

# WHITE PAPER On

## Rationalization and Expansion Framework for National Trust Schemes Towards Equitable District-Level Coverage Across India

### 1. Introduction and Policy Context

The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities was established with the vision of ensuring long-term care, protection, rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (PwIDDs). Over the years, schemes such as DISHA, VIKAAS and GHAROUNDA have become the backbone of structured community-based rehabilitation services in India. These schemes provide early intervention to children, day-care and skill development to adults, and residential care to those requiring lifelong support.

As identification through UDID expands and awareness grows, the demand for structured rehabilitation infrastructure is increasing rapidly across districts. It is therefore essential to assess whether the current funding structure allows equitable and nationwide expansion, or whether reform is required to meet the evolving needs of PwIDDs and their families.

### 2. Present Institutional Landscape and Coverage Gap

At present, the National Trust ecosystem comprises:

SN	Particulars	Nos
1	Total No of Districts in India	802
2	Total No of Registered Organizations (Ros) of NT	589
3	Total No of Unique Districts Covered by NT Ros	308 (38%)
4	Total No of Funded ROs by NT	117 (20%)
5	Total No of Unique Districts Covered by Funded ROs	100 (12%)
6	No of Districts Do not have NT Ros in India	494 (62%)
7	No of Districts Do not have Institutionalized Scheme of NT	702 (80%)

This concentration of funding creates regional imbalance. Large and high-population states continue to show major coverage gaps, leaving thousands of PwIDDs beneficiaries without structured support despite institutional capacity being present.

#### Examples of Major State Gaps

SN	State	Total Districts	Funded Districts	Coverage Gap
1	Uttar Pradesh	76	19	57
2	Madhya Pradesh	57	15	42
3	Maharashtra	36	2	34
4	Rajasthan	41	1	40
5	Bihar	38	4	34
6	Gujarat	34	3	31
7	Assam	35	3	32

(All India data is given in Annex A)

#### 4. Disability Population Context and Rising Service Demand

As per the UDID portal the National Trust Disability data as on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 are as under:

SN	Type of Disability	Nos in Lacs
1	Total UDID Card (21 types)	134.00
2	Autism	1.32
3	Cerebral Palsy	3.00
4	Intellectual Disability	14.19
5	Multiple Disability	3.85
	<b>Total NT Disabilities (UDID)</b>	<b>22.36</b>
	Total Disability Population 2011	268.00
	<b>Total NT disability (2011)</b>	<b>85.00</b>

This indicates that disability identification is expanding significantly, yet scheme penetration remains geographically limited. The gap between identified beneficiaries and funded service centres is widening, making district-level expansion a policy necessity rather than an option.

#### 5. Structural Limitation of Existing 100% Funding Model

Currently, DISHA, VIKAAS, SAMARTH, and GHAROUNDA operate under a 100% Government Grant model, wherein the entire operational expenditure is borne by National Trust through DEPwD allocation. This model was essential during the formative years to encourage participation and build credibility.

However, under present conditions, this structure:

- Restricts scalability
- Makes expansion fully dependent on budget increase
- Limits the number of new centres that can be sanctioned
- Concentrates funding in limited districts

Given the growing demand and fiscal realities, a calibrated reform in funding architecture is necessary to enable wider expansion without increasing fiscal burden.

#### 6. Last 7 years Financials of National Trust

Year	Income	Exp	Saving	DEPwD Grant	Reserve	Reserve FDR	Saving A/c	Corpus Int	Interest on SB
18-19	27.48	23.51	3.97	20.00	15.96	6.00	10.21	8.48	0.21
19-20	30.21	27.91	2.30	20.00	18.25	6.00	11.72	8.48	0.24
20-21	42.06	33.18	8.88	29.80	27.13	6.00	20.82	8.48	0.65
21-22	40.90	35.44	5.46	28.14	32.59	6.00	27.33	8.19	0.74
22-23	45.45	44.00	1.45	35.00	34.04	20.00	14.04	6.77	0.56
23-24	46.67	40.70	5.97	35.00	40.01	20.00	20.01	8.24	0.46
24-25	43.57	38.21	5.36	31.00	45.37	20.00	25.37	8.86	0.65

## Scheme Expenditure

SN	Scheme	Max Benf	Cost Norms Rs/Month)			Yearly/ Center	Present Centers	Benf.	Exp (Cr)
			Monthly	Trpt	Total				
1	Disha	20	4500	1000	5500	1320000	19	374	2.47
2	Vikaas	30	3850	1000	4850	1746000	30	786	4.57
3	Samarth	30	7000	0	7000	2520000	9	236	1.98
4	Gharounda	20	10000	0	10000	2400000	18	335	4.02
5	Disha/Vikaas	30	3850	1000	4850	1746000	29	924	5.37
6	Smrth/Ghrnd	30	7000	0	7000	2520000	11	321	2.69
							<b>116</b>	<b>2976</b>	<b>21.1</b>

