

# ANALYSIS REPORT

## Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment Eighteenth Report | Demands for Grants 2026–27

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Report Presented to Parliament: 11 March 2026

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14<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Overview and Context

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2025–26) of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha, chaired by Shri P.C. Mohan, examined the Demands for Grants for 2026–27 of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). The Eighteenth Report was presented to Parliament on 11 March 2026 after the Committee took oral evidence from the Department on 24 February 2026.

This analysis report synthesises the key findings of the Committee, structured around four dimensions for each scheme and thematic area: (1) questions raised by the Committee; (2) explanations offered by the Department; (3) reductions, revisions and policy changes; and (4) recommendations made by the Committee.

| Metric                                      | Figure   |
|---|--|
| Total Budget Estimate 2026–27               | ₹1,669.72 crore  |
| Total Budget Estimate 2025–26               | ₹1,275.00 crore  |
| Year-on-Year Increase                       | 30.96%   |
| Department's Original Proposal              | ₹1,773.74 crore  |
| Gap from Proposal to Approved BE            | ₹104.02 crore  |
| Total Scheme Outlay 2026–27                 | ₹1,117.00 crore  |
| Two New Schemes Announced                   | Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana (₹200 cr) + Divyangjan Sahara Yojana (₹100 cr) |
| UDID Cards Issued (as on date)              | 1.35 crore   |
| Last Census Estimate of PwD Population      | 2.68 crore (Census 2011)   |
| Disabilities Recognised under RPwD Act 2016 | 21 (vs. 7 under PwD Act 1995)  |

## Chapter I: Budget Allocation and Expenditure

### 2.1 Overall Budget Trends

| Year         | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)         | Utilisation (% of RE) |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2023–24      | 1,225.15  | 1,225.01  | 1,143.89                   | 93.37%                |
| 2024–25      | 1,225.27  | 1,167.27  | 1,112.61                   | 95.32%                |
| 2025–26      | 1,275.00  | 1,291.60  | 1,008.49 (as on 26.2.2026) | ~78%                  |
| 2026–27 (BE) | 1,669.72  | —         | —                          | —                     |

### Questions Raised by the Committee

#### Committee Question

*The Department proposed a BE of ₹1,773.74 crore. The Ministry of Finance approved only ₹1,669.72 crore. How will the Department meet the gap?*

#### Department Response

The Department stated that while the allocation is lower than proposed, it represents a 30.95% increase over BE 2025–26. It will address any shortfall through phased implementation and, if required, by seeking additional funds at the Revised Estimates (RE) stage. The EFC proposals for the 16th Finance Commission Cycle are currently under process and scheme-wise allocations are provisional.

#### Committee Question

*The Actual Expenditure has consistently fallen short of the Revised Estimates in recent years. Has the Department assessed past shortcomings?*

#### Department Response

The Department identified four key shortcomings: (a) under-utilisation in early quarters leading to last-quarter expenditure concentration; (b) delayed submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) by States/UTs; (c) late receipt of proposals from implementing agencies; (d) procedural delays due to onboarding issues under the TSA-Hybrid Model.

### Policy Changes and Budget Revisions

Two new schemes: Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana and Divyangjan Sahara Yojana, were announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, accounting for ₹300 crore of the total ₹1,117 crore scheme outlay. This represents

a structural shift: the demand-driven ADIP, DDRS, SIPDA and Scholarship schemes, which had a combined BE of ₹741.80 crore in 2025–26, have been allocated ₹817 crore collectively in 2026–27 (excluding new schemes).

### Committee Recommendations

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended a more rigorous expenditure management framework: quarterly expenditure targets, real-time monitoring of fund utilisation, advance identification of implementable proposals from States/UTs, strict timelines for UC submission, and digital tracking mechanisms to prevent last-quarter expenditure concentration. (Para 2.11)

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended a structured mechanism for advance planning of proposals, periodic engagement with State Governments and implementing agencies, and a streamlined documentation verification process for the four major demand-driven schemes. (Para 2.12)

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended an outcome-oriented approach with clearly defined physical targets, periodic evaluation, and stronger monitoring. Priority expansion of assistive devices, rehabilitation, scholarships and skill training in North-Eastern Region and aspirational districts was specifically urged. (Para 2.13)

## Chapter II: ADIP (Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances)

The ADIP Scheme (launched 1981) funds scientifically manufactured, cost-effective assistive devices to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of PwDs. The scheme was most recently revised on 26 September 2024, with procedural simplifications but no additional financial implications.

