NAVYA 2.0: The Second Leg of Skilling for Girls, Now in 100 Districts

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Prelims: Skill development, women and government initiatives



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Why in News

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will jointly launch **NAVYA 2.0** on 28 November 2026 at the Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy Auditorium, Haridwar. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Annpurna Devi and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Jayant Chaudhary will grace the programme, along with Uttarakhand ministers and other dignitaries. The event will also see the inauguration of **Saksham Anganwadi Centres** and new Anganwadi Centres built under PM JANMAN in Uttarakhand, and the distribution of certificates to candidates trained under PMKVY.

Introduction

NAVYA stands for *Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Women and Adolescent Girls*. It is a **joint initiative** of MWCD and MSDE that brings together the strengths of the women-and-child-development and skill-development ecosystems. Its founding idea is that empowerment goes beyond training — it means nurturing aspirations, building confidence, developing capabilities and enabling informed choices about the future.

The Pilot Phase: The Sonbhadra Experience

- **Launch:** The pilot began on **24 June 2025** in **Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh**, with an envisaged coverage of **27 Aspirational Districts across 19 States**. An Aspirational District is one that lags on key development indicators and receives focused support.
- **Training:** About **1,200 adolescent girls** were trained in industry-relevant roles such as **Drone Manufacturing and Assembly Technician**, **Solar PV Installation Helper** and **Fashion Designer**.
- **Beyond skills:** The initiative also emphasised digital and financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship, to strengthen confidence and socio-economic independence.

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What is New in NAVYA 2.0

- **Expansion:** The initiative will now reach **100 districts across 24 States/UTs**, with a particular focus on aspirational and hard-to-reach areas.
- **Wider age band:** The eligible age group has been widened from **16-18 years to 16-25 years**, bringing a larger cohort of adolescent girls and young women within its ambit.
- **Training direction:** Greater access to vocational training in industry-relevant, new-age and non-traditional job roles, with stronger pathways to employment, **apprenticeships** (earning while learning on the job) and entrepreneurship.
- **Implementation architecture:** Emphasis on institutional **convergence** (departments working in coordination towards one goal), coordinated district-level implementation and outcome-oriented support; a structured **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** has been introduced for effective district-level coordination.

Technology-Enabled Implementation: Skill India Digital Hub

- **SIDH** (Skill India Digital Hub) will serve as the initiative's digital platform, supporting candidates from enrolment to training and certification.
- **Real-time tracking** of beneficiary registration, attendance, training progress and certification will strengthen transparency and accountability.
- **Digitally verifiable credentials** will help candidates demonstrate their skills to employers.

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Way Forward

NAVYA 2.0's success will rest on district-level execution — training quality in aspirational and hard-to-reach areas, real linkage to jobs and apprenticeships, and convergence as laid down in the SOP. The initiative promises to turn aspirations into opportunities and opportunities into empowerment under the banner of women-led development; outcome monitoring will show how much of that promise is kept.

Prelims Practice Question

Q1. With reference to the 'NAVYA' initiative, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Its pilot phase was launched in June 2025 from Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh

Statement 2: Under NAVYA 2.0, the eligible age group has been widened from 16-18 years to 16-25 years

Statement 3: It is a scheme run solely by the Ministry of Women and Child Development

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

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▼ **Answer and explanation**

Correct answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is correct: the pilot phase began on 24 June 2025 in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, covering 27 Aspirational Districts across 19 States.

Statement 2 is correct: NAVYA 2.0 widens the eligible age group from 16-18 years to 16-25 years.

Statement 3 is incorrect: NAVYA is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1. How will enrolment and certification work in NAVYA 2.0?

Through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) — the entire journey from enrolment to training and certification will be digital, and candidates will receive digitally verifiable credentials.

Q2. What job roles were covered in NAVYA's pilot phase?

In the pilot (June 2025, Sonbhadra), about 1,200 adolescent girls were trained in industry-relevant roles such as Drone Manufacturing and Assembly Technician, Solar PV Installation Helper and Fashion Designer, alongside digital-financial literacy and career readiness.

Q3. What is NAVYA 2.0's target coverage?

100 districts across 24 States/UTs, with special focus on aspirational and hard-to-reach areas; the eligible age group is now 16-25 years.

Sources

1. Press release: MWCD and MSDE to jointly launch NAVYA 2.0 in Haridwar on 28 November 2026 — https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2342417&lang=1&reg=3

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