



# Compendium of Schemes for the Welfare of Persons with Disability

COMPENDIUM OF SCHEMES

2018



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)  
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# 1

## Chapter

# 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 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)).

### 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 (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. (RPwD Act, 2016, Chapter I, Clause 2, sub-clause (r)).

### 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.



## 2

## Chapter

## RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

- 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 above Act into force from 19.04.2017.
- The Central Rules under the Act have been notified on 15.06.2017.
- Model Draft Rules for the States have been developed and forwarded to the States/UTs on 13.06.2017 requesting the States/UTs to notify the Rules under Section 101 of the Act on or before 18.10.2017.
- Governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, Sikkim and Gujarat have prepared the draft Rules. We have already requested the States to convey the status of progress made by them vide letter dated 24.10.2017.
- A copy of the RPwD Act, 2016 and RPwD Rules, 2017 has been forwarded to all the Central Ministries/Departments. Further on 23.06.2017, all the concerned Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to take specific action with respect to various provisions of the Act for its proper implementation.
- Based on the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the guidelines for assessment of various specified disabilities have been framed and are being finalised in consultation with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- The Department constituted another Expert Committee for identification of posts suitable for various categories of persons with disabilities. Five sub-Committees under the said Expert Committee were also constituted. The deliberations of all the sub-Committees have been completed. The report of two sub-Committees (Visual Impairment and Hearing Impairment) have already been received and reports of other three sub-Committees are under finalisation.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 can be accessed through the link given below:

[www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in/contents/Acts&Rules/RPwD Act 2016](http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in/contents/Acts&Rules/RPwD Act 2016)



# 3

## Chapter

# 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 eight National Institutions functioning under its direct monitoring.

## I Statutory Bodies

### (i) 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).

Rehabilitation Council of India provides training and professional devices for rehabilitation and maintenance of Central Rehabilitation Register.

### (ii) 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 right of persons with disabilities.

### (iii) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities

- (i) National Trust was set up in 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 6 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 SFC in May, 2017 for a period of three years i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20

## II. National Institutes/Centres

There are eight National Institutes under this Ministry working in the field of Disability Rehabilitation. 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 conducting Research and Development activities. Their details are as under:-

S. No.	National Institute	Year of establishment	Regional Centres (RCs)/ Regional Chapters, if any	Composite Regional Centre, if any under the National Institute
1.	Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi	1960	One RC (Secunderabad)	Two (Lucknow & Srinagar)
2.	Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training & Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack	1975	None	Two (Guwahati & Chhattisgarh)
3.	National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata	1978	Three RCs (Dehradun Aizwal & Arunachal Pradesh)	Three (Patna, Arunachal Pradesh & Tripura)
4.	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun	1979	One RC (Chennai) Two Regional Chapter (Kolkata & Secunderabad)	One [Sundernagar (HP)]
5.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai	1983	Four RCs (Kolkata, Secunderabad, NOIDA and Bhubaneshwar)	Two (Bhopal & Ahmedabad)
6.	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad	1984	Three RCs (NOIDA, Mumbai and Kolkata)	Two (Nellore & Davangere)
7.	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, (NIEPMD)	2005	None	Two (Kozhikode & Nagpur)
8.	Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)	2016	None	-



### III Central Public Sector Enterprises

#### (i) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

NHFDC was set up on 24th January, 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.

#### (ii) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

ALIMCO is a (not for profit) Mini Ratna company formed 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.



# 4

## Chapter

# SCHEMES OF THE DEPARTMENT

## I. DEENDAYAL DISABLED REHABILITATION SCHEME (DDRS)

### Objectives:

- To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016.
- The scheme has been revised to be implemented w.e.f. 1st April, 2018 as given below:
  1. The list of model projects under revised DDR Scheme has been reduced as under:
    - I. Pre-Schools and Early Intervention and Training
    - II. Special Schools for Persons with Disabilities for
      - a. Mental Retardation
      - b. Hearing & Speech Impaired
      - c. Visually Challenged
    - III. Cerebral Palsied Children
    - IV. Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Person
    - V. Half Way Home for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Treated and Controlled Mentally Ill persons
    - VI. Home-Based Rehabilitation and Home Management.
    - VII. Community Based Rehabilitation Programme (CBR)
    - VIII. Low Vision Centres
    - IX. Human Resource Development



2. The following model projects will henceforth not be supported:

S. No.	Name of project	Reason
1	Vocational training centres	Independent scheme for skill development launched
2	Sheltered Workshops	
3	Survey, identification and awareness sensitization	Independent scheme for Awareness Generation and Publicity launched.
4	Seminars/Workshops/Rural Camps	
5	Grant for Computer/specialised software	No proposals received in last 3 years.
6	Construction of building	
7	Legal literacy, including legal counselling, legal aid and analysis, and evaluation of existing laws.	Independent scheme for Awareness Generation and Publicity launched.
8	District disability rehabilitation centres	To be funded under SIRPDA

3. The institutions/projects presently being supported by the Ministry (other than the projects mentioned in para (1) and (2)) will however continue to be supported subject to performance being satisfactory.
4. The cost norms of the scheme have been enhanced by 2.5 times.
5. In those projects where Per Beneficiary Cost (PBC) ceiling was fixed, the method of calculation of grant has been changed from parameter based to PBC based. Those projects in which per beneficiary cost is not available, the existing method of calculating the cost norms would continue with cost norms multiplied by 2.5 times.
6. 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:

- i. 8 North-Eastern States,
- ii. States in the Himalayan Region (J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh),
- iii. Left Wing Extremism Affected Districts (as notified by Ministry of Home Affairs), and
- iv. Districts adjoining the international borders.



7. There will be no tapering of Grant-in-Aid even in urban areas. The earlier practice of tapering of Grant-in-Aid for urban areas is dispensed with.
8. No. of beneficiaries: Grant-in-aid will be calculated for 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. The number of such beneficiaries has to be specified by the inspecting officer in the inspection report.
9. No bar on increase of number of beneficiaries provided infrastructure is available.
10. The practice of notionally allocating the budget among various States/UTs would be replaced with notionally allocating the budget among various disabilities (including the disabilities added in RPwD Act, 2016).
11. 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.

## **II. 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 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 the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).

The Scheme is implemented through the various Implementing Agencies. The following agencies are eligible to implement the Scheme on behalf of Department, 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 Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability (Divyangjan), Ministry of SJ&E.

### **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.

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

#### **(i) Visually Impaired:**

- (i) 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 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 Collage 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.

**(ii) Smart Cane:**

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

**(iii) Leprosy Affected:**

List of devices for Leprosy affected viz. (i) a common Assistive 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.

**(iv) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:**

Kit for financial assistance for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities viz (a) 4 Kit for Mentally Retarded 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 (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.

**(v) Hearing Impaired:**

Assistive devices like Body Level Hearing Aids, Analog/Non Programmable- 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).



**(vi) 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)].

**(vii) Cochlear Implant:**

Revised 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 for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH), 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.ayinihh.nic.in](http://www.ayinihh.nic.in). Cochlear Implants are procured by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur and provided at the nominated hospitals. Surgery is done at identified Government/State Government approved hospitals. For conducting cochlear implant surgery, the Ministry has approved empanelment of Government and Private Hospitals.

**(viii) Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs**

Motorized tricycles and wheelchairs for severely disabled and for Quadriplegic (SCI), Muscular Dystrophy, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Hemipeligia 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.

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

**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 SwDs, students beyond Intellectual Disability (ID) class, the limit would be raised the Rs. 12,000/-. In the case of SwDs, students beyond ID class, the limit would be raised to 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.



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.

### How to Apply:

The organizations will submit their application in the prescribed format to through concerned State Government/UT Administration in respect of new case and through State Government/UT/ National Institute under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for ongoing cases.

Registration of NGOs with NITI Aayog in NGO Darpan Portal and online submission of proposals by NGOs on e-Anudan Portal made 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).

- 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.
- A copy of Registration Certificate under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and their branches, if any, separately or Charitable Trust Act.
- Names and details of the Members of Management Committee of the Organization
- A copy of Rules, Aims and Objectives of the Organization.



- e. A copy of Certified Audited Accounts and Annual Report for the previous year (showing that the organization is financially sound).
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. Utilization Certificate in the format prescribed under GFR.
- i. The Implementing Agencies shall provide one year free maintenance of the aids & assistive devices supplied by them.
- j. 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.
- k. 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.
- l. 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.

**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.



### III. SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 1995 (SIPDA)

#### Objectives and brief of the Scheme:

In accordance with the provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PwD Act), the Ministry has been Implementing the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA) for providing financial assistance to undertake various activities outlined in the Act. The Ministry has been releasing funds under the Scheme since 1999. The Standing Finance Committee under Chairmanship of Secretary (DEPwD), in its meeting held on 04.01.2016 considered the Scheme and the Scheme has been formulated and notified on 28.01.2016. Consequent upon enactment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016 and formulation of Rules there under, certain modifications have been proposed in the scheme along with the proposal for continuation of the Scheme. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure) in its meeting held on 25.09.2017 has appraised the proposal for continuation of the Scheme up to 31.03.2020 along with certain recommendations.

