



Government of India
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Economic Inclusion Division

**Model Guidelines on Care, Rehabilitation, and
Management of Beggar/Shelter Homes in compliance
with Hon'ble Supreme Court directions**

March 2026

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MESSAGE

Beggary continues to pose serious social and humanitarian challenges, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. It is seldom a matter of choice; rather, it is often a manifestation of deep-rooted socio-economic vulnerabilities such as poverty, social exclusion, ill-health, family disintegration and limited access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. Addressing these underlying factors requires a coordinated and sustainable approach that prioritizes comprehensive rehabilitation, social protection and long-term social reintegration.

2. In order to address the socio-economic vulnerabilities of individuals engaged in the act of begging in alignment with the vision of 'Bhiksha Vritti Mukta Bharat', the Government is implementing the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme, including the sub-scheme "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging," to rehabilitate and reintegrate persons engaged in begging through holistic support and livelihood opportunities.

3. In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions to ensure humane, dignified and hygienic living conditions nationwide, these 'Model Guidelines' have been developed through extensive consultations to provide States and Union Territories a uniform and effective framework for transforming beggar homes. These model guidelines aim to strengthen rehabilitation mechanisms and promoting dignified, self-reliant living for affected individuals.


(Dr. Virendra Kumar)

बी. एल. वर्मा

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण एवं
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MESSAGE

Beggary remains a complex socio-economic issue, particularly in urban and semi-urban contexts, reflecting ingrained vulnerabilities such as poverty, exclusion, ill health and lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities. Addressing this requires a holistic and sustained approach that recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of the problem and prioritizes comprehensive rehabilitation, social protection and long-term reintegration into mainstream society.

The Government of India is committed to realizing the vision of a **"BhikshaVrittiMukt Bharat"** aligned with the broader objective of Viksit Bharat by 2047. In furtherance of this vision, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing the SMILE-Beggary Scheme "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Individuals Engaged in the Act of Begging." The scheme adopts an integrated framework, providing essential services such as shelter, food, clothing, healthcare, counselling, skill development and employment linkages, along with opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, thereby promoting dignity and socio-economic empowerment.

In line with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to ensure humane and dignified conditions in beggar homes across the country, it is imperative that States and Union Territories take concerted steps to standardize and transform these beggar homes. I urge all States and Union Territories to adopt and operationalize these 'Model Guidelines' in both letter and spirit, with a view to improving standards of care, safeguarding dignity and enabling pathways toward self-reliance and inclusive development.

(B. L. Verma)

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Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment

Message

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Sub-scheme "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging" in 181 cities across 34 States and Union Territories, aiming to promote self-reliance, dignity, and social inclusion among affected individuals.

2. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been entrusted with the responsibility of framing and notifying Model Guidelines to ensure uniform implementation of measures relating to the welfare, rehabilitation and dignified treatment of individuals engaged in the act of beggary across all States and Union Territories. In this regard, a National Consultative Committee comprising representatives from Central Ministries/ Departments, State/UT Governments and civil society, was constituted to finalise these guidelines through extensive consultations.

3. The Guidelines focus on preventive healthcare and sanitation, infrastructure and capacity building, nutrition and food safety, vocational training and rehabilitation, legal aid and awareness, child- and gender-sensitive measures, along with robust mechanisms for accountability and timely compliance. I urge the States and Union Territories to adopt these Model Guidelines to ensure a humane, rights-based and coordinated approach for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of affected individuals, in full alignment with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

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Model Guidelines for States/UTs on Care, Rehabilitation, and Management of Beggar/Shelter Homes in compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court directions

INTRODUCTION

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 12th September 2025 in *Civil Appeal No. 12216/2025 (M.S. Patter v. State of NCT of Delhi & Ors.)*, has mandated ensuring humane, dignified and hygienic living conditions of Beggar/Shelter Homes across the country. The Court has further directed that comprehensive and uniform Model Guidelines be framed and implemented to standardise facilities, services, rehabilitation processes and monitoring mechanisms in all such Beggar/Shelter Homes.

