NISD signs MoUs with 23 universities and institutions

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News

The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, exchanged memoranda of understanding with 23 universities and institutions at its campus in New Delhi. The 23 new MoUs take NISD's partnerships from 7 to 30. They cover prevention education, research, training and capacity building, curriculum development and outreach in drug-abuse prevention, senior-citizen welfare, transgender welfare and prevention of beggary. Partners include Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University, the Central Universities of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, NLU Jodhpur, AIIMS Jodhpur and CHRIST University. Union Minister Dr Virendra Kumar administered the 'Senior Citizen' and 'Anti-Drug' pledges; Secretary Sudhansh Pant stressed the role of educational institutions in drug prevention. PIB's full list of 23 has no Tamil Nadu institution; the IIPA Administrative Training Centre in neighbouring Puducherry is included. 15 institutions took part in person and 8 virtually.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Institute	National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi
Ministry	Social Justice and Empowerment
New MoUs	23; total now 30 (earlier 7)

Point	Details
Focus areas	Drug-abuse prevention, senior citizens, transgender welfare, prevention of beggary
Cooperation	Awareness, research, training, curriculum, outreach
Minister	Dr Virendra Kumar
Secretary	Sudhansh Pant
NISD Director	Gaurav Singh Rajawat

Background

- About NISD: It is the nodal training and research institute in the field of social defence, training personnel in drug-abuse prevention, senior-citizen welfare, prevention of beggary and transgender issues.
- History – Aligarh and Jamia: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College, forerunner of AMU (school opened 1875 Viceroy Lytton laid the college foundation stone on 8 January 1877); it became a university in 1920. Jamia Millia Islamia was born at Aligarh in 1920 during the Khilafat–Non-Cooperation movement, when teachers and students answered Gandhiji's call to boycott colonial institutions; Hakim Ajmal Khan was its first Chancellor and Mohamed Ali Jauhar its first Vice-Chancellor. It moved to Karol Bagh, Delhi, in 1925 and became a Central University by an Act of Parliament in 1988.
- Law – beggary: In August 2018 the Delhi High Court struck down, as unconstitutional, the provisions of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 (as extended to Delhi) that made begging an offence, saying the State must address the root causes of poverty. This shifts the focus from punishment to rehabilitation and skilling. In the Constitution, 'Vagrancy; nomadic and migratory tribes' is Entry 15 of the Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule).
- Why educational institutions?: As substance use often begins young, universities can act as hubs of prevention education, research and trained social workers. Rural-development and local-administration institutes carry the work down to village level.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act, 1945 (originally a Madras law). Following a Supreme Court order of 07.05.2025, a Bill amending it to remove provisions discriminating against persons affected by leprosy (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 2026) was introduced in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 24 January 2026. Tamil Nadu pioneered a Transgender Welfare Board on 15 April 2008. PIB's full list of 23 partners has no Tamil Nadu institution; the IIPA Administrative Training Centre in neighbouring Puducherry is on it.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, exchanged memoranda of understanding with 23 universities and institutions at its campus in New Delhi.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Institute: National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi; Ministry: Social Justice and Empowerment; New MoUs: 23; total now 30 (earlier 7); Focus areas: Drug-abuse prevention, senior citizens, transgender welfare, prevention of beggary.

What is the background to this news?

About NISD: It is the nodal training and research institute in the field of social defence, training personnel in drug-abuse prevention, senior-citizen welfare, prevention of beggary and transgender issues.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who founded the MAO College, forerunner of Aligarh Muslim University, one of NISD's new partners?

A) Maulana Azad

B) Mohamed Ali Jauhar

C) Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

D) Hakim Ajmal Khan

Answer: C – Explanation: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan – school in 1875; college foundation stone on 8.1.1877; it became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920.

2. Which court in 2018 struck down, for Delhi, the provisions of the Bombay Act (1959) that made begging a crime?

A) Delhi High Court

B) Supreme Court

C) Bombay High Court

D) Allahabad HC

Answer: A – Explanation: Delhi High Court (August 2018) – it called begging a symptom of poverty and said the State must tackle root causes.

3. Jamia Millia Islamia, an NISD partner, was founded at Aligarh in 1920 against the backdrop of which movement?

A) Khilafat–Non-Cooperation

B) Swadeshi movement

C) Home Rule movement

D) Quit India

Answer: A – Explanation: Khilafat–Non-Cooperation – a boycott of colonial institutions at Gandhiji's call; it moved to Delhi in 1925.

4. In which year was the anti-begging law in force in Tamil Nadu (originally a Madras law) enacted?

A) 1919

B) 1945

C) 1959

D) 1976

Answer: B – Explanation: 1945 – the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Begging Act (Act 13 of 1945). 1959 – the Bombay Act, later extended to Delhi.

5. 'Vagrancy; nomadic and migratory tribes' is an entry in which list of the Seventh Schedule?

A) Union List

B) State List

C) Residuary powers

D) Concurrent List

Answer: D – Explanation: Concurrent List (List III), Entry 15 – both Parliament and the State legislatures can make laws on it.