



सत्यमेव जयते

Compendium of Schemes for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities-2019



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Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
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Diya Kala Shakti 'Witnessing Ability in Disability'



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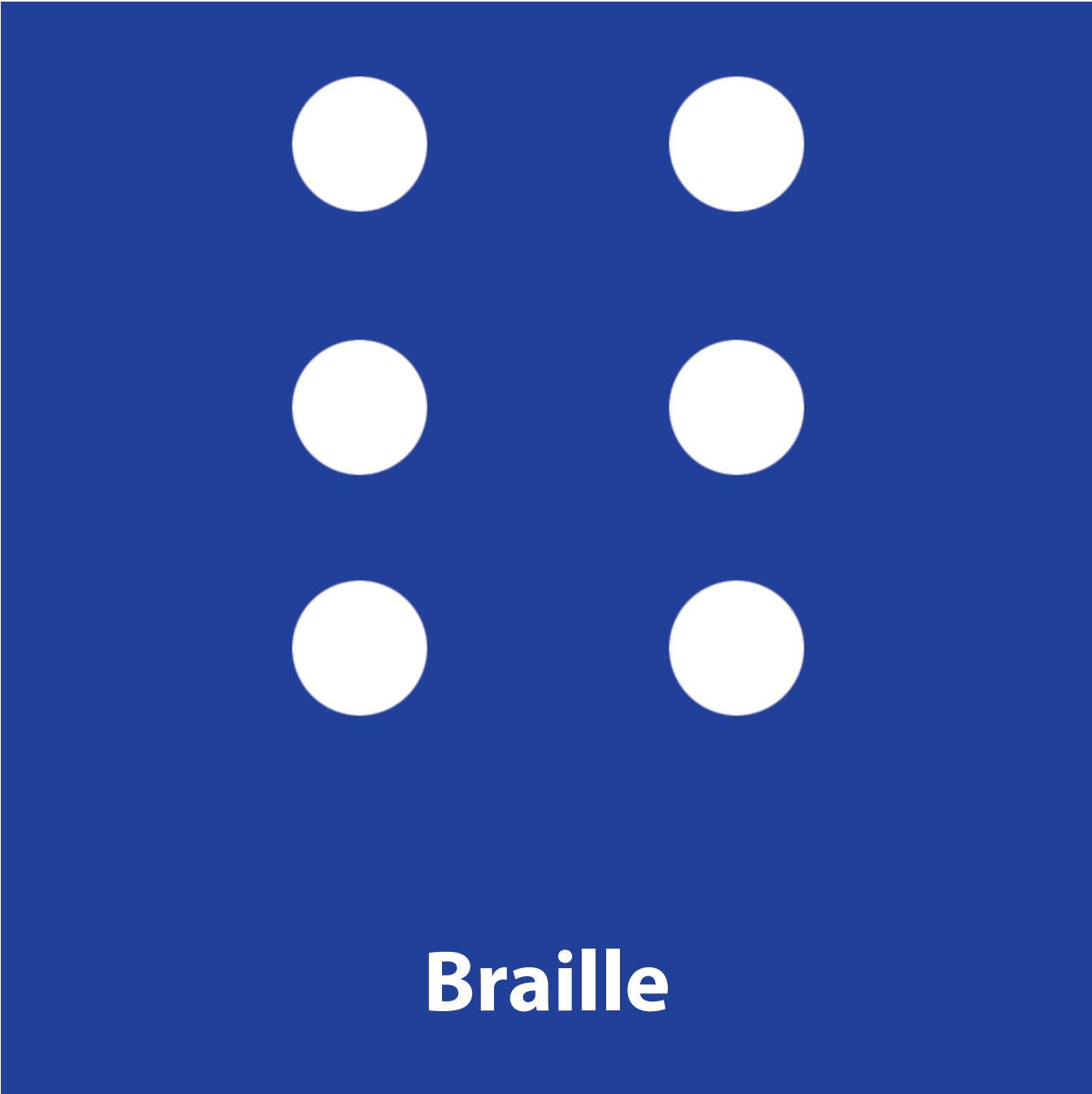


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CHAPTER- 1

Introduction





CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 12.05.2012 as the Department of Disability Affairs to ensure greater focus on policy matters to effectively address disability issues and to act as a nodal Department for greater coordination among stakeholders, organizations, State Governments and related Central Ministries. According to the Notification dated 14.05.2016, the Department has been renamed as Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD(D)).

1.1 The Vision and Mission of the Department

Vision: An inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of persons with disabilities to lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

Mission: To empower its target group namely, Persons with Disabilities, through legislation/policies/programme/schemes for their empowerment and development.

Empowerment of PwDs:

- Physical rehabilitation: Services like early detection and intervention, counseling and medical rehabilitation. Research and Development for technological advancement for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Increasing accessibility through supply of aids and assistive devices
- Educational Empowerment
- Economic empowerment through skill development and financial assistance
- Social Empowerment
- Development of rehabilitation professionals/personnel
- Advocacy and awareness generation.



Person with Disability Defined:

“As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) ‘person with disability’ means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others (Refer RPwD Act, 2016, Chapter I, Clause 2, sub-clause (s) along with sub clause (c).

As per the RPwD Act, a “person with benchmark disability” means a person with not less than forty per cent of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority. [Refer RPwD Act, 2016, Chapter I, Clause 2, sub-clause (r)].

1.2 Overview

According to Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities in India (who constitute 2.21 percent of the total population). Out of the total population of Persons with Disabilities, about 1.50 crore are male and 1.18 crore female. Further, 0.82 crore live in urban areas and 1.86 crore live in rural areas.

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2006) recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. The National Policy also recognizes the fact that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.



CHAPTER- 2

**The Rights of Persons
with Disabilities Act, 2016**





Sign Language Interpretation



CHAPTER 2

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

2.1 Highlights

- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 was notified on 28.12.2016.
- The Central Government issued a notification vide S.O. 1215 dated 19.04.2017 bringing the Act into force from 19.04.2017.
- The Central Government notified the Rules under the Act on 15.06.2017.
- So far the 23 States/UTs have notified the State Rules.
- Based on the recommendations of the expert committee, the Central Government notified the Guidelines for Assessment of Extent of Various Specified Disabilities (except Autism) in a person on 04.01.2018. As regards assessment of Autism, the guidelines notified on 25.04.2016 will be applicable.
- The revised guidelines for conducting written examination for persons with benchmark disabilities were issued on 29.08.2018.
- The Central Government notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2019 on 08.03.2019 specifying the composition of Assessment Board and the manner of assessment of High Support Needs of persons with benchmark disabilities.
- The Central Advisory Board has been constituted on 08.11.2017. The Central Advisory Board has met three times so far.
- The Department constituted an Expert Committee for Identification of Posts suitable for various categories of persons with benchmark disabilities. Five sub-committees were constituted under the said Expert Committee. Reports of all the five sub-committees were received and the report of the Expert Committee has been finalised. It will be notified.





CHAPTER- 3

**Statutory Bodies, Institutes and
Organizations under the Department**



Accessibility for Intellectual Disabilities



CHAPTER 3

Statutory Bodies, Institutes and Organizations under the Department

In order to facilitate the implementation of the activities of the DEPwD(D), there are three Statutory Bodies, two Central Public Sector Enterprises and nine National Institutions functioning under its direct monitoring.

3.1 Statutory Bodies

3.1.1 Rehabilitation Council of India

The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), constituted under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, regulates and monitors the training of professionals and personnel; promotes research in rehabilitation and special education, and maintains the Central Rehabilitation Register (CRR).

3.1.2 Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 empowers the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) with certain powers of a civil court to look into complaints relating to denial of right of Persons with disabilities and non-implementation of laws, rules etc., made for the welfare and protection of rights of persons with disabilities.

3.1.3 National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities

- (i) National Trust was set up in the year 2000 under the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. It works through a network of voluntary organizations, associations of persons with disabilities and associations of their parents. It provides for setting up 3 member Local Level Committees across the country, primarily to appoint Legal Guardians for persons with disabilities, where required. National Trust runs a bouquet of schemes and programmes ranging from Early Intervention for children upto 10 years to Residential Centres for adults with severe disabilities.
- (ii) Budgetary Support to National Trust : The scheme was introduced in the year 2015-16. After completion of the 12th Five Year Plan, the scheme has been further approved



by the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) in May, 2017 for a period of three years i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20

3.2 Central Public Sector Enterprises

3.2.1 Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

ALIMCO was setup in 1972 as a (not for profit) Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, under the Department. The Corporation has been manufacturing various types of most cost effective Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approved assistive devices, on mass scale. Besides, ALIMCO has been distributing these assistive devices for empowering and restoring the dignity of the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) across the length and breadth of the country to cater for orthopedic impairment, hearing impairment, visual impairment and delayed intellectual development.

3.2.2 National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

NHFDC was set up on January 24, 1997 with a view to promote economic empowerment through skill training and self-employment ventures for the benefit of persons with disabilities. It extend loans to the persons with disabilities for their self-employment ventures and for pursuing professional/technical education. It also assists self-employed individuals with disabilities in marketing their finished goods.

3.3 National Institutes / Centres

There are nine National Institutes under this Department working in the field of disability. National Institutes are autonomous bodies established for different types of disabilities. These institutes are engaged in Human Resources Development in the field of disability, providing rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and Research and Development efforts.

3.3.1 Regional Centers/Regional Chapters

In order to cater to the regional requirements of services to the Persons with Disabilities, some of the Institutes have set up regional centres/chapters.

3.3.2 Composite Regional Centers (CRCs)

CRCs which have now been renamed as Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities are extended arms of National Institutes. They serve as a resource centre for rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), undertake programmes of education and skill development for PwDs and train rehabilitation professionals.

Details of 9 National Institutes, 19 CRCs and 11 Regional Centers/2 Regional Chapters are as under:-

S.No.	National Institutes	Reginal Centres (RCs)/Regional Chapters, if any	Composite Regional Centre, if any under the National Institute
1	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi. [Established: 1960]	One RC (Secunderabad)	Two (Lucknow & Srinagar)
2	Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation Training & Research (SVNIR-TAR), Cuttack [Established: 1975]	None	Four (Guwahati & Ranchi, Rajnandgaon, Balangir)
3	National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata [Established: 1978]	Two RCs (Dehradun, Aizawl)	Three (Patna, Naharlagoon & Agartala)
4	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun [Established: 1979]	One RC (Chennai) Two Regional Chapter (Kolkata & Secunderabad)	One [Sundernagar (HP)]
5	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech & Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai [Established: 1983]	Four RCs(Kolkata, Secunderabad, NOIDA & Janla)	Two (Bhopal & Ahmedabad)
6	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad [Established: 1984]	Three RCs (NOIDA, Navi Mumbai & Kolkata)	Two (Nellore & Davangere)
7	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai [Established: 2005]	None	Four (Kozhikode, Nagpur, Gorakhpur & Sikkim)
8	Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)[Established: 2015]	None	-
9	National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) [Established: 2019]	None	-





CHAPTER- 4

Schemes of the Department



Telephone Typewriter (TTY)

CHAPTER
4

Schemes of the Department

4.1 Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

4.1.1 Brief and objective of the Scheme

- (i) DDRS is a central sector scheme of the Department to provide grant-in-aid to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psycho-socio functional levels.
- (ii) To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- (iii) To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- (iv) There are 09 model projects under the DDRS including Special Schools for Intellectual disability, Visual disability, Hearing & Speech disability, Half-Way-Home, Community Based Rehabilitation etc.

4.1.2 Activities/components admissible for grant under DDRS

- (i) Recurring grant
 - Honorarium to staff
 - Transportation of beneficiaries
 - Stipend for beneficiaries/hostel maintenance
 - Cost of Raw Materials
 - Contingencies to meet office expenses, electricity and water charges,
 - Rent
- (ii) Non-recurring grant

4.1.3 The provisions under the scheme

- (i) Following nine model projects have been included in the scheme
 - (a) Project for Pre-School and Early Intervention and Training
 - (b) Special Schools for Children with Disabilities for -
 - i. Intellectual Disability
 - ii. Hearing & Speech Disability
 - iii. Visual Disability
 - (c) Project for Children with Cerebral Palsy



- (d) Project for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons (LCPs)
- (e) Half Way Home for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Treated and Controlled Mentally Ill Persons
- (f) Home Based Rehabilitation Programme/Home Management Programme
- (g) Project for Community Based Rehabilitation
- (h) Project for Low Vision Centres
- (i) Projects for Human Resource Development

(This project provides training for trainers in special education, develop resource centres and networking of resources in the field of rehabilitation of the disabled.)

- (ii) The eligible Project Implementing Agencies (NGOs), after their project is approved by the competent authority shall be entitled for 90% of amount calculated based on the cost-norms as prescribed under this revised scheme. In case of projects located in special areas, 100% of the amount calculated based on revised cost norms shall be allowed.

Special Areas are as under:

- (a) 8 North-Eastern States,
 - (b) States in the Himalayan Region (J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh),
 - (c) Left Wing Extremism Affected Districts (as notified by Ministry of Home Affairs)- 106 Districts, and
 - (d) Districts adjoining the international borders- 34 Districts.
- (iii) Number of beneficiaries: Grant-in-aid is calculated on the basis of the number of eligible beneficiaries who have been present in the institution for at least 15 days out of previous 30 days prior to the date of inspection.
 - (iv) The organisation has to apply for Grant-in-Aid on the online portal of the Ministry (e-Anudaan) and forward the complete proposal to District Social Welfare Officer. Upon inspection and submission of online inspection report, the District Social Welfare Officer would forward the proposal to respective State Government/UT administration and to Government of India. If the State Government/UT administration does not decide on the proposal within 60 days, Government of India can decide on the proposal on the basis of inspection report submitted by the inspecting officer for NGOs receiving Grant-in-Aid under the scheme.

4.1.4 Eligibility conditions for Grants under DDRS

- (i) Organisations registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Public Trust Act or a non-profit company under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013;
- (ii) In existence for a minimum period of two years.



- (iii) Registered under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995/ Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- (iv) Registered on the NITI Aayog Portal, NGO - Darpan.
- (v) Properly constituted managing body, facilities & experience for undertaking the project, not to run for profit to any individual or a body of individual.

4.1.5 How to Apply

- (i) The Department has developed a centralized on-line application software with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC) on the website of the Ministry www.grants-msje.gov.in. All applications by NGOs seeking Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under DDRS are invited through on-line process in the website of the Ministry. All the NGOs have to register themselves on NITI Aayog portal www.ngodarpan.gov.in for generation of unique ID. Thereafter, application is to be submitted on E-Anudan portal www.grants-msje.gov.in along with the unique id generated on NGO Darpan portal.
- (ii) The Organisation will first submit its proposal to the concerned District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) of the concerned State Government (SG).
- (iii) The DSWO, after physical verification shall forward the proposal alongwith the Inspection Report (IR) etc. to the concerned SG.
- (iv) The concerned SG will forward the proposal of the Organisation to the Government of India (GoI) on being approved by their respective State Level Multi-Disciplinary Grant-in-Aid Committee.

4.1.6 Procedure for Sanction and Release of Funds

- (i) The Department periodically holds meeting of the Screening Committee (SC) constituted for considering proposals of the Organisation forwarded by the SG.
- (ii) The proposals recommended by the Screening Committee which fulfils norms of the Scheme and on having all the mandatory requisite documents etc., are processed for approval and concurrence of the Integrated Finance Division (IFD) for release of Grant-in-Aid.
- (iii) Administrative Approval of the competent authority is obtained/taken for release of GIA for the amount concurred by the IFD.
- (iv) After Administrative approval of the competent authority, sanction is issued and the bill of the same is sent to Pay & Accounts Office of the Department for release of the sanctioned amount in the Bank Account of the Organisation.
- (v) Next GIA is considered only after receipt of Utilisation Certificate of previous GIA sanctioned/released to the Organisation and any other requisite documents.



4.2 Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids / Appliances (ADIP)

The main objective of the Scheme is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances to promote physical, social, psychological rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) by reducing the effects of disabilities and at the same time enhance their economic potential. Assistive devices are given to PwDs with an aim to improve their independent functioning, and to arrest the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability. The aids and appliances supplied under the Scheme must have due certification. Quality of outsourced aids and assistive devices including individual parts to be procured by Implementing Agencies for distribution under the Scheme is to be ensured through Government certifying agencies as specified by DEPwD.

