

Minutes and Recommendations of the 18th National Review Meeting of the States/UTs Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities to review the status of implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi on 29th - 30th November, 2023.

The 18th National Review Meeting of the State/UT Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities was held on 29th and 30th November, 2023 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The two days' meeting was inaugurated and chaired by Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD, holding additional charge of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD). Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur, Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India, Shri K. R. Vaidheeswaran, JS & CEO, National Trust, Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary, D/oEPwD were also present during the inaugural session and addressed the participants. The State/UT Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities or their representatives from 28 States/UTs, Senior Officers from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also attended the two days' workshop. The list of participants is at Annexure-I.

2. On behalf of the CCPD, Shri Vikas Trivedi, Dy. CCPD welcomed the participants to the meeting and briefly explained the agenda points for consideration in the meeting. He informed that the meeting was intended to focus on section-wise implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016, notification of rules, appointment of District Level Committee, Grievance Redressal Officers, the Special Public Prosecutor, the Special Courts, status of issue of the UDID Cards, issue of list of identified posts and status of accessibility of public buildings and ICT accessibility.

3. In his inaugural address, the Secretary, DEPWD-cum-CCPD expressed his pleasure that large number of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities from States/UTs have come for the meeting. He raised several concerns and made suggestions for effective implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016. He requested the State/UT Commissioners to play a more proactive role in arresting the menace of issue of fake disability certificates and fake institutions. He singled out the later as a bigger evil posing the danger of affecting hundreds of lives adversely over a period of time. Citing Section 92 of the said Act, which provides for jail term of upto 5 years for offences of cruelty, intimidation, public interest of persons with disabilities, he asked as to what penalty should be commensurate for fake institutions run without the teachers, student or in some cases without a building of the institution. He also cited the ongoing intervention by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for appointment of full time and independent Commissioners and said that incumbents in these posts should be more compassion oriented than compliance. On the issue of rehabilitation and long term medical care in certain types of disabilities, he highlighted the importance of developing generic medicines and making them available at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Secretary, DEPWD-cum-CCPD also pitched for the need of vocational and entrepreneur training and easy availability of loans for self-employment. As the loans from the National Divyang Finance Development Corporation are made available to the end beneficiaries through the state channelising agencies, the role of the State Commissioners in activating and monitoring the efficacy of these channelizing agencies becomes critical.

4. The Secretary, DEPwD-cum-CCPD also informed the participants that just a day before the commencement of this meeting, the Ministry of Women & Child Development has launched a new Protocol for Aanganwadi aiming at early detection, tracking and training of children with disabilities. He advised the State Commissioners to get involved in this process to maximise the country wide impact of the new protocol. He also highlighted the increase in

fitment centres of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) from 5 (six months ago) to 48 now. On the issue of accessibility, he informed that many Central Ministries have framed their guidelines on accessibility of services offered by them. 13 such guidelines have already been notified and made part of the RPwD Rules. These include, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, etc. As regards, the quasi-judicial functions of the State/UT Commissioners, he requested them to prioritise issuing of notices without any delay. He was of the view that many a times the work gets done just by issue of a well drafted notice, which specifies the provisions of the Act, the Rule and the government instructions. He desired to form a committee to formulate the standard format of notices or summons, requisitions and issuance of commission for examination of witness or documents should be uniform in all States comprising officers from O/o CCPD and a few State Commissioners, for which the Commissioners of the State of Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Goa volunteered. Secretary, DEPwD-cum-CCPD highlighted few recent orders, interim orders and notices issued by him on the matters ranging from accessibility to employment to harassment, etc. He requested all the State/UT Commissioners to make their orders available on their website in accessible format.

5. Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur, Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India requested the Ministry of Education to ensure that the skilled manpower and expertise of the RCI be utilised in the policy decisions and its implementation. She was of the opinion that the stakeholders have to work in tandem. She said that adequate employment opportunities are not being made available to persons with disabilities in general and to the Special Educators and Professionals in particular. The meaning of accessibility is not merely the wheelchair and the lift, but the number of persons with disabilities employed in an Institution. She requested all the SCPDs to look into this aspect in their respective States. She also noted that unfilled vacancies reserved for PwDs

are filled with general candidates after the lapse of three years. She suggested that the vacancies reserved for PwDs should be filled by candidates with PwDs only. RCI must be invited when policies are made by the Ministry of Education with respect to PwDs.

