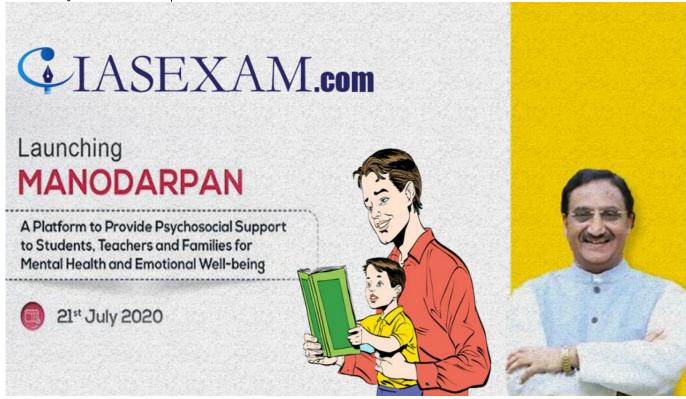
Manodarpan Initiative launched by the Education Ministry

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Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal □Nishank' on Tuesday launched the MANODARPAN initiative to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being.

As part of MANODARPAN initiative, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal [Nishank] launched a National Toll-free Helpline (8448440632), a special web page of MANODARPAN on the portal of HRD Ministry, and a Handbook on MANODARPAN.

Key Highlights

- Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that COVID-19 is understandably a challenging
 time for everyone around the world. This Global pandemic is not only serious medical concern
 but also brings mixed emotions and psycho-social stress for all. With specific focus on children
 and adolescents, there are emerging mental health concerns that are often reported in such
 situations.
- Children and adolescents may be more vulnerable and may experience a heightened level of stress, anxiety and fearfulness, along with a range of other emotional and behavioral issues.
- Pokhriyal informed that the HRD Ministry has felt that while it is important to focus on continuing education on the academic front, the mental well-being of the students also needs to be given equal importance. So, the Ministry has taken an initiative, named MANODARPAN covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- He further informed that a Working Group, having experts from the fields of education, mental health and psychosocial issues as its members, has been set up to monitor and promote the

- mental health issues and concerns of students and to facilitate providing of support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during and after COVID-19 lockdown, through counselling services, online resources and helpline.
- Minister of State for HRD, Sanjay Dhotre also graced the occasion. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Amit Khare; Secretary, School Education and Literacy Anita Karwal and senior officials of the Ministry were present on the occasion. Anita Karwal made a detailed presentation about the initiative at the event.

SOURCE: The Statesman, Livemint