The Scheme is implemented through various Implementing Agencies. The following agencies are eligible to implement the Scheme on behalf of DEPwD, subject to fulfillment of following terms and conditions:

- (i) Societies and their branches, if any, registered separately under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- (ii) Registered Charitable Trusts.
- (iii) Indian Red Cross Societies and other Autonomous Bodies headed by District Collector/Chief Executive Officer/District Development Officer.
- (iv) National/ Apex Institutes, CRCs, RCs, DDRCs, National Trust, ALIMCO functioning under administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment/ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- (v) National/State Handicapped Development Corporation and Section 25 Companies in the Private Sector.
- (vi) Local Bodies - Zilla Parishad, Municipalities, District Autonomous Development Councils and Panchayats etc.
- (vii) Hospitals registered as separate entity, as recommended by State/UT/Central Govt.
- (viii) Nehru Yuva Kendras.
- (ix) Any other organization as considered fit by DEPwD.

4.2.1 Activities / components admissible for grant

The Implementing Agencies are given financial assistance for purchase, fabrication and distribution of such standard aids and appliances that are in conformity with objectives of the Scheme. The Scheme shall also include essential medical/surgical correction and intervention, prior to fitment of aids and appliances.



4.2.2 Disability-wise list of contemporary aids and assistive devices for Persons with Disabilities notified by the Department for financial assistance under the Scheme:

(i) Visually Impaired:

(a) List of 51 assistive devices showing indicative price, specifications and source or procurement meant for Visually Impaired and (ii) Category-wise kits for Visually Impaired, showing indicative prices and source of procurement viz. Kit-1: For Primary School Children studying in Class 1 to 5, Kit-2 for upper primary school children studying in class 6 to 8, Kit-3: For studying in Class 9 and 10, Kit 4: For students studying in Class 11 and 12 which has 2 sub-parts viz. Kit-4 (A) for Blind students and Kit-4(B) for low vision students, Kit 5: For College students which has 2 sub-parts i.e. Kit-5(A) for Blind Students and Kit-5 (B) For Low vision students and Kit-6: ADL Kit for Adults. It also contains list of common Low Vision Devices and list of High- end & Other Common Devices meant for visually impaired.

(b) Smart Cane:

Smart Cane is an electronic device which can detect obstacles from knee height upto head height of the user. The smart cane has other benefits such as spatial awareness device which can detect presence and distance.

(ii) Leprosy Affected:

List of devices for Leprosy affected viz. (i) a common Activities for Daily Living (ADL) Kit to be procured and distributed by ALIMCO and (ii) List of 34 individual optional devices as per requirement for distribution by NIRTAR, IPH, NIOH and NGO partners.

(iii) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:

Kit for financial assistance for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities viz (a) 4 Kit for Intellectual Disabled including viz (i) Kit-1 (A): Age group 0-3 years: Early intervention group (Code: EI) and Kit-1(B): TLM Kit for Multiple Disabled in the Age group 0-3 years (ii) Kit-2: Age group 3-6 years: Pre Primary group (Code: PP), (iii) Kit-3 Age group 7-11 years: Primary group (Code: PR) and (iv) Kit-4: Age group 12-15 & 16-18 years: Secondary & Pre-Vocational (Code: SEC/PV). To begin with these Kits to be provided in Special Schools across the Country, (b) 3 TLM Kits for children with Multiple Disabilities viz (i) Kit-1 Age group 3-6 years (ii) Kit-2 Age group 6-10 years and (iii) Kit 3: Age group 10 years and above and (c) ALIMCO Model Sensory Kit: Multi Sensory Inclusive Education Development (MSIED) Kit for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

(iv) Hearing Impaired:

Assistive devices like Body Level Hearing Aids, Analog/Non Programmable Digital-Behind the ear (BTE), In the ear (ITE), In the canal (ITC), Completely in the Canal (CIC); [Digital/Programmable- Behind the ear (BTE), In the ear (ITE), In the canal



(ITC), Completely in the Canal (CIC)] Personal FM Hearing Aids, Bluetooth neck loop for hearing aids, Vibratory Alarm, Baby-crying Alerting Wireless device, Door Bell Signaler, Fire Smoke Alarm, Telephone Signaler, Amplified Telephone, Telephone amplifier audio induction loop, Infrared system, Hearing aids with bone vibrator, Educational Kit (Children from 2 to 5 years, Pre-school going children) containing Language (Vocabulary) Book, Articulation drill book, Story book, Other materials (Family Hand Puppets, 5 puzzles, Montessori equipments/toys, Shape sorter clock, One set of noise makers, Block sorter boxes, Set of verb cards and 5 soft toys).

(v) Orthopedically Impaired:

Assistive devices like Lower extremity prosthesis, Upper extremity prosthetics, High end upper extremity prosthesis, Lower extremity Orthotics, Spinal Orthotics and Motorized Wheel chair-Quadriplegic wheel chair with Chin and Head Control, Quadriplegic wheel chair with joy stick and Motorized wheel chair (Handle driven).

(vi) Cochlear Implant:

The ADIP Scheme contains a provision to provide Cochlear implant to 500 children per year, with a ceiling of Rs.6.00 lakh per unit to be borne by the Government. Income ceiling for the beneficiaries will be same as for other aids/appliances. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) (AYJNISHD), Mumbai, is the nodal agency for Cochlear Implant Surgery. The Institute invites application by issuing advertisements in news papers (all India editions) and also through their website: www.ayjnihh.nic.in. Cochlear Implants are procured by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur and provided at the nominated hospitals. For conducting cochlear implant surgery, the Ministry has approved empanelment of Government and Private Hospitals.

(vii) Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs

Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs are provided for severely disabled and for Quadriplegic (SCI), Person Suffering from Muscular Dystrophy, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Hemipelgia and any other person with similar conditions, where either three/ four limbs or one half of the body are severely impaired. Extent of subsidy would be Rs.25,000/-. This will be provided to the persons of age of 16 years and above, once in ten years. However, severely disabled persons of 16 years and above age having mental impairment shall not be eligible for Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs since it puts them at a risk of serious accident/physical harm.

(viii) Any suitable Aids and Appliances as may be specified for new disabilities added in Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

4.2.3 Quantum of Assistance available under the Scheme

Aids / appliance which do not cost more than Rs. 10,000/- are covered under the Scheme for single disability. However, in the case of students with disabilities (SwDs), beyond Intellectual Disability (ID) category, the limit would be raised the Rs. 12,000/-. In the case of multiple disabilities, the limit will apply to individual items separately in case more

than one aid / appliance is required. Implementing Agencies shall use 5% of the grants-in-aid as administrative/overhead expenses for conducting awareness, assessment and follow-up camps.

Total Income	Amount of Assistance
(i) Upto Rs. 15,000/- per month	(i) Full cost of aid/appliance
(ii) Rs. 15,001/- to Rs. 20,000/- per month	(ii) 50% of the cost of aid/appliance

The extent of financial support would be limited to Rs. 10,000/- for each disability and Rs. 12,000/- for students with disabilities in respect of devices costing up to Rs. 20,000/-. For all expensive assistive devices costing above Rs. 20,000/-, Government shall bear 50% of cost of these items and the remainder shall be contributed by either the State Govt. or the NGO or any other agency or by the beneficiary concerned, subject to prior approval of Ministry on case to case basis, limited to 20% of the Budget under the Scheme.

Travelling cost would be admissible separately to the PwD and one escort limited to bus fare or railway, subject to a limit of Rs. 250/- each person, irrespective of number of visits to the centre.

Further, boarding and lodging expenses at the rate of Rs. 100/- per day for maximum duration of 15 days would be admissible, only for those patients whose total income is upto Rs.15,000/- per month and the same will be allowed to attendant/escort.

4.2.4 How to Apply

The organisation will submit their applications in the prescribed format to the Department through concerned State Government/UT Administrations. The proposals of NGOs received on-line only with the recommendation of State Governments/UTs administrations are processed under the Scheme. For applying for grant-in-aid under ADIP Scheme, the NGOs are to apply on-line on the NGO Portal www.grants-msje.gov.in.

The relevant information is available on the website of the Department i.e. www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in

Registration of NGOs with NITI Aayog in NGO Darpan Portal and online submission of proposals by NGOs on e-Anudaan Portal is mandatory. Besides, PAN and Aadhaar Number details of the Trustees/members of the NGO/VO are compulsory.

The application should be accompanied with following documents/information (duly attested).

- (i) A copy of Registration Certificate u/s 51/52 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act (PwD Act), 1995/ RPwD Act, 2016.
- (ii) A copy of Registration Certificate under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and their branches, if any, separately or Charitable Trust Act.



- (iii) Names and details of the Members of Management Committee of the Organization
- (iv) A copy of Rules, Aims and Objectives of the Organization.
- (v) A copy of Certified Audited Accounts and Annual Report for the previous year (showing that the organization is financially sound).
- (vi) The Implementing Agencies already receiving grant-in-aid under the Scheme should also furnish the list of beneficiaries assisted from the grant-in-aid released to them in the previous year, as per in CD in Excel programme and summary of beneficiaries covered in hard copy not exceeding two pages.
- (vii) The recommending authority shall conduct sample checking of beneficiaries regarding utilization of grant-in-aid by the implementing Agency. Test Checking Report in respect of beneficiaries covering at least 15% (in case of grant-in-aid up to Rs.10.00 lakhs) and 10% (in case of grant-in-aid exceeding Rs. 10.00 lakhs) shall also to be furnished.
- (viii) Utilization Certificate in the format prescribed under GFR.
- (ix) The Implementing Agencies shall provide one year free maintenance of the aids & assistive devices supplied by them.
- (x) The organization will provide reservation to SC/ST/OBC and disabled persons in accordance with instructions issued by Govt. of India from time to time if its employees are more than 20 persons on a regular basis.
- (xi) Implementing agency should also maintain a website and upload details of grants received, utilized and list of beneficiaries along with photo and Ration Card Number/ voter ID Number/ Aadhaar Card Number, as the case may be.
- (xii) In pursuance of Section 7 of Aadhaar Act, the Ministry has issued a Notification on 3rd March, 2017 in terms of which an individual eligible to receive the benefits under ADIP Scheme is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar Number.

4.2.5 Procedure for sanction of grant/assistance:

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities



Implementing Agencies



Beneficiary

Aids and Assistive Devices are distributed by the implementing agencies to eligible beneficiaries through camp activities/Headquarter activities/Special Camps/ADIP-SSA.



4.3 Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA)

Objectives of the Scheme

- (i) This Ministry has been implementing the Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA) for providing financial assistance for undertaking various activities outlined in the RPwD Act. The RPwD Act, 2016 endorses the rights of Persons with Disabilities for access to education, vocational training, employment, public transport, built environment, information and communication and upholds their independence and dignity. The Ministry has been releasing funds under the Scheme since 1999 after the implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The funds were being released based on procedure/guidelines approved by the Ministry on year to year basis. During the course of implementation of the Scheme, after interaction with the stake-holders, proposals / suggestions were received from various quarters for making the Scheme more effective in achieving its objectives. Considering these aspects, the formulation of the Scheme was approved by the competent authority with effect from 28.1.2016 with the following components:
 - (a) Creation of barrier free environment other than the area covered under the AIC
 - (b) National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Training
 - (c) Accessible India Campaign (AIC)
 - (d) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC)
 - (e) Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)
 - (f) Unique Disability ID Project (UDID)
- (ii) Thereafter, in the year 2017, SIPDA Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme was approved for continuation during the 14th Finance Commission period i.e. upto 2019-2020.
- (iii) Following four separate Schemes being run by this Department have now been merged with the revised SIPDA Scheme since 2019-20 :
 - (a) Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme.
 - (b) Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues Scheme.
 - (c) Incentive Scheme for providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the Private Sector
 - (d) In-service Training and Sensitization of key functionaries of Central & State Governments, Local Bodies and Other Providers.

Implementing Agencies under the Scheme

Financial assistance is being provided by way of Grants-in-Aid to the following agencies:

- (i) Departments of the States Governments/Union Territories.



- (ii) Autonomous Bodies / Statutory Bodies / Public Sector Undertakings set up by the Central/ State Governments/ UT administrations including Central/ State Universities.
- (iii) National Institutes/ CRCs/DDRCs/RCs/Outreach Centres under MSJ&E.
- (iv) Organizations registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860, or Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or Companies Act, 1956 who are recognized for skill training by Central/ State Government Departments or subordinate bodies there-under.
- (v) Central/State recognized Sports bodies & Federations.

Activities covered under the Scheme

- (i) To provide barrier free environment for the persons with disabilities which include access to built environment in schools, colleges, academic and training institutions, offices and public buildings, recreational areas, health centres/hospitals etc. This would include provision for ramps, rails, lifts, accessible toilets for wheelchair users, braille signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring, causing curb cuts and slopes to be made in pavement for the easy access of wheelchair users, engraving on the surface of zebra crossing for the blind or for persons with low vision, engraving on the edges of railway platforms for the blind or for low vision and devising appropriate symbols of disability, etc.
- (ii) To make Government websites at the Centre/State and District levels accessible to PwDs as per guidelines for Indian Government website issued by NIC and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (D/o AR&PG), Government of India, which are available on their website “ <http://darpg.nic.in> ”
- (iii) Skill Development Programme for PwDs.
- (iv) To enhance the accessibility of built up environment, transport system and information and communication eco-system. The Department has conceptualized the “Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)” as a nation-wide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility that will enable persons with disabilities to gain access for equal opportunity and live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. The campaign will include conduct of accessibility audits and making the public places / infrastructure fully accessible in built-up environment, transportation, eco-system and ICT eco-system.
- (v) To support Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)/ Regional Centres/Outreach Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) and also to set up new CRCs and DDRCs, as and when required.
- (vi) To assist State Government to organize camps for issuance of disability certificates identification and survey, Universal ID of PwDs.
- (vii) To create awareness campaign and sensitization programmes for various stake holders and other Information Education Communication as well as for Implementation of Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme.



- (viii) To set up/support resource centres facilitating dissemination of information on disability issues, counseling and providing support services.
- (ix) To promote accessibility of libraries, both physical and digital and other knowledge centres.
- (x) To promote research and development activities in the field of disability rehabilitation. Implementation of 'Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues Scheme'.
- (xi) To establish early diagnostic and intervention centres at District Headquarters/ other places having Government Medical Colleges, with a view to help hearing impaired infants and young children to acquire necessary skills to get prepared for regular schooling.
- (xii) Grant to the State Governments/UTs for the Offices of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for infrastructure facilities.
- (xiii) Construction of special recreation centres/development of parks for PwDs where the appropriate Governments/local authorities have their own land and providing barrier-free standards in existing parks and other urban infrastructure.
- (xiv) Support for sporting events at National/State level.
- (xv) Support to meet the expenditure relating to engagement of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) required for formulation of new schemes/projects.
- (xvi) In service training and sensitization of key functionaries of Central/State Governments, local bodies and other service providers.
- (xvii) Incentive to employers in the private sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities.
- (xviii) Financial assistance for any other activity specified in the Act for which financial assistance is not being provided/covered by the existing Schemes of the Department.

4.3.1 Creation of barrier free environment for Persons with Disabilities

Under the Scheme for implementation of Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (SIPDA), funds are provided to the State/UTs across the country for creation of barrier free environment. Funds are released mainly for creation of barrier free environment by construction of lifts, ramps, accessible toilets, tactile tiles and accessible websites, etc. for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities.

4.3.2 Component of Skill Development

According to census 2011, there are 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in India (1.50 crore male and 1.18 crore female PwDs). Even though, PwDs constitute a significant percentage of the population of India, their need for meaningful employment largely



remains unmet, in spite of implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. PwDs in India face many challenges when looking to develop employable skills and in gaining meaningful employment. They continue to face difficulties in the labour market. In the overall population, the number of persons with disabilities is proportionately higher in rural areas, accentuated by general poverty considerations and poor access to health services. The rural PwDs are significantly disconnected from skills and markets.

Improving vocational training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, though is a critical element for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disability, their families, there are also substantial gains for the broader economy. There are substantial costs to individuals and to society associated with these poor employment outcomes for persons with disabilities. The World Bank considers that leaving persons with disabilities outside the economy, translates into a foregone GDP of about 5% to 7%. In addition to the individual and family benefits, there is also a strong economic imperative to increase labour force participation which will help to address country's shortage of skilled labour force, while at the same time reducing fiscal pressures associated with welfare dependency.

4.3.2.1 The existing Skill Training and Employment Landscape for PwDs are as under:

- National Action Plan (NAP) for skill development of persons with disabilities under SIPDA of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- Vocational training courses offered by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and its affiliate organizations like National Institutions, National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Trust etc.
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Ministry of Labour and Employment supervising 24 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCHs) now called National Career Service Centres (NCSCs),
- More than 10,000 ITIs and approximately 1000 Employment Exchanges.
- Technical and Vocational courses, being offered through colleges, IITs and Universities, affiliated with Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Rural Development.
- National Urban Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Vocational training / livelihood programs of various other Central Govt. Ministries and State Governments.
- NGOs focusing on vocational training and skill development Private sector training organizations: Under the CSR initiative, many such organizations have done exemplary work.



