



Rajasthan to Make State Elderly Friendly

Why in News?

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma reiterated the state government's commitment to **making Rajasthan an "elderly-friendly state"** during his address ahead of the **International Day of Older Persons**, which is observed annually on **1st October**.

Key Points

- **Initiatives by Rajasthan Government:**
 - **Honouring Contributions:** The Social Justice and Empowerment Department has launched **various welfare programs** for the elderly, and on 1st October, individuals and institutions contributing to elderly welfare will be honoured at the district level.
 - Rajasthan currently **operates 63 old-age homes** that provide food, healthcare, and shelter for destitute citizens.
 - Facilities like **Shravan Kumar Welfare Ashrams** offer medical support, adult education, religious activities, and recreation for senior citizens.
 - **Inclusive Welfare Projects:** All new welfare and infrastructure projects will include **provisions tailored for senior citizens**.
 - **Housing Schemes:** New housing developments will **feature ramps, supportive staircases, parks**, and medical facilities to cater to the needs of the elderly.
 - **Parents and Senior Citizens Maintenance Act, 2007:** The **Act** is being strictly enforced, and **tribunals have been set up** at both subdivision and district levels to safeguard the rights of senior citizens.
- **International Day of Older Persons: This day is celebrated to recognise the contributions made by older people and promote the need for inclusive and age-friendly societies.**
 - Designated by the **UN General Assembly** on **14th October, 1990**, it is based on the **Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982)** and the **UN Principles for Older Persons**.
- **Theme:** The 2025 theme, **"Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights"**, highlights the transformative role older persons play in building resilient and equitable societies.
- **Commitments & Global Framework:**
 - The **UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030)** aligns with **SDG 3** on Good Health and Well-being.
 - India formulated the **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) in 1999** and is a signatory to the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)**.
 - As of December 2023, India has **153 million** elderly individuals (aged 60 and above), projected to rise to **347 million by 2050**, accounting for **20.8% of the total population**.