6. Shri Rajesh Yadav, the Joint Secretary from the DEPwD advised the State/UT Commissioners to ensure that identification of posts for PwDs are not been done in their States without consulting them. The Central Ministries discussed about their programme and policies for empowerment and equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities. He also mentioned that persons with disabilities are the most marginalized community. He apprised the SCPDs in respect of amendments in Rule 15 of the RPwD Rules 2017 and gave summary status of sector specific guidelines of 20 Ministries/Departments.

7. During the meeting, Secretary, DEPwD cum CCPD released a Compendium of the landmark orders passed by the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the State/UT Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

8. Officers representing various Ministries/Departments made their presentations focusing on the initiatives being taken up by their respective ministries/department in implementation of various provisions of the Act which is placed at **Annexure-II**.

9. Thereafter, State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities/Representatives from states and Union Territories presented an account of the status of implementation of various provision of the Act in their respective States/UTs highlighting the unique initiative and best practices. The gist of the presentations made by the SCPDs are at **Annexure - III**.

10. After detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

(I) The SCPDs/representatives of the respective States/UT recommended that the Central Government may take up the matter regarding registration of EoP with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Registrar of Society etc. as due to very lean machinery/staff in the Office of CCPD or SCPD it is not practicable to implement. It was also agreed that the EoPs of the Government Departments/PSUs/PSBs/Autonomous Bodies etc. may be filed before the (i) CCPD in case of Central Government and (ii) SCPD in case of State Government.

(Action : DEPwD)

(II) The Central Government may issue consolidate instructions regarding posting and transfer of employees with disabilities, covering the parents who have children with disabilities and an employee having parents with disabilities.

(Action : DOPT)

(III) The Central Government may amend the Section 32 of the RPwD Act, 2016 by providing admission to child with disability in Middle/Higher classes on the basis of merit or entrance examination. Similarly in Vocational courses run by various Central/State Ministries, 5% reservation for PwDs should be mandated. Besides, in order to facilitate meaningful contribution to the GDP by the Divyangjan, 5% reservation in Entrepreneurship Training and in Easy Loans in Priority Sector Lending may also be considered.

(Action : DEPwD)

(IV) Rights conferred under Chapter-VI of the RPwD Act, 2016 are available to PwBDs only. While it is perfectly reasonable to reserve seats in Higher Education and in Government jobs for PwBD, the denial of various reasonable accommodations to PwD who have less than 40% disability is not correct. It has been observed that establishments have taken literal interpretation of this in making government policy even on

ancillary matters such as provisions of scribe, compensatory time, issue of disability certificate, fixation of standards of medical fitness, posting and transfer policy, etc. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Vikas Kumar Vs UPSC and more recently in Mohd. Ibrahim Vs CMD, Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Ltd. has highlighted the need of application of mind with respect to diversity of disability and a corresponding need for customized accommodation to the differing needs of PwDs as part of reasonable accommodation. A qualificatory statement can be made in sections 31-37 wherever applicable and section 91 may also be suitably amended.

(Action : DEPwD)

- (V) As per Section 34 read with Rule 11 and DoPT's OMs dated 15.01.2018 & 17.05.2022, in case of non-availability of a PwBD from the reserved sub-category to fill a reserved vacancy in the first recruitment year, the vacancy is required to be kept unfilled. In the next year, the vacancy has to be advertised again and can be filled by a candidate from the same sub-category, or by inter se exchange from another sub-category or by a non-disabled candidate subject to certain conditions. The DoPT and DEPwD are required to address the issue regarding inter se exchange of vacancies as per Section 34 read with Rule 12 and DoPT's OMs dated 15.01.2018 & 17.05.2022, and clarify the correct procedure to the cadre controlling authority.

(Action : DEPwD, DOPT)

- (VI) Section 58 (3) provides that the certificate of disability issued under this section shall be valid across the country. Further Rule 19 of the RPwD Rules, 2017 provide that the certificate issued under the Rules are to be generally valid for all purposes. Notwithstanding, establishments like Railways, NEET, NMC etc. are insisting on a fresh disability certificates, which has been a ground for many complaints before the Chief Commissioner. This gap is required to be filled by the Central Government.

There are increasing cases of persons having no disabilities obtaining disability certificates and UDID cards. Also, the cases of PwD with less than 40% disability obtaining certificates with more than 40% disability are on the rise. This deprives genuine PwDs from obtaining the rights which are legally due to them. There should be strong action taken against such fraudulent persons, and also against the medical practitioners which help them in obtaining such fraudulent documents.

(Action : DEPwD)

- (VII) It was recommended to incorporate the names of CCPD and SCPD in the Central Advisory Board and the State Central Advisory Board respectively as they can provide valuable feedbacks and inputs.

