



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 03)

Ensuring Atmanirbharta for the Divyangjan

(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)

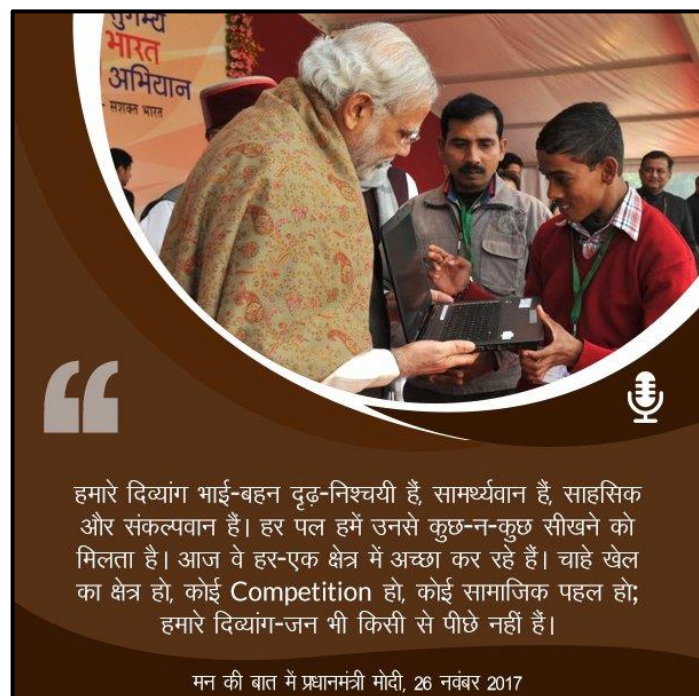
December 03, 2022

“On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, I laud the fortitude and accomplishments of our Divyang sisters and brothers. Our Government has undertaken numerous initiatives which have created opportunities for persons with disabilities and enabled them to shine.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Introduction:

A truly inclusive society is one in which everyone can lead an independent, self-reliant and dignified life. However, inaccessible physical environments, lack of mobility and transportation, unavailability of assistive devices and technologies, inaccessible websites and services hinder equal participation of persons with disabilities in the mainstream socio-economic and cultural activities. The inclusion of the differently abled in the mainstream is the key to making their lives wholesome with equal opportunities and chances while making the society inclusive and egalitarian. With this vision, the Government of India launched **Accessible India Campaign** in 2015 on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, i.e., [December 03](#). This is a nationwide campaign to enable persons with disabilities to gain universal access, equal opportunity for development, independent living and participation in all aspects of life in an inclusive society.



The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on [December 03 was proclaimed in 1992](#) by the United Nations General Assembly. The

observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities- 2022

The theme this year is “**Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world**”. The 2022 global observance to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be around the overarching theme of innovation and transformative solutions for inclusive development, covering in three different interactive dialogues the following thematic topics:



Innovation for disability-inclusive development in employment (SDG 8)



Innovation for disability inclusive development in reducing inequality (SDG 10)



Innovation for disability inclusive development: sport as an exemplar case

ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

The Campaign envisages providing features of accessibility in the **three verticals of Built-up environment, Transportation sector and Information & Communication Technology ecosystem**, for creation of a universal barrier free environment¹.



The progress under the scheme (as of November 2022) is given below.

¹ <https://pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?Id=148569>

Built-Up Environment and Transportation

The objective is to increase accessibility in government buildings. The scope extends to provision of features of accessibility such as staircases, ramps, double height handrails, tactile paths in corridors, wide entry gates, reserved parking and disabled friendly toilets, accessible elevators, etc. The main areas of focus are public-centric buildings like schools, hospitals, police stations, courts, tourist places, etc.

- **Government Buildings:** Access Audit of 1671 buildings have been completed. 1630 Government buildings, including 1030 Central Government building have been provided with features of accessibility.
- **Schools:** Out of 11,68,292 Government and Government aided schools, 8,33,703 schools (71%) have been made barrier free with the provision of ramps, handrails and accessible toilets.²
- **Railways:** All 709 A1, A & B category railway stations have been provided with the seven (07) Short Term Facilities identified by Ministry of Railways, namely, ramps, two parking lots for Divyangjan, non-slippery walkways from parking to station building, signage, at least one drinking water tap, one accessible toilet and 'May I Help You' booth.
- **Airports:** All 35 international airports & 55 domestic airports provided with accessibility features (ramps, accessible toilets, helpdesks and lifts with Braille and auditory information systems), Further, all international/customs airport have been provided with aerobridges³.



- Tactile path has been provided at majority of the airports whereas 41 airports have been equipped with aerobridges and ambulifts are available at 20 airports and the same is being procured for other airports.
- **Buses:** 1,45,747 (29.05%) buses have been made partially accessible and 8695 (5.73%) made fully accessible.

² <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/nov/doc20221117127701.pdf>

³

<https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/upload/uploadfiles/files/MSJE%20Annual%20Report%202022%20English.pdf> (PG No.- 103)

Information & Communication Technology Ecosystem:

- The focus is on promoting accessibility in websites, public documents, media content on TV and training of sign language interpreters.
- **Websites and Public Documents** - 95 websites of Central Government Ministries/Departments have been made accessible by MeitY under the Content Management Framework. 588 State/UT Government websites have been made accessible with features for screen reader, colour contrast, translation, font size control, among others.
- The Government has established Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in September 2015. The main objective of the Centre is to develop manpower for using, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language. ISLRTC has informed that more than 1000 persons have been trained in Indian sign language through Diploma and Short-Term Courses of ISLRTC.
- **TV Viewing** - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has formulated the standards for accessible TV viewing for persons with hearing impairment which provides for closed captioning, subtitling and designing of special devices.



