



Formation of Transgender Support Unit

Why in News?

The Jharkhand government will establish a **special support unit** to address the issues and challenges faced by [transgender individuals](#).

- The decision was made at a meeting of the **Jharkhand Transgender Welfare Board**, led by the Chief Secretary.

Key Points

- **About:** The new unit will help transgender individuals with **obtaining identification**, benefiting from reservations, and accessing various government welfare schemes.
 - This initiative is part of the state government's broader efforts to promote the socio-economic development and dignity of the transgender community.
 - The transgender support unit formed under the Board will address related issues, propose solutions, and make comprehensive recommendations.
- **District-Level Committees:** District-level committees, led by Deputy Commissioners, will be set up to address local needs.
 - These committees will **assist in identifying transgender** individuals and ensuring they receive the necessary support.
- **Current Population:** The 2011 Census recorded 487,803 transgender individuals nationwide, with **13,463 living in Jharkhand**.
- **Statewide Survey:** A statewide survey will **assess the status of transgender individuals**, identify district-wise populations, and document their needs.
 - This will help the **government allocate resources efficiently**, implement welfare schemes, and foster inclusion in mainstream society.
- **Challenges:** Many transgender individuals are hesitant to disclose their identity, hindering access to identity cards, reservations, pension schemes, [Ayushman cards](#), dignity homes, and protection against discrimination.

Note: In **Bokaro**, the Deputy Commissioner launched an initiative to provide transgender individuals with identity cards, moving away from the term "Kinnar" and offering them a **distinct identity**.

Transgender

- **About:** According to [Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Act, 2019](#), a transgender person is someone whose gender identity does not align with the gender assigned at birth.
- **Part of LGBTQIA+:** Transgender individuals are part of the [LGBTQIA+](#) community, represented by the "T" in the acronym.
 - [LGBTQIA+](#) is an acronym that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual.
 - The "+" represents the many other identities that are still being explored and understood.
 - The acronym is constantly evolving and may include other terms like non-binary and pansexual.

- **Transgender Welfare Boards:** Transgender Welfare Boards in India are established under the provisions of the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**, and its associated [Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Rules, 2020](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/formation-of-transgender-support-unit).

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