(Action : DEPwD)

- (VIII) For securing the rights and safeguarding the interests of persons with disabilities against establishments under the control of Legislature and Judiciary, mandate has not been provided to any authority. The Act should provide for an authority to take up matters with judiciary and legislature too or empower the CCPD/SCPD to fill the gap as the adjudication of the CCPD/SCPD is in the nature of recommendation and is subject to ordinary judicial review.

(Action: DEPwD)

- (IX) Section 75 may be amended to provide mandate to the CCPD to coordinate the work of the State Commissioners (as was available in the 1995 RPWD Act).

(Action : DEPwD)

- (X) The RPwD Act is silent in respect of mandate for taking up matters of deprivation of rights of a person with disability or of discrimination on the ground of disability either suo-motu or on receipt of a complaint against establishments within the control of two or more state

governments. Section 75 may be amended to provide such mandate to the CCPD.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XI) Section 92 makes provisions for punishment for offences of atrocities against persons with disabilities. Specific provisions for harsher punishment may be made in case where the atrocity has been committed by guardians, caretakers or family members.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XII) Rule 3 (3) and Rule 38 (8) are contrary to the timeline given, hence this needs to be addressed by way of amendment in the Rules by the Central Government.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XIII) Rule 38 of the RPwD Rules, 2017 needs modification (i) by including procedure to be followed in suo-motu cases, (ii) inclusion of provision for filing complaints filed by NGOs, workers' union, good Samaritans and public spirited persons including a person with disability approaching the CCPD, where the complainant is not individually aggrieved, (iii) mandatory provision for the copy of disability certificate or UDID card with the complaint filed by the person with disability, (iv) file the complaint, reply, rejoinder and application for filing additional documents on affidavit to avoid false or malicious complaints.

(XIV) Similar provision may be made in the RPwD Rules by the respective State Governments/UTs

(Action : DEPwD/State Governments)

(XV) The Central Government/State Government may take appropriate measures to sensitize the Head of the Departments towards their Role on duties and responsibilities of Government Establishments under the RPwD Act, 2016 and Rules made thereunder.

(Action : DEPwD/State Governments)

- (XVI) The Central Government/State Government may take up the matter with the cadre controlling authority with regard to Sections 33 and 34 of the Act informing them that the Expert Committee may be advised to go through the Notes 1-9 of the DEPwD's notification no. 38-16/2020-DD.III dated 04.01.2021 while finalizing the list of identified post.

It is, therefore, evident that no exemption whether in respect of any post or a category/sub-category of disability, can be allowed without referring the matter to the Expert Committee and notification of the same by the DEPwD. The Central Government may take appropriate measures to draw attention and sensitize the head of the departments in this regard.

(Action: DEPwD/State Governments)

- (XVII) DEPwD may take up with the Ministry of Finance for Divyang Budgeting in the Budget of all Ministries on the pattern of Gender Budgeting.

(Action : DEPwD)

- (XVIII) A training programme of 3-4 days be designed for orientation of the CCPD, the CPDs and SCPDs on reservation rosters, harmonized guidelines on accessibility and their quasi-judicial mandates and powers under the RPwD Act. Sensitization Training of recruitment agencies, including of officials from the UPSC, SSC and State Public Service Commission should also be designed and conducted.

(Action : DoPT)

- (XIX) Instructions should be issued for making Sign Language Interpretation mandatory during any official meeting on a matter concerning Divyangjan.

(Action : DEPwD)

- (XX) A mandatory training on assessment for certification of disability be designed and conducted for all medical professionals.

(Action : M/o H&FW)

(XXI) As per section 34 of the Act, there is 4% reservation in employment within Govt. establishments. The Act must clarify the eligibility of persons suffering from temporary disability as there is a possibility of an individual having a disability which is likely to only aggravate with passage of time and hence the certificate issued to the individual is given for a time frame.

(Action : DEPwD/DOPT)

(XXII) The Central Government may take measures with regard to updation of personal details on UDID Portal/Card, QR code of UDID card compatible for iOS system.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XXIII) The State/UT Commissioner is not able to generate Organization/Hospital wise report about their performance on the UDID Portal with the State Coordinator login. As such, they find it difficult to monitor the progress of each organization/Hospital.

(Action : DEPwD, M/o H&FW)

(XXIV) Set up special residential schools for children with disabilities particularly in the States with sparse population and remote areas.

(Action : State Governments)

(XXV) The DEPwD should take up with all the State Governments for issuing of disability certificate and UDID Card to persons with less than 40% disability also.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XXVI) A common online portal, uniform procedure and standard format be devised for convenience of the parties, SCPDs and CCPD for taking

up complaints/grievances of PwDs to bring uniformity in the functioning of the SCPDs.