- Public Sector Undertakings have also contributed substantially to vocational training of persons with disabilities.

4.3.2.2 National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities under SIPDA

National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities under SIPDA was launched by the Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development of & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21st March, 2015.

The plan was launched with provision of a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) in the Department with the following components:

- Training need assessment unit
- Content Generation unit
- Training Monitoring and Certification unit
- Employer Connect unit
- IT Unit to provide support for creation of E-learning modules, monitoring of training, E-certification and training centres/ creation and maintenance of a job portal.

(i) Objective & Coverage

- (a) The guidelines cover Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with not less than 40% disability and having a disability certificate to this effect issued by a competent medical authority,
- (b) As an Endeavour to encourage women, 30% of the total intake of each training program has been earmarked for women candidates,
- (c) The skill training is provided through training partners empaneled by this Department as per the eligibility conditions contained herein.

(ii) Conditions of Eligibility of the Trainees:

- (a) A citizen of India,
- (b) A person with benchmark disability with not less than 40% disability and having a disability certificate to this effect issued by any competent medical authority, ["Disability is as defined under Section 2(r) of the RPwD Act, 2016 read along with Section 2(j) of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 and/or under any relevant legal Statute in force"]
- (c) Age not less than 15 years and not more than 59 years of age on the last date of commencement of a training course/batch,
- (d) The applicant should not have undergone any other skill training course sponsored by Govt. of India during the period of two years prior to the commencement of a training course/batch.



(iii) Eligibility of the implementing agencies (training partners):

- (a) The scheme will be implemented through the implementing organizations/institutions, hereinafter referred to as “empaneled training partners”. Financial assistance will be provided by way of Grant-in-Aid for organizing training programs to the following categories of organizations:
- Departments of the States Governments/Union Territories, or
 - Autonomous Bodies/ Statutory Bodies/ Public Sector Undertakings set up by Central/State Governments/UT Administrations including Central/State Universities, or
 - National Institutes/ CRCs/DDRCs/RCs/Outreach Centres under MSJ&E, or
 - Organizations registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860, or Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or Companies Act, 1956 who are recognized for skill training by Central/State Government Departments or subordinate bodies there-under.
- (b) The organization shall have not less than three years’ experience of organizing skill training programs.
- (c) In case of Non-Government Organizations, they shall be registered with the NGO-Partnership (NGO-PS) of the NITI Aayog and should have obtained a Unique ID. The unique ID should be mandatorily quoted by the NGO at the time of application for grants.

(iv) Procedure of Application and Selection:

STAGE - I

Expression of Interest is invited from eligible organizations to get registered as “training partner” to provide skill training to PwDs under the scheme. Applications received for empanelment as training partners are scrutinized and placed before the Selection Committee who make selection based on the criteria of previous experience, expertise, infrastructure and manpower available and other similar relevant considerations.

- (a) Composition of the Selection Committee: The Committee to select the training partners constitutes the following:

1)	Joint Secretary concerned in DEPwD,	Chairperson
2)	Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser (in-charge of DEPwD) or in his absence Director (IFD),	Member
3)	Joint Secretary concerned in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship or any officer nominated by him/her not below the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary.	Member
4)	Chairman & Managing Director, National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.	Member



5)	Director/ Dy. Secretary concerned in DEPwD,	Member-Convener
6)	One representative from each of the following organisations: (i) National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), (ii) Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), (iii) Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)	Members
7)	Chief Executive Officer of Sector Skill Council for PwDs	Member
8)	Three representatives from various NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation and training of PwDs (representing different types of disabilities). These members may be co-opted by the Department for every meeting of the Selection Committee.	Members

- (b) The Committee may invite an expert, as a special invitee, as and when it deems necessary.
- (c) The Committee will hold periodic meetings (at least one in each Quarter) to select amongst the organizations, who have sent proposals, to be designated as training partners.
- (d) The Committee may also decide/ approve the proposed curriculum of various skill training courses being offered and will monitor the quality of training provided through personal visits and other kinds of feedback.
- (e) The non-official members of the Selection Committee shall be entitled to TA/ DA at the rates admissible to an officer equivalent to Director of the Govt. of India.
- (f) The organizations found suitable by the Selection Committee shall be empaneled as "Training partners" for a period of three years for organizing training programs for PwDs under this scheme.

STAGE II

The organizations who are empanelled as training partners shall submit fresh Project Specific Proposals (both technical and financial) in respect of the training programs proposed to be conducted by them duly recommended by the concerned State Govt./ UT where the skill training is to be proposed. The applications will be scrutinized and if found suitable by the Selection Committee shall be sanctioned financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid.

(v) Training Curriculum:

- (a) MSDE has constituted a Sector Skill Council for PwDs.
- (b) Once, the Sector Skill Council is fully operational, it will through interactions with industry and other Sector Skill Councils, devise the job roles and occupational standards for PwDs, which will become a basis for deciding the training curricula for various skill training courses.



- (c) Till the Sector Skill Council is fully operational, the Committee referred to above, will, while approving the training partners, also decide on the curriculum to be adopted by the training provider for the skill training of PwDs.
- (d) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) and National Institutes (NIs), associated with DEPwD will be associated by the Committee in creating a homogenous training curriculum for various jobs.

(vi) Funding norms:

The Common Norms for Skill Development Schemes as notified by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship vide Notification No. H-22011/2/2014-SDE-I dated 15th July, 2015, as amended from time to time, shall apply mutatis mutandis in respect of the entire funding norms including training cost, boarding and lodging cost, transport/conveyance cost, third party certification cost, post placement support etc.

(vii) Quality Monitoring of the Training:

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities will evolve a mechanism for monitoring the quality of training being provided by the training providers which shall be binding on all the training providers.

(viii) Other Conditions:

- (a) The Implementing Agency i.e. the training providers will abide by the conditions for grant-in-aid as provided in the Scheme.
- (b) The Implementing Agency will maintain a website and prominently display details of grant-in-aid received, purpose thereof, events organized and list of beneficiaries and their job placements.
- (c) The cost norms for specific trades/job roles would be as per the cost category prescribed in Schedule II of the Notification issued by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship vide No. H-22011/2/2014-SDE-I dated 15th July, 2015, as amended from time to time.
- (d) NGOs selected as training partners shall comply with the Common Guidelines for implementation of Central Sector schemes as notified by NITI Aayog vide O.M. No. M-11/16(2)/2015-VAC dated 10th September, 2015, as amended from time to time.

(ix) Convergence with other Skill Development Schemes:

The component of Skill Development will have convergence with other Skill Development Schemes run by other Ministries / Departments, including that of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, complying with the common norms for Skill Development. In case the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship decides to fund all Skill Development Schemes, then this component



of SIPDA Scheme shall be discontinued. The Department will utilize the Centres set up by ERNET India in the Department of Electronics and Information Technology for the training on Skill Development. The component of Skill Development being funded by this Department under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) will be discontinued as soon as the programme of Skill Development commences under SIPDA.

(x) Review and Monitoring:

The progress of implementation of the guidelines will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. MIS based monitoring mechanism would be put in place for effective monitoring of the programs.

(xi) Jurisdiction of the Scheme:

The jurisdiction of the guidelines is up to providing prescribed financial support to the training partners for providing skill training to PwDs.

(xii) Furnishing of False Information:

If any trainee or training partner has furnished any false information/ document and is established as false, he/she/it will be debarred from the benefit and an action will be initiated for recovery of the amount spent with 10% penal interest thereon. Such trainee or training organization will also be black- listed for future and appropriate legal action can be taken against them.

(xiii) Litigations:

Any litigation on matters arising out of these guidelines will be subject to sole jurisdiction of the courts situated in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(xiv) Change in the Provisions of the guidelines:

The provisions of these guidelines can be changed at any time at the discretion of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India.

(xv) Review of the guidelines:

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities may, at its discretion, undertake review of these guidelines as and when required.

4.3.2.3 Present status of implementation of National Actional Plan

(i) Project Monitoring Unit:

The PMU for skill development has been established as per plan and it is currently functioning under supervision of a Joint Secretary level officer of the Department having a team of Deputy Secretary / Director and Under Secretary with ASOs, Consultants (including for IT related works) and DEO below them to assist. Since beginning, the skill PMU has been working consistently in order to achieve the target



of quality skilling of PwDs and ensure their employment- self or job employment or entrepreneurship.

(ii) Management Information System (MIS):

For monitoring of implementation of scheme, MIS is also being developed and will be functional shortly. There is plan to integrate the MIS portal with skill portal of MSDE Skill Development Management System (SDMS), NITI Ayog's NGO (PS) portal and PFMS. Adhar enabled bio-metric attendance system has also been made mandatory for monitoring purpose.

(iii) Centre Guidelines:

In order to ensure sufficient infrastructure at centres for quality training, the Department has recently introduced centre guidelines with CCTV, VC, Automatic Energy Broadcast System (AEBAS), job role specific labs, equipment and trained teacher, accessibility as mandatory features of a training centre. As per the centre guidelines audit of centre by physical inspection- either by Department officers or a 3rd party agency- has been made mandatory before allowing training at any centre. Surprise inspection of ongoing training has also been introduced.

(iv) E-training/ E-learning:

The Department is also working on development of E-learning/training modules and to examine its various aspects and suggest modalities for implementation a Committee has been constituted for this purpose in October, 2019.

4.3.2.4 Training Partners under NAP:

As per scheme guidelines, skill training is being provided by a network of skill training partners empanelled by the Department from amongst NGOs, private training institutions and Public Sector/Govt. Sector organizations empanelled as Training Partners. Empanelment of Training Partners is done by the Selection Committee and it is a continuous process. The Selection Committee, in its 15 meetings held so far has empanelled 275 organizations including 28 GOs and 247 NGOs as Training Partners (ETPs) under NAP which are scattered over the country. Since validity of empanelment is for a period of three years, 105 organizations (13 GOs and 92 NGOs) out of 275 empanelled as TPs so far, are having validity of their empanelment as on 20.08.2019 i.e. 15th meeting of Selection Committee.

In addition to ETPs, training is also being imparted through various institutes under administrative control of the Department such as National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Institutes (NIs) and their Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) located in different states. Transfer of 24 VRCs from M/o Labour is also under process which will further enhance the capacity of the Dept. to provide quality training.



4.3.2.5 Financial assistance under NAP:

The training partners are provided outcome based financial support by D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The Common Norms for Skill Development Schemes as notified by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship vide Notification No. H-22011/2/2014-SDE-I dated 15th July, 2015, as amended from time to time, shall apply mutatis mutandis in respect of the entire funding norms including training cost, boarding and lodging cost, transport/conveyance cost, third party certification cost, post placement support etc.

Presently, financial assistance to TPs is released in three instalments as under:

1st instalment - 30% on commencement of training,

2nd instalment - 50% on completion of training and certification, and

3rd instalment - 20% on placement of successful trainees.

Under NAP, training partners are provided 10 to 25% over and above the rate of the training cost for different types of PwD trainees and Rs.5000/- per PwD for job outreach activities.

Financial assistance is also provided to PwD trainees as under:

Cost for Personal Assistive Device: Rs.5000/- per PwD trainee in two instalments i.e. Rs.4000/- at start of training to all the trainees and Rs. 1000/- after completion of training to successful trainees.

Conveyance cost at monthly Rs. 1000/- for PwD trainees of same District and Rs. 1500/- for trainees of outside district is also provided to the trainees to meet their travel expenses towards training.

4.3.2.6 Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD)

A separate cross cutting Sector Skill Council for PwDs has already been created by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship which has a Chairman from the private sector and a full time CEO. The Council has various members representing stakeholders from Govt. and Private sector and NGOs working for the cause of PwDs. The Department, in consultation with the Sector Skill Council and various National Institutes of the DEPwD has been working to generate a homogenous course curriculum, certification mechanism, identification of suitable job roles to PwDs, requirement of additional training hours etc.

4.3.2.7 Employment connect activities

The Department also help the training providers by connecting them with various private sector organizations and PSUs for providing employment connect as well as for obtaining CSR support. The Department itself or through NHFDC and other sub-ordinate organizations under its administrative control, organizes workshops, conferences and job fairs regularly.

The Department coordinates with State Governments to support proactively by offering financial support to these clusters of Vocational Training Providers.



4.3.3 Accessible India Campaign / Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

The Government envisions to have an inclusive society in which equal opportunities and access is provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) to lead productive, safe and dignified lives. In furtherance of this vision, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) on the occasion of International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December, 2015. Accessible India Campaign is a nationwide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and to create an enabling and barrier free environment, with a focus on three verticals: Built Environment; Public Transportation and Information & Communication Technologies. Strategy paper of the Campaign has been prepared after consultation with various stakeholders defining key targets and their timeline. Salient features of the campaign are:

(i) Accessibility of Built up Environment:

- (a) Completing accessibility audit of at least 25-50 most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them fully accessible by August 2019.
- (b) Making 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals fully accessible by August 2019.
- (c) Completing accessibility audit of 50% of government buildings and making them fully accessible in 10 most important cities/towns of States not covered in targets (a) and (b) above by December 2019.

Status against these targets set is as under:

- Accessibility audit of 1662 buildings identified by state governments is completed.
- 1662 access audit reports were submitted to the State Nodal Officers.
- Proposal of 1353 buildings has been received by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under Scheme arising out of PwD Act 1995 (SIPDA) for release of grant-in aid.
- Sanction of Rs. 354.46 crore has been issued for 1058 buildings upto December, 2019.
- Till November, 2019, Rs.283 lakh has been released to auditors for conducting access-audit.
- Phase II and Phase III of retro fitment of government buildings to make them accessible is to be implemented by States/UTs from their own funds.
- Out of 1108 central government buildings identified, CPWD has made 998 buildings accessible by December, 2019.



(ii) Transport System Accessibility:

(a) Airports

Target: All international airports and domestic airports to be made fully accessible.

- As on November, 2019, of the 104 operational airports, all 35 international airports & 55 out of 69 domestic airports provided with accessibility features (ramps, accessible toilets, helpdesks and lifts with Braille and auditory information systems). Further, all international/customs airport provided with aerobridges.
- For seamless security check for PwDs Revised Standard Operating Procedures is circulated by CISF.

(b) Railways

Target: A1, A & B categories of railway stations to be made fully accessible 50% of all railway stations to be made fully accessible;

- Out of 709, A1, A & B category railway stations, all stations have been provided with the seven (07) Short-Term Facilities identified by Ministry of Railways.
- 682 other category of railway stations are also provided with seven (07) Short-Term Facilities.
- Additionally, 705 escalators at 250 railway stations and 521 lifts at 226 railway stations have been provided by Ministry of Railways till 31.10.2019.

(c) Buses

Target: 25% of Government owned public transport carriers are to be made fully accessible:

- As per the report available, 5244 buses made fully accessible (3.6% of operational bus fleet of 1,45,287) whereas 30,476 (20%) buses made accessible without wheelchair accessibility (27.8% of operational bus fleet). The Bus Body Code has been made mandatory to ensure that all new city buses are disabled friendly.

(iii) Accessibility of Knowledge and ICT Ecosystem:

Websites

Target: At least 50% of Central and State Government websites are to meet accessibility standards:

- Rs.26.19 Cr. is sanctioned to make 917 websites accessible, out of which Rs.10.48 Cr. is disbursed as the first installment. 348 State Governments websites have been made accessible.
- 95 websites of Central Government Ministries/Departments are made accessible by MeitY under Content Management Framework.



4.3.4 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)

4.3.4.1 Objectives

In order to facilitate creation of infrastructure and capacity building at district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation, the Department is supporting setting up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres for providing comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities. The scheme of setting up DDRCs with active support of the State Governments was initiated in Ninth Five Year Plan and is continuing. A total number of 325 districts have been identified and approved for setting up of DDRC. Out of these, DDRCs have been set up in 264 districts so far. The DDRCs are provided with financial, infrastructural, administrative and technical support by the Central and State Governments, so that they are in a position to provide rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities in the concerned districts. The broad objectives of the DDRCs are as follows:

- Survey and identification of Persons with Disabilities through camp approach
- Awareness generation for encouraging and enhancing prevention of disabilities
- Early intervention
- Assessment of need of assistive devices, provision/ fitment of assistive devices and follow up/ repair of assistive devices
- Therapeutic Services e.g. Physio-therapy, Occupation Therapy, Speech Therapy etc.
- Facilitation of issue of Disability Certificates, bus passes and other concessions and facilities for Persons with Disabilities

4.3.4.2 Role of State Governments in implementation

The State Governments are expected to play a pro-active role in the effective functioning of the DDRCs. In order to ensure greater involvement of the Local Administration, the State Governments may suitably supplement the honorarium and other requirements of the DDRCs for undertaking various activities in an effective manner.