The activities/projects under the Scheme are implemented and executed by the following Implementing Agencies and the financial assistance is given to them for various activities mentioned in the Scheme:

- i) States Governments/Union Territories.
- ii) Autonomous Organizations set up by Central/State Governments including Central/State Universities.
- iii) National Institutes/ CRCs/DDRCs/RCs/Outreach Centres under MSJ&E.
- iv) Statutory Organizations of Central/State Govts/UTs.
- v) Organizations/Institutions set up by Central and State Governments.
- vi) Central/State recognized Sports bodies & Federations.
- vii) Non-Governmental Organizations empanelled by the Department for Skill Training Programme under National Action Plan.

#### Detailed activities/components 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, adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, brail 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://darpn.nic.in>”.
- iii) Skill Development Programme for PwDs.
- iv) To enhance the accessibility of built 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 aspect 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 Rehabilitation 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 of issuance of disability certificates.
- vii) To create awareness campaign and sensitization programmes for various stake holders and other Information Education Communication.
- 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) Supporting activities relating to pre-school training for children with disabilities, counseling for the parents, training for care givers, teachers training programme and activities relating to early detection camps for children of age 0-5 years and early intervention.
- 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 for PwDs where the appropriate Governments/ local authorities have their own land.
- xiv) Support for sporting events at National/State level.
- xv) Identification and Survey/Universal ID of PwDs.
- xvi) Research on Disability Related Technology, Product and Issues.
- xvii) In service training and sensitization of key functionaries of Central/State Governments, local bodies and other service providers.
- xviii) Incentive to employers in the private sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities.
- xix) 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.

### Component of Skill Development:

Persons with disabilities in India face many challenges when looking to develop employable skills and in gaining meaningful employment. Persons with disabilities continue to face many difficulties in the labour market.

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, persons with disabilities constitute a significant percentage of the population of India, their need for meaningful employment largely remains unmet, in spite of implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. 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 is a critical element for enhancing the quality of life for individual with disability, their families, but 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 increased 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.



### The existing Skill Training Landscape for PwDs are :-

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Vocational training courses offered by National Institutes of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and its affiliate organisations like National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Trust etc.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment supervising more than 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCHs), more than 10,000 ITIs and more than 1000 Employment Exchanges.
- Technical and Vocational courses, being offered through Community colleges, IITs and Universities, affiliated with Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- NGOs focusing on vocational training and skill development Private sector training organizations: Under the CSR initiative, many organizations have done exemplary work.
- Public Sector Undertakings have also contributed substantially to vocational training of persons with disability.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Rural Development.
- National Urban Livelihood Mission of Ministry of Urban Development.
- Vocational training / livelihood programs of other Central Govt. Ministries and State Governments.

### National Action Plan for Skill Training of PwDs :

The National Action Plan for Skilling the Persons with Disabilities has the following components:-

#### A Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) to be set up with 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.



The vocational / skill training would be provided by a network of skill training providers led by NGOs, private training institutions and Public Sector/Govt. Sector training institutions like VRCs. The vocational training would be provided by a cluster of training providers scattered over the country, having an established track record of providing skill training with high employability ratio. These training partners would be provided outcome based financial support by Deptt. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Synergistic support would be provided to these training providers by the National Institutes of DEPwD, training institutions of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, other Central Ministries and State Governments.

A separate cross cutting Sector Skill Council for PwDs is being created in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the private sector. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), in consultation with the Sector Skill Council and various National Institutes of the DEPwD would help generate a homogenous course curriculum and certification mechanism for the training providers.

The Department would help these 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 will coordinate with State Governments to support proactively by offering infrastructure and resource support to these clusters of Vocational Training Providers.

The skill training will be provided by a network of more than 200 clusters of 'Training Partners', thus setting a target of skilling about 500 PwDs in the first year for each of the cluster. The lead NGO may empower and take the help of small NGOs in the rural areas for the skill training but every such training centre will be monitored by the PMU. The network of training providers and capacity thereof will keep increasing every year.

### Objective & Coverage :

- a) The guidelines will 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) 30% reservation for women candidates: As an Endeavour to encourage women, 30% of the total intake of each training program shall be earmarked for women candidates.
- c) The skill training will be provided through training institutions recognised by this Department as per the eligibility conditions contained herein.



### Conditions of Eligibility/Eligibility of the Trainees :

- (a) A citizen of India,
- (b) A person with 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(i) of the PwD Act, 1995 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 receipt of application for the course.
- (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 last date of receipt of application for the course applied for.

### Eligibility of the implementing agencies (training providers) :

- (a) The scheme will be implemented through the implementing organizations/ institutions, hereinafter referred to as “training partners”. Financial assistance will be provided by way of Grant-in-Aid for organizing training programs to the following categories of organizations:
  - i) Departments of the States Governments/Union Territories, or
  - ii) Autonomous Bodies/ Statutory Bodies/ Public Sector Undertakings set up by Central/ State Governments/UT Administrations including Central/State Universities, or
  - iii) National Institutes/ CRCs/DDRCs/RCs/Outreach Centres under MSJ&E, or
  - 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.
- (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 Ayog and should have obtained a Unique ID. The unique ID should be mandatorily quoted by the NGO at the time of application for grants.

### Procedure of Application and Selection :



## Stage – I

A. Expression of Interest will be invited from eligible organizations to get registered as “training partner” to provide skill training to PwDs under the scheme by issuing an advertisement in the leading newspapers and through the websites and other media outfits. Applications received for empanelment as training partners will be scrutinized and placed before the Selection Committee who will make selection based on the criteria of previous experience, expertise, infrastructure and manpower available and other similar relevant considerations. The selection of training partners will be a continuous process.

(a) Composition of the Selection Committee: The Committee to select the training partners would constitute 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) Till the formation of the Sector Skill Council and its full operationalization the Committee



will 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 empanelled as “Training partners” for a period of three years for organizing training programs for PwDs under this scheme.

## Stage - II

- B. The organisations who are empanelled as training partners shall submit fresh project specific applications (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 are to proposed. The applications will be scrutinised and if found suitable by the Selection Committee shall be sanctioned financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid.

## Training Curriculum :

- a) NSDC 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 full 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.

## 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.



### 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.

### 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 Ayog vide O.M. No. M-11/16(2)/2015-VAC dated 10th September, 2015, as amended from time to time.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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. The Scheme does not cover employment aspects of the trainees and also does not provide for any kind of assistance to the awardees in seeking employment anywhere, after his/her having availed of the training.

### **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 15% compound interest thereon. Such trainee or training organization will also be black- listed for future and appropriate legal action can be taken against them.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Review of the guidelines**

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

## **IV. DISTRICT DISABILITY REHABILITATION CENTRES (DDRCs)**

### **Objectives of DDRCs:**

In order to facilitate creation of infrastructure and capacity building at district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation, training and guidance of rehabilitation professionals, the Department is supporting setting up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in all the unserved districts of the country 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 310 districts have been identified and approved for setting up of DDRC. Out of these, DDRCs have been set up in 248 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;
- Referral and arrangements for surgical correction through Government and Charitable Institutes;
- Arrangement of loans for self-employment from banks and other financial institutions including State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) of NHFDC;
- Counseling of PwDs, their parents and family members;
- Promotion of barrier free environment;
- Provision of supportive and complementary services for promoting education, vocational training and employment of Persons with Disabilities through:
  - o Imparting orientation training to teachers, community and families;
  - o Training to Persons with Disabilities for early motivation and early stimulation for education, vocational training and employment;
  - o Identifying suitable vocations for Persons with Disabilities, keeping in view local resources and designing and providing vocational training and identifying suitable jobs, so as to make them economically independent and
  - o Providing referral services for existing educational, training and vocational institutions.

The Scheme is a joint venture of the Central Government and the States. The DDRCs are funded through the 'Schemes for Implementation of the PwD Act, 1995 for an initial period of three years (five years in case of North Eastern Region, J&K, A&N Islands, Puducherry, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli) and thereafter the funding is made through the Scheme of Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) on tapering basis.



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.

### Activities/Components admissible for grants

#### 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 provided the District Administration/Implementing Agency arranges rent free accommodation for running the DDRC in the District. The break-up of recurring and non-recurring expenditure in respect of DDRC under the scheme is as follows:

(in Rupees lakhs)

Designation	General States per annum	For special areas (NER, J&K, & UTs) -20% increase
Total Honararium	8.10	9.72
Office Expenses/contingencies	2.10	2.10
Equipments (for 1st year only)	7.00	7.00
Total for 1st year	17.20	18.82
Total for 2nd year	10.20	11.82
Total for 3rd year	10.20	11.82
Total exp.	37.60	42.46

In North-Eastern states, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Daman & Diu and Jammu & Kashmir, 20% additional expenditure (i.e., upto Rs, 42.46 lakhs) is permissible. Subsequently, funding is done under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS). In accordance with the provision of tapering in the DDRS, grants-in-aid, as per the prescribed cost norms, are granted upto 90% of the budgeted amount and for the DDRCs in the urban area only, tapering of grants-in-aid is effected after seven years of funding @ 5% every alternate year subject to the condition that no further tapering shall be done beyond 75%.