These Model Guidelines have accordingly been developed to support all States and Union Territories in standardising and strengthening the care, rehabilitation, and management of Beggar/Shelter Homes. They seek to ensure humane, dignified, and hygienic living conditions for all residents while aligning service delivery with ongoing Central and State social protection schemes, and facilitate the uniform and sustainable implementation of the Supreme Court's directions nationwide.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To establish a uniform framework for minimum standards relating to infrastructure, safety, food, rehabilitation, and reintegration of individuals engaged in the act of begging.
- ii. To foster convergence among departments (Social Welfare, Health, Law, Police, Education, Skilling, Housing & Urban Affairs, Women and Child Development, etc).
- iii. Strengthen accountability, grievance redressal, and digital record management.
- iv. To promote social reintegration through skill development, livelihood generation, and psychosocial support.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Dignity & Rights:** Residents are vulnerable citizens and not criminals who are entitled to the full protection of their lives and dignity.
2. **Restorative Approach:** Beggar/Shelter Homes are to function as centres of rescue/shelter homes, rehabilitation centres, and reintegration, not as detention facilities.

3. **Uniform Standards:** All States/UTs shall adopt minimum service benchmarks in health, food, sanitation, psychological interventions including counselling, family reunion and vocational training.

In alignment with the above objectives and guiding principles, the following mandatory standards and directions are laid down for uniform implementation across all States/UTs:

1. PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE AND SANITATION

1.1 Medical Screening and Primary Care

- a. States/UTs shall ensure that each Beggar/Shelter Home engages a qualified Medical Officer to conduct medical screening and psychiatric assessment of every rescued person within 24 hours of admission.
- b. States/UTs through Health Department and Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall liaise with nearby Government health facility staff to facilitate the following:
 - i. Initial screening and health profiling.
 - ii. Illness management including provision of medicines, diagnostics, etc.
 - iii. Mandatory pregnancy test for women of child-bearing age with proper record.
 - iv. Monthly medical check-ups/psychiatric assessment and tele-consultations.
 - v. Timely referrals in case of emergencies or chronic illness.
 - vi. Display of ambulance helpline number and other medical emergency contact numbers.
- c. States/UTs shall ensure regular check-ups of all residents with physical or mental health conditions or addiction, including the elderly, disabled, and chronically ill persons and shall liaise with existing health facilities for specialized care and follow-up support.
- d. A qualified nurse (*Minimum Qualification- General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) from a recognized institution*) shall be associated with the

Beggar/Shelter Home to ensure the health care services, including health screening, treatment, vaccination, nursing care etc.

1.2 Linkages with Government Health Services

- a. Each Beggar/Shelter Home shall be formally linked with a nearby Government Hospital/Community Health Centre (CHC)/Primary Health Centre (PHC)/Health and Wellness Centre (HWC) for preventive and curative health services.
- b. Beneficiaries shall be facilitated with enrolment under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), National Health Mission (NHM), or other State health schemes upon completion of the required documentation.
- c. Health services available under the National Health Mission and the Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), as well as those provided by Government or Government-empanelled/authorized health service centres, shall be utilized to ensure continuity of care.
- d. Periodic health camps shall be organised for screening, counselling, and awareness.

1.3 Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- a. States/UTs, through the Health Department, shall ensure disease surveillance and establish early warning systems in each Beggar/Shelter Home for the timely detection and reporting of communicable and waterborne diseases.
- b. The District Health Authority shall ensure effective coordination for outbreak reporting, testing, and implementation of necessary containment measures.
- c. Periodic training shall be conducted for caregivers, social workers, and nurses on infection prevention and control.

1.4 Referral and Specialized Care

- a. Referral mechanisms shall be established with Government or Government-empanelled/authorised health centres, including mental health institutions and

de-addiction centres, to provide advanced care, hospitalisation, or rehabilitation.

- b. Psychological counselling and de-addiction support shall be made available through Government and Government-empanelled/authorised de-addiction and health facilities, including mental health programs.
- c. For cases of terminal illness, referral mechanism shall be established with Government or Government-empanelled/authorised higher health facilities to provide palliative care.