Other Initiatives taken by the Government under the Accessible India Campaign:

- To ensure access to education for PwDs, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) also has been taken on board. Apart from inclusion of accessibility related content in syllabus of classes 1 to 12 and B.Ed and training of teachers/special educators, DoSEL has also reported that 8,33,703 out of 11,68,292 (71%) schools have been made barrier free for children with special needs.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been requested for developing accessible health infrastructure.
- Ministry of Tourism has also actively adopted the mandates of the Campaign and is committed to developing accessible tourist experiences under its various schemes such as **PRASHAD, Adopt a Monument**, etc. to name a few. Many hotels and tourist facilities are also being provided with accessible services such as rooms for PwDs, braille information booklets and menus etc. The retro fitment of key monuments and tourist places on similar lines is being taken up as well.
- Furthermore, 20 Central Ministries/Departments have been on boarded for formulation of sector-specific accessibility guidelines/standards.



Sugamya Bharat App:

It is helping in crowdsourcing grievances of accessibility being faced on ground in infrastructure and services and forwarding for redressal. It is also helpful in creating sensitization and generating awareness about the importance of accessibility.

Statutory Framework

To provide full legislative cover to the Campaign and right to accessibility, the government enacted the [Rights for Persons with Disabilities \(RPwD\) Act, 2016](#) which came into force from April 2017. The number of specified disabilities under this act have been increased to 21 from 7 (under the PwD Act, 1995).⁴ **Salient Features of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 include the following⁵:**

- Formulation of **rules laying down standards of accessibility in all three components**, Built-up environment, Transportation sector and Information & Communication Technology ecosystem, in Urban and Rural areas
- **Providing facilities for access** to transport, ICT, universally designed consumer products
- **Mandatory observance of the Accessibility Law** as per laid down standards
- **Time limits for making existing infrastructure/services accessible** - Buildings (five years) and Services (two years).
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 provides for **4% reservation in government jobs for persons with 40% or more disability**. National Action Plan for Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities (15 to 59 years) to increase the scope of employment in the public and private sectors.

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=155592>

⁵ <https://pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?Id=148569>

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

Under the ADIP Scheme, grant-in-aid is released to various implementing agencies to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances. This to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of PwDs by reducing the effects of disabilities and at the same time enhance their economic potential.⁶ The Scheme was further strengthened through revision w.e.f. 2014.⁷ **Samajik Adhikarita Shivir** are organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for distribution of aids & assistive devices to Divyangjan under the ADIP Scheme.

Unique Identification:

Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities project is being implemented with a view towards creating a **National Database for PwDs**, and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities.



- ❖ The Government of India has launched the Unique Disability Identity Card portal www.swavlambancard.gov.in for a national database of persons with disabilities on a real-time basis.
- ❖ 67,09,894 e-UDID cards have been generated in 715 out of 737 districts in all States/UTs as on 19.01.2022, including 11.17 Lakh UDID cards generated during 2021-22⁸.

National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

- On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities i.e. 3rd December, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment confers **National Awards on Individuals, Institutions, Organizations, State/District etc for their outstanding achievements and work done towards empowerment of Persons with Disabilities every year.**
- These awards have been instituted with the objective to focus public attention on issues concerning persons with disabilities and to promote their mainstreaming in the society.
- With the coming into force of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 w.e.f. April 2017, the numbers of specified disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21 under the new Act. Accordingly all the 21 disabilities have been included under the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Guidelines, 2018.

⁶

<https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/upload/uploadfiles/files/MSJE%20Annual%20Report%202022%20English.pdf>

⁷ <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=114082>

⁸ <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/upload/uploadfiles/files/MSJE%20Annual%20Report%202022%20English.pdf>

Conclusion

The subject of "Disability" figures in the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, but the Government of India has always been committed towards implementing wide-ranging initiatives in this area. The Central Government is running seven National Institutes (NIs) dealing with various types on disabilities and seven Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) which provide rehabilitation services to PwDs and run courses for rehabilitation professionals. It also funds a large number of NGOs for similar services and also a National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHDFDC) which provides loans at concessional rates of interest to PwDs for self-employment.⁹

References:

- ❖ https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/accessible%20india12_290921_lowres.pdf
- ❖ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1880462>
- ❖ <https://pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?Id=148569>
- ❖ <https://pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?Id=148569>
- ❖ <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/upload/uploadfiles/files/MSJE%20Annual%20Report%202022%20English.pdf>
- ❖ <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/upload/uploadfiles/files/MSJE%20Annual%20Report%202022%20English.pdf> (PG No.- 103)
- ❖ <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/upload/uploadfiles/files/MSJE%20Annual%20Report%202022%20English.pdf>
- ❖ <http://disabilityjobs.gov.in/page.aspx?Name=About-Us>

Twitter links:

Accessible India [@MSJE_AIC](#)

AG/HP/RC/SPN/SK

⁹ <http://disabilityjobs.gov.in/page.aspx?Name=About-Us>