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	8200	M.Phil in Clinical Psychology/MA in Psychology preferably with 2 years experience in the field of disability rehabilitation
2	Sr. Physiotherapist / Occupational therapist	8200	Post Graduate in related field with 5 years experience
3	Orthopaedically Handicapped Sr. Prosthetist/Orthotist	8200	Degree in Prosthetic and Orthotic preferably from National Institutes with 5 yrs experience or a Diploma in Prosthetic & Orthotic with 6 years experience.
4	Prosthetist Orthotist technician	5800	ITI trained with 2/3 years experience
5	Sr. Speech Therapist/ Audiologist	8200	Post graduate in related field/B.Sc (Speech & Hearing)
6	Hearing Assistant/Junior Speech Therapist	5800	Diploma in Speech & Hearing with knowledge of hearing aids repair/ear mould making
7	Mobility Instructor	5800	Matriculation + Certificate/Diploma in Mobility
8	Multipurpose Rehabilitation Worker	5800	10+2 with diploma in CBR/MRW course or one year diploma course in early childhood special education with two years of experience
9	Accountant cum Clerk cum Storekeeper	5800	B.Com/SAS with 2 years experience
10	Attendant cum Peon cum Messenger	3800	VIII class Pass



**Note:-**

- i) Honoraria to the Rehabilitation professionals of DDRCs located in North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Daman & Diu and Jammu & Kashmir shall be entitled to 20% more than the honoraria prescribed in respect of the DDRCs of the rest of the country.
- ii) These Districts are proposed to be set up in unserved districts where it may be difficult to find staff with matching qualification initially. Hence, in case qualified rehabilitation professionals are not available for a while, until such professionals become available, DMT may recruit persons having lower qualification and proportionately reduce its honorarium. However, non technical persons should not be appointed against technical manpower. Payment could be more in case technically sound persons are available.

**How to apply:**

For setting up of DDRCs in the identified and approved districts and to receive first year grant under the Scheme for Implementations of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) State Government is required to submit a proposal 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 PwD Act, 1995.
- (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.



- (vii) Copy of the Inspection Report.
- (viii) Utilization Certificate of past releases of grant made to DDRC.

### 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 and the sanction order is issued and bill prepared and submitted to the Pay and Accounts Office for transfer of the sanctioned amount to the joint account of the DDRC.

## (V) OTHER SCHEMES

### A. SCHOLARSHIP/EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

#### (a) Pre-matric scholarship and post-matric scholarship for students with disabilities

##### Objectives and brief of the scheme:

- The objectives of the schemes are to provide financial assistance to the students with disabilities for studying in the pre-matric level (class IX and X) and post-matric level (Classes XI, XII and upto post graduate degree/diploma level).
- The financial assistance includes scholarship, book grant, escort/reader allowance, etc.
- Number of scholarships to be granted during 2017-18 is 20,000 for pre-matric level and 17,000 for post-matric level.
- Selection of the beneficiaries under these two scholarship schemes is done on the basis of merit after the recommendation of the State Governments/Union Territory Administration.
- These schemes are being implemented on-line, through a web-portal “National e-Scholarship Portal” ([www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in)) so that the students can apply on-line and the benefits reach the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

### Value of Scholarships

#### Pre-matric Scholarship:

The value of Pre-matric scholarship includes the following for complete duration of the course:



(i) Scholarship and other grant;

Items	Day Scholars	Hostellers
Rate of Scholarship (in Rs. Per month) payable for 10 months in an academic year.	350	600
Book and adhoc grant (Rs. Per annum)	1,000	1,000

(ii) Allowances:

Allowances	Amount (in Rs.)
Monthly Reader Allowance for Blind students	160
Monthly Transport Allowance, if such students do not reside in the hostel which is within the premises of the Educational Institution.	160
Monthly Escort Allowance for Severely Disabled (i.e. with 80% or higher disability) Day Scholars/Students With low extremity disability	160
Monthly Helper Allowance admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped student residing in the hostel of an Educational Institution who may need the assistance of a helper.	160
Monthly Coaching Allowance to Mentally Retarded and Mentally ill Students	240

**Post-Matric Scholarship:**

The value of Post-matric scholarship includes the following for complete duration of the course:-

- (i) Maintenance allowance,
- (ii) Additional allowance for students with disabilities, for the complete duration of the course, and
- (iii) Reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees,
- (iv) Book allowance



The details are as follows:

- Maintenance allowance**

Groups	Rate of Maintenance allowance (in Rupees per month)	
	Hostellers	Day Scholars
<b>Group I</b> All PG Degree / Diploma Courses recognised by UGC in any discipline. All Bachelor's Degree courses in Medicine (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance /Administration, Computer Science/ Applications.	1200	550
<b>Group II</b> 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 Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2).	820	530
<b>Group III</b> All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group I & II eg. BA/B Sc/B Com etc.	700	500
<b>Group IV</b> 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); both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.	650	400

- Additional Allowances depending on disabilities of the student :**

In addition, the scheme also provides for books allowance, typing and printing charges, Reader allowance, Escort allowance, coaching allowance and special allowance etc.



- **Reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees :**

Scholars will be paid enrolment/registration, tuition, games, Union, Library, Magazine, Medical Examination and such other fees compulsorily payable by the scholar to the institution or University/Board maximum upto the ceiling of Rs.1.50 lakh per annum subject to actual. Refundable deposits like caution money, security deposit will, however, be excluded.

**Procedure of application and selection :**

- i. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities will announce the details of the scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in the leading newspapers and through the websites and other media outfits. Applications will be called for through National Scholarship Portal ([www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in)).
- ii. The applicants should submit their application through the on-line system within 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 for scholarship amount exceeding Rs. 50,000/ per annum.
- iii. The institutions in which the candidate is studying shall also register itself in the same website and verify the details provided by the candidates. The nodal officer nominated by the State shall oversee all the applications and process the same the State Government who shall forward the final list in PFMS portal for disbursement of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries.
- iv. Final selection will be done by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities based on the recommendations of the concerned Department of the State Government considering, inter alia, the no. of slots available to that particular State. The no. of slots available to any State is decided on the basis of percentage of population of PWDs of that State in comparison to the total PWD population of India.
- v. In case a candidate is a permanent resident of one State but studying in another State, his application will be considered under the slot of his home State and his application needs the recommendation of the Education/Welfare Department of the State of which he is a permanent resident.

**Merit Criteria for Selection:** The following factors will be taken into consideration:

- (i) Fulfillment of eligibility conditions as given in the scheme.



- (ii) Recommendation of the State Education Department.
- (iii) No. of slots available to the State.
- (iv) Merit of the candidate in terms of percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination.
- (v) In case of a tie in percentage of marks, the percentage of disability will be considered i.e. the candidate with higher percentage of disability will get preference. In case there is still a tie, the age will be considered i.e. the older candidate will get preference.

### Mode of disbursal of scholarship :

The scholarship amount will be directly credited into the account of the beneficiaries through PFMS system by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

### (b) Scholarship for top class education for students with disabilities

#### Objectives and brief of the scheme:

- The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst Students with Disabilities by providing financial support.
- The scheme will cover Students with Disabilities (SwDs) for pursuing studies at the level of Post Graduate Degree or Diploma in any discipline.
- The scheme is operating in institutions notified by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment as institutions of excellence.
- The financial assistance includes scholarship, book grant, escort/reader allowance, etc.
- Number of scholarships to be granted during 2017-18 is 110 Scholarship for Top Class Education. 50% of the scholarships are reserved for girls.
- Parental income ceiling is Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum for Top Class Education.
- Selection of the beneficiaries under these three scholarship schemes is done on the basis of merit after the recommendation of the Governments of State or Union Territories.



## Quantum of Financial Assistance :

The scholarship will include the following :-

Sl No.	Components of Scholarship	Rate per awardees
(i)	Reimbursement of tuition fees and non-refundable charges paid/ payable to the Institution	Up to Rs. 2.00 lakh – per annum (subject to actual amount).
(ii)	Maintenance Allowance	Rs. 3,000/- per month for hostellers, Rs. 1,500/- per month for day-scholars
(iii)	Special Allowances (related to types of disabilities like reader allowance, escort allowance, helper allowance etc.)	Rs. 2,000/- per month
(iv)	Books & Stationery	Rs. 5,000/- per annum.
(v)	Reimbursement of expenses for purchase of a computer with accessories.	Rs. 30,000/- per awardee as a one-time grant for entire course.
(vi)	Reimbursement of expenses for purchase of Aids and Assistive Devices including necessary software related to the particular disability of the selected candidate.	Rs. 30,000/- per awardee as a one-time grant for entire course

## Procedure of Application and Selection:

- (i) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities announce the details of the scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in the leading newspapers and through the websites and other media outfits. Applications are called for through the National Scholarship Portal, an on-line scholarship management program being developed by Department of Electronics & Information Technology for this purpose.
- (ii) The applicants should submit their application through the on-line system within 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.
- (iii) The Institute in which he/she is studying shall forward the application through the portal to the Education Department of the State Govt. concerned after doing the necessary verification of the facts contained in the application like age, date of birth, Disability certificate, recognition of the course, fees received etc. The State Education Deptt. shall carry out necessary prudence check including recognition of the Institute concerned and forward the application with their recommendation to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.



- (iv) Final selection will be done by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities based on the recommendations of the State Education Department considering, inter alia, the number of slots available to that particular State. The number of slots available to any State is decided on the basis of percentage of population of PWDs of that State in comparison to the total PWD population of India as per Census 2011.
- (v) In case a candidate is a permanent resident of one State but studying in another State, his application will be considered under the slot of his home State and his application needs the recommendation of the Education Department of the State of which he is a permanent resident.