(Action : CCPD and SCPDs)

(XXVII) It is observed that different sign languages are being used and taught in schools. The Central Government may issue necessary guidelines that Indian sign language (ISL) will be the primary sign language to be taught in schools.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XXVIII) The Central Government may launch a national helpline for Persons with Disabilities.

(Action : DEPwD)

(XXIX) SCPDs may signed the recommendation digitally and upload the recommendation on their website in accessible format.

(Action : SCPDs)

11. Shri Guruprasad, SCPD Goa briefed all participants about forthcoming 'Purple Fest' to be held at Goa and also invited all SCPDs to attend the same. CCPD also requested all SCPD's to visit "**Purple Fest**" to be held at Goa w.e.f 8th to 13th January 2024.

12. The 18th NRM was concluded highlighting various interjections and guidance by Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary-cum-CCPD who was present and chaired the National Review Meeting for the entire duration of two days. He expressed gratitude to all the Commissioners of States and UTs who made valuable contribution during the meeting and came out with meaningful recommendations to the Central and State Governments.

List of State/UT Commissioners present in the 18th NRM on 29-30th November 2023

Sl. No	Name of the State	Name of the State Commissioner for PwDs	Mobile No
1	Delhi	Shri Ranjan Mukherjee	09958066443
2	Goa	Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar	09156321900 09822132023
3	Jammu & Kashmir	Mohd. Iqbal Lone	09419000036
4	Karnataka	Sri Das Suryavanshi	09449399558
5	Kerala	Shri S.H. Panchapakesan	09496325838 06238785118
6	Ladakh	Smt Tashi Dolma	09419114677
7	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Sandeep Razak	09425139344
8	Maharashtra	Shri. Pravin Puri	09422488985
9	Manipur	Shri W. Birahari Singh	08131947029
10	Meghalaya	Smt. S.B. Marak	07005711584
11	Mizoram	Ms. Vanlaldiki Sailo	09436141825
12	Nagaland	Ms Diethono Nakhro	06009952830
13	Odisha	Smt. Bratati Harichandan	09437031868
14	Rajasthan	Shri Uma Shankar Sharma	09602022229
15	West Bengal	Smt Nilanjana Dasgupta	08334915554

**List of Representative/Support Staff from States/UTs in the
18th NRM held on 29-30th November 2023**

Sl. No	Name of the State	Name of the Representative & Supporting Staff	Mobile No
1	Andhra Pradesh	Shri T. Ravindra, Dy. Director	09052808653
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Mito Dirchi, JS, SJETA Civil Secretariat	09436836666
3	Bihar	Dr. Ruby Kumari, Addl. State Commissioner	0612-2215041
4	Chandigarh	Shri Vikram Jeet Godwani, Manager Shri Sham Rawat, Sr. Assistant	08872493905 09988179994
5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	Shri Manoj Kumar Pandey, Director cum Dy. Secretary, SW/WCD DNH&DD Shri Jyowesh B. Contractor, State Coordinator SW- DNHCDs	09537500045 09726654402
6	Delhi	Ajit Kr. Pathak, Assistant Programmer SCPD (Supporting Staff)	06290034059
7	Gujarat	Shri H.H. Theba Dy. Commissioner Shri P.T. Ruval, Advocate, Law Officer	07914933800 09924936084
8	Haryana	Jitender Kumar DSWO, Gurugram	09812551600
9	Himachal Pradesh	Shri Jeewan Singh, Assistant Commissioner Shri Deepak Raik Tehsil Welfare Officer (SJ&E)	09418573879 09816009128
10	Kerala	Shri S. Sainullabdeen Deputy Secretary (Supporting Staff)	09496325838
11	Maharashtra	Shri Sanjay Kadam, Dy. Commissioner Shri Shrikant Avhad, Sr. Consultant to Dept. Manager, Ernst & Young LLP, India (Supporting Staffs)	09881777142 08329875759
12	Manipur	L. Dhaneshwar Singh, Dy. Director, Social Welfare (Supporting Staff)	08131947029

13	Mizoram	Ms. Margaret Lalmatfeli Fanai, Assistant PwD Office (Supporting Staff)	09485140523
14	Nagaland	Shri Vikefakho Nakho (Supporting Staff)	09089387062
15	Puducherry	Shri Thiru A Kumaran Director	09994475754
16	Tamilnadu	Shri P. Balaji, Law Officer, Office of SRPwD Tamilnadu	09884269094
17	Telangana	Srinadhi Lakshmi Rao Ms. R. Haritha Alankritha	08826061467
18	Tripura	Shri Achintam Kilikdar, Dy. Commissioner	09436129708
20	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Shailendra Kumar Sonkar, Dy. Commissioner Shri Rakesh Kumar, Dy. Director	09335755566 09415090642
21	Uttrakhand	Shri Jagmohan Singh Kaphola Dy. Director, Social Welfare	09412117099
22	West Bengal	Shri Jayanta Kumar Roy Officer on Special Duty (Supporting Staff)	8334915554