### 3.1 Budget and Beneficiary Data

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)       | Target (Lakh) | Achievement (Lakh) |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 2023–24 | 245.00    | 305.00    | 290.60                   | 2.15          | 3.46               |
| 2024–25 | 315.00    | 350.00    | 348.81                   | 3.15          | 2.51               |
| 2025–26 | 316.00    | 330.60    | 291.75 (as on 20.2.2026) | 2.05          | 1.91               |
| 2026–27 | 375.00    | —         | —                        | 2.43          | —                  |

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## Questions Raised by the Committee

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### Committee Question

*Despite enhanced income ceilings for eligibility, beneficiary coverage has not increased proportionately. Why?*

### Department Response

The income ceiling was revised in 2021 (the monthly limit for 100% subsidy was raised from ₹15,000 to ₹22,500). However, there has been a rising demand for high-end devices such as motorised tricycles, accessible smartphones, and High-end Prostheses, which significantly increase per-unit costs. This has moderated overall physical coverage within the available financial allocation.

### Committee Question

*Physical targets for 2025–26 and 2026–27 are lower than 2024–25, despite higher budget estimates. What is the rationale?*

### Department Response

Targets were rationalised to reflect the higher financial outlay per beneficiary, driven by demand for costlier items. The Department clarified that this does not indicate a dilution of scheme objectives but rather reflects the provision of advanced, high-quality devices in a sustainable manner.

### Committee Question

*Why was the State Government recommendation requirement removed from the ADIP scheme?*

### Department Response

The Department stated that this was done to reduce time lags in NGO proposal submissions, simplify processing, and eliminate unnecessary delays. Since ADIP is a 100% central sector scheme and most States have separate disability departments implementing their own schemes, the recommendation layer was considered redundant.

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## Key Policy Changes (Revisions in 2022 and 2024)

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Major modifications include:

- State Government recommendation requirement removed for NGO proposals
- Beneficiary data and device distribution made mandatory through ARJUN Portal
- Eligibility for high-end Prosthesis and Motorised Tricycles reduced from 80% to 40% disability
- Self-certification of income introduced for beneficiaries
- ADIP-SSA extended to home schooling and special schools
- Motorised Tricycles with Li-Ion Phosphate batteries and Folding Joystick Wheelchairs included with a subsidy up to ₹50,000
- Age limit for receiving aids every year increased from 12 to 18 years for customised items

- Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras (PMDKs) established as walk-in centres for direct, free access to aids

## Committee Recommendations

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended that the Department maintain a balance between the provision of advanced technologies and wider beneficiary coverage, and present a realistic fiscal requirement before the Ministry of Finance for the 16th Finance Commission cycle (2026–2031). (Para 3.16)

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended periodic assessment of device-wise demand and cost structures, rationalisation of the device mix, and exploration of CSR funds from CPSUs and private entities to bridge the funding gap for expensive devices. (Para 3.17)

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended expanding PMDKs in Aspirational Blocks and in remote and underserved areas, with repair and maintenance services, and a clear timeline for converting all temporary distribution points into permanent PMDKs. (Para 3.18)

### Committee Recommendation

Given the removal of the State Government recommendation requirement, the Committee recommended strengthening due diligence, monitoring, and audit mechanisms, including periodic reviews of implementing agencies and greater reliance on the ARJUN portal. (Para 3.19)

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended enhanced outreach through digital platforms, social media and targeted publicity campaigns. (Para 3.20)

## Chapter III: DDRS (Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme)

DDRS provides grant-in-aid to NGOs for rehabilitation projects for PwDs across eight model project types, including special schools, early intervention centres, leprosy rehabilitation, mental health halfway homes, and therapy centres. The DDRC sub-scheme operates district-level rehabilitation centres. The scheme was revised effective 1 October 2024.