1.5 Hygiene and Sanitation Standards

States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall ensure compliance while leveraging the existing concerned Government schemes as per minimum standards mentioned below:

- i. Availability of potable drinking water and clean surroundings.
- ii. Functional toilets with separate facilities for males, females, Transgender and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), connected to proper drainage systems.
- iii. Menstrual hygiene management (including sanitary napkin supply under State/Central schemes).
- iv. Hygienic and clean bedding should be provided for the residents.
- v. Regular cleaning, pest control and vector management measures.
- vi. Display of health, hygiene, and nutrition messages within the premises.
- vii. Mandatory health screening at admission and periodic check-ups thereafter.
- viii. Provision of personal hygiene kit (*bathing soap, washing soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, towel, shampoo, oil, nail cutter, sanitary pad in case of woman*), 2 sets of clothes, bedsheets, blankets, etc. at the time of admission.
- ix. Laundry Schedule – Clothes to be washed at least twice weekly; bedsheets and pillow cover once weekly; immediate washing of soiled items; separate washing protocol for residents with contagious skin infections.

- x. Hygiene Awareness – Weekly personal hygiene education and display of IEC materials.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY

2.1 Minimum Space Standards

- a. Each resident shall be provided with a minimum floor area/space/bed per individual as prescribed under the respective Urban Local Body (ULB), State, or UT regulations. The Implementing Agency (IA)/Department operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall keep accurate occupancy records.
- b. An occupancy register shall be maintained and coordinated with the Urban Local Body (ULB) and District Administration to divert additional rescued persons to nearby Shelters/Short Stay Homes managed under the existing State/UT schemes to prevent overcrowding.
- c. Occupancy must never exceed the approved capacity in line with State/UT norms.
- d. A separate isolation room shall be provided for residents requiring temporary separation due to contagious illness.
- e. A recreational space with reading materials, indoor games, yoga, and group activities shall be provided.
- f. For the visually impaired, specially-abled persons and the elderly, facilities such as tactile walking guide tiles, handrails, ramps with stairs, and, wherever feasible, Braille-enabled indicators must be provided.
- g. All shelter home staff shall undergo mandatory training on human rights, social defence, mental health, first aid, and rehabilitation approaches.
- h. All emergency contact details shall be prominently displayed at the entrance/front area of the premises.
- i. These facilities shall be supported through existing State/UT schemes.

2.2 Infrastructure Audit, Safety, and Security

- a. Every Beggar/Shelter Home shall undergo a third-party infrastructure & social audit at least once every two years, covering structural safety, disability and age-friendliness, electrical systems, sanitation, water supply, safety and security of residents.
- b. The District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) shall follow-up to ensure rectification of deficiencies.
- c. Fire-safety certification, evacuation drills, and staff training shall be provided by the State Fire Services as per the existing rule. The District/Station Fire Officer shall conduct inspections and refresher training.
- d. CCTV cameras shall be installed in common areas to ensure resident safety. Footage shall be retained for a minimum of 30 days, and States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA) or Department operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes regularly monitors and maintains their functioning.

2.3 Water Supply, Cleanliness, Ventilation, and Waste Management

- a. Availability of water connection from relevant Urban Local Body (ULB)/Municipal Corporation for provision of safe drinking water.
- b. The Urban Local Body (ULB)/Municipal Corporation shall ensure an uninterrupted supply of potable water. The quality of both groundwater and supplied water shall be tested periodically, and water storage tanks shall be cleaned at regular intervals.
- c. The Urban Local Body (ULB)/Municipal Corporation shall ensure the provision of regular sanitation services, including cleaning of toilets, maintenance of cleanliness in the surrounding premises, and supply of necessary sanitation materials. The Implementing Agency (IA) or the Department responsible for maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall maintain a daily cleaning register to record sanitation activities.
- d. Waste management shall be carried out in accordance with the norms of the Swachh Bharat Mission, ensuring segregation of wet, dry, and hazardous waste. The Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) shall conduct regular waste collection, while the Implementing Agency (IA) or the Department responsible for

maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall ensure and document compliance with these provisions.