**List of Participation from Ministries / Department present in the
18th NRM on 29-30th November 2023**

Sl. No	Name of the Ministries/ Department	Name of the Participate from Ministry/Department	Name of the Representative	Mobile No
1	M/o Health & Family Welfare New Delhi	Ms. Noorin Bux Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health & FW	Smt. Sunita Mondal, Director & Professor, Dept. of Psychology, New Delhi	09639209262 (DS) 09312363298 (Dr. Sunita Mondal)
2	Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeiTy)		Ms. Uma Chauhan Group Co-ordinator Dr. Kshitij Kushagava, Additional Director Ms. Tejisvinee Kundhavel Scientist-C	09811855152 08750777227 09791088650
3.	Ministry of Road Transport & Highway		Shri Harsh Prabhakar, Executive Engineer Shri Jitendar Kumar Section Officer	09711347671 -----
4.	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs		Shri Ravindra Sinha CPWD Shri Priyank Jain, SO, NCTE	--- ---
5.	Ministry of Heavy Industry	Not Participate		
6.	Ministry of Education	---	Ms. A. Srija, Economic Advisor Shri Rakesh Kumar Dy. Secretary	09650811988 011-23384501
7.	Department of Personal & Training,	Shri Sandeep Saxena, Dy. Secretary. DOPT		09911617972

	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	Shri Debabrata Das, DOPT		011- 23093307
8.	Ministry of Railway	Shri Adarsh Kumar Chaurasia, Assistant Section Officer Shri Srinivas Malladi, Director, Railway Board	-	08377941087 011-47844329
9.	NHRC	Not participated		
10.	RCI	Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur, Chairperson	-	07291064215
11	National Trust	Shri K.R. Vaidheeswaran, JS & Chief Executive Officer Shri Navnit Kumar, Prog. Officer	-	09818703366 09868121469
12	NCERT	Prof. Vinay Kumar Singh, DEGSN, NCERT	-	09654319691
13	KVS	Shri Deepak Kumar Dabral, Assistant Commissioner Shri Amar Lal Singh Brar, AC Estt.I Ms. Chandana Mandal Joint Commissioner (Training)	- - -	09435992810 011-26521898 011-26965154

**List of Participation from DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment present in the
18th NRM on 29-30th November 2023**

Sl. No	Name of the Ministries/ Department	Name of the Participate from Ministry/Department	Mobile No
1	DEPwD	Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, CCPD cum Secretary	-
2.		Shri Rajesh Yadav, JS	-
3.		Ms. Sejal Pawar, Legal Consultant	-
4.		Shri Gaurav K Gupta, Consultant	08130486778

Presentation made by the Officers representing various Ministries/Departments focusing on the initiatives being taken up by their respective Ministry/Department in implementation of various provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016.

(i) Department of Personnel & Training:

Shri Sandeep Saxena, Dy. Secretary and Shri Debabrata Das, Under Secretary, presented the history of reservation provided to PwDs along with the salient features of the office memorandums issued by DoPT with regard to recruitment, reservation in employment and promotion, etc.

(ii) Ministry of Railways:

Shri Shivag Malladi, Director, Railway Board informed that circulars with regard to the accessibility of information system, accessibility of stations, platform and coaches have been issued to the General Managers of all the Railway Zones. Divyangjan friendly ticket counters, Braille signage and reserved parking have been provided at railway stations for PwDs. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, re-development of all Amrit stations (1309 Nos.) have been planned with modernized Divyangjan facilities, and the works at 1140 numbers of stations have already started. A Gazette Notification has been issued on 13.11.2023 on accessibility guidelines for stations by Indian Railways.