### Merit Criteria for Selection:

**The following factors will be taken into consideration:**

- (i) Fulfillment of eligibility conditions as given in the scheme.
- (ii) Recommendation of the State Education Department.
- (iii) No. of slots available to the State.
- (iv) Merit of the candidate in terms of percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination.
- (v) In case of a tie in percentage of marks, the parental income ceiling will be considered i.e. the candidate with lower parental income ceiling will get preference.
- (vi) In case there is still a tie, the percentage of disability will be considered i.e. the candidate with higher percentage of disability will get preference.

**Selection Committee:** In case the number of applicants is more than the number of scholarships admissible, a Selection Committee shall be set up with the approval of Secretary, Deptt. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, for selection of candidates based on eligibility.

### Mode of Disbursal of Scholarship:

The scholarship amount will be directly credited into the account of the beneficiaries through PFMS system by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

### (c) National Overseas Scholarship for students with disabilities:

#### Objectives and brief of the scheme:

- The scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disabilities has been launched with the objectives of providing financial assistance to the students with disabilities for pursuing studies abroad at the level of Masters' Degree and Ph.D.



- Twenty (20) scholarships are to be awarded every year out of which six are reserved for women candidates.
- The scholarship amount includes Maintenance Allowance, Contingency Allowance, Tuition Fees, and Cost of Air Passage etc.
- Parental income ceiling is Rs.6.00 lakh per month.
- In addition to the above, there is a provision of “Passage Grants” to two Students with Disabilities every year. Only those Students with Disabilities who are in receipt of a merit scholarship for Post Graduate Studies, Research or Training abroad (excluding attending seminars, workshops, conferences), from a foreign government/ organization or under any other scheme, where the cost of passage is not provided, shall be eligible. The Passage Grant includes to-and-fro air-fare from home-station to the Institute abroad by economy class through Air India.

### Minimum Qualification :

For Ph.D. - First class or 55% (fifty five per cent) marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree.

For Masters' Degree: - 55% (fifty five per cent) marks or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelor's Degree.

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

Maximum Two Children in a family: Not more than two disabled children of the same parents/ guardians will be eligible.

### Quantum of Financial Assistance:

SL No.	Type of Allowance	Amount
1.	Annual Maintenance Allowance	For UK- GBP 9,900/-
		For Other Countries - USD \$ 15,400/-
2.	Annual Contingency Allowance	For UK- GBP 1,100/-
		For Other Countries- USD \$ 1,500/-
3.	Incidental Journey Allowance	Other Countries- USD \$ 20/-
4.	Equipment Allowance	Rs.1500/-
5.	Tuition Fees, Cost of Air Passage, Local Travel, Poll Tax, Visa Fees, Medical Insurance Premium	Actual expenses shall be reimbursed



Duration of Award – (a) For Ph.D. -- 4 yrs, (b) For Masters Degree -- 3 yrs,

### Selection Procedure :

The Scheme is advertised in the newspapers giving summarized information about the Scheme. The candidates shall after assessing their eligibility and suitability, as per conditions of the Scheme, apply to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (employed candidates through proper channel), in the prescribed application form which will form a part of the advertisement. The last date of receiving applications is also be mentioned in the advertisement. Thereafter, all applications received up to the last date of receiving applications, as notified in advertisement, will be put before the Screening Committee. The candidates short listed by the Screening Committee are required to present themselves for personal interview before the Selection Committee. The merit list prepared, on the basis of assessment of individual candidates, by the Selection Committee will finally and decisively complete the selection procedure to decide the merit. In case of a tie between two or more candidates, the one who is eldest in age (as per the date of birth) will be placed above the others, as per respective dates of birth as recorded in Secondary School Certificate.

### Disbursement of scholarship amount :

Disbursement of scholarship amount is done by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities direct to the bank accounts of the selected candidates. However, reports of the concerned Indian Embassies/High Commissions abroad are obtained in order to verify the authenticity/recognition of the Institute of study and also to have the progress report of the student.

### (d) National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD)

Objectives and Brief of the scheme:

- NFPwD Scheme was launched during the financial year 2012-13 to increase opportunities to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M.Phil. and Ph.D. in any University recognised by University Grants Commission(UGC).
- Under the scheme, 200 Fellowships (Junior Research Fellows, JRF) per year are granted to students with disabilities. In case of non-availability of adequate number of students with disabilities, the number of fellowships not availed during a year will be carried forward to the next academic session.
- In case, the number of candidates exceeds the number of available awards, the UGC selects the candidates based on the percentage of marks obtained by the candidates in their Post-Graduation examination.



### Quantum of Fellowship:

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

1	Fellowship in Engineering and Technology, Science Humanities and Social Science (including Arts/Fine Arts)	@ Rs. 25,000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs. 28,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
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

- (ii) The House Rent Allowance (HRA) will be on the UGC pattern and will be 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 will be governed as per the guidelines of the UGC in case of their fellowship programme.

### Eligibility for fellowship:

- (i) Any student with disabilities who has been admitted to M.Phil/Ph.D. degree in a university or academic institution.
- (ii) After two years, if the progress in the research work of the awardee is found satisfactory, his/her tenure will be extended for a further period of three years as Senior Research Fellowship (SRF). The research work will be assessed by a three member committee set up by the University. The total period of award of JRF and SRF shall not exceed a period of five years duration

Name of the Course	Maximum Duration	Admissibility of JRF and SRF	
		JRF	SRF
M.Phil.	2 years	2 years	NIL
Ph.D.	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years
M.Phil.+ Ph.D.	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years



**How to Apply:** Advertisement to call for applications is released in the newspapers and web-site. The candidates are to apply on-line through the web-site of University Grants Commission [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in). Selection of candidates is done by the University Grants Commission. Documents required: Disability Certificate, Proof of age, Proof of educational qualification and any other documents as required in the scheme.

**Procedure for sanction of funds:** Based on the list of selected candidates received from the UGC, the required fund is transferred to the Canara Bank who is designated for disbursement of fellowship to the selected candidates. The selected candidates shall submit the requisite documents duly verified by the Head of their Institute to any of the designated branches of the Canara Bank. The Canara Bank (Govt. Business Branch) shall release the amount due and admissible to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries after doing necessary verification.

### **(e) Central Sector Plan Scheme of Free Coaching for Students with Disabilities**

Article 41 of Part IV (“Directive Principles of State Policy”) of the Constitution provides that the State shall make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in the cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.

Article 46 of Part IV (“Directive Principles of State Policy”) of the Constitution enjoins upon the State to promote with special care of the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people. Article 38(2) of the same Part also enjoins upon the State to minimize inequalities in income and to endeavor to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

Schemes for providing free coaching to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is presently available. However, there is no such on-going scheme for students with disabilities. XII Five Year Plan document in the context of socio-economic development of persons with disabilities, inter alia, provides that emphasis will be on educational development of such persons through a scheme for free coaching of students with disabilities.

#### **Objective :**

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



### 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.

### 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.

### 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 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).
- (iii) 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.



- (iv) The institute must have proper infrastructure (barrier free) to meet all prescribed requirements for providing coaching in the courses applied for.

### 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:
- |    |   |   |             |
|----|---|---|-------------|
| a. | Joint Secretary (DEPwD)   | - | Chairperson |
| b. | Financial Advisor, DEPwD or nominee not below the rank of DS/<br>Director       | - | Member      |
| c. | Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Higher Education                                     | - | Member      |
| d. | Two representatives from relevant background to be decided by<br>the Department | - |             |
| e. | 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 stand alone 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.*

### **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](http://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 DBT by DEPwD.

### 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 Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### **Date of Commencement of the Scheme :**

The scheme is effective from 1st April, 2017.

### **Jurisdiction of the Scheme :**

The jurisdiction of the Scheme is up to providing prescribed financial support to the selected candidates for receiving coaching assistance in specified courses. The Scheme does not cover employment aspects of the beneficiaries and also does not provide for any kind of assistance to them in seeking employment or admission anywhere, after his/her having availed of the benefits of free coaching.

### **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.

### **Litigations :**

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

### **Administrative Expenses:**

The scheme will be implemented by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. In order to implement the scheme, the Department may have to meet certain administrative expenses like -

- a) Engagement of manpower at the Department for execution of the scheme. As the magnitude of data to be entered and processed would be enormous and the scheme gets implemented over the years there would be a need to engage qualified skilled personnel right from the beginning to deal with the scheme.
- b) Publishing advertisements and other publicity materials to generate awareness among the targeted beneficiary group.



Accordingly, a provision of not exceeding 3% of the total budget allocated to the scheme shall be kept as administrative expenditure.

### Revision of the Scheme :

The Scheme will be reviewed every three years.

### **(f) Revised 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 announced by the then Finance Minister in his Budget speech of Financial Year 2007-08.

Pursuant to this announcement, the M/o Social Justice & Empowerment launched a Scheme for the Employers in the Private Sector, which envisages payment of employers contribution to the EPF and ESI by the Government for the first three years for employing PwDs with monthly wages up to Rs. 25,000/-.

After introduction of the Scheme, wide publicity was given to it through the print and other media. All Chief Ministers were requested to publicize the scheme and closely monitor its implementation.

FICCI organized a Conference of Employers at New Delhi on 17.10.2008 to disseminate information about the Scheme, which was addressed by the then Finance Minister. This was followed by State level meetings at Hyderabad, Kolkata and Jaipur.

The incentive scheme is basically voluntary in nature. Wide publicity has been given by the Ministry as well as EPFO & ESIC about the scheme. An amount of Rs. 3.00 crores had been released for publicity of the scheme to EPFO and ESIC from 2008-09 onwards.