Pls refer Annexure – II for Scheme wise 7 years details

### 7. Proposed Funding Rationalization Framework (90:10 Model)

It is proposed that National Trust adopt a shared funding structure:

- 90% Government Grant
- 10% Mandatory RO Contribution

This model:

- Aligns with DDRS and other central schemes
- Promotes co-ownership
- Encourages financial discipline
- Does not reduce Government commitment
- Maintains service continuity
- NE and Hilly Region may be funded 100% similar to DDRS Norms

### 8. Financial Impact and Resource Creation

Based on present expenditure patterns:

- Estimated annual saving from 10% RO contribution: ₹2.10 Crore
- An additional Budgetary support of 4.0 Crs (35 Crs against 31 Cr)

SN	Scheme	No of New Centers	Exp/Center/Yr (Rs in Lacs)	Total Exp Rs in Crs
1	Disha	15	13.20	2.64
2	Vikas	20	17.46	2.62
3	Gharounda	10	24.00	2.40
		45		7.66

## **90% of 7.66 Cr is 6.89 Cr**

By combining savings with corpus interest, a dedicated Expansion Fund can be created. Importantly, this enables district expansion without additional fiscal allocation from Government.

### **9. Strategic Expansion Roadmap**

Savings generated through rationalization should be:

- Ring-fenced exclusively for expansion
- Directed towards unfunded ROs in uncovered districts
- Prioritized for aspirational districts and North-East states

### **Proposed Phased Expansion**

<b>SN</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Coverage (District)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>2028-29</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>2029-30</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>2030-21</b>	<b>350</b>

**Long-term goal: Progressive pan-India district-level presence.**

### **10. Expected Outcomes**

The proposed reform would result in:

- Greater geographic equity
- Increased beneficiary coverage
- Strengthened financial sustainability
- Reduced fiscal dependency
- Improved institutional accountability
- Better alignment with national disability policy objectives

### **11. Safeguards and Transitional Measures**

To ensure fairness and stability:

- Phased introduction of RO contribution
- Relaxation for small and first-time ROs
- Special dispensation for North-East and aspirational districts
- Transparent audit and monitoring framework

This ensures reform without service disruption.

## **12. Policy Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. National Trust revise funding pattern from 100% to 90:10.
2. Savings be ring-fenced exclusively for district expansion.
3. Expansion priorities uncovered districts.
4. Implementation begin from FY 2026–27.
5. Annual district coverage targets be established.

## **13. Concluding Vision**

This proposal is not merely a financial adjustment; it is a structural expansion strategy. With 589 Registered Organizations already present across 308 districts, institutional capacity exists. What is required is rational financial reallocation.

By shifting from a concentration-based funding approach to an expansion-oriented shared responsibility model, National Trust can significantly increase its national footprint and ensure equitable access to services for PwIDDs across all states.

This reform represents a balanced, data-driven and fiscally prudent pathway toward inclusive and sustainable national coverage.

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**Annexure – I****State-wise District Coverage Status under National Trust Schemes***(Based on Actual Analysis Data – Feb 2026)*

<b>S.No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total Districts</b>	<b>Districts with ROs</b>	<b>Districts with Funded ROs</b>	<b>Remaining Districts without Funded Coverage</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	5	23
2	Arunachal Pradesh	28	0	0	28
3	Assam	35	6	3	32
4	Bihar	38	7	4	34
5	Chhattisgarh	33	10	2	31
6	Chandigarh	1	1	1	0
7	Delhi	13	8	2	11
8	Goa	3	2	0	3
9	Gujarat	34	16	3	31
10	Haryana	23	11	2	21
11	Himachal Pradesh	12	7	2	10
12	J&K	20	5	3	17
13	Jharkhand	24	4	0	24
14	Karnataka	31	17	4	27
15	Kerala	14	13	0	14
16	Madhya Pradesh	57	22	15	42
17	Maharashtra	36	20	2	34
18	Manipur	16	2	2	14
19	Meghalaya	12	1	1	11

<b>S.No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total Districts</b>	<b>Districts with ROs</b>	<b>Districts with Funded ROs</b>	<b>Remaining Districts without Funded Coverage</b>
20	Mizoram	11	1	0	11
21	Nagaland	17	1	0	17
22	Odisha	30	20	8	22
23	Puducherry	4	1	1	3
24	Punjab	23	8	1	22
25	Rajasthan	41	16	1	40
26	Sikkim	6	1	0	6
27	Tamil Nadu	38	26	6	32
28	Telangana	33	7	3	30
29	Tripura	8	1	0	8
30	Uttar Pradesh	76	39	19	57
31	Uttarakhand	13	5	1	12
32	West Bengal	30	20	9	21

show massive coverage gaps.