### 4.1 Budget and Beneficiary Data

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)      | Target | Achievement              |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 2023–24 | 130.00    | 130.00    | 129.98                  | 40,000 | 30,589                   |
| 2024–25 | 165.00    | 139.00    | 139.39                  | 32,000 | 34,898                   |
| 2025–26 | 165.00    | 145.00    | 88.26 (as on 20.2.2026) | 34,000 | 22,825 (as on 20.1.2026) |
| 2026–27 | 167.00    | —         | —                       | —      | —                        |

### Questions Raised by the Committee

#### Committee Question

*Why were BE allocations for 2024–25 and 2025–26 revised downward at the RE stage?*

#### Department Response

The Department explained that EFC recommendations set specific annual ceilings (₹135 crore for 2024–25 and ₹140 crore for 2025–26). The RE allocations of ₹139 crore and ₹145 crore, respectively, were higher than the EFC-indicated ceilings and thus do not reflect an adverse reduction. Budget flexibility within the five-year total of ₹650 crore (2021–26) was exercised as required.

#### Committee Question

*Almost 50% of the 2025–26 allocation remained unspent. What steps are being taken?*

#### Department Response

The DDRS operates on a reimbursement basis: GIA is released only after receipt of audited accounts and UCs, which, by GFR norms, must be submitted by 30 June of the succeeding year. This creates a structural first-quarter lag. The Department has operationalised a dedicated e-Anudaan portal instance for DEPwD, integrated UDID data through the Swavlamban portal, and is processing reimbursement proposals on priority as documents are received.

#### Committee Question

*Several States and UTs have no DDRS projects or DDRCs. What steps are being taken?*

#### Department Response

The Department identified Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, and Lakshadweep as States/UTs with no DDRS units. An appeal was made to Committee members to encourage local NGOs and State Governments in their constituencies to avail the scheme.

### Key Policy Changes (October 2024 Revision)

The 2024 revision introduced three significant changes:

- Advance GIA of up to 25% of the previous-to-previous year’s released amount may now be provided to PIAs with pending proposals, to prevent service disruption.
- Government institutions and Armed Forces bodies may now submit proposals directly to DEPwD without routing through State Governments.
- PIAs may now access supplementary grants from State Governments, CSR and other sources over and above GoI funding norms to provide additional services or meet minimum wage requirements.

### Committee Recommendations

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended further simplification of procedural requirements and strengthened coordination with implementing agencies to ensure timely proposal submission and fund release, given the inherent first-quarter lag in the reimbursement-based structure. (Para 4.18)

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended proactive steps in coordination with State Governments, local bodies and voluntary organisations to promote the establishment of DDRS projects and DDRCs in States/UTs that currently lack such facilities. People’s representatives should be involved to generate awareness and facilitate better implementation. (Para 4.19)

## Chapter IV: SIPDA (Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016)

SIPDA is an umbrella scheme comprising nine sub-schemes covering barrier-free environment creation, skill training (NAP-SDP), UDID implementation, awareness generation, research and development, spinal injury centre support, early intervention, accessible learning materials, and the Central Project Management Unit.

### 5.1 Budget and Expenditure Data

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)       | RE Utilisation (%) |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023–24 | 150.00    | 67.00     | 76.79                    | 114.61%            |
| 2024–25 | 135.33    | 111.00    | 44.16                    | 39.78%             |
| 2025–26 | 115.10    | 200.00    | 146.18 (as on 23.2.2026) | 73.09%             |
| 2026–27 | 125.00    | —         | —                        | —                  |

### Critical Observation

SIPDA is the only scheme whose primary mandate flows directly from a statutory obligation under the RPwD Act, 2016. Yet it has shown the most erratic financial performance: in 2023–24, the RE was cut by 55% from BE; in 2025–26, it was enhanced by 73.76% at RE stage despite expenditure remaining below 50% in the first three quarters.

## Questions Raised by the Committee

### Committee Question

*What led to the sharp reduction in SIPDA allocations during 2024–25 and 2026–27 compared to 2023–24?*

### Department Response

The Department cited: (i) demand-driven nature causing under-utilisation when proposals are late or incomplete; (ii) delays in UC submission by States/UTs blocking further disbursement; (iii) transitional delays from introduction of CNA and TSA models; (iv) fewer proposals at different stages of implementation; and (v) delays in specialised staff recruitment and infrastructure readiness at certain centres.