The State Governments may authorize District Collectors in their capacity as Chairperson of District Management Team (DMT), to make modifications for effective functioning of DDRCs, considering the ground realities within the broad stipulations under the Scheme. The State Governments may also authorize the District Collectors to make interim advances out of the local funds, placed at their disposal, to tide over the difficulties, caused owing to delays in release of central funds.

4.3.4.3 Activities/ Components admissible for grants

- (i) Admissible grant in aid

Grant-in-aid is provided to each DDRC for providing comprehensive rehabilitation

services to persons with disabilities. The grant consists of recurring and non-recurring components as shown below:

(in Rupees lakhs)

Components	General States (per annum)	For special areas* (NER, J&K & UTs) (20% increase)
Total Honorarium	23.40	28.08
Office Expenses/contingencies	5.25	5.25
Equipments (for 1 st year Only)	20.00	20.00

*Special areas include - North-Eastern states, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Left Wing affected areas as well the Districts of any State adjoining the international boarder in the country.

(ii) The prescribed manpower and the admissible honorarium for each post is given below:

S. No.	Post	Maximum* Honorarium per month (in Rs.)	Qualification
1	Clinical Psychologist/ Psychologist	20500.00	M.Phil in clinical Psychology/MA in Psychology Preferably with 2 years experience in the field of disability rehabilitation
2	Sr. Physiotherapist/ Occupational Therapist	20500.00	Post Graduate in related field with 5 Years experience
3	Orthopaedically Handicapped Sr. Prosthetist / Orthotist	20500.00	Degree in Prosthetic and Orthotic preferably from National Institute with 5 yrs experience or a diploma in Prosthetic & Orthotic with 6 Years experience.
4	Prosthetist Orthotist Technician	14500.00	ITI trained with 2/3 years experience
5	Sr. Speech Therapist/ Audiologist	20500.00	Post graduate in related field/B.Sc (Speech & Hearing)
6	Hearing Assistant/ Junior Speech Therapist	14500.00	Diploma in Speech & Hearing with Knowledge of hearing aids repair/ ear mould making
7	Mobility Instructor	14500.00	Matriculation + Certificate/ Diploma in Mobility
8	Multipurpose Rehabilitation Worker	14500.00	10+2 with Diploma in CBR/MRW course or one year Diploma course in early childhood special education with two years of experience



S. No.	Post	Maximum* Honarium per month (in Rs.)	Qualification
9	Accountant cum Clerk cum Storekeeper	14500.00	B.Com/SAS with 2 years experience
10	Attendant cum Peon cum Messenger	9500.00	VIII class Pass
11	Field & Publicity Assistant	14500.00	Graduate
12	Vocational Counselor cum Computer Assistant	14500.00	Graduate

*20% additional honorarium is allowed in DDRCs located in special areas as defined in para 4.3.4.3 (i) above.

4.3.4.4 How to apply:

For setting up of DDRCs in the identified districts, a proposal may be submitted with the following documents:-

- (i) Copy of the order constituting the District Management Team (DMT) headed by District Magistrate (DM)/ District Collector (DC) of the concerned District and comprising of officials from Social Welfare, Health, Panchayati Raj, Women and Welfare Department and any other expert which the DM/DC feels to associate.
- (ii) The name of the implementing agency identified/recommended by the DMT which may be preferably be the District Red Cross Society or Autonomous Body of the State or in its absence, a reputed NGO engaged in the rehabilitation of Persons with disabilities.
- (iii) Authorization letter of the Bank for the joint account opened in the name of the DDRC (consisting of one representative of the DMT and another authorized by the Implementing Agency)
- (iv) Copy of Registration Certificate under Society Act/ Trust Act/ Companies Act (Section 25) of the implementing agency.
- (v) Registration Certificate under RPwD Act, 2016.
- (vi) Copies of Annual Reports and audited accounts of the Implementing Agency (duly ink signed and carrying the seal of the Chartered Accountant and counter signed by the authorized signatory) in respect of previous two years

4.3.4.5 Procedure for sanction of grant to DDRC

On receipt of proposal complete with prescribed documents, the same is processed and submitted for obtaining financial concurrence from the Integrated Finance wing. On their concurrence, administrative approval of the competent authority is obtained the sanctioned amount is released to the DDRC.



4.3.5 Scheme for Awareness Generation and Publicity

4.3.5.1 Objectives

- (i) To give wide publicity, including event based publicity etc. through electronic, print, film media, multimedia, to the schemes, programmes being run by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and other Central Ministries, State Governments etc. for the welfare of PwDs including their social, economic and educational empowerment.
- (ii) To create an enabling environment for social inclusion of the PwDs in all fields of life by providing equal opportunities, equity & social Justice and to ensure confidence building in the PwDs so that, they can realise their aspirations.
- (iii) To bring to the notice of all stake holders including PwDs and civil society about the legal rights of the PwDs as enshrined in the constitution, international conventions, PwD Act 1995 and subordinate legislation(s).
- (iv) To sensitize the employers and other similar groups on the special needs of the specially abled persons.
- (v) To promote awareness and to sensitize society with focus on remote and rural areas, on causes leading to disability and prevention through early detection etc.
- (vi) To encourage volunteer action for ensuring effective implementation of the legal provisions and welfare schemes meant for the PwDs.
- (vii) To develop content for rehabilitation of different types of disabilities.
- (viii) To provide financial support for help lines.
- (ix) To provide financial support for effective grievance redressal.
- (x) To extend financial support for National & International events organized by reputed organizations on disabilities.
- (ix) To create or to facilitate creation of facilities conducive to the recreation of PwDs which may include inter alia tourism, educative, medical religious tourism, sports, etc.
- (xii) to extend financial support for participation in the Community Radio Programmes / Scheme of the Ministry of I&B
- (xiii) To promote activities for economic empowerment of PwDs like job fairs, campaigns, awareness on skill development etc.
- (xiv) To support spreading awareness about universal accessibility by creating an enabling and barrier-free environment that include accessible buildings, accessible transport, accessible websites and carrying out accessibility audit.
- (xv) To promote individual excellence in the field of disability sector.



- (xvi) To promote relevant activity/activities relating to creating awareness in the field of disability sector.

4.3.5.2 Approach and strategy

The approach of the scheme shall be :

- (i) To spread awareness through social networking.
- (ii) Maintenance of accessible website, etc.
- (iii) Conducting seminars, workshops, cultural activities, fairs, exhibitions etc. either directly or through socially active groups /organizations.
- (iv) Participation in national and international initiatives in the field of disability.
- (v) Conducting studies, surveys, enumeration and evaluation programmes on the special needs of PwDs including availability of technology, assistive aids and appliances etc.
- (vi) Coordinating and consolidating efforts made in the field by different departments, organizations.
- (vii) Financial assistance to self-help groups, parents' organizations etc. working for development of 'social good' and 'community welfare'.
- (viii) To support activities like showing of programmes exclusively prepared and performed by PwDs on TV, by bearing the cost involved on honoraria to performers, boarding, lodging and transportation and payments due to the electronic media
- (ix) Organizing special events, Celebration of special days etc.
- (x) Lack of co-ordination between different service providers in the fields of health education, housing and equipments undermines their effectiveness. Ministries of Health, Education, Labour and Rural Development are also doing some work in the field of disability. For successful implementation of all such initiatives, an Inter-Ministerial Committee which may co-ordinate across organizations to improve distribution of services and referral system, promote joint ventures, joint negotiations, sharing knowledge and expertise, sharing specialist educator, and disseminating system may be setup under the Department.
- (xi) Panchayati Raj Institution may be involved wherever expedient.
- (xii) To support awareness campaign for skill development & employment generation for PwDs including job fairs.
- (xiii) To support spreading awareness about universal accessibility by creating an enabling and barrier-free environment that include accessible buildings, accessible transport, accessible websites and carrying out accessibility audit.
- (xiv) To promote individual excellence in the field of disability sector.
- (xv) To promote relevant activity/activities relating to creating awareness in the field of disability sector.

4.3.5.3 Components admissible for assistance under the scheme:

The government may conduct the following activities itself or invite applications from or consider proposals submitted suo moto by various organizations for conducting such activities under the logo of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

- (i) Helpline
- (ii) Content Development, Publications & New Media
- (iii) Events
 - (a) Programmes organized by the Department at National Level including National Awards and Samarth etc.
 - (b) International events
 - (c) NGO Programmes:

Under the scheme, grants for awareness generation by interpersonal communication, street plays, film shows, road shows, etc. may be considered for self-help and advocacy groups, involvement of parents and community mobilization for bringing about a change in social attitude towards disability; providing individual or group based educational, psychological and emotional, support services for persons with disability and their families.
 - (d) State/District Level Programme Organized by the above organizations
- (iv) Volunteer Service/Out-reach programme for sensitizing, Commercial Establishments and employers
- (v) Recreation and Tourism
- (vi) Participation in Community Radio
- (vii) Press / Media tours and other media specific activities
- (viii) Brand Ambassador

4.3.5.4 Organizations eligible for grants / financial assistance:

- (i) Self-help groups
- (ii) Advocacy and self-advocacy organizations
- (iii) Parents & Community Organizations working for mobilization and bring about change in social attitude
- (iv) Psychological and emotional support service
- (v) Community based rehabilitation organizations
- (vi) Organizations working in the field of disability sector including those for labour market programmes, vocational training, social insurance, providing support services, stress management and social isolation eradication to PwDs.



- (vii) Organisations under administrative control of Central/State Govt. including Departments, Universities, institutions, colleges etc.

4.3.5.5 Eligibility Norms:

- (i) A minimum three year standing as a registered organization for organisations under 4(a) including organisations under Registration of Societies Act 1860, or a Public Trust registered under Indian Trust Act 1982 or the Charitable and Religious Endowment Act, 1920 or a corporation registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, etc. or registered under any relevant Act of the Central/State/Union Territory.
- (ii) The organization should be non-profit and not-for-profit organization or use its profits, if any, or other income in promoting charitable objectives.
- (iii) Organisations under administrative control of Central/State Govt. including Departments, Universities, institutions, colleges etc. or a Corporation registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, etc. or registered under any relevant Act of the Central/State/Union Territory is exempted from the conditions of registration under PwD Act.
- (iv) Last three years duly audited and properly maintained accounts and income tax return and published Annual Report.
- (v) The relevant activity for which grant / financial assistance is sought should reflect in their Memorandum of Association as one of the activities.
- (vi) Only such organizations having a good track record in the related field may be considered for grants.
- (vii) In the case of NGOs, recommendation from State Govt. for the proposal is required.

4.3.5.6 Sanction and release of funds:

Application for financial assistance under the scheme is called from the organisations in the prescribed format. All sanctions shall be issued after approval of the competent authority and all disbursements shall be made with the concurrence of Integrated Finance Division of the Department.

- (i) Short term projects (one-time events or projects not exceeding 6 months duration):
Disbursement will be made in two instalments as follows:
 - (a) 75% - on approval, acceptance, executing necessary bond etc.
 - (b) 25%- on receipt of final report and UC for the first installment, audited statement of account along with item-wise expenditure.
- (ii) Long term Projects (projects of 6 months and more duration)
Disbursement may be made in three instalments as follows:
 - (a) 40% on approval, acceptance of project and furnishing bank guarantee/ execution of bond etc.



- (b) 40%- After Progress review, receipt of UC of first instalment.
- (c) 20%- On Receipt of final report, UC for full amount, and audited statement of account along with item-wise expenditure.

4.3.6 Research on Disability Related Technology, Products and Issues

The scheme was introduced in the year 2015-16. After completion of the 12th Five Year Plan, it was decided to merge the scheme under the umbrella scheme SIPDA. The EFC has already approved the SIPDA scheme which covers the component of R&D in the disability sector. The objectives of the Scheme are:-

- (i) To promote research of service models and programmes on the basis of life cycle needs holistic development of the individuals and their families and creating an enabling environment for the empowerment of the PwDs.
- (ii) To initiate and sustain innovating applied and action research to improve the equality of life
- (iii) To promote research in prevention and prevalence of disability and the application of science and technology to the development of indigenous, appropriate aids and appliances.
- (iv) To evolve strong linkages between research findings and policy and planning and practice.
- (v) To ensure active and compulsory involvement of PwDs in applied research and product development projects in area of disability.

Implementation Process

- (i) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is the implementing agency. The operation of the scheme is overseen by a Steering Committee headed by Secretary, DEPwD.
- (ii) The Scrutiny-cum-Technical Committee scrutinizes and evaluate each proposal and send its recommendations to the Steering Committee which decides sanction of the research/survey/studies to be undertaken.

4.3.7 Unique Disability ID Project (UDID)

- (i) The Department is of implementing Unique Disability ID Project with a view to creating a National Database for Persons with Disabilities and also for the purpose of issuance for Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disability.
- (ii) The Department has developed an application software for this purpose and hosted the same on NIC cloud.
- (iii) The UDID card will be valid throughout the country. Moreover, the UDID web portal will provide an online platform to verify the authenticity of any disability certificate/UDID card across the country.



- (iv) As on 18.12.2019, more than 25 lakh e-UDID cards have been generated in 646 Districts of all States/UTs in India.
- (v) The Central Government provides support to the State/UT Governments for implementation of the project in respect of the following:-
 - (a) Publicity activity (Rs 1.5 lakh – Rs 2.5 lakh per district based on population)
 - (b) IT Infrastructure in the form of computer, printer, biometric scanner and web camera costing upto Rs 1 lakh per district.
 - (c) Digitisation of existing manual data @ Rs 3.61 per certificate.
 - (d) Remuneration of the State Coordinator @ Rs 50,000 per month.

4.3.8 Incentive Scheme for providing employment to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the private sector

Background

To encourage Private Sector to Employ Persons with Disabilities, a scheme of incentives to the employers in private sector for providing employment to PwD was launched in the year 2008-09. The Scheme envisaged payment of employer's contribution for 3 years to the EPF and ESI by the Government with a salary ceiling of Rs.25,000/- per month.

The scheme was revised w.e.f 1st April, 2016, whereby, payment of employer's contribution to the EPF and ESI by the Government has been increased up to 10 years. Further, the salary ceiling has been removed for the PwD employees. Also, the Department of empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) will bear one third of the gratuity amount due and admissible to PwD employees. The administrative charges applicable on EPF/ESI contribution (at the extent rates) presently being deposited by the employers shall be borne by DEPwD.

The employers are not required to deposit the EPF/ESI contribution in respect of their PwDs employees. The employers only need to intimate the EPFO/ESIC regarding appointments made by them and furnish employees contribution to EPFO/ESIC. The employers contribution shall be deposited to the respective accounts of PwD employees by EPFO and ESIC to whom DEPwD shall make payment to EPFO/ESIC in advance for this purpose.

A provision has also been incorporated in the scheme that a private employer engages PwDs as apprentices in any particular trade and provides them employment on completion of the apprenticeship period, the stipend during the apprenticeship period payable to the PwDs shall be borne by the Government of India through DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

4.3.9 In-Service Training and Sensitization of key Functionaries of Central and State Govt., Local Bodies and other Service Providers

The objective of the Scheme is to train and sensitize key functionaries of the Central/State Govt. Local Bodies and other Service Providers on new and important issues facing the

disability sector in the changing social and economic scenario through State/District/Block level workshops.

