

Language and Gender discrimination

- In the quest for equal rights for all, the Supreme Court of India has taken an important step by releasing guidelines to take on harmful gender stereotypes that perpetuate inequalities.
 - Laying down a set of dos and don'ts for judicial decision-making and writing, the Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes helps judges identify language that promotes archaic and "incorrect ideas", about women in particular and offers alternative words and phrases
 - Pointing out that stereotypes "a set idea that people have about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong" lead to exclusion and discrimination, it identifies common presumptions about the way sexual harassment, assault, rape, and other violent crimes are viewed, skewed against women.
- provide an economic boost to these professionals.
 - Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech, the scheme, with an outlay of ₹13,000 crores, provides loans of up to a total of ₹3 lakh (in two tranches) at a concessional interest rate of 5%.
 - It covers individuals from 18 trades such as cobblers, toy makers, laundrymen, barbers, masons, and coir weavers.
 - The government expects about five lakh families to be covered in the first year and 30 lakh families to benefit from the scheme over five years.
 - But the scheme can help craftspeople and artisans only to the extent of freeing them from the difficulties they now face in accessing affordable credit from the formal banking system.
 - By far the biggest of these that traditional art and craft professionals face is either the lack of patronage for their goods and services in the wider marketplace or in the case of other trades, a skewed undervaluation of their economic output.
 - Crucially, the lack of access to formal credit may simply be a symptom rather than the cause of the

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The PM Vishwakarma scheme

- The PM Vishwakarma scheme approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday to help traditional craftspeople and artisans can

underlying problem these communities face.

- No government scheme can help these communities in the long run unless it helps them overcome the fundamental problem of a lack of economic viability for their output.
- More seriously, if the scheme fails to open up new markets and simply extends loans to these communities in the name of promoting their welfare, it runs the risk of leaving not only the intended beneficiaries but also their families deeper in debt.
- The Vishwakarma scheme includes skilling programs that offer a nominal stipend as well as financial help to purchase modern tools.

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Amendment to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969

- The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, of 1969 provides for the regulation and registration of births and deaths.
- The registration of births and deaths falls under the Concurrent List, giving powers to both Parliament and state legislatures to make laws on the subject.
- Key Features of the Bill
- Database of births and deaths: The Act provides for the appointment of

a Registrar-General, India who may issue general directions for registration of births and deaths.

- Electronic certificates
- Aadhaar details of parents and informants required:
- Connecting database: The Bill states that the national database may be made available to other authorities preparing or maintaining other databases
- Use of birth certificate: The Bill requires the use of birth and death certificates to prove the date and place of birth for persons born on or after this Bill comes into effect.
- Appeal process: Any person aggrieved by any action or order of the Registrar or District Registrar may appeal to the District Registrar or Chief Registrar, respectively.

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Bill may be violating the Constitution

Use of birth certificate

- The Bill requires the birth certificate of persons for certain purposes.
- This provision will be applicable to persons born after this Bill comes into effect.
- Certain purposes include (i) admission to an educational institution, (ii) preparation of voter lists, (iii) appointment to a

government post, (iv) registration of marriage, and (v) any other purpose determined by the central government. Some of these purposes are constitutional rights that citizens have, and making them conditional on a birth certificate may violate those rights.

- School admission: Denying admission to school to a child without a birth certificate may violate the fundamental right to education under Article 21A.
- Right to vote: Article 326 guarantees that every citizen above the age of 18 years has the right to vote.
- This right may be curtailed if a person is subject to certain disqualifications due to non-residence, being of unsound mind, or crime, corrupt, or illegal practice
- The Bill mandates the use of birth certificates in several cases, effectively establishing them as the sole conclusive proof to determine the age and place of birth for a person in all such cases.

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