

United Nations Development Programme to Help Waste Segregation Workers Access Government Schemes

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What's in today's article:

- **About UNDP (Objective, Vision, Funding, etc.)**
- **News Summary (UNDP's Programme, Financial Inclusion of 'Safai Sathis', What is the need?)**

Why In News:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is **helping the people working in the waste segregation industry in India to move into formal economy**, by helping them access government welfare programmes.

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

- The UNDP is a United Nations agency tasked with **helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.**
- UNDP was established in 1966 by the General Assembly of the United Nations.
- UNDP's work is concentrated in **three focus areas** -
 - Sustainable development,
 - Democratic governance and peace building, and
 - Climate and disaster resilience.
- **Mission & Vision** -
 - UNDP's mandate is to end poverty, build democratic governance, rule of law, and inclusive institutions.
 - It advocates for change, and connect countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.
- **Funding** - It is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations.
- **Headquarters** - New York, USA

Reports published by UNDP:

- Human Development Index
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Gender Inequality Index

News Summary:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is helping the people working in the waste segregation industry in India to move into formal economy, by helping them access government welfare programmes.
- As part of the initiative, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General **Usha Rao-Monari** would distribute the '**Jan Dhan' account kits** to waste segregation workers during her first visit to the country, on December 1.
- The opening of the '**Jan Dhan' accounts** has been facilitated through the UNDP's **plastic waste management programme.**
- The waste management promotes the collection, segregation, and recycling of all plastics to move towards a circular economy for the same.
- This is done at '**Swachhta Kendra**' or material recovery facilities.
 - The plastic collected and processed so far has already crossed 1,38,000 metric tonnes.

Financial Inclusion of 'Safai Sathis':

- The programme run by UNDP aims to ensure the well-being and financial inclusion of the '**Safai Sathis**' or waste-pickers, by linking them to the social protection schemes.

- According to the UN agency, a **key objective of the programme is to help move the sector from informal to formal.**
- The UNDP aims to do this by linking them to social protection schemes like the **`Jan Dhan' accounts, Aadhar cards, `Ayushman Bharat', pension schemes,** and scholarships for children, among others.

Why financial inclusion is the need of the hour?

- A baseline survey done by the UNDP earlier shows that the 'Safai Sathis' are employed mainly on the margins of the urban informal sector.
- Their low income and job security are compounded by the fact that nearly 70% come from socially- backward groups and over 60% have no formal education.
- More than 90% workers reported owning an Aadhar card but only a tiny subset have an income, caste, or occupation certificate.
- This **thwarts any attempts at formalising their work and limits their access to government social security schemes.**
- Less than 5% of those surveyed had any health insurance, indicating very high degrees of health-shock vulnerabilities.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/united-nations-development-programme-to-help-waste-segregation-workers-access-government-schemes/>

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