4.3.10 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs):-

Department has approved setting up of 20 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) as extended arms of National Institutes. Basic objectives of CRCs are to provide rehabilitation services to all categories of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), train rehabilitation professionals, workers and functionaries, undertake programmes of education and skill development for PwDs and create awareness among parents and the community regarding needs and rights of PwDs. The details of 20 CRCs are as under:-

S. No.	Composite regional Centres (CRCs)	National Institute under which CRCs are functioning	Year of establishment
1.	CRC, Srinagar (J&K)	PDUNIPPD	2000
2.	CRC, Bhopal (M.P.)	AYJNISHD	2000
3.	CRC, Lucknow (U.P.)	PDUNIPPD	2000
4.	CRC, Guwahati (Assam)	SVNIRTAR	2001
5.	CRC, Sundernagar (H.P.)	NIEPVD	2001
6.	CRC, Patna (Bihar)	NILD	2009
7.	CRC, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	AYJNSIHD	2011
8.	CRC, Kozhikode (Kerala)	NIEPMD	2012
9.	CRC, Rajnandgaon (Chattisgarh)	SVNIRTAR	2015
10.	CRC, Nellore (A.P.)	NIEPID	2015
11.	CRC, Davengere (Karnataka)	NIEPID	2016
12.	CRC, Nagpur (Maharashtra)	NIEPMD	2016
13.	CRC, Tripura (Tripura)	NILD	2017
14.	CRC, Naharlaghun (Arunachal Pradesh)	NILD	2017
15.	CRC, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	SVNIRTAR	2017
16.	CRC, Gorakhpur (UP)	NIEPMD	2018
17.	CRC, Balangir (Odisha)	SVNIRTAR	2018
18.	CRC, Sikkim (Sikkim)	NIEPMD	2018
19.	CRC, Andaman & Nicobar (A&N)	NIEPMD	2019
20.	CRC, Shillong	NIEPMD	2019



4.4 Scholarship Schemes

- (i) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is presently implementing an Umbrella Scheme 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities'. The main objective of the umbrella scholarship scheme is to empower disabled students to study further in order to earn their livelihood and to find a dignified place in the society, as they face several barriers - physical, financial, and psychological in pursuing studies and living with dignity.
- (ii) The students with the specified disabilities defined in Schedule of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 are eligible for scholarships of the DEPwD.
- (iii) The umbrella scholarship scheme 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities' comprises six components:
 - (a) Pre-matric (For Class IX & X)
 - (b) Post-matric (For Class XI to Post-Graduate degree/diploma)
 - (c) Top Class Education (For Graduate degree/Post-Graduate Degree/Diploma in notified institutes of excellence in education)
 - (d) National Fellowship (For M.Phil/Ph.D in Indian Universities)
 - (e) National Overseas Scholarship (For Master's Degree/Doctorate in universities abroad)
 - (f) Free Coaching (For recruitment examination for Group A & B and entrance examination for admission in technical and professional courses)
- (iv) Until 2017-18, these six Scholarship Schemes were implemented as stand-alone schemes having separate budgets. These schemes were launched in different years. From 1st April, 2018, all the six scholarship schemes i.e. Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Fellowship, National Overseas Scholarship, Free Coaching have been merged into an umbrella scheme titled 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities'. The merger/unification of the schemes with effect from 2018-19 has been done to remove the demand-supply imbalance of budget allocation and streamline the implementation process. In the umbrella scheme, if there is surplus fund available in one segment, that surplus can be utilized in the other one.
- (v) **Conditions of Eligibility:**

The general conditions of eligibility of all the components of the scheme are given below:

 - (a) The scholarships are open to nationals of India only.
 - (b) All the six scholarships are applicable to students with disabilities with 40% and above disability and having a valid certificate of disability as prescribed under rules issued by the competent authority. Disability is as defined in "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.



- (c) Not more than two children with disabilities of the same parents will be entitled to receive benefits of the scheme. Provided in case the second child is a twin, the scholarship under this scheme will be admissible to both the twins.
- (d) Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, she / he would not get scholarship for that class for a second (or subsequent) year.
- (e) A scholarship holder under this scheme will not hold any other scholarship/ stipend. If awarded any other scholarship/ stipend, the student can exercise his/her option for either of the two scholarships/ stipends, whichever is more beneficial to him/her and should inform the awarding authority through the Head of the Institution about the option made. No scholarship will be paid to the students under this scheme from the date he/she accepts another scholarship/ stipend. The student can however, accept free lodging or a grant or ad-hoc monetary help from the State Government or any other source for the purchase of books, equipment or for meeting the expenses on board and lodging in addition to the scholarship amount paid under this scheme.
- (f) Scholarship holders who are receiving coaching in any of the pre-examination training centres with financial assistance from the Central Government/ State Government will not be eligible for stipend under the coaching schemes for the duration of the coaching programme.

(vi) Reservation of slots for girl students:

50% of the total scholarship slots available each year in Pre-metric, Post-metric and Top Class Education and 30% slots of National Overseas Scholarship are reserved for girl candidates. However, in case adequate number of girl candidates are not available or not found eligible as per the terms and conditions of the scheme, the unutilised slots are being utilised by selecting suitable male candidates.

(vii) Implementing Agency:

The Pre-matric, Post-matric and Top Class Education Scholarships for Students with Disabilities are implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and the scholarship amount is remitted directly to the beneficiaries through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal.

National Fellowship for SwDs is implemented through UGC portal. UGC and DEPwD shall be the nodal agencies for implementing the scheme. Whereas, UGC shall be responsible for selection of beneficiaries under the scheme and the DEPwD shall be responsible for disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries identified by the UGC. The fellowship amount is remitted into the beneficiary's bank account through Canara Bank.

National Overseas Scholarship for SwDs and Free Coaching for SwD are implemented offline by the DEPwD and the scholarship amount is remitted into the beneficiary's bank account through PFMS.



(viii) **Jurisdiction of the scheme:**

The jurisdiction of the Scheme is to provide prescribed financial support to the selected candidates for pursuing education. The Scheme does not cover employment aspects of the awardees and also does not provide for any kind of assistance to the awardees in seeking employment anywhere, after his/her having availed of the scholarship.

(ix) **Furnishing of false information:**

If any candidate has furnished any false information/document and is established as false, he/she will be debarred from the award and if he/she has availed of it or is availing, an action will be initiated for recovery of the amount spent with 15% compound interest thereon. Such candidate will also be black listed for future and appropriate legal action can be taken against the candidates.

The salient features of the umbrella scholarship scheme are as under:

I. Pre-matric (For Class IX & X)

(Scholarships under this scheme shall be available for studying in classes IX & X)

- (a) Parents/Guardian's Income ceiling: The parents/guardian's annual income ceiling from all sources is Rs.2.50 lakh per annum.
- (b) Maintenance Allowance: Rs.800/- per month for hosteller and Rs.500/- per month for day scholars. The maintenance allowance is paid for 12 months in a year.
- (c) Disability allowances: The different types of allowances related to disability shall be payable as under:

S. No.	Type of Disability	Amount (Rs. per annum)
1.	Visually Impaired	4000.00
2.	Hearing Impaired	2000.00
3.	Physically Disabled (OH)	2000.00
4.	Intellectual Disabilities	4000.00
5.	All other types of disability not covered under above	2000.00

- (d) Book allowance: In addition to the above, book allowance of Rs.1000/- per annum is paid.
- (e) No. of slots: 25,000 + Renewal students

II. Post-matric (For XI to Post-graduate Degree/Diploma)

Scholarships under this scheme shall be available for studying in classes XI, XII, Post-matriculation diploma/certificates and Bachelor's Degree or Diploma in India and Master's Degree/Diploma from any University recognised by UGC/AICTE

- (a) Parent's/Guardian's income ceiling: The parent's/guardian's income ceiling from all sources is Rs.2.50 lakh per annum.
- (b) Maintenance allowance: The maintenance allowance for different groups/categories of groups is as given below:

Group I: (All Bachelor's/Post-Graduate Degree courses in Medicine, Engineering/Technology, Planning/Architecture, Fashion Technology, Management, Business/Finance Administration, Computer Science/Applications, Agriculture, Veterinary and Allied Sciences)

Rate of Maintenance allowance Rs.1600 per month for Hosteller and Rs.750 per month for day scholars.

Group II: Professional courses leading to Degree/Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B. Pharma), LLB, BFS, other para-medical branches like Rehabilitation, Diagnostics, etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/Tourism/Hospitality, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation, etc.)

Rate of Maintenance allowance Rs.1100 per month for Hosteller and Rs.700 per month for day scholars.

Group III: All other courses leading to a Graduate degree not covered under Group I & II e.g. BA/B.Sc/B.Com etc.

Rate of Maintenance allowance Rs.950 per month for Hosteller and Rs.650 per month for day scholars.

Group IV: All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (Class XI and XII), general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3-year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.

Rate of Maintenance allowance Rs.900 per month for Hosteller and Rs.550 for day scholars.

- (c) Disability Allowances: The different types of allowances related to disability shall be payable as under:

S. No.	Type of Disability	Amount (Rs. per annum)
1.	Visually Impaired	4000.00
2.	Hearing Impaired	2000.00
3.	Physically Disabled (OH)	2000.00
4.	Intellectual Disabilities	4000.00
5.	All other types of disability not covered under above	2000.00



- (d) Book allowance: In addition to the above, book allowance of Rs.1500/- per annum is paid.
- (e) Tuition fee: Tuition fee paid subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.1.50 lakh per annum.
- (f) No. of slots: 17,000 + Renewal students

III. Scholarship for Top Class Education (For Graduate Degree/Post-graduate Degree/Diploma level courses in notified institutes of excellence in education)

(The Scholarship for Top Class Education was started from 2015-16 on the recommendation of the XIIth Plan Working Group for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Till 2017-18, only Post-graduate Degree/Diploma courses in notified institutes of excellence in education were allowed. However, from the academic year 2018-19, graduate level courses in 240 notified institutes have also been included in this scheme).

- (a) Parent's/Guardian's Income: Should not exceed Rs.6 lakh per annum.
- (b) Maintenance allowance: This is provided @ Rs.3000/- p.m. for hostellers and @ Rs.1500/-p.m. for day scholars.
- (c) Disability allowance: Rs.2000/- per month.
- (d) Book grant: Rs.5000/- per annum.
- (e) Tuition fees: Up to Rs.2.00 lakh per annum (subject to actual amount).
- (f) Reimbursement of expenses for purchase of computer & software and Aids & Assistive Devices: One time grant for purchase of computer and software @ Rs.60000 for the entire course.
- (g) No. of slots: 300 + Renewal students.

IV. National Overseas Scholarship for students with disabilities (For Master's Degree and Ph.D in foreign universities)

To provides financial assistance to the students with disabilities who are selected for pursuing Master's level courses and Ph.D abroad in the following specified fields of study:

- (a) Engineering & Management
- (b) Pure Sciences and Applied Sciences
- (c) Agricultural Science & Medicine
- (d) Commerce, Accounting and Finance and
- (e) Humanities, Social Science including Law & Fine Arts.

Minimum Qualification:

For Ph.D. - First class or 55% (fifty five per cent) marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are on lien with their existing post and employer.

For Masters' Degree: - 55% (fifty five per cent) marks or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelor's Degree. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are on lien with their existing post and employer.



Age:

Below 35 (Thirty -Five) years, as on first day of the month of the advertisement of the scheme.

- (a) Parent's/Guardian's income: Should not be more than Rs.6.0 lakh per annum.
- (b) Tuition fees: Tuition fees of foreign universities/colleges actually paid.
- (c) Maintenance Allowance: US\$ 15,400/- per annum for United States of America and other countries except United Kingdom where it is GBP 9,900/- per annum.
- (d) Annual Contingency Allowance: US\$ 1500/- per annum for United States of America and other countries except United Kingdom where it is GBP 1100/- per annum.
- (e) Incidental journey allowance: US\$ 20/- or its equivalent in Indian Rupees.
- (f) Equipment Allowance: Rs.1500/-.
- (g) Visa Fees: Actual visa fee in Indian Rupees.
- (h) Medical Insurance Premium: Actual medical insurance premium.
- (i) Cost of Air Passage: Air ticket is arranged by the DEPwD by shortest route in economy class in the national carrier.
- (j) No. of slots: 20

V. National Fellowships for Persons with Disabilities (For M.Phil and Ph.D in Indian Universities)

The scheme caters total number of 200 Fellowship (Junior Research Fellows, JRF) per year to students with disabilities. The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and shall be implemented by the UGC itself on the pattern of the scheme of UGC Fellowship being awarded to research students pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D.

- (a) Parental income: No parental income ceiling.
- (b) Duration of Fellowship:

Name of course	Maximum duration	Admissibility of JRF & SRF	
M.Phil	2 years	2 years	Nil
Ph.D	5 years	2	Remaining 3 years
M.Phil + Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years

- (c) Rate of Fellowship: The rates of fellowship for JRF and SRF will be at par with the UGC Fellowships. Presently these rates are as follows:

1	Fellowship	Rs.31,000/- p.m. for initial two years (Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), Rs.35,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)).
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2	Contingency for Humanities and Social Science (including Arts/Fine Arts)	@ Rs. 10,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure
3	Contingency for Science, Engineering & Technology	@ Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 25,000/- p.a. for remaining tenure
4	Departmental assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs. 3,000/- p.a. per student to the host institute for providing infrastructure
5	Escort/Reader assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs. 2,000/- p.m. in cases of candidates with physical and visual disabilities

- (d) The House Rent Allowance (HRA) is paid on the UGC pattern and payable to those students who are not provided with hostel accommodation. In case hostel accommodation offered by the university/institution is refused, the student will forfeit his claim of HRA. The other facilities such as medical facilities, leave including maternity leave are governed as per the guidelines of the UGC in case of their fellowship programme.
- (e) No. of slots: 200 slots every year. The distribution of slots amongst different States/UTs is primarily done in proportion of students with disabilities population in the respective States/UTs. In case the number of fellowships so allocated to a State/UT is not fully utilized, due to non-availability of eligible candidates, the vacant slots are allocated to States/UTs where the number of eligible candidates is much more than the slots allocated to them.

VI. Free Coaching for Students with Disabilities

The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching for economically disadvantaged students with disabilities, having 40% and above disability to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and to succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Government/Public/Private sector.

(a) Courses for Coaching:

The courses for which the coaching will be imparted shall be as follows:

- (i) Recruitment examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the various Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) for Group 'A' & 'B' posts;
- (ii) Recruitment examinations conducted by the State Public Service Commissions for Group 'A' & 'B' posts in the respective States;
- (iii) Recruitment examinations conducted by Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), Nationalized Banks, Government Insurance Companies and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for Officer level posts under them.



- (iv) Entrance Examinations for admission in (a) Engineering (eg. IIT-JEE), (b) Medical (eg. NEET), (c) Professional courses like Management (eg. CAT) and Law (eg. CLAT), and (d) Any other such disciplines as Ministry may decide from time to time.

(b) Implementing Agencies:

The Scheme will be implemented through the reputed coaching institutions/centre run by the:

- (i) Central Government / State Governments / UT Administrations and PSUs or Autonomous Bodies there under.
- (ii) Universities (under both Central and State Governments) including the Deemed Universities and Private Universities; and
- (iii) Registered private institutions/NGOs.

(c) Eligibility criteria for applying for Empanelment of Coaching Institutes:

- (i) The institute should be a registered body or run by any organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860/Companies Act, 2013 or any other relevant Act of the State/Union Territory.
- (ii) The Institutes are required to register themselves under section 50 of RPwD Act, 2016.
- (iii) The institute should have been registered at least for a period of 3 years as on date of notification inviting applications from States/UTs/Coaching Institutes for empanelment by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- (iv) The institute should have been fully functional for a minimum period of 3 years at the time of applying under this Scheme and having a minimum enrolment of 100 students in the courses each year for at least two years, immediately prior to the year in which empanelment is sought.
- (v) The institute must have proper infrastructure (barrier free) to meet all prescribed requirements for providing coaching in the courses applied for.

(d) Selection of Institutes:

- (i) The proposals for empanelment of coaching institutes will be considered by a Selection Committee and recommended for selection based on their past record of performance and other criteria to be determined by the Selection Committee. The institutes for providing coaching will finally be selected by the DEPwD based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee. The Composition of Selection Committee will be as follows:

1.	Joint Secretary (DEPwD)	Chairperson
2.	Financial Advisor, DEPwD or nominee not below the rank of DS/Director	Member



3.	Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Higher Education	Member
4.	Two representatives from relevant background to be decided by the Department	Member
5.	Director/ DS, concerned , DEPwD	Convener

- (ii) The States/UTs will furnish a list of (not more than 10) reputed coaching institutes with a proven track record of success in coaching in courses identified in Para-3 here-in-above.
- (iii) In addition to proposals received from States, the Selection Committee, as indicated at Sub-para (i) above, may also propose empanelment of institutes which enjoy good reputation and record of performance in providing coaching.
- (iv) On receipt of list of names of coaching institutes, the institutes will be requested by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to submit a detailed proposal in compliance with requirements of the Scheme along with their performance record in proforma as requested.
- (v) Reputed institutes having branches in more than one district in a State will be given preference over standalone institutes.
- (vi) The concerned Programme Division will carry out a preliminary screening of the proposals received from State Governments / UTs and institutes recommended by the Selection Committee and shortlist those, which prima facie satisfy the eligibility criteria and have all prescribed supporting documents. Such shortlisted proposals shall be placed before the Selection Committee.
- (vii) The institutes, once selected, will enter into an Agreement with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India with regard to the courses to be offered, terms and conditions of empanelment, fee structures, frequency of disbursement, number of slots, duration of courses, furnishing of Utilization Certificates, etc.
- (viii) Selected coaching institutes will be empanelled for a period of three years subject to their Agreements entered with the DEPwD.