### Committee Question

*Why was the RE for 2025–26 enhanced to ₹200 crore despite expenditure remaining below 50% in the first three quarters?*

### Department Response

The upward revision was driven by an increase in eligible demand-based proposals under SIPDA (especially CBFE), and the need to align allocations with actual implementation capacity. The low first three-quarter expenditure was primarily due to CNA/TSA transition bottlenecks, where States/UTs could not timely onboard and draw down already-sanctioned funds, delays in proposals, and pending UCs.

## Structural Concerns Identified

The persistent mismatch between SIPDA allocations and expenditure reflects three structural issues:

- The CNA/TSA transition model has created systemic onboarding delays at the State level, which will require dedicated technical support to resolve.
- SIPDA's nine sub-schemes have highly variable demand and absorption profiles, making aggregate budgeting unreliable.
- Pending UCs create a cascading lock: no subsequent release is possible until earlier UCs are cleared, compressing expenditure into the final quarter.

## Committee Recommendations

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended more realistic budgeting, stronger advance appraisal of proposals, and closer monitoring of utilisation certificates and project readiness at the State/UT level, in line with SIPDA’s statutory mandate under the RPwD Act, 2016. (Para 5.7)

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended dedicated technical support to States and implementing agencies to ensure full integration of their financial systems with the TSA/CNA framework, along with regular reviews and advance identification of projects. (Para 5.8)

## Chapter V: National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP)

NAP-SDP, a SIPDA sub-component launched in March 2015, funds skill training for PwDs with at least 40% disability (age 15–59 years) through government and non-government training partners via the PM-DAKSH-DEPwD portal. The third instalment of the grant-in-aid is linked to 70% verified placement with at least 50% minimum-wage employment.

### 6.1 Performance Data

| Year    | RE (Notional, ₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)     | Target (PwDs) | Achievement            |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 2023–24 | 36                  | 10.22                  | 17,000        | 9,333                  |
| 2024–25 | 16                  | 4.33                   | 15,000        | 836                    |
| 2025–26 | 10                  | 6.21 (as on 18.2.2026) | 10,000        | 2,264 (as on Jan 2026) |
| 2026–27 | —                   | —                      | 5,000         | —                      |

### Serious Performance Concern

NAP-SDP achieved only 836 beneficiaries against a target of 15,000 in 2024–25, a 94.4% shortfall. In 2025–26, achievement stood at 22.6% of the target as of January 2026. The target for 2026–27 has been drastically reduced to 5,000, a downward revision of expectations.

### Questions Raised by the Committee

#### Committee Question

*What are the reasons for the severe under-performance of NAP-SDP over the last three years?*

**Department Response**

The Department cited: (a) a change in procedure for release of the 1st instalment (from project-wise to batch-wise) reducing disbursements; (b) transition to the Hybrid TSA model in late 2024–25 causing ₹9 crore to be released but only ₹4.33 crore utilised, with unspent amounts returned to CFI; (c) stricter biometric attendance and portal-based monitoring reducing participation from underperforming training partners.

**Committee Question**

*What is the rationale for fixing the physical target at only 5,000 for 2026–27?*

**Department Response**

Targets were fixed conservatively based on actual performance and challenges faced. The Department stated that industry-linked Special Projects are being implemented on a pilot basis and indicated the newly announced Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana (with a ₹200 crore budget) will absorb this mandate with broader and more effective implementation modalities.

**Committee Recommendations**
**Committee Recommendation**

The Committee expressed serious concern that NAP-SDP has consistently failed to achieve even 25% of the set targets. It recommended a more robust, industry-linked approach under the new Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana, prioritising placement of certified trainees through stronger private employer partnerships and market-aligned training modules. Quarterly monitoring of 2026–27 targets was specifically recommended. (Para 6.6)

## Chapter VI: Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

The Central Sector Umbrella Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities covers six components: Pre-matric (Classes IX–X), Post-matric (Classes XI to PG), Top Class Education (UG and PG at notified institutions), National Fellowship (M.Phil/PhD), National Overseas Scholarship (postgraduate/doctorate abroad), and Free Coaching (government recruitment and entrance examinations).