Even though wide publicity was given to the Scheme through print and other media, the achievement so far had not been significant. The beneficiaries have been mainly in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi while in other States there was either no coverage or very low coverage.

Despite wide publicity, and monitoring of Implementation of the scheme by a high level monitoring committee, the scheme has not picked up. Therefore, in order to avail the benefits under the scheme, it is essential that not only the scheme is made more attractive for the private sector but also to address the issues relating to employability and availability of skilled manpower.

A Task Force headed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour was set up to assess the reasons for low response and to suggest measures to make it more attractive to the employers and other allied



issues. The Task Force submitted its Report in August 2012 and made certain recommendations.

### **Some of the reasons for low response to Incentive Scheme as highlighted were as follows:**

- i) Reimbursement of employer's share of contribution was for 3 yrs only.
- ii) Existing limit on wage was upto Rs. 25000/- only under the Scheme.
- iii) The corresponding administrative charges of 1.1% being paid by the employers.
- iv) Absence of any tax incentive to the employers.
- v) Cumbersome method of reimbursement of employer's contribution.
- vi) Skill of the PwDs are not matching with the needs of the private sector.
- vii) Employment of PwDs in the private sector is not mandatory.

The issue has been under consideration in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and based on the inputs/discussions held with different stake holders, the modifications suggested in the scheme are as follows:

### **Revised Incentive Scheme for providing employment to PwDs in the Private Sector:**

- i) The employers need not deposit the EPF/ESI contribution in respect of their PwD employees. The employers just need to intimate the EPFO/ESIC regarding appointments made by them and furnish employee's contribution to EPFO/ESIC. The employer's contribution shall be deposited to the respective accounts of PwD employees by EPFO and ESIC. DEPwD shall make payment to EPFO/ESIC in advance.
- ii) The scheme will be applicable to all persons with disabilities employed in the private sector irrespective of any salary/wage ceiling.
- iii) The administrative charges applicable on EPF/ESI contribution (at the extant rates) shall be borne by the DEPwD.
- iv) The Government shall pay the employers contribution to EPFO & ESIC for 10 yrs.
- v) One-third of the gratuity amount due and admissible to PwD employees which is required to be paid by the employers under the applicable provisions of the Gratuity Act, shall be borne by the DEPwD.
- vi) In case a private employer engages PwDs as apprentices in a particular trade and employ them on completion of the apprenticeship period, the stipend during the apprenticeship period payable to the PwD shall be borne by the DEPwD.



- vii) There shall be adequate budget provision in the scheme for :-
- Sensitising the industry associations like FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII etc. about the provisions of the scheme.
  - Organising seminars/workshops with the HR heads/managers of the corporate bodies to sensitise them about the scheme and also to motivate them to employ PwDs in their organisations.
  - Adequate publicity of the scheme through electronic and print media, social media and publication of leaflets, brochures etc.
  - Organising job-fairs at various parts of the country from time to time.
- viii) The Department shall make a suitable proposal by inviting opinion of tax consultants and refer it consideration of Ministry of Finance, so that suitable tax relief can be given to private employers as an incentive for providing employment to persons with disabilities.

### Monitoring of the scheme :

In order to monitor the implementation of the Scheme, a high level Committee would be constituted. The composition of the committee will be as follows:

- Secretary, DEPwD - Chairman.
- Director General Emp. & Trg., M/Labour & Employment – Member.
- Chief Provident Fund Commissioner of EPFO – Member.
- Commissioner, Employees State Insurance Corporation – Member.
- Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor in charge of DEPwD.
- The Committee would invite employees bodies like ASSOCHAM, CII etc. as special invites or expert groups.
- Joint Secretary concerned in DEPwD – Member Secretary.
- Representatives of 5 State Governments.

The Committee would meet periodically, as per requirement, with a minimum sitting of once in a quarter and consider various issues necessary for the smooth functioning of the scheme.

The implementing agencies including EPFO and ESIC would send a quarterly return to the DEPwD containing details of beneficiaries and utilization of funds. The return would be placed before the High Level Committee referred to above.



**Administrative Expenditure:** A provision of 3% of total budget under the scheme would be kept as administrative expenditure of the scheme to take care of expenses likely to be incurred to implement the scheme like engagement of contractual staff, conduct of periodical meetings etc.

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

The revised scheme is effective from 1st April, 2016 and will be reviewed every three years.

### **(g). National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)**

NHFDC is a not-for-profit company wholly owned by Government of India. NHFDC functions as an Apex institution for extending financial support for education, employment and entrepreneurship of the persons with disabilities through the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the State Government(s).

Prominent schemes being implemented by NHFDC are given below in brief:

#### **1) Loan Schemes**

- i) For setting up small business in Service/Trading sector: Loan up to Rs. 3.0 lakh for sales/trading activity and Rs. 5.0 lakh for service sector activity.

Loan assistance provided for self-employment of disabled persons in service sector or for trading activity. The small business, project or activity, for which financial assistance has been sought, will have to be operated by the disabled person himself.

- ii) For agricultural/allied Activities: Loan upto Rs. 10 lakh.

Loan assistance is provided to disabled persons for agricultural production, irrigation, horticulture, sericulture, purchase of agricultural machinery/equipment for agricultural service, marketing of agriculture products etc.

- iii) For purchase of vehicle for commercial hiring – Loan upto Rs.10 lakh

- iv) For setting up small industries unit: Loan upto Rs.25 lakh.

Loan assistance is provided to PwDs for manufacturing, fabrication and production activity. The PwD will be the owner/chief executive of the company.

- v) Scheme for Disabled Young Professionals

Loan upto Rs 25.00 lakhs to professionally educated / trained disabled youths for self-employment



vi) Scheme for Developing Business Premises

Loan upto Rs. 3.0 lakh to PwDs desirous of developing business premises on their own land and starting self-employment activity.

vii) For self-employment amongst persons with Intellectual disabilities, Cerebral Palsy and Autism: Loan upto Rs.10 lakh.

Persons with Intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy or autism may not be able to enter into a legal contract required to avail loan from a financial institution. In such cases following categories of persons are eligible for financial assistance from NHFDC on behalf of the person with Intellectual disabilities for an income activity –

i) Parents of dependant person with Intellectual disabilities

ii) Spouse of dependant person with Intellectual disabilities

iii) Legal guardian of person with Intellectual disabilities

viii) For technical education/training – Loan limit Rs.10 lakh for study in India and Rs.20.0 lakh for study abroad.

To meet tuition and other fees/maintenance cost/books and equipment etc. for pursuing professional courses in a recognized educational institution in India and abroad.

ix) Scheme for Pursuing Vocational Studies : Loan upto Rs.2.0 lakh to Students with Disabilities for pursuing vocational/skill training courses.

x) Scheme for Purchase of Assistive Devices : Loan upto Rs.5.0 lakh for purchase of assistive devices including retrofitting which will enhance the prospects of PwDs for their employment/ self-employment.

xi) Scheme for NGOs for their capacity expansion : Loan upto Rs. 5.0 lakh to NGOs working in the area of disability to implement single or multiple production activity on behalf of a group of PwDs.

xii) Micro Credit Scheme – Loan upto Rs. 5.0 lakh to NGO, Rs.25000/- per beneficiary @ 5% p.a.

The Scheme is implemented through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) wherein NGOs submit application for loan to the SCAs.

xiii) Scheme for Parents Association for the Mentally Retarded Persons Loan upto Rs. 5.0 lakh

Financial assistance is provided to Parents Association for the Mentally Retarded Persons to



set up an income generating activity for the benefit of person with Intellectual disabilities. The nature of income generating activity will be such that it involves the person with Intellectual disabilities directly and income will be distributed among the person with Intellectual disabilities.

## 2) Grant & other Schemes :

### i) Assistance for Skills and Entrepreneurial Development Programmes

Financial assistance in the form of grant is provided to State Channelising Agencies/reputed institutions for imparting training to the disabled persons (15-50 year of age with 40% or more disability) to make them capable and self-dependent through proper technical training in the field of traditional and technical occupations and entrepreneurship. During the training stipend @ Rs.2000/- per month is also provided to disabled trainees.

### ii) Hand holding support to registered institutions for PwDs : The registered institutions are eligible for hand holding support of upto Rs.1,000/- per PwD for extending information, support, guidance for procedural/documentation formalities to PwDs in obtaining loans or admission in training institutes.

### iii) Scholarship Scheme

NHFDC is also administering two scholarship schemes. A total of 3000 scholarships are available. Student with disabilities can apply directly for scholarship on the website of NHFDC ([www.nhfdc.nic.in](http://www.nhfdc.nic.in)).

## Eligibility Criteria :

Any person with disability who fulfills the following criteria is eligible to avail financial assistance :

- a) Any Indian Citizen with 40% or more disability.
- b) Minimum age 18 years.
- c) Relevant educational / technical / vocational qualification/ experience and background.

Note :

In case of persons with mental retardation, age is relaxed to 14 years in place of usual 18 years.

In case of scheme for disabled young professionals : age criteria is 18-45 years.

In case of Education loan only (a) is applicable.

