

Persons with Disabilities Welfare Department, Maharashtra

Vision, Mission, Objectives & Strategic Focus Areas

Vision

An inclusive Maharashtra where every individual with disability enjoys inherent dignity, autonomy, and equal rights is empowered to achieve their fullest potential and participates meaningfully in all aspects of life within a barrier-free, accessible, and compassionate society committed to equity and sustainable development.

Mission

The aim is to empower persons with disabilities to achieve their potential and wellbeing leading to dignified life and inclusive society. The mission statement include:

1. To empower persons with disabilities by ensuring inclusive education, accessible infrastructure, meaningful employment, and active social integration.
2. To promote evidence-based governance by advancing data-driven policies, planning, and decision-making for disability inclusion.
3. To uphold dignity, autonomy, and rights of persons with disabilities through awareness, advocacy, and collaborative engagement with all stakeholders.
4. To enable persons with disabilities to lead independent, safe, and fulfilling lives by strengthening protection, opportunities, and support systems.
5. Promote research and innovation for betterment and empowerment of PWD's which will make meaningful and measurable impact in the sector.

Objectives

1. Promote Accessibility
2. Ensure Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities
3. Enhance Education and Skill Development
4. Strengthen Health, Rehabilitation & well being
5. Raise Awareness and Advocacy for Rights
6. Monitor and Protection of Rights
7. Inclusion in Sports and Recreation
8. Promote Research and Innovation
9. Social Security and Financial Inclusion

Strategic Focus areas

Objectives	Strategic focus Areas
Promote Accessibility	A. Ensure strict compliance with Sections 40-46 of the RPwD Act, 2016 by mandating full accessibility of public buildings, transportation systems, and information and communication technologies through features such as ramps, lifts, tactile flooring, Braille signage, and audio-visual assistive devices. B. Implement the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) by conducting accessibility audits and retrofitting public infrastructure in line with universal design standards. C. Promote research, innovation, and standardization in assistive -adaptive technologies and technology-based products by fostering public-private partnerships, supporting indigenous manufacturing, and ensuring affordability, quality, and universal design compliance to enhance the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities. D. Strengthen advocacy for mainstream accessibility by fostering a culture of inclusion through policy dialogue, public awareness campaigns, and collaborative engagement with stakeholders.
Ensure Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination	A. Ensure strict enforcement of non-discrimination policies across education, employment, public service sectors, and all other relevant domains to uphold the rights and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities. B. Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodations in educational institutions, training centres and workplaces to enable full participation. C. Facilitate employment of persons with disabilities through dedicated Special Employment Exchanges, targeted private-sector incentives, inclusive recruitment drives, and entrepreneurship support initiatives. D. Advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities to fully participate in political and public life, including

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	exercising the right to vote, standing for public office, and engaging in civic activities.
Enhance Education and Skill Development	A. Promote inclusive education for persons with disabilities by ensuring access, appropriate adaptations, reasonable accommodations, and support services in learning environments, while providing alternate education systems and bridging programs to support school dropouts and children identified with disabilities at a later stage. B. Expand targeted skill development and vocational training programs for persons with disabilities by providing accessible learning environments, assistive technologies, and adaptive support mechanisms to empower them for employment and entrepreneurship, enabling the acquisition of employable competencies and meaningful participation in the workforce. C. Support research and development in accessible educational tools and inclusive teaching-learning methodologies to equip persons with disabilities with 21st-century skills and competencies.
Strengthen Health, Rehabilitation & well being	A. Ensure Rehabilitation, inclusion and improved quality of life to PwDs, which will include early screening and intervention, physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, counselling, assistive device provision, capacity building of staff, and community-based rehabilitation initiatives to ensure inclusive participation and improved quality of life for persons with disabilities. B. Establish and strengthen Early Identification & Intervention Centres (EIIC), Composite Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs), District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), and outreach programs and projects to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary rehabilitation services. C. Ensure equitable access to comprehensive healthcare services for persons with disabilities, including preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and mental health

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	care, with special focus on victims of exploitation, neglect, abuse, and abandoned children and elderly individuals. D. Promote community-based initiatives that are guided by research and emphasize social inclusion, peer support networks, and active participation of persons with disabilities.
Raise Awareness and Advocacy for Rights	A. Conduct awareness campaigns and sensitization programs for stakeholders to promote disability rights, foster inclusion, and eliminate stigma and discrimination. B. Support disability advocacy organizations and foster active community participation to strengthen inclusion, representation, and collective action for the rights of persons with disabilities. C. Leverage digital platforms to disseminate information on disability rights and services in accessible formats, ensuring reach, inclusivity, and usability for all.
Monitor and Protection of Rights	A. Strengthen the role of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities to effectively monitor fund utilization, safeguard rights, ensure compliance with the RPwD Act, 2016, and address grievances, in alignment with the Act and Article 33 of the UNCRPD. B. Establish accessible and robust mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report rights violations, ensuring effective exercise of judicial powers for timely redressal of complaints. C. Regularly update disability policies based on research and feedback from persons with disabilities to align with national and global standards.
Inclusion in Sports and Recreation	A. Design and implement sports and recreational programs specifically tailored for persons with disabilities across schools, communities, and rehabilitation centers to enhance physical fitness, skill development, and social inclusion. B. Ensure accessible sports facilities, equipment, and venues that accommodate diverse disabilities,

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	promoting safe participation and equal opportunities for competitive and recreational activities. C. Train coaches, physical education teachers, and recreational staff in adaptive sports techniques, inclusive practices, and disability awareness to support meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities in sports and recreation. D. Organize local, state, and national-level competitions, tournaments, and recreational events for persons with disabilities to encourage talent, recognition, and community participation. E. Use digital media, social campaigns, and accessible online platforms to highlight achievements of athletes with disabilities, share information about inclusive sports opportunities, and motivate participation. F. Collaborate with sports federations, NGOs, schools, and government bodies to expand access, resources, and advocacy for inclusive sports and recreational initiatives. G. Facilitate the incorporation of accessibility features in all OTT platforms, television broadcasts, and films, including audio descriptions for visual content, closed captions or subtitles for audio elements, Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpretation, and compatible assistive technologies, to ensure equitable access to entertainment, educational media, and cultural content for persons with disabilities, thereby fostering greater social inclusion and awareness.
Promote Research and Innovation	A. Promote and fund research on disability rehabilitation, assistive technologies, and other allied areas to drive innovation and evidence-based practices. B. Collaborate with academic and research institutions to generate and publish data-driven insights on disability welfare, ensuring evidence-based policies and programs.

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	C. Promote innovations and development of universally designed goods and services that require minimal or no adaptation, ensuring accessibility and usability for all.
Social Security and Financial Inclusion	A. Provide and promote social security to PwDs by designing and implementing schemes. B. Implement and regularly monitor central and state sector schemes, to ensure effective delivery of financial assistance, assistive devices, and comprehensive social security benefits, thereby promoting the financial inclusion and overall well-being of persons with disabilities. C. Ensure the preferential inclusion of persons with disabilities in poverty alleviation, housing, and social protection schemes, with a minimum 5% reservation, to strengthen their socio-economic security and provide assured social security support, including regular disability pension and other entitlements. D. Promote financial inclusion and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities by facilitating access to credit, skill development, and entrepreneurship opportunities through active partnerships with NDFDC, along with implementation of research-driven strategies and reinforced social security frameworks.

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