'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp': Social Justice Ministry summit

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News

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment held a two-day Departmental Summit, 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp' ('Inclusive Policy Resolve'), on 18–19 November 2026 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The Prime Minister's Office said it is the third in the series of Departmental Summits envisioned by the Prime Minister to strengthen cooperative federalism and speed up outcomes through Centre–State collaboration; the first was the Jal Shakti Ministry's (September) and the second was on Women and Child Development (October). Political leaders and officials of States handling Social Justice and Empowerment and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities took part. The four themes: reimagining prevention and drug demand reduction for a Nasha Mukt Bharat; 'One Nation, One Scholarship Portal'; early intervention and reduction of the disability burden; and 'Sugamya Bharat for Viksit Bharat'. There were four breakout sessions and two full-house sessions; over 13,500 responses from more than 450 districts were reportedly built into the background notes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory session on 19 November.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Name	Samaveshi Niti Sankalp (Inclusive Policy Resolve)
Type	Departmental Summit – 3rd in the series

Point	Details
Organiser	Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Date, venue	18–19 Nov 2026, Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi
Earlier summits	1) Jal Shakti (Sep); 2) Women & Child Development (Oct)
Themes	Drug-demand reduction; scholarship portal; early disability intervention; Sugamya Bharat
Format	4 breakout + 2 full-house sessions
Secretary	Sudhansh Pant
Valedictory	19 Nov – chaired and addressed by the PM

Background

- Constitutional basis: the Preamble promises social, economic and political justice. Among the Directive Principles, Article 38 calls for a just social order and Article 47 for efforts to prohibit intoxicants injurious to health. 'Relief of the disabled and unemployable' is Entry 9 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule – so States play a big role in delivery, which is why Centre–State coordination summits matter.
- Disability rights: the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 gives effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD, 2006; ratified by India in 2007); replacing the 1995 Act, it recognises 21 types of disability. The Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) was launched on 3 December 2015 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities – to make buildings, transport and ICT accessible.
- Drug control: drug-law enforcement comes mainly under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985; the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), set up under it in 1986, works under the Union Home Ministry. Demand reduction – awareness and rehabilitation – runs through the Social Justice Ministry's 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' (2020).
- Scholarships: pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for SC, OBC and other weaker-section students are among the Ministry's major schemes. The theme 'One Nation, One Scholarship Portal' aims to make everything from application to direct benefit transfer simple on one digital platform. The summit's digital exhibition showcased the 'Samavesh' and 'e-Anudan' portals.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu is a pioneer of the social justice movement. In the Madras Presidency, the Justice Party government issued the first 'Communal G.O.' on 16 September 1921, laying the foundation of reservation policy. In September 2021 the then Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced in the Assembly that Periyar's birthday, 17 September, would be observed as 'Social Justice Day'. Tamil Nadu's 69% reservation law was placed in the Ninth Schedule by the 76th Amendment (1994). The State has a separate department for the welfare of differently abled persons.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment held a two-day Departmental Summit, 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp' ('Inclusive Policy Resolve'), on 18–19 November 2026 at Sushma Swaraj

Bhawan, New Delhi.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Name: Samaveshi Niti Sankalp (Inclusive Policy Resolve); Type: Departmental Summit – 3rd in the series; Organiser: Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; Date, venue: 18–19 Nov 2026, Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.

What is the background to this news?

Constitutional basis: the Preamble promises social, economic and political justice. Among the Directive Principles, Article 38 calls for a just social order and Article 47 for efforts to prohibit intoxicants injurious to health.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which year was the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) launched?

A) 2014

B) 2015

C) 2017

D) 2019

Answer: B – Explanation: 3 Dec 2015 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities. It aims to make buildings, transport and ICT accessible.

2. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 gives effect to which UN convention?

A) CEDAW

B) UNCRC

C) UNCAC

D) UNCRPD

Answer: D – Explanation: UNCRPD (2006; India ratified 2007). CEDAW – women; UNCRC – children; UNCAC – corruption. The 2016 Act replaced the 1995 Act.

3. 'Relief of the disabled and unemployable' is an entry in which list of the Seventh Schedule?

A) State List

B) Union List

C) Concurrent List

D) Residuary powers

Answer: A – Explanation: State List, Entry 9. States carry much of the delivery – hence the need for Centre–State coordination summits.

4. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India's nodal drug-law enforcement agency, works under which ministry?

A) Finance

B) Health

C) Home Affairs

D) Social Justice

Answer: C – Explanation: Ministry of Home Affairs; set up in 1986 under the NDPS Act, 1985. Demand reduction and rehabilitation lie with Social Justice.

5. The first 'Communal G.O.' (1921), the base of reservation in the Madras Presidency, was issued by which party's government?

A) Justice Party

B) Swaraj Party

C) Congress

D) Muslim League

Answer: A – Explanation: The Justice Party government – 16 Sep 1921. The Swaraj Party was founded in 1923 by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru.

Sources: PMO (valedictory, 19 Nov); PMO (curtain-raiser); The Hindu (Communal G.O. centenary, B. Kolappan); News On AIR; DEPwD; Deccan Herald. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.