(iii) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare:

Dr. Sunita Mondal, Director & Professor, Lady Hardinge Medical College represented the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and said that MOHFW specifically focuses on issues related to health care and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. Preventive measures to reduce the incidence of disabilities have been implemented. Public health campaigns, awareness

programs, and education on maternal and child health were organised. Systems are in place for early identification of disabilities. National Health Policy, 2017 has provisions for improving healthcare services for persons with disabilities. National Programme on leprosy eradication, prevention and control of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and stroke, mental health and Bal Swasthya are in vogue. Healthcare is provided to PwDs on subsidized rates. Medicines are provided at a very low price at Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra. The Guidelines for Evaluation and Procedure for Certification of Various Specified Disabilities, 2018 are under review and would be shared with DEPwD. The Ministry is in the process of preparing training material to train all staff of all the healthcare facilities in accessibility. National Medical Commission (NMC), India is focusing on training of more doctors in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and to provide knowledge of assistive products to medical undergraduates. The personnel working in the field of rehabilitation are being strengthened.

(iv) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology:

Dr. Kshitij Kushagra, Scientist-E, Meity stated that the role of Meity is to develop website accessibility ecosystem, standard for website accessibility, STQC certification, feedback mechanism and capacity building with an aim to prepare the Indian Accessibility Standard for ICT along with STQC and BIS through consultative process and to create nation-wide awareness. There are scopes to contribute to the preparation of draft Indian standard under BIS and ensure notification of the same; and carry out accessibility test and compliance reports for five popularly used ICT products from different categories - (e.g., website/portal, mobile app, software, hardware and products/systems involving both hardware and software. Bureau of India Standards published and notified the Part 1 of the Standard vide Gazette notification dated 24th December 2021 and Part 2 vide Gazette notification dated 4th May, 2022.

The CCPD interjected and laid emphasis on providing accessible IT infrastructure and stated that digital accessibility is much more important than physical accessibility especially for persons with visual impairment. This is absolutely a question of the whole life style. He also said that while doing so, experts from Int. Ass. of Accessibility Professionals should be engaged.

(v) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways:

Shri Harsh Prabhakar, Executive Engineer, MoRTH discussed about the status and initiatives taken for an accessible transportation under Accessible India Campaign. Out of total 97626 buses for intercity operations, 21735 buses have been made accessible, and out of total 47792 Urban operations, 24765 buses have been made accessible for PwDs. Out of a total 3371 STUs Bus Stops, 2910 were made accessible. Accessibility guidelines for Bus Terminals and Bus Stops, Guidelines for registration of vehicle for PwDs were issued vide GSR 804 (E) dated 30.06.2020. Guidelines regarding colour blindness were issued vide GSR 401(E) dated 24.06.2020 for obtaining driving license. Guidelines regarding concession in bus fare for PwDs were issued on 23.04.2020.

(vi) Ministry of Education:

The Advisor, Department of School Education & Literacy informed that there are dedicated provisions for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) under Samagra Shiksha. D/o Education is doing Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening of children with specific learning disabilities through PRASHAST Screening App. She also informed that on e-pathshala mobile app, all NCERT textbooks of Class 1 to 12 are available in Urdu, Hindi and English language that are downloadable chapter wise pdf format with e- content, audio visuals. For visually impaired learners talking books in daisy format have been developed in 14 subjects at the senior secondary level. The textbook are available in e-Pub talking book format which can be read through Text to Speech (TTS)

app and also in audio format, using drama and sound of animals, picture description etc. are developed with the aim to enhance accessibility for Children with Visual Impairment (CwVI) and also for realizing the need of anytime and anywhere access. On PM-Vidya channel, there is a Special Live Telecast for Teaching - Learning Interventions for Inclusive Classrooms-half hour sessions daily. Financial support for therapeutic activities, devices, aids and appliances and TLM is provided to CwSN is being provided under SSA. She also informed that Indian Sign Language is also introduced as a subject by NIOS, for which course material has been developed and is being offered as a language subject for secondary level students.

Chairperson, RCI added that RCI has over 1000 institutions and SCPDs should reach to these institutions and create awareness among State Government Departments and look into the involvement of persons with disabilities in these institutions. RPwD Act, 2016 is a right based Act and its provisions should reach to the grassroot level. She also said that accessibility should not be limited to lift, ramps, etc.

(vii) Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Ms. SEJAL PAWAR, Legal Consultant, DEPwD drawn attention of all SCPDs towards WP(C) 29329 of 2021 (Seema Girija Lal Vs UOI) in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India regarding implementation of the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 by the States/UTs wherein D/o EPwD is impled as Respondent No. 1 and all State governments are impled as Respondent 2-37. She had requested the SCPDs/representatives to pursue the matter with their respective State Govts. to enable DEPwD to file an updated status in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Presentations made by the State Governments

Bihar

- Started 38 Mobile Outreach Therapy Van (MTV) named 'Sanjeevni Seva' equipped with modern equipment related to the therapeutic and assessment services to PwDs of the outreached remote areas. These MTVs are also being used for the purpose of disability certification in the camp as well as regular basis.
- Started grievance redressal at the offices of Block Development Officers to reduce load at state level.
- Marriage incentive is being provided to Divyangjans.