- e. All living and service areas shall be kept clean, well-maintained, adequately lit, and provided with proper natural lighting and ventilation. Repair and upgradation support shall be ensured through the Public Works Department (Civil/Electrical). States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA) or the Department responsible for maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes coordinates with the Urban Local Body (ULB) and other line departments to promptly address ventilation issues and ensure that open spaces remain safe and usable.

2.4 Prevention of Communicable Diseases

- a. States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall implement disease-control measures, including isolation of symptomatic residents and immediate medical screening, in coordination with the District Health Department, Chief Medical Officer, and District Surveillance Officer (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme).
- b. Regular sanitisation, vector control, and disinfection shall be carried out through convergence with the Urban Local Body (ULB) under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)- Urban, utilizing municipal sanitation staff.

3. NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY

3.1 Standardised Dietary Protocols

- a. Every Beggar/Shelter Home shall engage or designate a qualified dietician, preferably from a Government hospital associated with the Beggar/Shelter home, to regularly verify the quality and nutritional standards of the food served to residents.
- b. Homes shall follow standardised dietary protocols in alignment with applicable National/ State guidelines to ensure safety, hygiene, and nutritional adequacy.

3.2 Special Nutrition for Vulnerable Groups and Provision of Balanced Meals

- a. Special diets shall be provided to pregnant and lactating women, children, elderly persons, TB patients, persons with diabetes and chronic illnesses, and those with disabilities, through convergence with relevant schemes.

States/UTs shall ensure convergence with all the existing schemes carried out by Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs/ Department of Women and Child Development/ Department of Health and Family Welfare/ Department of Social Welfare.

- b. Residents shall be provided balanced meals daily, adhering to nutrition standards and utilizing locally available, nutritious food. Effective coordination with the Food & Civil Supplies Departments and convergence with the Public Distribution System (PDS) shall ensure an uninterrupted supply of food grains and essential staples, in accordance with the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

3.3 Kitchen Management and Food Distribution

- a. Each Home shall prominently display a weekly food menu and mealtime schedule in all common areas. Menus must strictly adhere to guidelines approved by a qualified Dietitian and should reflect seasonal variety, cultural diversity, and cost-effectiveness in food selection.
- b. A Kitchen-in-Charge shall be designated to supervise:
 - Food preparation and hygiene practices
 - Distribution of meals, ensuring no discrimination
 - Maintenance of kitchen stock registers and food quality logs
- c. States/UTs shall mandate that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall ensure strict supervision of all food supplies especially vegetables, and report any deficiencies immediately.

The Medical officer/ Nursing officer/ Dietician shall check the raw and cooked food quality, hygiene once in a week without any prior notice. The findings of these inspections shall be recorded in the inspection register.

4. VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REHABILITATION

4.1 Establishment and Strengthening of Vocational Training Facilities

- a. All Beggar/Shelter Homes shall establish or strengthen vocational training facilities to promote structured skill development, certification, and economic self-reliance for every resident.
- b. States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes is encouraged to tie up with Government department that carry out skilling activities, functional literacy as well as tie up with local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) etc. for livelihood opportunities.

4.2 Convergence with existing Government schemes/Training partners

- a. States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes establish convergence with various skilling initiatives & institutions of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), other Skilling & Livelihood Programmes of the other Central Ministries like MoRD (NRLM), MoHUA and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partners for providing trainers, equipment, and market-linked skills.
- b. States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall partner with accredited Government training agencies, NGOs, Industry through CSR and other skilling & livelihood institutions to offer diverse and any other market-driven training opportunities.

4.3 Monitoring, Certification, Placement and Reintegration

- a. States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall maintain comprehensive records of training participation, certification, placements, and Self-employment. Periodic assessments shall track training relevance, certification outcomes, livelihood progress, and reintegration of released residents into society. The Skill India Digital Hub shall also be leveraged for training life cycle management & certification.

- b. States/UTs shall ensure that the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall undertake family tracing and home restoration efforts for rescued persons with support of Women and Child Development Department (WCD)/Local Agencies/Civil Society/District Administration/ Police and SMILE-supported NGOs, ensuring safe reintegration.