Repayment Period (Loan Scheme)



- |  |   |                  |
|--|---|------------------|
| 1. Scheme for self-employment & Parents Association scheme | - | Maximum 10 years |
| 2. Scheme for Education loan                               | - | Maximum 7 years  |
| 3. Micro Credit scheme                                     | - | Maximum 3 years  |

Rate of Interest (Loan Scheme except Education loan)

Loan Amount	To be paid by SCAs to NHFDC	To be paid by beneficiaries to SCAs
i) Upto Rs. 50,000/-	2%	5%
ii) Above Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 5.0 lakh	3%	6%
iii) Above Rs. 5.0 lakh and upto Rs. 15.0 lakh	4%	7%
iv) Above Rs. 15.0 lakh and upto Rs. 25.0 lakh	5%	8%

Rebate A rebate of 1% on interest is allowed to women with disabilities in all schemes (except education loan).

Rate of Interest & rebate (Education loan)

Upto Rs. 20.00 lakh	1%	4%
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Rebate A rebate of 0.5% on interest is allowed to female students with disabilities in education loan scheme.

Rebate on interest for VH/HH/MR

A special rebate of 0.5% is also available for PwDs under VH/HH/MR category under self-employment loans.

Procedure of application for Loan :

Application duly filled in prescribed format is to be submitted to the State Channelising Agencies (SCA) of NHFDC in respective State/UT. Loan upto Rs.5.00 lakh is sanctioned by SCA of NHFDC and above Rs.5.00 lakh is recommended by SCA and forwarded to NHFDC for sanction. The loan application can also be submitted to additional implementing agencies of NHFDC like RRBs and Banks etc.

Fund Flow Mechanism :

NHFDC → State Channelising Agencies → Beneficiaries

Other Schemes Continued :



## B. 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 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 has launched the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) on 3rd December, 2015 on the occasion of International Day for Persons with Disabilities, as 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.

### 2. The following achievements have been made under Accessible India Campaign:

- Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) has been launched on 3rd December, 2015 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the occasion of International Day for Persons with Disabilities.
- 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, (A) Accessibility of Built up Environment: (i) Completing accessibility audit of at least 25-50 most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them fully accessible by December 2017 (ii) Making 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals fully accessible by December, 2018. (iii) 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 (i) and (ii) by December 2019. (B) Transport System Accessibility: (i) Completing accessibility audit of all the international airports and making them fully accessible by December 2016. (ii) Completing accessibility audit of all the domestic airports and making them fully accessible by March 2017. (iii) A1, A & B categories of railway stations to be made fully accessible by July 2016 and 50% of all railway stations to be made fully accessible by March 2018. (iv) 10% of Government owned public transport carriers are to be made fully accessible by March 2018. (C) Accessibility of Knowledge and ICT Ecosystem: (i) At least 50% of Central and State Government websites are to meet accessibility standards by March 2017. At least 50% of public documents are to meet accessibility standards by March 2018. (ii) Training and developing 200 additional sign language interpreters by March 2018. (iii) Public television news - National standards on captioning and sign-language interpretation are to be created and adopted by July, 2016. At least 25% of public television programmes on government channels are to comply with the set standards by March 2018.
- Department organized a zonal awareness conference cum workshop at Mumbai on



September 24, 2015 to provide an insight into the various contours of the Accessible India Campaign which adhere to the Incheon Strategy Guidelines and also included in-depth discussions on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the journey to achieve universal accessibility for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- Nodal officers in Central & State Government Departments have been identified.
- Official Logo and Slogan of the Campaign has been created through public inputs on My Gov.
- Accessibility Standards are being created under each vertical.
- With the intention to ensure that everyone, including the persons with disabilities and elderly should have equal access to all services and facilities in all public buildings, 'Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons' has been released on 23.3.2016 by Ministry of Urban Development. The Guidelines are the outcome of a participatory approach through widespread consultations with various Central Government Ministries/ Agencies/ Bodies/ National Institutions/ State Governments.
- Building partnerships with Companies and individuals for adoption of buildings.
- Meetings have been held with Bureau of Indian Standards to ensure that all the accessibility related standards are incorporated in the draft National Building Code which is under revision.
- 18 Access Auditors have been empanelled and work orders have been issued to begin access audits of identified buildings/locations in 31 cities.
- To create a pool of access auditors who may be available in all the States for conducting access audit, training programme is being organised in collaboration with National CPWD Academy, Ghaziabad, Ministry of Urban Development.
- 50 Accessibility Clubs in IITs, IIMs and other institutes for encouraging innovation and investment in Accessibility Solutions.
- Development of Web portal along with mobile app for crowd sourcing information on inaccessible places. With Web Portal and Mobile application citizens can report inaccessible places by posting pictures or videos.
- An 'Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index' has been launched on 30th can voluntarily evaluate their readiness for making the workplace accessible for persons with disabilities.



- Cabinet Secretariat has constituted a Committee of Secretaries to effectively review/monitor and creating an implementation framework including appointment of nodal officers in the concerned Ministries for achieving the targets of Accessible India Campaign.

### Coordination with other Ministries

- Ministry of Civil Aviation : Access audit of domestic and international airports
  - Ministry of Urban Development : Development of accessibility standards for buildings; Smart Cities
  - Ministry of Tourism : Accessible tourism and culture
  - Ministry of Human Resource and Development: Accessible schools and colleges
  - Ministry of Railways : Accessible stations under A1, A and B categories
  - Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Audio description, Text to Speech and captioning of public television programming.
- For the success of Accessible India Campaign, State Governments shall execute the objectives & targets underlined in the Strategy paper by taking following measures:-
- (i). Constitution of State level Steering Committee and Programme Monitoring Unit (PMU) with representation of Central Ministries/Departments, Accessibility professionals and experts for implementation of Campaign by combination of institutional coordination, enforcement mechanisms and awareness of the PwD Act to promote accessibility.
  - (ii). Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for enhancing the accessibility of government buildings;
  - (iii). Organizing trainings and workshops of architects/contractors/concerned officials on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
  - (iv). Provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
  - (v). Provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guidelines, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
  - (vi). Identifying and conducting accessibility audit of most important government buildings and converting them into fully accessible buildings by creating a PERT Chart.



- (vii). State Govt. shall incorporate accessibility clause in its building by-laws and schemes/ programs.
- (viii). Every district of the State shall have a nodal accessible officer.
- (ix). Standards of accessibility should be as consistent as possible with international standards, such as those of the ISO, taking into account the local context. In regards to the built environment, ISO 21542:2011, Building Construction – Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment, delineates a set of requirements and recommendations concerning construction, assembly, components and fittings.
- (x). Promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- (xi). Promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet.

## C. SCHEME FOR AWARENESS GENERATION AND PUBLICITY

### Objectives:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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).
- d) To sensitize the employers and other similar groups on the special needs of the specially abled persons.
- e) 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.
- f) To encourage volunteer action for ensuring effective implementation of the legal provisions and welfare schemes meant for the PwDs.
- g) To develop content for rehabilitation of different types of disabilities.



- h) To provide financial support for helplines.
- i) To provide financial support for effective grievance redressal.
- j) To extend financial support for National & International events organized by reputed organizations on disabilities.
- k) 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.
- l) to extend financial support for participation in the Community Radio Programmes / Scheme of the Ministry of I&B.
- m) To promote activities for economic empowerment of PwDs like job fairs, campaigns, awareness on skill development etc.
- n) 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.
- o) To promote individual excellence in the field of disability sector.
- p) To promote relevant activity/activities relating to creating awareness in the field of disability sector.

### Approach and strategy

**The approach of the scheme shall be :**

- a) To spread awareness through social networking.
- b) Maintenance of accessible website, etc.
- c) Conducting seminars, workshops, cultural activities, fairs, exhibitions etc. either directly or through socially active groups /organizations.
- d) Participation in national and international initiatives in the field of disability.
- e) Conducting studies, surveys, enumeration and evaluation programmes on the special needs of PwDs including availability of technology, assistive aids and appliances etc.
- f) Coordinating and consolidating efforts made in the field by different departments, organizations.



- g) Financial assistance to self-help groups, parents' organizations etc. working for development of 'social good' and 'community welfare'.
- h) 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
- i) Organizing special events, Celebration of special days etc.
- j) 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.
- k) Panchayati Raj Institution may be involved wherever expedient.
- l) To support awareness campaign for skill development & employment generation for PwDs including job fairs.
- m) 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.
- n) To promote individual excellence in the field of disability sector.
- o) To promote relevant activity/activities relating to creating awareness in the field of disability sector.

### 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
- © 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

### **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.

### 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 as have 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.

### 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.

- (a) Short term projects (one-time events or projects not exceeding 6 months duration)

Disbursement will be made in two instalments as follows:

75% - on approval, acceptance, executing necessary bond etc.

25%- on receipt of final report and UC for the first installment, audited statement of account along with item-wise expenditure.



(b) Long term Projects (projects of 6 months and more duration)

Disbursement may be made in three instalments as follows:

40% on approval, acceptance of project and furnishing bank guarantee/ execution of bond etc.

40%- After Progress review, receipt of UC of first instalment.

20%- On Receipt of final report, UC for full amount, and audited statement of account along with item-wise expenditure.

## D. NATIONAL FUND FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Section 86 of the RPwD Act, 2016 mandates constitution of the National Fund for persons with disabilities. The funds available under the erstwhile Trust Fund for empowerment of persons with disabilities and the National Fund for people with disabilities will be subsumed under the National Fund. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 provides a broad framework for utilisation and management of the fund. As per the provisions of the said Rules, the Central Government has constituted a Governing Body under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DEPwD which would be responsible for overall management of the said fund.

