

Odisha Pension Stoppage: National Social Assistance Programme Affected

Technical glitches in the SNA-SPARSH platform led to the stoppage of pensions for 20 lakh beneficiaries in Odisha.

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing social assistance benefits to the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Around **20 lakh** beneficiaries in **Odisha** faced pension stoppage from **April to June 2026**.
- The affected pensions are under the **Centre-aided National Social Assistance Programme**.
- The stoppage primarily impacted **old age, widowhood, and disability pensions**.
- **Technical glitches** in the **SNA-SPARSH platform** are cited as the main reason for the issue.
- Activists demanded a robust mechanism to protect **vulnerable sections of society**.
- The issue came to light after a woman reportedly ended her life in **Ganjam district**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** was launched on **August 15, 1995**.

NSAP is administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, with funding shared between the **Centre and States**.

NSAP includes **five sub-schemes**: **IGNOAPS, IGWPS, IGNDPS, NFBS, and Annapurna Scheme**.

The **Annapurna Scheme** provides **10 kg** of **free food grains** per month to eligible beneficiaries not covered under **IGNOAPS**.

The **SNA-SPARSH platform** is designed for seamless disbursement of **social security pensions**.

Article 41 of the **Indian Constitution** directs the State to make effective provision for **public assistance** in cases of old age, sickness, and disablement.

Article 46 promotes the educational and economic interests of the **weaker sections**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) provides social security pensions to vulnerable groups.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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