### 7.1 Budget and Beneficiary Data

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)      | Target | Achievement              |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 2023–24 | 155.00    | 155.00    | 135.07                  | 43,520 | 29,374 (67.5%)           |
| 2024–25 | 142.68    | 80.00     | 87.70                   | 43,520 | 23,085 (53%)             |
| 2025–26 | 145.00    | 135.00    | 82.78 (as on 23.2.2026) | 43,520 | 17,378 (as on 20.1.2026) |

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr) | Target | Achievement |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| 2026–27 | 150.00    | —         | —                  | 44,520 | —           |

### Questions Raised by the Committee

#### Committee Question

*Why has physical achievement under the Scholarship Scheme fallen consistently despite stable financial allocations?*

#### Department Response

The Department explained that stricter verification through e-KYC biometric authentication, UDID linkage and One Time Registration (OTR) on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) has led to the elimination of duplicate and ineligible applications. Additionally, some payment files remain pending at the State Nodal Officer (SNO) level for deficiency verification and revalidation, which are processed in succeeding years.

#### Committee Question

*Is any revision of scholarship amounts under consideration?*

#### Department Response

While the Department denied a formal proposal to revise amounts, it proposed moving to a uniform lump-sum scholarship structure for Pre-matric (₹10,000/year), Post-matric (₹36,000/year) and expanded Top Class tuition reimbursement (up to ₹10 lakh from ₹1.90 lakh) from the next EFC cycle (2026–27 onwards). This aims to simplify calculations, reduce errors at the Implementing Agency level and expedite disbursement.

### Proposed Scholarship Revision (Pending EFC Approval)

| Component           | Current Structure (Selected items)                                     | Proposed Change  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Pre-Matric          | ₹500–800/month + ₹1,000 book grant + ₹2,000–4,000 disability allowance | Uniform lump sum ₹10,000/year                                      |
| Post-Matric         | ₹650–1,200/month + tuition up to ₹1.40 lakh + misc up to ₹10,000       | Uniform lumpsum ₹36,000/year                                       |
| Top Class Education | Tuition up to ₹1.90 lakh + ₹3,000/month + computer ₹45,000 (one-time)  | Tuition up to ₹10 lakh; uniform lumpsum for maintenance allowances |

### Committee Recommendations

**Committee Recommendation**

The Committee recommended intensification of awareness campaigns, better coordination with States/UTs and monitoring of pendency at the SNO level so that more eligible students can access the scheme. (Para 7.10 / 7.11)

**Committee Recommendation**

On the proposed lump-sum structure, the Committee recommended that while simplifying disbursement, the Department must ensure scholarship amounts remain adequate to meet actual educational expenses and that mechanisms are put in place to minimise processing delays at the State level. (Para 7.11 / 7.12)

## Chapter VII: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Disability Sports (CDS), Gwalior

The Centre for Disability Sports (CDS), Gwalior, functions as a national training and capacity-building institution for Divyang athletes, providing coaching, talent identification, infrastructure and participation in national and international competitions. More than 5,000 Divyang players have been benefited since inception. The Centre has a hostel capacity for 208 athletes.

### 8.1 Budget Data

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)      | Utilisation (% of BE) |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2023–24 | 76.00     | 76.00     | 35.34                   | 46.5%                 |
| 2024–25 | 25.00     | 23.30     | 12.89                   | 51.6%                 |
| 2025–26 | 25.00     | 25.00     | 19.41 (as on 19.2.2026) | 77.6%                 |
| 2026–27 | 32.50     | —         | —                       | —                     |

**Committee Observation**

The Committee expressed displeasure: the Department utilised only approximately 50% of the allocated funds in both 2023–24 and 2024–25. The 2026–27 allocation of ₹32.50 crore is structured with ₹25 crore for capital infrastructure (including a committed CPWD liability of ₹14 crore), leaving limited space for operational programmes.

