



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Initiative 'SMILE' launched to make cities, towns and municipal areas begging-free

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SMILE - Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise' initiative.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme on **February 12, 2022**.

The Initiative aims to make cities, towns and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.

On account of 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day, the ministry has launched the **SMILE-75** in 75 Municipal Corporations in the country.

The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on.

According to the **Census 2011** , total number of beggars in India is 4,13,670 and the number has increased from the last census.

**West Bengal** tops, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

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