5. LEGAL AID AND AWARENESS

5.1 Right to Legal Information and Assistance: All residents of Beggar/Shelter Homes shall be informed, in a language and manner they understand, of their legal rights under the Constitution of India, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and other applicable laws, including their right to free legal aid and access to legal remedies.

5.2 Periodic Legal Aid Visits: The State Government, in coordination with the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), shall ensure that panel lawyers and para-legal volunteers (PLVs) visit every Beggar/Shelter Home at least once each month to provide free legal assistance and maintain a Legal Aid Register recording the assistance rendered and follow-up action taken.

5.3 Legal Awareness and Literacy Sessions: During such visits, legal literacy sessions shall be organized to inform residents of their legal rights and entitlements. These sessions shall be conducted in accessible formats and local languages to ensure inclusivity, clarity, and meaningful participation.

5.4 Special Provisions for Vulnerable Groups within Beggar/Shelter Homes: Residents belonging to vulnerable groups, including transgender persons and senior citizens, shall receive targeted legal awareness and assistance in accordance with the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

5.5 Display of Information: Each Beggar/Shelter Home shall prominently display, in Hindi, English, and other applicable regional languages, information boards indicating the contact details of the nearest DLSA and Legal Aid Helpline, along with the dates of the next scheduled panel lawyer visits.

6. CHILD AND GENDER SENSITIVITY

6.1 Separate Facilities for Women and Children

- a. States/UTs shall ensure that separate facilities for women and children are provided to ensure privacy, safety, and access to child care, education, and counselling. However, in the case of a family consisting of parents and children, effort should be made as far as possible, to provide them shelter as a unit in the same facility.
- b. Separate secure toilets and bathing facilities must be provided, along with adequate access to sanitary products for women.
- c. As far as possible, women should be provided shelter in designated Women's Homes.
- d. Provision of specialised care for pregnancy, lactation, and dedicated counselling services.
- e. A female shelter home should have a female caretaker.
- f. Where women and men are accommodated within the same building, women's living areas must have adequate partitioning and lockable doors for privacy and safety.
- g. Safety and Protection Measures for Women should include proper lighting, CCTV coverage in common areas, controlled entry/exit points, and deployment of female security personnel.
- h. Shelter homes with female residents must constitute an Internal Committee on Sexual Harassment.

6.2 Childcare Services and Nutritional Support

- a. Nutritious meals for women and children shall be ensured through convergence with relevant schemes such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

- b. A trained childcare worker/qualified social worker shall be positioned in the Home to provide counselling and psychosocial support. The social worker must make every effort to trace the family and counsel both family members as well as the resident.

6.3 Protocol for Children Found Begging (Juvenile Justice Act Compliance)

- a. Children found begging shall not be detained in Beggar/Shelter Homes meant for adults. Such children must be rescued by the authorised personnel and produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 24 hours, as mandated by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- b. Orphan children engaged in begging should be incorporated into Child Care Institutions (CCIs) of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). Shelter home shall reach out to CCIs and ensure all the formalities are done for a smooth transition of the orphan into CCIs.
- c. Cases involving forced or organised child begging must be referred to Anti-human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and Police as per the provisions of the JJ Act, 2015.

6.4 Education and Rehabilitation Support for Children

States/UTs shall ensure the Implementing Agency (IA)/Department maintaining or operating the Beggar/Shelter Homes shall facilitate education for children engaged in the act of begging by registering and enrolling them in nearby schools as per the provisions under the RTE Act. They shall take the following steps to provide holistic education to children.