The first meeting of the Governing Body of the fund was held on 09.01.2018. As of now, altogether an amount of Rs 294 crore could be available under the National Fund which was earlier part of the erstwhile two funds mentioned above. The Governing Body decided to earmark Rs 250 crore as corpus of the fund. Only the income generated on the corpus of the fund would be utilised for carrying out various activities to be taken up under the fund. All the formalities such as obtaining of PAN/TIN/Registration under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 are being completed for operationalising the fund. Further a Committee is being set up to suggest areas/activities which could be supported from the fund.

## E. CENTRAL SECTOR 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.

### 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 :-

- |       |                           |                 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| (i)   | Joint Secretary, DEPwD    | Chairman        |
| (ii)  | Director, NIEPVD          | Member          |
| (iii) | Representative of BCI     | Member          |
| (iv)  | Director (Finance), DEPwD | Member          |
| (v)   | Concerned Dir/DS          | Member Convener |

### 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, 6 proposals for establishment of new Braille presses, 11 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.

## **F. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME ON 'RESEARCH ON DISABILITY RELATED TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTS AND ISSUES –**

### **Central Sector Scheme on 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 innovative 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 :

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.

2. Each financial year, the Technical Committee under the chairmanship of CMD, ALIMCO recommends to the Steering Committee the research product and the subjects/topics to be assigned to interns for surveys, studies etc from time to time, consistent with the thrust areas and important issues related to disabilities before National Institutes/Department of Disability Affairs
3. On acceptance of the above recommendations by the Steering Committee, the Department, as far as practicable, invite applications to identify panels of experts for the research and interns for periodical survey/study. .
4. The Scrutiny Committee scrutinizes each proposal with reference to the terms of reference and financial parameters/norm and send the proposal to Technical Committee for selection of research product and survey/study The Technical Committee decides as to the selection of research products and survey /studies topics. The Steering Committee decides to the selection of partners for the research products and survey/studies to be undertaken.

## G. INDIAN SPINAL INJURIES CENTRE, NEW DELHI

Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), New Delhi was set up in collaboration with the Government of Italy, through San Rafaela Hospital, Milan along with the support from the Government of India to render super-speciality services for spinal injury management. The Indian Spinal Injury Centre, a Non-Governmental Organization, provides comprehensive rehabilitation management services to patients with spinal cord injuries and related ailments. These include intervention in the form of reconstructive surgery, stabilization operations, physical rehabilitation, psycho-social rehabilitation, and vocational rehabilitation services. The main objectives of organization are human resource development, research and development, development of models of care and rehabilitation, documentation and distribution, special education centre, consultancy services and outreach programmes for spinal injured patients.

2. As per the decision of the Union Cabinet, the Government supports the ISIC to provide 25



free-beds daily for treatment of poor patients. In addition, the Centre provides 5 free-beds to poor patients.

## H. NEW INITIATIVES & SCHEMES IN PROGRESS

### Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)

- The Government has approved establishment of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, under the aegis of this Department. Order to this effect has been issued by the Department on 28th September, 2015. The main objective of the Centre will be to develop manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language. Presently the Centre is functioning in the premises of, A-91, 1st Floor, Nagpal Business Tower, Okhla Phase-II, New Delhi-110020.

ISLRTC has been registered as a Society on 01.02.2016. Order regarding creation of 33 posts issued on 06.02.2016. Against 33 posts sanctioned for the Centre, twenty have joined till 31.08.2017. Ist Batch of Diploma course in Indian Sign Language Interpretation (DISLI) has commenced w.e.f. 28.10.2016 with intake capacity of 15 students. The second batch has started from 14.12.2016 and 3rd batch from 10.04.2017

Action is under process to prepare the sign language dictionary of about 6000 words. ISLRTC has also planned to prepare a directory of ISL interpreters in India.

- **Centre for Disability Sports**

The Ministry has approved establishment of three centres i.e. at Zirakpur (Punjab), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh). A Consultant has been engaged for preparation of a site specific Detailed Project Report for setting up of Centre for Disability Sports. The scheme shall be formulated as per the DPR.

- **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) and a Centre in Government Medical College, Jammu has been setup.



- Under another flagship scheme of the Department “Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for purchase / fitting of aids & appliances (ADIP), the Department has introduced a centralized on-line application system developed by NIC on the website [www.ngograntsje.gov.in](http://www.ngograntsje.gov.in).
- The Department in collaboration with TIFAC, an autonomous body of the Dept of Science & Technology, has launched a dedicated web portal for meeting the accessibility needs relating to aids & appliances for persons with disabilities.
- National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation – The Department is in the process of establishing National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Bhopal.
- **Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID)**
  - The Department is in the process 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 of Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disability.
  - The Department has already developed an application software for this purpose and hosted the same on NIC cloud.
  - 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.
  - Though the software has the provision to capture Aadhar Number but it is not mandatory for the purpose of obtaining certificate of disability/UDID card.
  - The RPwD Rules, 2017 notified by the Department on 15.06.2017 deals with the procedure for applying and grant of disability certificate.
  - The Department has taken up the matter with UIDAI regarding the requirement for making Aadhaar mandatory for obtaining disability certificate/UDID card.
  - UIDAI has suggested that the Department may by virtue of their rules/Act or through a separate notification under Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act make Aadhaar mandatory for obtaining disability certificate/UDID card under UDID project.
  - At present, disability certificate is mostly issued manually by the States/UTs unless every State/UT is prepared to use an online mode, it may not be appropriate to make Aadhaar mandatory for disability certificate at this stage.



- Taking this in to account, a provision has been made in the RPwD Rules 2017, empowering this Department to fix a date for issuance of disability certificate through online means only.
- Based on the preparedness of the States/UTs the date will be fixed and rules will be amended accordingly for mandatory requirement of Aadhaar for the purpose of obtaining disability certificate/UDID card.

### Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- Government of India has identified schemes where benefits either in cash, kind or service are provided directly to the beneficiaries for the purpose of Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT). The aim of DBT is to ensure that benefits go to individuals' bank accounts electronically, thereby reducing delay in payment, ensuring accurate targeting of the beneficiary and curbing pilferage and duplication.
- For the purpose of DBT, the schemes have to be notified under section 7/section 57 of the Aadhaar act.
- Eleven Schemes of the Department were identified to be on boarded DBT platform. Already all schemes have been on boarded except one scheme of Trust Fund, which does not exist due to implementation of new Act.



# 5

## Chapter

# Schemes of the Organizations under the Department

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

### Introduction-

The National Trust is a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament 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 Committee 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, covered under the Act.

### Registration of Organizations:

The National Trust offers registration to Voluntary Organization, Association of person with disabilities and association of parents of persons with disabilities. There are around 425 registered organizations of the National Trust Registered Organisations in the country.

### Local Level Committee:

Under the National Trust Act, 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:-

- 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;
- A representative of an organization registered with the National Trust; and
- 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 Local Level Committee is to screen appoint and monitor legal guardians. LLCs also promote activities such as Awareness generation, convergence and mainstreaming of persons with disabilities. So far, 651 LLCs have been constituted covering almost all the districts of the country (excluding the State of J&K).

### 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. The Guardianship is provided for following purposes:-

1. Maintenance and Residential Care.
2. Management of Immovable Property.
3. Management of Movable Property.
4. Any Others.



### State Nodal Agency Centre (SNAC):

In order to carry out the activities of the National Trust, including effective implementation 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 30 SNACs in the country. The National Trust provides funds for conducting institutional activities e.g. meetings with Registered Organisations for effective implementation of the schemes of the Trust; networking with other NGOs and meetings of the Local Level Committees (LLC) and State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) etc.

### 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 disabilities affairs is the Chairperson and the respective SNAC is the convener of the Committee. So far, SLCCs have been constituted in 26 States / Union Territories.

### Major Activities under different Schemes & Programmes of the National Trust:-

- i) **DISHA (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme):-** 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 and aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through therapies, trainings and providing support to family members. RO should provide day-care facilities to PwDs for at least 4 hours in a day (between 8 am to 6 pm) along with age specific activities. There should be a Special Educator or Early Intervention Therapist, Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist and Counsellor for PwDs along with Caregiver and Ayas in the centre.

The revised Early Intervention Scheme will have provision to cover 0 to 10 year age group of children in place of 0 to 6 age group as envisaged in the earlier scheme. The set up cost has been increased from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1.55 lakh.

- ii) **VIKAAS (Day Care):-** This is a Day care scheme, primarily to expand the range of opportunities available to persons with disabilities for enhancing interpersonal and vocational skills as they are on a transition to higher age groups. The centre will also offer care giving support to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the time the PwDs are in the Vikaas centre. In addition it also helps in supporting family members of the Persons with disabilities covered under the National Trust Act to get some time during the day to fulfil other responsibilities. RO should provide day-care facilities to PwDs for at least 6 hours in a day (between 8 am to 6 pm) along with age specific activities. Day care should be open for at least 21 days in a month.



- iii) **SAMARTH (Respite Care):-** The objective of Samarth scheme is to provide respite home for orphans or abandoned, families in crisis and also for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) 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.

The revised Samarth Scheme will have provision of Work Center. The per beneficiary monthly recurring cost has been revised from 1600 P.M. to 7,000 P.M. The Scheme will have full time support in place of tapering grant.

- iv) **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 with adequate and quality care service with acceptable living standards including provision of basic medical care from professional doctors. Gharaunda Centre should provide vocational activities, pre-vocational activities and assistance for further training.