Even states with high PwIDD population (as per NT disability data) have limited funded penetration.

This clearly establishes the urgency for structural funding reform and geographic expansion.

## Annexure – II

## National Trust Scheme Exp Analysis Report for last 7 years

Serial No.	FY	Scheme	No of RO	Benf.	Exp (INR in CR)	Avg benf /center	Avg cost /benf/yr	Avg cost /benf/mon
1	18-19	Disha	27	317	1.70	12	53628	4469
2	19-20	Disha	29	480	1.23	17	25625	2135
3	20-21	Disha	30	491	2.08	16	42363	3530
4	21-22	Disha	31	399	1.53	13	38346	3195
5	22-23	Disha	33	327	1.84	10	56269	4689
6	23-24	Disha	22	440	1.99	20	45227	3769
7	24-25	Disha	21	374	2.01	18	53743	4479
8	25-26	Disha	19	374		20		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>3202</b>	<b>12.38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38663</b>	<b>3222</b>
1	18-19	Disha/Vikaas	38	1052	2.95	28	28042	2337
2	19-20	Disha/Vikaas	39	989	4.21	25	42568	3547
3	20-21	Disha/Vikaas	41	1325	7.14	32	53887	4491
4	21-22	Disha/Vikaas	43	1232	5.80	29	47078	3923
5	22-23	Disha/Vikaas	45	1059	5.85	24	55241	4603
6	23-24	Disha/Vikaas	39	1170	6.06	30	51795	4316
7	24-25	Disha/Vikaas	32	1032	5.10	32	49419	4118
8	25-26	Disha/Vikaas	29	924		32		
			306	8783	37.11	29	42252	3521
1	18-19	Gharaunda	17	235	1.81	14	77021	6418
2	19-20	Gharaunda	19	285	1.36	15	47719	3977
3	20-21	Gharaunda	20	275	3.22	14	117091	9758
4	21-22	Gharaunda	24	450	3.73	19	82889	6907
5	22-23	Gharaunda	24	347	3.87	14	111527	9294
6	23-24	Gharaunda	22	370	4.08	17	110270	9189
7	24-25	Gharaunda	21	358	3.84	17	107263	8939
8	25-26	Gharaunda	18	335		19		
			165	2655	21.91	16	82524	6877
1	18-19	Niramaya	603	96716	8.04	160	831	69
2	19-20	Niramaya	676	77086	11.53	114	1496	125
3	20-21	Niramaya	668	174979	8.81	262	503	42
4	21-22	Niramaya	568	113292	8.82	199	779	65
5	22-23	Niramaya	534	187290	18.14	351	969	81
6	23-24	Niramaya	611	87746	13.86	144	1580	132
7	24-25	Niramaya	608	52677	13.22	87	2510	209
8	25-26	Niramaya		71358	13.22		1853	154
				<b>861144</b>	<b>95.64</b>			
1	18-19	Samarth	8	111	0.71	14	63964	5330
2	19-20	Samarth	8	111	0.78	14	70270	5856

3	20-21	Samarth	10	160	1.34	16	83750	6979
4	21-22	Samarth	13	387	1.53	30	39535	3295
5	22-23	Samarth	13	221	1.81	17	81900	6825
6	23-24	Samarth	11	246	1.85	22	75203	6267
7	24-25	Samarth	10	275	1.96	28	71273	5939
8	25-26	Samarth	9	236		26		
			<b>82</b>	<b>1747</b>	<b>9.98</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>57127</b>	<b>4761</b>
1	18-19	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	12	160	0.71	13	44375	3698
2	19-20	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	12	179	1.30	15	72626	6052
3	20-21	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	12	283	2.42	24	85512	7126
4	21-22	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	13	351	2.93	27	83476	6956
5	22-23	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	13	338	3.47	26	102663	8555
6	23-24	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	12	346	3.55	29	102601	8550
7	24-25	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	10	295	3.07	30	104068	8672
8	25-26	<b>Smrt/Ghrnd</b>	11	321		29		
			95	2273	17.45	24	76771	6398
1	18-19	<b>Vikaas</b>	35	637	2.85	18	44741	3728
2	19-20	Vikaas	33	518	1.99	16	38417	3201
3	20-21	Vikaas	33	790	3.47	24	43924	3660
4	21-22	Vikaas	33	783	3.40	24	43423	3619
5	22-23	Vikaas	34	724	3.65	21	50414	4201
6	23-24	Vikaas	31	930	3.61	30	38817	3235
7	24-25	Vikaas	32	786	3.80	25	48346	4029
8	25-26	Vikaas	30	786		26		
			<b>261</b>	<b>5954</b>	<b>22.77</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38243</b>	<b>3187</b>