- i. Linkage with Government-run educational institutions for providing education to children engaged in the act of begging and the children of persons engaged in the act of begging.
- ii. Shelter homes shall reach out to the nearby Government and low-cost private schools and admit children under the Right to Education, where all expenses of books, uniforms, school activities, etc., shall be taken care of under relevant provisions of the RTE Act.
- iii. Rehabilitation of rescued child beggars shall be undertaken under Mission Vatsalya, encompassing education through Samagra Shiksha/RTE, nutrition

under Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, counselling, health care, family tracing, sponsorship, foster care, and adoption for orphaned/abandoned children.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

7.1 State/Union Territory Monitoring Committee and Oversight Functions

a. Every State/UT shall constitute a Monitoring Committee at the State/UT level, comprising representatives from various Government Departments such as Social Welfare/Social Justice, Home Affairs, Housing and Urban Affairs, Women and Child Department, Health and Family Welfare, Education, Local Level Authorities like Corporations/Municipalities, and Civil societies, etc. The Monitoring Committee shall perform the following core functions:

- i. Prepare and publish an annual status report on all Beggar/Shelter Homes operating in the State/UT.
 - ii. The report shall cover physical infrastructure, hygiene and sanitation conditions, staffing adequacy (medical, security, administrative), medical care, availability and quality of food.
- b. The Committee shall audit these records at least every quarter and provide remedial action and follow-up on identified deficiencies (e.g. poor hygiene, inadequate medical attention).
- c. Reports shall be uploaded on official Government websites to ensure transparency, wider reporting, and public awareness.

7.2 States/UTs shall define timelines and criteria for stay at Beggar/Shelter Homes.

7.3 States/UTs shall institutionalise a 'Begging-Free City'(BFC) Performance Incentive.

7.4 A District Level Monitoring Committee shall oversee Beggar/Shelter Homes and monitor key aspects including infrastructure, sanitation, staffing, health care, documentation, legal aid, training and reintegration. The Committee shall comprise the District Collector, representatives of District Social Welfare Department, DLSA, WCD, Police, Health, Education, local bodies, NGOs and shall meet once in every

two months and submit a four-monthly physical audit report to the State Level Monitoring Committee.

7.5 Compensation, Accountability:

- a. The Monitoring Committee shall inquire only into cases of untimely or unnatural death occurring in the shelter home, determine the cause of death, assess any negligence or omission, and submit a reasoned recommendation to the State/UT Government regarding eligibility for compensation as per prescribed norms.
- b. In cases where an unnatural death is established and compensation is found admissible under the applicable State/UT norms, the State/UT Government shall bear the responsibility of paying such compensation, in accordance with service rules, contract conditions, and applicable law.
- c. In case of death of resident:
 - i. the body should be handled with dignity and privacy.
 - ii. No body should be disposed of without following due legal procedures.
 - iii. If unclaimed or abandoned, the home shall coordinate with municipal authorities/authorized NGOs for dignified cremation or burial.
 - iv. Photograph and identification note must be preserved for future reference.

8. IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

8.1 Establishment and Management of Digital Monitoring System

- a. States/UTs shall put in place a mechanism for a Digital Monitoring System for capturing information regarding admission of rescued persons/residents, their health status, training, rehabilitation, release, follow-up and reunion details using standardised formats to ensure accurate monitoring.
- b. States/UTs shall integrate the Digital Monitoring System with health, skill development, and rehabilitation services for seamless tracking of service delivery.
- c. Data privacy shall be ensured by the State/UT through secure storage systems, controlled access, and confidentiality protocols.
- d. States/UTs shall maintain and update the Digital Monitoring System, issue SOPs, enforce compliance, conduct routine data audits, and use dashboards for continuous monitoring and evaluation.

8.2 States/UTs shall establish a grievance redressal system for residents including helpline and complaint boxes.

9. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The above directions will be implemented within six months from the date of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement.

10. CONVERGENCE WITH CENTRAL AND STATE/UT GOVERNMENTS SCHEMES FOR HOLISTIC IMPLEMENTATION

Thrust shall be given to convergence with relevant schemes of Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs for the effective implementation of these Guidelines. This shall include schemes such as PM AJAY and PM-DAKSH schemes of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment; National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) scheme of Ministry of Rural Development; Mission Vatsalya, Shakti Sadan, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development; Annapurna scheme/Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) under NFSA of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Samagra Shiksha scheme of Ministry of Education; National Health Mission and PM Jan Arogya Yojana of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and similar schemes of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, etc.

Further, similar schemes implemented by State and Union Territory Governments may also be converged to ensure holistic implementation of these Guidelines in line with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

11.EFFECTIVE DATE

These Guidelines shall come into effect upon notification by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