### Committee Recommendations

**Committee Recommendation**

The Committee recommended exploring collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the Khelo India framework to integrate talent scouting for Divyang athletes with existing national sports infrastructure, enabling grassroots identification and structured training pathways. (Para 8.5)

## Chapter VIII: National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)

Nine National Institutes and 30 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) provide human resource development, research, rehabilitation, and training services across disability categories nationwide. Budget allocations for 2026–27 stand at ₹439.21 crore for the NIs collectively.

### 9.1 Budget Data

| Year    | BE (₹ Cr) | RE (₹ Cr) | Actual Exp. (₹ Cr)       | Beneficiaries |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 2023–24 | 385.00    | 408.75    | 408.85                   | 38.06 lakh    |
| 2024–25 | 370.00    | 391.97    | 409.21                   | 43.95 lakh    |
| 2025–26 | 430.19    | 381.44    | 312.46 (as on 20.2.2026) | 19.44 lakh    |
| 2026–27 | 439.21    | —         | —                        | —             |

### 9.2 Staff Vacancy Crisis in NIs

| National Institute   | Sanctioned Strength | Present Strength | Vacancy (%) |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| SVNIRTAR, Cuttack    | 197                 | 115              | 41.6%       |
| NILD, Kolkata        | 111                 | 82               | 26.1%       |
| PDUNIPPD, New Delhi  | 158                 | 112              | 29.1%       |
| NIEPVD, Dehradun     | 184                 | 145              | 21.2%       |
| AYJNISHD, Mumbai     | 173                 | 121              | 30.1%       |
| NIEPID, Secunderabad | 152                 | 102              | 32.9%       |
| NIEPMD, Chennai      | 32                  | 23               | 28.1%       |
| ISLRTC, New Delhi    | 26                  | 21               | 19.2%       |
| NIMHR, Sehore        | 15                  | 10               | 33.3%       |

### Questions Raised by the Committee

#### Committee Question

*Are the National Institutes receiving requests for enhanced allocations, and what is the staff situation?*

**Department Response**

The Department confirmed that the financial requirements of NIs have increased due to the expansion of activities, new academic courses, infrastructure works, and the filling of vacant posts. Demand has particularly risen under the General Head for outsourced and contractual staff remuneration. The Department is pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Finance for the creation and revival of posts. In the interim, NIs and CRCs engage staff through outsourcing and contractual arrangements.

**Committee Question**

*Are NIs mandated to undertake research activities?*

**Department Response**

Yes, NIs are mandated to undertake R&D. Notable achievements include: ISLRTC developing an Indian Sign Language dictionary; NIEPVD developing a manual on Bharati Braille; SVNIRTAR Cuttack on the verge of launching a myoelectric hand; NILD Kolkata and PDUNIPPD New Delhi collaborating with ISRO to develop a lightweight knee joint; NIEPID Secunderabad developing an indigenous IQ assessment tool (NITI).

## Committee Recommendations

**Committee Recommendation**

The Committee recommended that the Department pursue early approval from the Ministry of Finance for creation and revival of posts and simultaneously expedite recruitment to existing vacancies in NIs and CRCs, which are operating with significant vacancies ranging from 19% to 41.6% below sanctioned strength. (Para 9.9)

**Committee Recommendation**

The Committee recommended greater collaboration of National Institutes with premier scientific institutions, universities and technology agencies for development and dissemination of indigenous assistive technologies, rehabilitation tools and evidence-based practices. (Para 9.10)

## Chapter IX: New Schemes for 2026–27

Two new schemes were announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, representing a total outlay of ₹300 crore and a structural enhancement of the DEPwD budget:

**Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana**

**Divyangjan Sahara Yojana**

### ₹200 crore

Industry-linked skill training for Divyangjan in IT, AVGC, Hospitality and Food & Beverages sectors

### ₹100 crore

Strengthening the assistive device ecosystem through ALIMCO manufacturing, PMD-VKs, and AT-Marts

#### Status as of Report Adoption (10 March 2026)

Both schemes are at a formative stage. The modalities for Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana are under formulation. The Divyangjan Sahara Yojana is under consultation with stakeholders. No physical targets have been finalised for either scheme. ₹300 crore has been allocated without an operational framework in place.