Note: With a view to giving the Scheme wider publicity, the coaching institutes will issue advertisement in the local newspapers and invite applications from the eligible Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) candidates as per provisions of the Scheme.

(e) Funding Pattern:

- (i) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India will fund the entire expenditure of coaching provided to selected PwDs candidates as per the terms and conditions of the Scheme and agreement entered into with the concerned coaching institute.



- (ii) Fee component will be released directly to the coaching institutes/centers concerned in the form of grant-in-aid.
- (iii) Grant-in-aid will be released to the institutes concerned in two equal installments every year.
- (iv) The first installment will be released to the institutes immediately after their empanelment. However, the second installment of grant-in-aid will be released (in shape of reimbursement) to the coaching institutes on production of Utilization Certificate, details of expenditure made, audited accounts certified by a Chartered Accountant, details of courses conducted and number of students coached.
- (v) After completion of first year, the performance of the institutes will be assessed before releasing the fund for the subsequent year. The release of fund after every year will depend on the satisfactory performance of the institute during the previous year.
- (vi) The grant-in-aid for 2nd and 3rd year would be released to empanelled coaching institutes only after receipt of due Utilization Certificate, list of students coached with the previous year's grant, audited accounts in respect of previous year's funds and performance of students coached during previous year.
- (vii) The Empanelled institutes should register themselves in National Scholarship Portal (www.scholarships.gov.in) (whenever the portal will be made operational for this scheme).
- (viii) The applicants (students/trainees) should submit their application for coaching through the on-line system by the last date prescribed for receipt of applications. All requisite documents like photograph, proof of age, disability certificate, income certificate of the parent, etc. duly filled in the prescribed format will be required to be uploaded in the on-line system. [However, until this scheme of Free Coaching starts through National Scholarship Portal, the candidates shall submit their applications to the Empanelled Coaching Institutes of their choice through off-line method]
- ix) The Nodal Officer nominated by Empanelled institutes shall verify the applications and process the same and forward the final list in PFMS portal for disbursement of stipend and Special allowance.
- x) Stipend and Special allowance admissible to the candidates shall be released directly to their Bank Accounts through PFMS portal under Aadhaar based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) by DEPwD.

(f) Quantum of Coaching Fees:

The quantum of coaching fees will be as agreed to in the agreement between the DEPwD and the coaching institute at the time of empanelment.



Eligibility criteria and selection of candidates:

- (i) Free coaching under this scheme will be available to students with disabilities who are covered under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 and any other relevant Act issued by the Govt. of India from time to time.
- (ii) The students should be selected by the coaching institute based on academic criteria prescribed by the institute itself. However, the institute may relax these criteria for PwDs candidates as per terms to be laid down in the Agreement.
- (iii) The candidate should be eligible to appear at the examination for which he/she is obtaining the coaching under this Scheme.
- (iv) Income Ceiling: Only students with disabilities having total family income from all sources of Rs.6.00 lakh or less per annum will be eligible to apply under the Scheme.
- (v) Benefits under the Scheme can be availed by a particular student not more than once, irrespective of the number of chances he/she may be entitled to take in a particular competitive examination. The coaching institute will also be required to take an undertaking from the students that they have not taken benefit more than once under the Scheme.
- (vi) Candidates who are not availing the benefits of free coaching under any other scheme of the Central Govt. are eligible under the scheme. The coaching institute will also be required to take an undertaking from the students that they have not availed benefit of free coaching under any other scheme of the Central Govt.
- (vii) However, notwithstanding the provision at para (v) above, where examination is conducted in two stages viz. Preliminary and Main, the candidates will be entitled for free coaching for both the stages of examinations. They will be entitled for free coaching separately for both the Preliminary and Main examinations as per their convenience. However, there will be no restriction in number of chances for coaching for Interview, if the candidate is selected for interview.
- (viii) Attendance: In the event of any student remaining absent for more than 15 days without any valid reason, benefits of free coaching to him/her shall be discontinued under intimation to the DEPwD.
- (ix) Duration of Coaching Assistance: On completion of the first year, if a student wants to continue for the second year, he/she has to apply for renewal of coaching assistance.

(g) Stipend:

Monthly stipend of Rs.2500/- (Rupees Two Thousand and Five Hundred only) per student will be paid for local students for attending the coaching class. Similarly, Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) per student will be paid p.m. for outstation students. Special Allowance of Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) per student

p.m. will be paid to students towards reader allowance, escort allowance, helper allowance etc.

(h) General Provisions:

- (i) The institutes shall maintain complete progress record of the coaching and selection of the candidates.
- (ii) Grant-in-aid released to the institutes shall be dealt with in a separate account by them.
- (iii) The institutes shall utilize the grant-in-aid only for the purposes laid down in this Scheme. In the event of the grantee institute acting in contravention of this condition, the institute will be liable to refund the amount received with 18% penal interest and other action, as deemed necessary.

(i) Review of performance and monitoring:

- (i) There will be a review of performance of the coaching institutes at the end of 3rd year of empanelment. The assessment will be based on the results of PwDs candidates provided coaching under the Scheme and the success rate enjoyed by coached students in clearing competitive examination for which he/she has received coaching.
- (ii) The DEPwD reserves the right to conduct random inspection/check from time to time of any of the empanelled institutes.
- (iii) The DEPwD reserves the right to discontinue funding under the Scheme at any point of time if the performance of the coaching institute is found to be unsatisfactory.

4.5 National Fund for People with Disabilities

4.5.1 Scheme for providing Financial Assistance under the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities

In terms of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 has set up National Fund for Persons with Disabilities. The Fund has been created taking into account the Funds available under the erstwhile National Fund for People with Disabilities constituted in August, 1983 and the Trust Fund for Empowerment of PwDs constituted in November, 2006. Under the National Fund financial assistance is provided for the following three purposes:-

4.5.2 Exhibitions/workshops to showcase the products including paintings, handicraft etc made by the PwDs.

(i) Eligibility

Any Government organization or an organization registered under Societies Act/ Companies Act/Trust Act for a period not less than three years and has experience of not less than 2 years for organizing exhibition/workshops in marketing products/ paintings.



(ii) **Extent of Financial Assistance** - The financial assistance would cover the following components:-

- (a) Establishment cost towards organizing the event including cost for arranging venue, TA/DA to the participating PwDs invited to showcase their products/paintings, transportation cost etc.
- (b) Cost of additional logistics such as arrangement for LCD screen, light, music etc.
- (c) 50% of the grant will be released in advance and remaining 50% will be released after completion of the programme and after received of utilization certificate.
- (d) Maximum financial assistance will be Rs 20 lakh for National level, Rs 15 lakh for Regional level and Rs 10 lakh for State level.

4.5.3 Support persons with benchmark disabilities who have excelled in sports/fine-arts/music/dance/film/theatre/literature at the State level to participate in the National and International events.

(i) **Eligibility**

- (a) Any person with benchmark disability (having disability 40% or more) who has won medals in sporting events or any artist with disability graded as outstanding or promising as per the instructions of Ministry of Culture during the last three years.
- (b) The annual income of the family of the persons with benchmark disabilities for participating in the National event (including National IT Challenge) should not be more than Rs 3 lakh, whereas for International event, the annual income of the family should not be more than Rs 6 lakh.
- (c) Assistance from the Fund for the similar event can be granted only once to a PwD (if a particular employee has been granted assistance under the Fund for one National/International event, he will not be eligible for financial assistance for similar events).

(ii) **Extent of Financial Assistance** - The financial assistance would cover the following components:-

- (a) To and fro Second AC train fare (shortest route) of the candidate with disability along with one escort (where as applicable)
- (b) In case of international event, to and fro economic air fare (shortest route) and an amount of Rs 4000/- per day for the entire duration of the event.

4.5.4 Support certain exclusive needs of persons with high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Boards on specific recommendation by the States on a case to case basis.

(i) **Eligibility**

Persons with benchmark disabilities having high support needs as recommended by the Assessment Board constituted by the States/UTs who have approached the



States and the States could not provide such assistance from their Fund and has recommended for consideration under the Fund. The annual family income of the PwD should not be more than Rs 3 lakh or as may be specified by the Governing Body.

(ii) **Extent of Financial Assistance** - The financial assistance would cover the following components:-

The financial assistance is limited to:

- i. Actual cost of the customized mobility equipment to improve activity of daily living or Rs 1 lakh whichever is lower.

4.6 Scheme of “Support for Establishment/ Modernisation/ Capacity Augmentation of Braille Presses”

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has approved the Scheme titled Central Sector Scheme of “support for establishment, modernization, capacity augmentation of Braille Presses” in November 2014.

4.6.1 Nodal Agency

National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun, through Braille Council of India (BCI shall be the Nodal Agency of the Scheme that shall be entrusted the work of issue of advertisement in the newspapers as well as in its websites inviting proposals for establishment/modernization/capacity augmentation, screening, applications, technical evaluation, recommending improvements, mentoring role in the process of establishment and process the applications and submit the same before the following Committee for consideration and recommendation for providing grant under the Scheme :-

1.	Joint Secretary, DEPwD	Chairman
2.	Director, NIEPVD	Member
3.	Representative of BCI	Member
4.	Director (Finance),DEPwD	Member
5.	Concerned Dir/DS	Member Convener

4.6.2 Implementing agencies

The implementing agencies of Scheme shall be State Governments, UT Administration and voluntary organizations running Braille presses for more than five years or any other establishment designated by the State Government or UT administration for running a Braille press.

Under the Scheme, 18 proposals for establishment of new Braille presses, 13 proposals for modernization and 3 proposals for capacity augmentation of Braille presses have been approved by the Department. All students with visual impairment will be provided free of cost special books printed in the Braille presses established/modernized/capacity augmented under the Scheme.



Through the Scheme, Printed Braille Text Book are supplied free of cost to students with visual impairment studying in SSA/RMSA schools.

4.7 Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC)

The main objective of the Scheme is reimbursement of funds to ISIC by way of grant-in-aid from the Department for maintaining 25 free-beds and 5 free beds, to be maintained by ISIC for providing indoor treatment to spinal cord injured poor patients and their rehabilitation. 10% free beds are to be maintained for indoor treatment of E.W.S category as per Delhi High Court Order, dated 22.03.2007; and will not be clubbed by ISIC with the Scheme of the Ministry. The rate of reimbursement would be Rs. 7000/- per bed, per day on actual occupancy basis.

4.8 State Spinal Injury Centre

The scheme for setting up of State Spinal Injury Centres has been notified on 31.03.2015. Proposal for continuation of the Scheme up to 31.03.2020 has since been appraised and approved. The State Spinal Injury Centres shall be mainly for the comprehensive management of Spinal Injuries and attached to the district hospital of State Capital/ Union Territory with dedicated 12 beds.

Spinal Injury Centre at S.M.S Medical College, Jaipur (Rajasthan) has been set up

Grants-in-aid of Rs.2.00 Crore was released for setting up of a Centre in Government Medical College, Jammu and Rs.1.17 crore for setting up of a Centre in Government Medical College, Srinagar during the year 2016-17.

4.9 Scheme for Financial Assistance to Colleges for Deaf in Five Regions of the country

The objective of the Scheme is to provide equal opportunities to hearing impaired students for pursuing higher education and improving their chances of employability and better quality life through higher education. The main objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the existing deaf colleges in the following five regions of the country:

- (a) Rural Development and Management college for the Deaf (RDMC) in North zone of India;
- (b) College for Deaf in West Zone;
- (c) College for the Deaf in South Zone;
- (d) College for the Deaf in Central Zone; and
- (e) College for the Deaf in East Zone.

Maximum assistance under the Scheme for expansion of infrastructure and purchase of furniture/aids/equipment is restricted to Rs. 1.50 crore in each case. In case, the expenditure is less than Rs. 1.50 crore, the admissible assistance will be on actual cost. In North Eastern region (including Sikkim), the maximum assistance is Rs.2.00 crore.



CHAPTER- 5

**Schemes of Reporting Offices
of the Department**





The Symbol of Wheelchair Accessibility



CHAPTER
5

Schemes of Reporting Offices of the Department

5.1. The National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities

5.1.1 Introduction

The National Trust is a statutory body constituted by an Act of Parliament namely The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. The objectives of the National Trust are as follows :-

- (i) To enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong;
- (ii) To strengthen facilities to provide support to persons with disability to live within their own families;
- (iii) To extend support to registered organizations to provide need based services during period of crisis in the family of persons with disability;
- (iv) To deal with problems of persons with disability who do not have family support;
- (v) To promote measures for the care and protection of persons with disability in the event of death of their parent or guardian;
- (vi) To evolve procedures for the appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disability requiring such protection;
- (vii) To facilitate the realization of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability; and
- (viii) To do any other act which is incidental to the aforesaid objects.

The National Trust has been set up to discharge two basic duties- legal and welfare. Legal duties are discharged through Local Level Committees and providing Legal Guardianship. Welfare duty is discharged through the Schemes. The activities of the National Trust inter-alia include training, awareness and capacity building programmes and shelter, care giving & empowerment. The National Trust is committed to facilitate equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disabilities (Divyangjan), covered under the Act.



5.1.2 Registration of Organizations

The National Trust offers registration to Voluntary Organizations, Associations of person with disabilities and associations of parents of persons with disabilities. There are around 603 registered organizations of the National Trust Registered Organizations in the country.

5.1.3 Local Level Committee (LLC)

Under Section 13 of the National Trust Act 1999, a Local Level Committee is required to be constituted in every district of the country for a period of three years or till it is reconstituted by the Board consisting of following members:-

- (i) An officer of the Civil Service of the Union or of the State not below the rank of District Magistrate or a District Commissioner of a District;
- (ii) A representative of an organization registered with the National Trust; and
- (iii) A person with disability as defined in Clause (t) of Section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995(1 of 1996)

The function of the Local Level Committee is to screen, appoint, monitor and remove legal guardians. LLCs also promote activities such as awareness generation, convergence and mainstreaming of persons with disabilities. So far, 688 LLCs have been constituted covering almost all the districts of the country (excluding the State of J&K).

5.1.4 Appointment of Legal Guardians

Section 14-17 of The National Trust Act, 1999 elaborates on Guardianship for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities to be given by the Local Level Committee. Guardianship is a need based enabling provision. Guardianship is provided for following purpose:-

- (i) Maintenance and Residential Care.
- (ii) Management of Immovable Property.
- (iii) Management of Movable Property.
- (iv) Any others.

5.1.5 State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC)

In order to carry out the activities of the National Trust at the state level and for coordination/liaison with the State Governments, a reputed NGO in every state capital is appointed as State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC). There are 28 SNACs in the country. The National Trust provides funds for conducting institutional activities namely meetings of Registered Organisations / Local Level Committee(LLCs), State Level Coordination Committees (SLCCs), documentation / reporting, honorarium for coordinator, miscellaneous activities. During the year 2018-19, an amount of Rs.67.37 lakh has been released to the SNACs.



5.1.6 State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC)

Every State/UT Government has been requested to set up a State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) for effective implementation and monitoring of the schemes of the National Trust. The Secretary of the State Government looking after disability affairs is the Chairperson and the respective SNAC is the Convener of the Committee. So far, SLCCs have been constituted in 27 States / Union Territories.

5.1.7 The Schemes highlights and the projects sanctioned under New / Revised schemes launched in November 2015 are as under:

(i) Disha (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme for 0-10 years)

This is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years with the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act. This aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) through therapies, trainings and providing support to family members. There are 115 Disha Centers benefiting 2617 beneficiaries in the country. This includes sanction of 27 Disha Centers benefiting 317 beneficiaries during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 868.54 lakhs has been released, so far. This includes release of Rs.170.81 lakhs during 2018-19.

(ii) Vikaas (Day Care Scheme for 10+ years)

This is a Day Care Scheme for Divyangjan attaining the age of 10 years and above, primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to a person with disability for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age groups. The centre will also offer caregiving support to Divyangjan during the time the Divyangjan are in the Vikaas centre. In addition, it also helps in supporting family members of Divyangjan covered under the National Trust Act to get some time during the day to fulfil other responsibilities. There are 124 Vikaas Centers benefiting 4357 beneficiaries in the country. This includes sanction of 35 Vikaas Centers benefiting 637 beneficiaries during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.1439.98 lakhs has been released, so far. This includes release of Rs. 285.53 lakhs during 2018-19.