The revised GHARAUNDA Scheme will have 1:1 ratio for LIG (including BPL) and above LIG PwDs, (which will be paid seats for Registered Organisations) in place of 5:1. There will be monthly recurring fund of Rs. 10,000 per PwD in place of one time payment of Rs. 8 lakh per PwD. In addition, there will be one time set up fund of Rs. 2.50 lakh, crisis fund of Rs. 10 lakh and fund for setting work center ranging from Rs. 25, 000 to 1, 00,000.

- v) **'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. The fee structure was revised this year which is as given below:-

#### Enrolment and Renewal Fee-

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



- vi) **SAHYOGI (Caregiver training scheme):-** This scheme aims at setting up Caregiver Cells (CGCs) to provide training and create a skilled workforce of caregivers 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 caregivers suited to work both with Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) families and other institutions catering to the needs of the Divyangjan (NGOs, work centres etc.).

There is a provision of training cost of Rs.4,200 per trainee, for primary course and Rs.8,000 for advanced course. Also, stipend for trainee @ Rs.5,000 for primary and Rs.10,000 for advanced course has been introduced in the scheme.

- vii) **GYAN PRABHA (Educational support):-** Gyan Prabha scheme aims to encourage people with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for pursuing educational courses like graduation courses, professional courses and vocational training leading to employment or self-employment. The National Trust is providing a specific amount per course to a Divyangjan which covers fees, transportation, books, out of pocket expenses (OPEs) etc.

Wide range of courses covered in the revised scheme in place of only vocational training / skill development courses. There is fixed recurring amount for the specified courses covering course fees, transportation, books, Out of Pocket Expenses in the revised scheme in place of Rs. 1000 p.m. Rs. 1600 p.m. is being given for vocational courses and Rs. 2000 per month for Graduation/ Post Graduation Course. Similarly, Rs. 5,200 per month is also given for Professional Course. In addition, there is a transportation allowance up to a ceiling of Rs. 20,000 per annum per person.

- viii) **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 Persons with disabilities (PwDs) 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 Registered Organisations (ROs) based on the sales turnover of the products made by PwDs. The National Trust shall fund RO 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 Persons with Disabilities covered under the National Trust Act.

- ix) **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 PwDs of the National Trust disabilities.

Earlier one NGO in Delhi was identified to run Sambhav Center. Now, it is converted into scheme.

- x) **BADHTE KADAM (Awareness and Community Interaction):-** This scheme shall support Registered Organisations (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. The National Trust shall sponsor a maximum of 4 events for each RO per year. Each RO should conduct at least 1 event (either for community, educational institutes or medical institutes) in a year.

Bathe Kadam was earlier an initiative of the National Trust which is now converted into a scheme.

## 5.2 REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (RCI)

The Rehabilitation Council was initially set up as a Society under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide Resolution No 22-17/83-HW.III dated 31st January, 1986. It was accorded a Statutory status by an Act of Parliament, namely, the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 (No. 34 of 1992). The Act was amended by Parliament in 2000 (No.38 of 2000) to make it more broad based. The Council is mandated to regulate and monitor the training programmes for professionals and personnel in the field of rehabilitation and special education, promote research in rehabilitation and special education and maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register.

### Objectives of the Council:

1. To regulate and monitor the training programmes in the field of rehabilitation of disabled persons.
2. To prescribe minimum standards of education and training for various categories of professionals dealing with persons with disabilities.



3. To regulate these standards in all training institutions to bring about uniformity throughout the country.
4. To make recommendations to the Ministry regarding recognition of qualifications granted by Universities, etc., in India for rehabilitation professionals.
5. To make recommendations to the Ministry regarding recognition of qualification by institutions outside India.
6. To maintain Central Rehabilitation Register of persons possessing the recognized rehabilitation qualification.
7. To encourage Continuing Rehabilitation Education in collaboration with organizations working in the field of disability.
8. To promote research in rehabilitation and special education.

### Functions of the Council :

1. The qualifications granted by any University or other institution in India that are included in the Schedule shall be recognized qualifications for Rehabilitation Professionals.
2. Any University or other Institution which grants qualification for rehabilitation professionals not included in Schedule may apply to the Central Government to have any such qualification recognized and the Central Government, after consulting the Council may, by notification amend the Schedule so as to include such qualification therein and any such notification may also direct that any entry shall be made in the last column of the Schedule against such qualification only when granted after a specified date.
3. The Council may enter into negotiations with a recognized authority in any other country for setting up of a scheme of reciprocity for the recognition of qualifications. In pursuance of any such scheme, the Central Government may by notification, amend the Schedule so as to include therein any qualification which the Council has decided should be recognized, and by such notification may also direct that an entry shall be made in the last column of the Schedule declaring that it shall be a recognized qualification only when granted after a specified date.
4. Registration of Rehabilitation Professionals in the Central Rehabilitation Register of persons possessing the recognized rehabilitation qualifications as per the Schedule attached to the Act.



5. To prescribe the minimum standards of education required for granting recognized rehabilitation qualification by Universities/Institutions in India.
6. To prescribe the standards of professionals, conduct and etiquette & code of ethics for rehabilitation professionals.
7. To assess and grant approval to institutions/universities for the training of professionals in the field of rehabilitation and to facilitate their recognition and its withdrawal by the Government.
8. The Council may appoint such number of visitors as it may deem requisite to inspect any University or Institution wherein education for rehabilitation professionals is given or attend any examination for the purpose of granting recognized rehabilitation qualifications.

## 6

## Chapter

# NATIONAL AWARDS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## Objectives of the scheme

Every year on the occasion of the International day for the disabled persons i.e. 3rd December, the Department confers National Awards on individuals, institutions, districts etc 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)	Blindness	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(ii)	Low Vision	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(iii)	Leprosy Cured	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(iv)	Hearing Impairment	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(v)	Locomotor Disability	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(vi)	Cerebral Palsy	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee



No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(vii)	Mental Retardation	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(viii)	Mental illness	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(ix)	Autism	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
(x)	Multiple Disabilities	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a medal to every awardee
<b>II.</b>	<b>Award for Best Employers and Placement Officer or Agency</b>		
(i)	Best Employer	Three - One each to: Government organization Public Sector Undertaking or Autonomous or Local Government Body 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: Autonomous Government Organization or Public Sector Undertaking Private or Non-Governmental Organization or Office	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a citation, certificate and a shield to every awardee.
<b>III.</b>	<b>Award for Best Individual and Institution Working for the Cause of Persons with Disabilities</b>		
(i)	Best Individual	Two (One each for Professional and Non Professional)	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.



No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(ii)	Best Institution	Two One each for: An organization providing holistic comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities in a comprehensive manner. And An organization promoting inclusive education to the children/persons with disabilities	Cash of Rupees Two Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
<b>IV. Role Model Awards</b>			
(i).	Blindness or low vision	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
(ii)	Leprosy cured	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
(iii)	Hearing impairment	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
(iv)	Locomotor Disability or Cerebral Palsy	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
(v)	Mental Retardation/ Mental Illness or Autism	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
<b>V. Awards for Best Applied Research or Innovation or Product Development Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities</b>			
(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.



No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(ii)	Development of new Cost-effective product for manufacture Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities.	Two	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Award for the Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrier-Free Environment for the Persons with Disabilities</b>		
(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.
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Award for the Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service</b>	One	A Shield, a certificate and citation. No cash award
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Best State Channelizing Agency of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation.</b>	One	A Shield, a certificate and citation.
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Award for the Outstanding Creative Adult Persons with Disabilities</b>	Two [one for Male and one for Female]	Cash of Rupees Fifty Thousand, a medal, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
<b>X.</b>	<b>Award for the Best Creative Child with Disabilities</b>	Two [one for Boy and one for Girl ]	Cash of rupees Fifty Thousand, a medal, a citation and a certificate to every awardee.
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Best Braille Press</b>	One	Cash of Rupees One Lakh, a citation and a certificate.
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Best Accessible Website</b>		
(i)	Govt.	One	A shield, a certificate & a citation



No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Component of awards
(ii)	PSU or Local Bodies	One	A shield, a certificate & a citation
(iii)	Pvt. Sector	One	A shield, a certificate & a citation
XIII.	<b>Best State in promoting empowerment of persons with disabilities</b>	One	A shield, a certificate, a citation.
XIV.	<b>Best sports person with disability</b>	Two[One for Male and One for Female]	Cash of Rupees One lakh, a citation, certificate and a shield to every awardee.

### How to apply

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) Screening committees are formed for short listing of awardees in different categories of national awards. The screening committees comprise of four to five members, including the Chairman, out of the following:-

- Serving or retired officers of the rank of Additional Secretary and above of the Central Government or Officers of the reputed Government Institutions;
- Eminent personalities and experts in the field of disability or expert in the relevant field of award;
- Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations;
- 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.



The National Selection Committee shall decide the nomination of the awardees for various categories on the basis of recommendation of the screening committees.

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.

The Awards are conferred on the awardees by the Hon'ble President of India in a ceremony on 3rd December every year.

## 7

## Chapter

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

### UNION CABINET MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

Name & Designation Smt./Shri/Mrs.	Telephone (office)	Telephone (Res./Mobile)	Room No.	E-mail address
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<b>Shri Neeraj Semwal</b> PS to Minister	23381001 23381390 23782132	7042912233	201 C-wing, Shastri Bhawan , New Delhi	
<b>Shri Pankaj Kr. Mehta</b> OSD to Minister	23381001 23381390 23782132	9868155144	201 C-wing, Shastri Bhawan , New Delhi	
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