### Committee Recommendations

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee welcomed both schemes but expressed concern that implementation modalities and physical targets remain unfinished at the time of budget allocation. It recommended expedited finalisation of the scheme guidelines and a clear implementation framework with measurable targets for skill training, employment opportunities, and assistive device distribution before the commencement of the financial year. (Para 10.5)

## Chapter X: Monitoring Mechanisms

The Department has established a digital monitoring ecosystem comprising the ARJUN Portal (beneficiary data and anti-duplication for ADIP), e-Anudaan Portal (online GIA processing for DDRS and DDRC), UDID/Swavlamban Portal (beneficiary verification), NGO-Darpan (mandatory registration of implementing agencies), and the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for scholarship tracking. Periodic field inspections, sample checks (at least 2% of aided beneficiaries), and Secretary-level reviews supplement the digital framework.

### Key Challenges in Monitoring

Despite this architecture, the Committee noted persistent operational challenges:

- Delays in proposal and UC submission by implementing agencies remain the primary systemic failure point across all demand-driven schemes.
- Beneficiary data uploads on the ARJUN Portal are delayed in areas with poor internet connectivity, particularly in hilly and remote regions.
- The TSA/CNA model transition has created integration bottlenecks at State level, preventing timely fund drawdown even when proposals are sanctioned.

- Under SIPDA’s CBFE component, demand-driven disbursement makes pre-determined target-setting methodologically unreliable.

## Committee Recommendations

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended institutionalising a time-bound compliance framework for implementing agencies, strengthening digital integration of monitoring platforms (ARJUN, UDID, e-Anudaan), and establishing a structured follow-up mechanism with States/UTs to minimise delays in documentation, reporting and fund utilisation. (Para 11.4)

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommended a comprehensive monitoring and capacity-building framework for implementing agencies, including regular performance reviews, targeted training for State and NGO partners, and a robust data-driven real-time dashboard for tracking scheme implementation across the country. (Para 11.5)

## Consolidated Statement of Committee Recommendations

The following table consolidates all 22 recommendations of the Standing Committee, mapped to scheme, paragraph and subject matter.

| Para | Scheme/Area           | Core Recommendation   |
|------|-----------------------|---|
| 1.9  | Census / PwD Data     | Press Registrar General of India for accurate enumeration of all 21 RPwD disability categories including non-visible disabilities; leverage UDID framework. |
| 2.11 | Overall Budget        | Strengthen expenditure management: quarterly targets, real-time monitoring, advance proposal identification, strict UC timelines.                           |
| 2.12 | Demand-Driven Schemes | Structured advance planning mechanism for proposals; digital tracking of approvals and releases across ADIP, SIPDA, DDRS and Scholarships.                  |
| 2.13 | Overall Budget        | Outcome-oriented implementation with physical targets and periodic evaluation; prioritise NER and aspirational districts.                                   |

| Para      | Scheme/Area      | Core Recommendation  |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| 3.16      | ADIP             | Balance advanced technology with wider coverage; present adequate fiscal requirement to Ministry of Finance for 16th Finance Commission cycle.       |
| 3.17      | ADIP             | Periodic device-wise demand/cost assessment; rationalise device mix; leverage CSR funds for expensive devices.                                       |
| 3.18      | ADIP / PMDKs     | Expand PMDKs to Aspirational Blocks and remote areas; equip for repair/maintenance; set timeline for converting temporary points to permanent PMDKs. |
| 3.19      | ADIP             | Strengthen due diligence and audit following removal of State recommendation requirement; increase ARJUN portal reliance.                            |
| 3.20      | ADIP / Awareness | Enhance outreach via digital platforms, social media and targeted campaigns.   |
| 4.18      | DDRS             | Simplify procedural requirements and coordinate with implementing agencies for timely UC and proposal submission.                                    |
| 4.19      | DDRS / DDRCs     | Proactive steps to establish DDRS projects and DDRCs in States/UTs currently without coverage; involve peoples' representatives.                     |
| 5.7       | SIPDA            | Adopt realistic budgeting and stronger advance appraisal; close monitoring of UCs and project readiness at State/UT level.                           |
| 5.8       | SIPDA / CNA-TSA  | Provide dedicated technical support to States for TSA/CNA integration; advance identification of projects to ensure timely utilisation.              |
| 6.6       | NAP-SDP / Skill  | Robust industry-linked approach under Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana; strengthen placement linkages; quarterly monitoring of 2026–27 targets.             |
| 7.10/7.11 | Scholarships     | Intensify awareness campaigns and coordination with States; monitor SNO-level pendency for wider beneficiary reach.                                  |