(iii) Disha-cum Vikaas Scheme (Day Care)

For the Registered Organisations (RO), who were implementing multiple schemes, an option for implementing merged scheme was given. Based on the consent given by the ROs and the scheme guidelines, these ROs were allotted the merged Disha-cum-Vikaas Scheme (Day Care) w.e.f. 1.4.2018. There are 38 Disha-cum-Vikaas Centers benefiting 1052 beneficiaries in the country during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.295.36 lakhs has been released during 2018-19.

(iv) Samarth (Respite Care Residential Scheme)

The objective of Samarth scheme is to provide respite home for orphans or abandoned, families in crisis and also for Divyangjan from BPL & LIG families including destitute



with at least one of the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act. It also aims at creating opportunities for family members to get respite time in order to fulfil other responsibilities. This scheme aims at setting up Samarth Centres for providing group home facility for all age groups with adequate and quality care service with acceptable living standards including provision of basic medical care from professional doctors.

There are 45 Samarth Centers benefiting 1461 beneficiaries in the country. This includes sanction of 8 Samarth Centers benefiting 111 beneficiaries during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 706.20 lakhs has been released, so far. This includes release of Rs.111.83 lakhs during 2018-19.

(v) Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults)

The objective of Gharaunda scheme is to provide an assured home and minimum quality of care services throughout the life of the persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The scheme also facilitates establishment of requisite infrastructure for the assured care system throughout the country, encourage assisted living with independence and dignity and provide care services on a sustainable basis.

There are 50 Gharaunda Centers benefiting 1235 beneficiaries in the country. This includes sanction of 17 Gharaunda Centers benefiting 235 beneficiaries during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.987.86 lakhs has been released, so far. This includes release of Rs.181.24 lakhs during 2018-19.

(vi) Samarth-cum-Gharaunda Scheme (Residential)

For the Registered Organisations, who were implementing multiple schemes, an option for implementing merged scheme was given. Based on the consent given by the ROs and the scheme guidelines, these ROs were allotted the merged Samarth-cum-Gharaunda Scheme (Residential) w.e.f. 1.4.2018. There are 12 Samarth-cum-Gharaunda Centers benefiting 160 beneficiaries in the country during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.70.90 lakhs has been released during 2018-19.

(vii) Sahyogi (Care Associate Training scheme)

This scheme aims at setting up Care Associate (Caregiver) Cells (CACs) to provide training and create a skilled workforce of Care Associates to provide adequate and nurturing care for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and their families who require it. It also seeks to provide parents an opportunity to get trained in care giving, if they so desire. This scheme will provide a choice of training through two levels of courses primary and advanced to allow it to create care associates suited to work both with families of Divyangjan and other institutions catering to the needs of the Divyangjan (NGOs, work centres etc.).

There are 56 Care givers training Centres set up under the Sahyogi Scheme, in which 1762 Care givers have been trained. This includes sanction of 9 Sahyogi Centers and training



of 183 care givers during 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 179.81 lakhs has been released, so far. This includes release of Rs. 14.63 lakhs during 2018-19.

(viii) Badhte Kadam (Awareness, Community Interaction & Innovative Project Scheme)

This scheme shall support ROs of The National Trust to carry out activities that focus on increasing the awareness of The National Trust disabilities. Aim of scheme is to create community awareness, sensitisation, social integration and mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan). The Badhte Kadam Scheme sanctioned to 126 Registered Organizations (ROs), so far. This includes sanction to 11 ROs in 2018-19. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs.79.20 lakhs has been released, so far. This includes release of Rs.4.00 lakhs during 2018-19.

(ix) Prerna (Marketing Assistance)

Prerna is the marketing assistance scheme of the National Trust with an objective to create viable and widespread channels for sale of products and services produced by Divyangjan covered under the National Trust Act. This scheme aims at providing funds to participate in events such as exhibitions, melas, fairs, etc. to sell the products made by PwDs. The scheme also provides an incentive to the ROs based on the sales turnover of the products made by PwDs. The National Trust shall fund RO's participation in National, Regional, State and District level events such as fairs, exhibitions, melas etc. for marketing and selling products and services prepared by PwDs. However, at least 51% of employees of these work centres should be PwDs covered under the National Trust Act.

(x) Sambhav (Aids and Assisted Devices)

This is a scheme to setup additional resource centres, one each in each city of the country with population greater than 5 million (As per 2011 census), to collate and collect the Aids, software and other form of assistive devices developed with a provision of display and demonstration of the devices. The scheme also includes maintaining information, pertaining to aids and assistive devices present at Sambhav centre, on the National Trust website. These centres aim to provide information and easy access to devices, appliances, aids, software etc. for betterment and empowerment of Divyangjan of the National Trust disabilities.

As per the decision of the Board, the scheme is under revision.

(xi) 'Niramaya' Health Insurance Scheme

The scheme is to provide affordable Health Insurance to persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The enrolled beneficiaries get a health insurance cover upto Rs.1.0 lakh, by paying a nominal fee.

Fee Chart : The Complete Fee chart for enrolment and renewal under Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme, applicable from 1st April 2016 is as under:-



Enrolment and Renewal Fee :

PwD Category	Enrolment Fee	Renewal Fee
Below Poverty Line(BPL)	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 50/-
Non BPL	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 250/-
PwD with Legal Guardian (Other than natural parents)	Free	Free

The Heads under which the beneficiary can avail the benefit (The Benefit Chart) is as follows:

'Niramaya' Health Insurance Scheme - Revised Benefit Chart (On Reimbursement Basis only w.e.f. April, 2015)				
Section	Sub-Section	Detail	Sub-Limit (Rs.)	Over all Limit of Section (Rs.)
I	Over all Limit of Hospitalization			70,000/-
	A	Corrective Surgeries for existing Disability including congenital disability	40,000/-	
	B	Non- Surgical/ Hospitalization	15,000/-	
	C	Surgery to prevent further aggravation of disability	15,000/-	
II	Overall Limit for Out Patient Department (OPD)			14,500/-
	A	OPD treatment including the medicines, pathology, diagnostic tests, etc.	8,000/-	
	B	Regular Medical checkup for non-ailing disabled	4,000/-	
	C	Dental Preventive Dentistry	2,500/-	
III	Ongoing Therapies to reduce impact of disability, disability and disability related complications			10,000/-
IV	Alternative Medicine			4,500/-
V	Transportation costs			1,000/-
OVERALL LIMIT OF THE COVERAGE FOR A PERSON: Rs.1,00,000/-				

During the year 2018-19, 96716 beneficiaries have been enrolled. Total 9691 claims have been settled. Total expenditure under the scheme is worth Rs.803.99 lakhs. At present, the scheme is being implemented through M/s. Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., w.e.f. April, 2015.

5.1.8 Implementation of revised schemes of National Trust w.e.f. 1st April, 2018

As approved in the 77th meeting of the Board of the National Trust held on 20th March 2018, the National Trust, the schemes were revised w.e.f. 1st April 2018. Details of this is as under:

- (i) In case of implementation of multiple schemes by a RO, the two schemes namely Disha

and Vikaas will be merged as a single scheme namely Disha-cum-Vikaas. Similarly, Samarth and Gharaunda will be merged in a single scheme namely Samarth-cum-Gharaunda. In no case, the ROs will be sanctioned more than one scheme at a time.

(ii) Details of the structure of these schemes is as under :

Sl.No.	Existing Scheme	Existing		Revised Structure	Structure		
		Set up cost (Rs.)	Monthly Recurring fund (Rs.)		Set up cost (Rs.)	Monthly Recurring fund (Rs.)	Staff required
1	Disha (Early Intervention & School Readiness Scheme)	1.55 lakh	4,500/-	Disha-cum-Vikaas Scheme (batch size 40)	1.55 lakh	Rs.3500/- (Rs.3000/- + conveyance @ Rs.500/- p.m. per eligible bnf.) upto maximum for 30 eligible BPL benef. Ratio condition will remain same as per the guidelines.	(1) Early Intervention Therapist / OT/ PT : any two (2) Sp Educator / Voc Trainer : any One (3) Counsellor : 3 times a week (4) Caregiver : 02 (5) Aaya : 02
2	Vikaas (Day Care for 10+ years Scheme)	1.95 lakh	4,850/-				
3	Samarth (Respite Care Residential Scheme)	2.90 lakh	7,000/-	Samarth-cum Gharaunda (Residential Care) Scheme (Batch size 30)	1.90 lakh	Rs. 5,000/- upto maximum for 20 eligible BPL benef.	(1) OT : 01 (2) PT : 01 (3) Sp Educator / Voc Trainer : any One (4) Caregiver : 03 (5) Aaya : 02 (6) Cook : 01
4	Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults)	2.90 lakh	10,000/-				
5	Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme) same as it is						
6	Gyan Prabha (Educational support)		Gyan Prabha (Educational support)	Scheme closed as similar scheme is being implemented by DEPwD, M/O SJE	Gyan Prabha (Educational support)	Scheme closed as similar scheme is being implemented by DEPwD, M/O SJE	
7	Sahyogi (Caregiver training scheme)	1.00 lakh	1) Trainee cost : - Primary - Advance 2) Trainee stipend - Primary - Advance	Rs.4200 Rs.8000 Rs.5000 Rs.10000	50,000/	1) Trainee cost (Primary- 2000 & Advanced -Rs. 3000) 2) Trainee stipend (Primary-3000 & Advanced-5000)	
8	Perna (Marketing Assistance)			Scheme to be revised			
9	Sambhav (Aids and Assisted Devices)			Scheme to be revised			
10	Badhte Kadam (Awareness, Community Interaction and Innovative Project)			Only 1 program to each RO in a financial year			



- (iii) No new sanction under any scheme of the National Trust shall be made till further decision of the Board or a sub-committee constituted especially for this to take a decision. However, this will not be applicable for North Eastern States and for the ROs implementing old GHARAUNDA Scheme. The revised Gharaunda Scheme is to be sanctioned in order to adjust the old GHARAUNDA Scheme into revised Gharaunda Scheme, as per the plan already approved by the Board. This will also not be applicable for awareness programmes on Inclusive India Initiative, organized under Badhte Kadam Scheme on direction of the National Trust.
- (iv) The ROs will be allowed to implement only one type of scheme i.e. Day Care (Disha-cum-Vikaas Scheme) or Residential Care (Samarth-cum-Gharaunda Scheme). This will be applicable for the existing scheme holders also.
- (v) From the financial year 2018-19, for the existing scheme holders (ROs), implementing single schemes from the four centre based schemes, namely Disha, Vikaas, Gharaunda and Samarth, the funding pattern will be as follows:
 - a) The monthly recurring fund will be Rs.3000 + Rs.500 (transport allowance) per beneficiary, per month, under Disha and Vikaas Schemes and Rs.5000/- per beneficiary, per month under Gharaunda and Samarth Schemes.
 - b) The number of beneficiaries will remain same as in the scheme guidelines i.e. Disha – 20, Vikaas – 30, Gharaunda – 20 and Samarth – 30.
 - c) The maximum number of BPL beneficiary funded by National Trust will be limited to 20 BPL beneficiaries for Disha & Vikaas Schemes & and 15 BPL benef. for Samarth & Gharaunda Schemes.
 - d) In no case, the ROs will be sanctioned more than one scheme at a time.
 - e) This is issued with the prior approval of the competent authority of the Board of the National Trust.”
- (vi) The Board in its 76th Board meeting held on 27.12.2017 agreed to the decision of DEPwD regarding discontinuation of Gyan Prabha Scholarship Scheme. No new enrolments will be allowed. The existing beneficiaries who are availing the scholarship will be allowed for reimbursement of their tuition fees and other benefits as per scheme guidelines till the completion of their ongoing course.

5.2 National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

(i) About NHFDC

National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) was set up by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India on 24th January 1997. The company is registered under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Corresponding provisions of section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013) as a company not for profit. It is wholly owned by Government of India and has an authorized



capital of Rs.499.50 crore. The company is managed by Board of Directors nominated by Government of India.

(ii) Objectives

- To promote self-employment and other ventures for the benefit/economic rehabilitation of the Divyangjans.
- To assist, subject to such income and/or economic criteria as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time, Divyangjans or groups of Divyangjan individuals by way of loans and advances for economically and financially viable schemes and projects.
- To extend loans to Divyangjan for pursuing general/professional / technical education for training at graduate and higher levels.
- To assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of Divyangjans for proper and efficient management of production units.
- To facilitate inclusion and comfortable living in the society for the Divyangjans.
- To set up training, quality control, process development, technology, common facility centres and other infrastructural activities for the proper rehabilitation/ upliftment of the Divyangjans in support of their economic pursuits.
- To assist the State level organizations to deal with the development of the Divyangjans by way of providing financial assistance and in obtaining commercial funding or by way of refinancing.
- To function as an apex institution for channelizing the fund to the PwDs through the Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Government(s), partner Banks & Financial Institutions and other state level institutions with whom agreements are signed.
- To assist self-employed individuals/ group of individuals or registered factories/ companies/co-operatives of PwDs in marketing their finished goods and assist in procurement of raw materials.

(iii) Scope

The Memorandum of Association of NHFDC bestows huge responsibilities on the corporation and covers a wide gamut of socio economic measures conceivable for the upliftment of PwDs. The functioning of the Corporation is likely to change based on continuously changing society. At present, the scope of the Corporation covers the following range of activities :

- Extension of concessional credit to the PwDs for various activities directly or indirectly benefiting the PwDs.
- Modalities for extending concessional credit through various implementing agencies - the agencies nominated by States/UTs {State Channelizing Agencies(SCAs)}; Banks/ Financial institutions; State level organizations



like Livelihood Missions/Swatch Bharat Mission, etc.; Non Government Organizations (NGOs); etc.

- Convergence with the existing schemes of various channel partners as well as Government schemes.
- To provide grant to the Implementing Agencies/reputed training institutions for entrepreneurial and skill development programmes.
- To provide grant to the implementing agencies for publicity and awareness creation activities.
- To extend marketing support to help PwDs in selling their goods and services.

(iv) Broad parameters for lending

Extension of concessional credit for the economic upliftment and general welfare of the PwDs, being the major intervention undertaken by NHFDC, necessitates firming up of broad parameters for lending. The contents of these guidelines are to be read along with individual schemes implemented from time to time to achieve the objectives.

Eligibility criteria

- Any Indian citizen with 40% or more disability ((Disability as defined in RPwD Act, 2016 or its amendments).
- Age above 18 years. However, in case of persons with mental retardation, the eligible age would be above 14 years. The age criteria would not be required for educational loans. Age certificate issued by competent authority authorized by the State Government or as mentioned in the 10th certificate or any other certificate issued by the Government would be sufficient.

Rate of Interest for lending

The financial assistance extended by NHFDC shall carry simple interest at the following rates per annum, wherever specific rates are not provided in the concerned loan scheme(s):-

S.No	Loan amount (Rs.in lakhs)	Rate Interest (%)	Implementing Agency margin (%)	Rate of Interest to PwDs (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) (3+4)
(i)	less than 0.50	2	3	5
(ii)	Above 0.50 - 5.0	3	3	6
(iii)	Above 5.0 - 15.0	3	4	7
(iv)	Above 15.0- 30.0	4	4	8
(v)	Above 30.0- 50.0	4.5	4.5	9



Rebate: A rebate of 1% in interest will be allowed to women with disabilities/persons with disabilities other than OH in self employment loans of upto Rs.50,000/- . The rebate will be borne by NHFDC.

Repayment period of the loan

The maximum repayment period of NHFDC loan shall be 10 years. The specific maximum repayment period for each scheme are also prescribed which may be of shorter duration.

Amount of Loan

The upper limit to extend concessional credit through various NHFDC schemes would be Rs.50.0 lakhs per beneficiary/unit. The actual loan amount within the upper limit of Rs.50.0 lakhs shall be determined by implementing agencies based on the needs of the activity/project being funded as well as repaying capacity of the borrower within the maximum repayment period.

Type of loan

The nature of the loan could be term loan /working capital loan/ promoter contribution towards the loans being sanctioned by other financial institutions.

Implementing Agencies

The loan schemes of NHFDC shall be implemented through any of the following channels:

- (a) The State channelizing agencies nominated by the respective State Governments.
- (b) The banks and other financial institutions with which NHFDC has signed an agreement.
- (c) NBFC-MFIs and other institutions (Govt./Non Govt.) with which NHFDC have signed an agreement/issued specific letter of sanction.

Procedure for Sanction and Release of loans

- (a) The authority to sanction loan to the beneficiary is delegated to the respective implementing agencies.
- (b) The applicant would submit the loan applications in the prescribed format to implementing agencies.
- (c) The implementing agencies would scrutinize and sanction loan in accordance with the guidelines for sanction of loan issued by NHFDC from time to time.
- (d) An existing beneficiary of NHFDC may be extended the facility for repeat loan subject to the following conditions:
 - The beneficiary should fulfill the eligibility criteria of NHFDC for financial assistance as on the date of making application for repeat financial assistance.



