovative models in livelihoods promotion and access to finance and scale-up initiatives on digital finance and livelihoods interventions.
- **DAY-NRLM** provides for mutually beneficial working relationship and formal platforms for consultations between **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)**.
- **NRLM** has also developed activity map to facilitate convergence in different areas of interventions where **NRLM** institutions and **PRIs** could work together which has been disseminated to all state **Rural Livelihood Missions**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Q. How does the National Rural Livelihood Mission seek to improve livelihood options of rural poor? (2012)

1. By setting up a large number of new manufacturing industries and agribusiness centres in rural areas
2. By strengthening 'self-help groups' and providing skill development
3. By supplying seeds, fertilizers, diesel pump-sets and micro-irrigation equipment free of cost to farmers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

- The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. This scheme is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. The basic idea behind this programme is to organize the poor into SHGs (Self Help Groups) and make them capable for self employment.
- Pillars of NRLM:
 - Enhancing and expanding existing livelihood options of the poor.
 - Building skills for the job market outside.
 - Nurturing self-employed and entrepreneurs.
 - Hence, 2 is correct.
- The Mission neither focuses on setting up a large number of new manufacturing industries, nor agribusiness centres in rural areas. Its objective is not to supply seeds, fertilizers, diesel pump-sets and micro-irrigation equipment.
- **Hence, 1 and 3 are not correct.**
- **Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Source: PIB

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