Chandigarh

- 28 websites of Chandigarh Administration have been made accessible to Divyangjan.
- Free travel facilities in CTU AC and Non-AC buses with the Tri-city area for divyangjans.
- Subsidy @ 50% of actual expenditure on petrol/diesel upto 40 ltr per month.

Himachal Pradesh

- WhatsApp Facilities for Deaf & Dumb - Critical & Emergency- 8988955601 - **Conceptualised / SOPs.**
- Interpreter at Directorate level- **Under Process.**
- Famous Shaktipeeth **Jwalaji Temple** has been included under AIC recently in CFY proposal.

Goa

- Organised an Inclusive workshop in collaboration with SCERT for 1400 aided and unaid educational institutes from elementary to university level,
- Organized an awareness and sensitisation programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for the staff of the High Court of Bombay at Goa in association with the Goa State Legal Service Authority.
- Conducted sensitisation workshop for Grievance Redressal Officer of all departments across the State.
- Initiated/Launched the Wheelchair Accessible E-rickshaws in the State of Goa as part of the "Seva, Sushasan, Jan Kalyan" initiative to make travel hassle-free for Persons with Disabilities.
- Office of SCPD in association with GMR and Directorate of Civil Aviation conducted a series of training sessions for about 1500 employees.
- Office of SCPD has initiated Access Audit of all educational institutions in the state of Goa. This initiative aims to align educational institutes with the National Education Policy (NEP) and the provisions outlined in the RPwD Act, 2016

Puducherry

- Free distribution of 15 Kgs of Rice to the persons with disabilities.
- Free supply of invalid carriages (Motorised Tri-cycle) differently abled persons who are engaged in gainful employment and who are pursuing higher / professional / technical education. Also, 50 % of the cost of fuel subject to a maximum of 15/25 litres per month,.(Vehicle of 2 H.P and below - 15 litres, vehicle of 2 H.P. and above - 25litres) which is used by them for driving a motorized vehicle owned by them.
- Financial Incentive of Rs.10, 000/- per beneficiaries to the near relatives of the Eye donor.

Karnataka

- Govt. of Karnataka has notified a Committee for research in the field of disability.
- Under the 'Grameena Punarvasati Yojana' programme, the Government of Karnataka has employed approximately 6000 individuals with disabilities to work as rehabilitation workers. These workers are assigned different roles based on their educational qualifications. Individuals with disabilities who have completed SSLC are appointed as Village Rehabilitation Workers (VRWs) in rural areas and Urban Rehabilitation Workers (URWs) in urban local body areas throughout the State. Persons with disabilities who have completed their graduation are appointed as Multipurpose Rehabilitation Workers (MRWs) at the taluk level and Rs. 9000/- is being paid to VRWs.

Madhya Pradesh

- Conduct of Mobile Court especially in remote districts. UDID Cards generated on the spot.
- Sensitization of Police Officers at Police Stations. Police Stations are made barrier free in the State. A sensitization programme at Police Training Academy on accessibility is proposed.

Maharashtra

- Independent Commissionerate/Separate Department for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities from August, 2000.
- Comprehensive State Policy is available.
- The State Govt. has established 11 Special Courts in 11 Districts.
- Office of SCPD is using e-Office and having dedicated e-QjCourts Portal for quasi-judicial work. e-QJCourts is designed to work seamlessly on any device such as Mobile, Tab, Laptop & PC.

Meghalaya

- Office of the SCPD in collaboration with NIC, Meghalaya and North East Regional Institute of Education, Unit of NCERT, Shillong developed Meghalaya Sign bank which is a mobile App contains a list of approximately 6186 words. It provides a platform for the deaf community to exercise equal opportunities in all spheres of their lives and also enables a common man to Sign Language and interact with the deaf community. Sign language have been integrated in the app with translation to English, Khasi and Garo languages.
- Meghalaya Sign Bank is at present available at :
- **Play Store** Download link:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=signbank.in.gov.megscpwd>

Mizoram

- SCPD organized sensitization programme for Grievance Redressal Officers of all offices and colleges in the State about their role and responsibility under the RPwD Act, 2016.
- SCPD conducted Access Audit of College Buildings in the State to make all Educational Institutions (Colleges) accessible for PwDs

Nagaland

- Office of SCPD organized a Leadership training programme for young professionals to help young individuals with disabilities develop the skills and confidence they need to become effective leaders and motivate them to face challenges positively and achieve their goals while also empowering them to make gainful impact in their communities.
- Initiated the Art of giving Project - Donate and Transform A Life. This project encourages the community to collaborate through meaningful support that will ensure that those who need it most get access to such facilities at the earliest.