- The beneficiary should have a good repayment track record; i.e. he/she should not have defaulted in the repayment of dues in respect of the earlier loan by a period of 3 months or more at any point of time.
- The repeated financial assistance may be made available to the same beneficiary and for the same project / unit for the purpose of expansion / diversification of the project /unit/ scaling up of operations of an activity, as the case may be. However, the condition shall not apply for the micro finance beneficiary who can avail subsequent loan for any income generating activity.
- The loan for the said purposes may be sanctioned by the Implementing Agencies, upto such amount so that the aggregate of loan(s) sanctioned, whether as repeated financial assistance or otherwise, in respect of an individual beneficiary, and/or an individual unit/project does not exceed:
 - i) the sanctioning limits upto which sanctioning authority has been delegated to the Implementing Agencies by NHFDC from time to time; and
 - ii) the sanction limits (scheme specific financial limits) laid down/ specified in the lending policy of the company from time to time.
- Here it is clarified that for extending the repeat loan it is not necessary that the loan given earlier should have been completely repaid. The point to be examined is the repayment record, the financial appraisal and the repayment capacity.

Share of Project Cost

Except where provided in the specific scheme or agency specific exemption provided by NHFDC, the Implementing Agency is expected to contribute 5% of sanctioned project cost for projects above Rs. 50,000/- as their share of the project cost as detailed in the table below:

Project Cost	NHFDC Share	SCA Share	Promoter's Share
* UptoRs. 50,000/-	100%	Nil	Nil
* Above Rs. 50000/- and upto Rs. 1 lakh	95%	5%	Nil
* Above Rs. 1.0 lakh and upto Rs.5.0 lakh	90%	5%	5%
* Above Rs. 5.0 lakh	85%	5%	10%

Moratorium Period:

A moratorium of three months will be available to the Implementing Agency in repayment of principal after the expiry of utilization period (for utilization period please see para 5.2). The Implementing Agency is expected to provide the similar moratorium to the beneficiaries.



Implementing Agency shall have the authority to extend the moratorium period beyond three months, but upto one year (maximum) in respect of projects, the sanctioning authority of which have been delegated to them. However, the aforesaid authority of Implementing Agencies to increase the moratorium period upto one year as above could be exercised subject to the condition that such exercise of authority should be immediately informed to NHFDC with the detailed reasons for the same. It should also be reflected in the detailed list submitted with the utilization certificate.

Prepayment:

The borrower can repay the loan any time after commencement of repayment without having to pay any prepayment charges.

Security:

- (a) The funds are provided to the Implementing Agencies nominated by respective State Governments against the State Government Guarantee. Further, NHFDC may consider financing the Implementing Agencies nominated by it (NHFDC) on the guarantee of the said agency with the approval of the Board. In case of persistent default, the NHFDC will be at liberty to invoke the guarantee or deduct its instalments from the future projects of the concerned agency to be financed. NHFDC may also accept Bank Guarantee or any other form of security acceptable to it for grant of loans.
- (b) Implementing Agencies should strive to seek requisite security as per their respective policies and may also try to cover any portion of the loan not covered with ample security/collateral security through Central Government Guarantee schemes. In order to further securitize the loan, implementing agencies may also consider co-opting family member, as defined in Companies Act, as the co-applicant in the loan.
- (c) The implementing agencies should ensure adequate insurance coverage of the assets and beneficiaries. The cost of insurance coverage of the beneficiaries should be borne under various insurance schemes implemented by Central and State Government & Insurance companies for weaker sections. The insurance cost of assets should be part of the project cost and should be funded as such.

Social Priorities :

- (a) Implementing agencies are required to endeavor to cover target groups in such a way so as to provide equal coverage for women and men.
- (b) The implementing agencies are expected to cover the beneficiaries in such a way that persons from each type of disability are covered in proportion to their respective population in state and district level.
- (c) Self certification whether beneficiary belongs to SC, ST, OBC/Minority or General category is admissible. Where there exists a column in the application form



about the caste, the filling up of this column and signature/thumb impression of the beneficiary on the form may be treated as self certification about the caste.

(v) Other guidelines for implementation of loan schemes

The implementing agencies shall also abide by the following guidelines and procedures while implementing the NHFDC schemes:

Notional Allocation and advance release of NHFDC funds :

- (a) At the beginning of each financial year, NHFDC shall notionally allocate funds to the implementing agencies, in proportion to the disabled population of the State/UT and considering disbursement in preceding three years. The minimum allocation will be Rs 20.00 lakhs to any SCA. The SCAs, in turn, may make district-wise allocation in accordance with the same principle.
- (b) In case of other implementing agencies/ channelizing agencies, the notional allocation will be based on the branch network or as decided by the competent authority.
- (c) Apart from regular monitoring, the status of notional allocation of fund vis-à-vis actual utilization/release of funds, as on 31st October of the financial year, shall be specifically reviewed by NHFDC in the month of November. In case allocated funds have not been availed by any SCA/implementing agencies, the funds earmarked for the SCA/implementing agencies may be re-allocated to other States(s)/UT(s), where utilization of fund is satisfactory.
- (d) Funds up to 50% of notional allocation may be released by NHFDC to the implementing agencies for implementing projects under their delegated authority, as advance funds after receipt of request for release from implementing agencies.
- (e) The balance amount shall be released, on request, on receipt of 80% utilization of 50% of Notional Allocation released earlier.
- (f) The funds would however be released by NHFDC to implementing agencies after considering the status of Government Guarantee/suitable security, execution of General Loan Agreement, Repayment & Utilisation status etc.

Utilisation of loan

The fund released by NHFDC is to be utilised by the Implementing Agencies within 120 days from the date of release. The advance funds shall carry interest rate of 3%. However, applicable interest rate would be charged from the date of disbursement of loan to the beneficiary. In case, the loan amount is not utilised within 120 days, the undisbursed amount is to be returned to NHFDC immediately. The Implementing Agencies shall furnish utilization of these funds in the prescribed format within 120 days of release of funds.



Interest on Unutilized Funds

- (a) Funds that are not utilized and are returned without having been further disbursed to the Beneficiaries, shall attract additional interest (penal interest) @ 3% in addition to applicable rate of interest for the entire period till the funds are returned to NHFDC.
- (b) The implementing agencies shall be exempted from levy of interest on unutilized funds if their cumulative utilization at the end of preceding financial year is 90% or more.

Liquidated Damages on Defaulted Payments:

Defaults in the repayment of NHFDC dues (principal as well as interest), disbursed by the implementing agencies to the Beneficiaries, beyond the stipulated/agreed dates of repayment shall attract interest @ 3% p.a. in addition to the normal rates of interest applicable on the dues. However, no interest on defaulted re-payments shall be levied if the repayment to NHFDC as at the end of preceding financial year is 90% or more.

Incentive for the Implementing Agencies

The implementing agencies fulfilling the prescribed criteria shall be eligible for an incentive as per following norms :

- (a) The recovery (cumulative) and the utilization (cumulative) would carry equal weight age in incentive calculations
- (b) The recovery (cumulative) and the utilization (cumulative) of the implementing agency during the year should be 90%.
- (c) The incentive would be @1% and would be calculated as follows -
 $1\% \text{ of } \{(\text{Recovery during the year} + \text{Utilization of funds during the year})/2\}$
- (d) The implementing agencies would be at liberty to use the incentive amount for any purpose which can aid in the effective implementation of NHFDC schemes.

Printing of Application form for financial assistance

Wherever implementing agency decides to print application forms itself, it is allowed to charge an amount not exceeding Rs.10/- per application form. The amount to be so charged must be printed on the face of the front page of the application form in bold letters in English/Hindi as well as vernacular language of the State/locality.

Financial assistance to implementing agencies for Publicity/Awareness of NHFDC schemes

NHFDC shall reimburse expenses for publicity/awareness creation for NHFDC schemes upto an amount of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) per year or 0.10% of the amount disbursed by the implementing agencies in the immediately preceding financial year, whichever is higher. The implementing agencies will take



prior approval and will submit the bills alongwith the copy of publicity material to NHFDC for reimbursement.

Loan Screening Committee of the Corporation

The lending proposals/agency selection wherever specifically prescribed in any lending scheme of the Corporation would be appraised and recommended by the Loan Screening committee, constituted by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Corporation, with following members :

- (a) HoD (Fin.) of the Corporation (Chairperson)
- (b) HoD (Proj.) of the Corporation
- (c) HoD (Loan Accounts) of the Corporation (Member Secretary)
- (d) Representative of SIDBI/NABARD
- (e) Representative of any partner Bank
- (f) Representative of any National Institution on Disability
- (g) Representative of any reputed NGO working in the field of disability

The above Loan Screening committee will submit its recommendations to the Chairman-cum-Managing Director for approval.

Miscellaneous matters

The implementation of various schemes, interpretation and application of these broad guidelines/norms and matters incidental thereto shall be decided by the Managing Director, NHFDC in the best interests of the Corporation.



CHAPTER- 6

**National Awards for the
Empowerment of Persons with
Disabilities**



Closed Captioning (CC)

**CHAPTER
6**

National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

6.1 Objectives of the scheme

Every year on the occasion of the International Day of the Persons with Disabilities i.e. 3rd December, the Department confers National Awards on individuals, institutions, for outstanding work done by them in the field of empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. National Awards are given under 14 (fourteen) different categories as under:-

I. Best Employee/ Self Employed with Disabilities			
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Locomotor Disability (Locomotor Disability Muscular Disability Dwarfism Acid Attack Victims Leprosy Cured Cerebral Palsy)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(ii)	Visual Disability (Blindness Low Vision)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(iii)	Hearing Disability (Deaf Hard of Hearing)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(iv)	Speech and Language Disability (Speech and Language Disability)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(v)	Developmental Disorder (Autism Spectrum Disorder Specific Learning Disability)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(vi)	Intellectual Disability (Earlier Known As Mental Retardation)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(vii)	Mental Behavior (Mental Illness)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-



(viii)	Disability caused due to blood disorder (Haemophilia Thalassemia Sickle Cell Disease)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(ix)	Chronic Neurological Conditions (Multiple Sclerosis Parkinson's Disease)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(x)	Multiple Disabilities (Multiple Disabilities involving any two or more of the above 8 broad categories)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
II. Award for Best Employers and Placement Officer or Agency			
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Best Employer	Three - One each to: (i) Government organization (ii) Public Sector Undertaking or Autonomous or Local Government Body (iii) Private or Non Governmental Organization	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(ii)	Best Placement Officer/ Agency	Two -One each to: (i) Autonomous Government Organization or Public Sector Undertaking (ii) Private or Non-Governmental Organization or Office	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a shield to every awardee.
III. Award for Best Individual and Institution Working for the Cause of Persons with Disabilities			
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Best Individual	Two (One each for Professional and Non Professional)	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
(ii)	Best Institution	Two One each for: (i) An organization providing holistic comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities in a comprehensive manner. And (ii) An organization promoting inclusive education to the children/persons with disabilities	Cash of Rupees Two Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.

IV. Role Model Awards			
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Locomotor Disability (Locomotor Disability Muscular Disability Dwarfism Acid Attack Victims Leprosy Cured Cerebral Palsy)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
(ii)	Visual Disability (Blindness Low Vision)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(iii)	Hearing Disability (Deaf Hard of Hearing)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(iv)	Speech and Language Disability (Speech and Language Disability)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(v)	Developmental Disorder (Autism Spectrum Disorder Specific Learning Disability)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(vi)	Intellectual Disability (Earlier Known As Mental Retardation)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(vii)	Mental Behavior (Mental Illness)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(viii)	Disability caused due to blood disorder (Haemophilia Thalassemia Sickle Cell Disease)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(ix)	Chronic Neurological Conditions (Multiple Sclerosis Parkinson's Disease)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-
(x)	Multiple Disabilities (Multiple Disabilities involving any two or more of the above 8 broad categories)	Two [One for Male and One for Female]	-do-

V. Awards for Best Applied Research or Innovation or Product Development Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities			
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Best Applied Research or Technological Innovation Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities.	One	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate.
(ii)	Development of new Cost-effective product for manufacture Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities.	Two	-do-
VI. Award for the Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrier-Free Environment for the Persons with Disabilities			
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Government Department or Offices or PSUs or Autonomous Bodies	One	A citation and a certificate.
(ii)	Local Bodies	One	Cash of Rupees Two Lakh, a citation and a certificate.
(iii)	Private Sector or NGOs	One	Cash of Rupees Two Lakh, a citation and a certificate.
VII.	Award for the Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service	One	A Shield, a certificate and citation. No cash award
VIII.	Best State Channelizing Agency of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation.	One	A Shield, a certificate and citation.
IX.	Award for the Outstanding Creative Adult Persons with Disabilities	Two [one for Male and one for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a medal, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
X.	Award for the Best Creative Child with Disabilities	Two [one for Boy and one for Girl]	Cash of rupees Fifty Thousand, a medal, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.

XI.	Best Braille Press	One	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate.
XII.	Best Accessible Website		
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(i)	Govt.	One	A shield, a certificate & a citation
(ii)	PSU or Local Bodies	One	-do-
(iii)	Pvt. Sector	One	-do-
XIII.	(i) Best State in promoting empowerment of persons with disabilities	One	A shield, a certificate, a citation.
	(ii) implementation of Accessible India Campaign	One	-do-
XIV.	Best sports person with disability	4 [two for Male and two for Female]	Cash of Rupees One lakh, a citation, certificate and a shield to every awardee.

6.2 How to apply

- (i) The Central Government, State Governments and Union territory Administrations shall forward their recommendations to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by the stipulated date.
- (ii) The awardees may also recommend and send application.
Advertisement in this regard is published in leading newspapers through Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) and the same is also displayed on the website of the Department.
- (iii) Screening Committees are formed for short listing of applicants in different categories of national awards. The Screening Committees comprise of four to five members, including the Chairman, out of the following:-
 - (a) Serving or retired officers of the rank of Additional Secretary and above of the Central Government or Officers of the reputed Government Institutions;
 - (b) Eminent personalities and experts in the field of disability or expert in the relevant field of award;
 - (c) Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations;
 - (d) Officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and organizations under the Department shall act as convener of the screening committees.



- (e) The National Selection Committee shall decide the nomination of the awardees for various categories on the basis of recommendation of the Screening Committees.
- (f) The applications received are assessed by Screening Committees and the recommendations of the Screening Committees are placed before the National Selection Committee Chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.



CHAPTER- 7

**Telephone Directory – Department
of Empowerment of Persons with
Disabilities (Divangjan)**



Access to Low Vision

Telephone Directory

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divangjan)

UNION CABINET MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE &
EMPOWERMENT

Name & Designation	Telephone (office)	Telephone (Res./Mobile)	Room No.	E-mail address
Dr. Thaawarchand Gehlot Union Cabinet Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment	23381001 23381390 23381902 Fax	23012175 23012195(Fax)	201 C-wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	officesjem@gmail.com
Shri Neeraj Semwal PS to Minister	23381001 23381390 23782132	7042912233	201 C-wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	
Shri Pankaj Kr. Mehta OSD to Minister	23381001 23381390 23782132	9868155144	201 C-wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	
Shri Yogesh Kumar Upadhyay Addl.PS	23381001 23381390 23782132		202, C-wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	
Shri Sankar Lal Asst. PS to Minister	23012175 23012195 Fax	09649265610	4, Janpath, New Delhi	
Staff of Minister	23381001 23381390 23782132		201 C-wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	



MINISTER OF STATE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

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Signage Glossary



Braille Symbol:

This symbol indicates that printed material is available in Braille, including exhibition labeling, publications and signage.



Sign Language Interpretation:

This symbol indicates that Sign Language Interpretation is provided for a lecture, tour, film, performance, conference or other programs.



Accessibility for Intellectual Disabilities:

This symbol indicates that services are available for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.



Telephone Typewriter (TTY):

This symbol indicates the presence of a device used with the telephone for communication with and between deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired and/or hearing impaired persons.



Symbol for Wheelchair Accessibility:

This symbol indicates access for individuals with limited mobility including wheelchair users.



Closed Captioning (CC):

Closed Captioning (CC) (commonly known as subtitles) enables people who are deaf or hard of hearing to read a transcript of the audio portion of a video, film, exhibition or other presentation.



Access to Low Vision:

This symbol indicates access for people who are blind or have low vision, best used in places such as a guided tour, a path to a nature trail or a scent garden in a park and a tactile tour or a museum exhibition that may be touched.