| Para      | Scheme/Area         | Core Recommendation   |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| 7.11/7.12 | Scholarships        | While adopting lump-sum structure, ensure amounts remain adequate; minimise processing delays at State level.                                 |
| 8.5       | CDS, Gwalior        | Explore collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under Khelo India for grassroots Divyang athlete identification.              |
| 9.9       | National Institutes | Pursue Ministry of Finance for post creation/revival; expedite recruitment to existing vacancies across NIs and CRCs.                         |
| 9.10      | National Institutes | Encourage NI collaboration with premier scientific institutions and universities for indigenous assistive technology development.             |
| 10.5      | New Schemes         | Expedite finalisation of Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana and Divyangjan Sahara Yojana guidelines with measurable physical targets.                  |
| 11.4      | Monitoring          | Institutionalise time-bound compliance framework; strengthen digital integration of ARJUN, UDID, e-Anudaan; structured States/UTs follow-up.  |
| 11.5      | Monitoring          | Comprehensive monitoring and capacity-building framework; performance reviews; data-driven real-time dashboard for all implementing agencies. |

## Analytical Note: Structural Patterns and Cross-Cutting Concerns

A reading of the Eighteenth Report reveals four structural patterns that cut across individual schemes:

### 1. Systematic Under-Utilisation Driven by Structural Design Flaws

The reimbursement-based nature of DDRS, the demand-driven design of SIPDA and ADIP, and the cascading UC requirement across all schemes create a first-quarter expenditure lock. This is not incidental — it is an architectural feature of the scheme design that the Department has yet to structurally reform.

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Switching to advance-based disbursement models (as partially attempted in DDRS's October 2024 revision) and front-loading UC compliance timelines are necessary but not yet fully implemented.

## 2. The CNA/TSA Transition as a Cross-Cutting Disruptor

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The shift to the Treasury Single Account-Hybrid Model has created year-spanning bottlenecks across SIPDA, NAP-SDP and DDRS. Fund amounts were sanctioned and released but returned to the Consolidated Fund of India at year end due to non-drawdown by States. This structural problem requires dedicated, scheme-level technical assistance to States rather than routine coordination letters and video conferences.

## 3. Data Deficit Undermining Policy Formulation

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The Department acknowledged that budget estimates are prepared based on previous years' performance rather than the PwD population, as no updated census data is available. With the Census 2011 figure of 2.68 crore PwDs potentially outdated (given 21 recognised disabilities vs. 7 in 2011) and 1.35 crore UDID cards issued, the true demand for services is unknown. This creates a fundamental problem for long-cycle planning under the 16th Finance Commission.

## 4. New Scheme Allocation Without Operational Readiness

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A combined ₹300 crore has been allocated to Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana and Divyangjan Sahara Yojana whose implementation modalities, guidelines and physical targets remain under formulation as of the report's adoption date. This risks replicating NAP-SDP's trajectory, in which structural design gaps led to achieving less than 6% of the annual target in 2024–25. The Committee's recommendation for expedited finalisation of the framework is critical and time-sensitive.

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### About this Report

This analysis was prepared by the Politics and Disability Forum (PDF), New Delhi, based on the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2025–26), presented to Parliament on 11 March 2026. PDF is India's first research and advocacy organisation focused on parliamentary accountability in disability policy. This report is part of the Purple Sabha Parliamentary Accountability Series.

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*For the Disability Parliamentary Watch Newsletter, updates on Standing Committee engagement, and the full Purple Sabha: Status of Disability in Parliament 2025 Report, visit: [indiadisabilitywatch.in](http://indiadisabilitywatch.in)*

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