Odisha

- All Administrative Training Institutes were asked to incorporate a component on disability in their curriculum / programme.
- State has special ITI for PwDs and also customized some programmes for PwDs.
- In a Suo-moto case, SCPD requested Collector, Koraput, initially to involve the District Criminal Injuries Relief and Rehabilitation Board supported by Government of India. As the Board was defunct, the case later came under the purview of State Government scheme i.e. the Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme and a compensation of 10.00 lac provided to the victim.

Rajasthan

- SCPD is regularly visiting Taluka/Block level for redressal of grievance of PwDs.
- Spare parts of cochlear implant are being covered under ChiranjiviYojana in the State.

Tamil Nadu

- Choice based models of Scooty being provided to persons with disabilities. Companies were asked to give choice of 05 models for the purpose to enable PwDs to give their choice/preference of Scooty.
- In case of sexual harassment, State Government is providing compensation as per SOP.
- SCPD informed that Engineering/Public Works Departments manuals are being reviewed and Suptd. Engineers are being called for a meeting.

Telangana

- Under Aasara Pension Scheme, **Rs.4016/- p.m** is sanctioned to PwD beneficiary irrespective of age & % of benchmark disability on saturation basis
- Scheme of cash incentives to Para sports player winners.
- 5% reservation to PwDs in 2 BHK House allotment.
- Organizing **Assistive Technology Summit 2020** every year under the theme '**Assistive Technology for All - making affordable Assistive Technology accessible to everyone**'. This helps in bringing awareness about the need for active enablement of Innovations in AT to the Innovation ecosystem of Telangana. Its an Initiate cross-sector collaborations between Researchers - Innovators - Entrepreneurs - Govt Bureaucrats.
- Toll-free Helpline Number (155326) to provide necessary information on various schemes and entitlements available for PwDs.
- 34 Field Response Officers were appointed in the Districts for facilitating needy Persons with Disabilities
- Launched (8) vehicles named "**Cheyutha**" in collaboration with Qualcomm (MNC) for rescue of abandoned Persons with Disabilities.
- State Govt. has built 'Louis Braille National Park' an Innovative National Park constructed with estimated cost of Rs. 2.00 Cr. in 1.03 Acores which is first of its kind in India to provide recreation and therapy services for people with special needs under one roof. It is equipped with audiology testing lab, physiotherapeutic equipment, psychological assessment tools, play therapy equipment etc. There is a dedicated team of rehabilitation counsellors and therapists and an Amphitheatre which accommodates 300 people.

Tripura

- State has created 548 posts of special educators as per RCI norms.
- SCPD also raised a concerned before CCPD about the condition of guarantor to be a government employee for availing loan through NHFDC in Tripura.

- CCPD also emphasized for creation of Appellate Board for UDID certification authority.

Uttar Pradesh

- Separate Divyangjan Shasaktikarn Vibhag in Uttar Pradesh.
- A loan of Rs. 20,000/- is being provided for Shop @ 5% interest if a person with disability is having 10x10 Sq Ft space.
- Rs.600000/- for Cochlear Implant in the hospitals empanelled under ADIP by Govt. of India.
- 100 motorised tricycles were distributed in all the 80 constituencies of the State.
- Data of students with disabilities is being verified through UDID Card authentication when any NGO/Organisation apply for RCI recognition or for any other scheme of State govt.

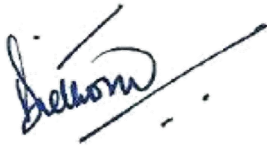
Uttrakhand

- SCPD informed that they are facing shortage of Psychiatrists resulting in difficulty in issuing disability certificate to persons with mental illness. CCPD suggested that in case of non-availability of Psychiatrist in Government Hospital they can take services of Psychiatrists from outside even from private.
- SCPD also informed that there is a case in Hon'ble High Court regarding reservation for persons with disabilities in higher judiciary.

NATIONAL TRUST

- JS & CEO, NT showed the data of NIRAMAYA Scheme being run by National Trust and expressed his concern for the less participation of some of the States. CCPD also mentioned the benefits of Niramaya Scheme and urged to SCPDs to take up the matter with State governments.

- CCPD asked SCPDs to use AI platforms like Chat GPT to know about the various schemes/programmes being run by the Centre/State Government for the benefit of persons with disabilities in their respective State.



DIETHONO NAKHRO

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
Government of Nagaland