



सत्यमेव जयते
न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त दिव्यांगजन

COURT OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES(DIVYANGJAN)
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय/Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
भारत सरकार/Government of India
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Case No: CCPD-AD-0079/2026

In the Matter of

Complainant

Ms. Ekta Rani

Versus

Respondent(s)

The Director, AIIMS, New Delhi

1. Hearing

1.1. A preliminary hearing was conducted on 13.07.2026 in hybrid mode, wherein the following parties/representatives were present:

Sl. No.	Name of the Parties / Representatives	On Behalf of
1.	Ms. Ekta Rani	Complainant
2.	Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Assistant Controller of Examinations	Respondent

2. Record of Proceedings

2.1 The Complainant, Ms. Ekta Rani, a person with 73% benchmark hearing disability, submitted a grievance dated 03.07.2026 alleging that she had applied for the AIIMS Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) under the Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) category. She submitted that her application was accepted and that she successfully qualified both the Preliminary

and Main Examinations. However, during the choice-filling process, she found that no institute was made available for selection. Upon enquiry, she was informed that candidates belonging to the hearing disability category were not considered eligible for appointment to the post of Nursing Officer under the recruitment notification. The Complainant contended that, had she been ineligible, her application ought to have been rejected at the scrutiny stage instead of permitting her to participate throughout the recruitment process. She further submitted that, with the assistance of hearing aids, she is fully capable of discharging the duties of a Nursing Officer and sought appropriate intervention against the alleged discriminatory exclusion.

2.2 During the proceedings, the Respondent, represented by Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Assistant Controller of Examinations, AIIMS, New Delhi, submitted that the NORCET examination is conducted as a common recruitment process for approximately thirty-one participating institutions, including various AIIMS and Central Government hospitals. It was submitted that the participating institutions determine the suitability of disability categories for the advertised posts in accordance with their respective recruitment rules and applicable guidelines. The Respondent further submitted that, owing to the large number of applications received, applications are initially processed for the purpose of conducting the examination, whereas verification of eligibility is undertaken at the stage of preparation of the merit list and allocation of institutions. During such verification, it was found that the hearing disability category had not been identified as suitable for the post of Nursing Officer by any of the participating institutions and, consequently, the Complainant was not found eligible for participation in the choice-filling process.

2.3 The Court sought clarification from the Respondent regarding the statutory basis for excluding persons with hearing disability from consideration for the post of Nursing Officer. In response, the Respondent relied upon Notice No. 17/2026 dated 24.02.2026 read with Annexure-III of the Detailed NORCET Advertisement, wherein the disability categories identified as suitable for the advertised posts have been specified. It was further submitted that the identification of suitable disability categories is undertaken by the respective participating institutions through their competent authorities. The Complainant reiterated that she had raised representations immediately after being denied the opportunity to participate in the choice-filling process but had not received any satisfactory resolution.

2.4 Upon consideration of the submissions, the Court took note of the Gazette Notification dated 04.01.2021 issued by the Central Government identifying posts

suitable for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, wherein the post of Nursing Officer has, *prima facie*, been identified as suitable for persons with hearing impairment, subject to the conditions specified therein. The Court observed that where a recruitment process appears to proceed on a basis that may be inconsistent with a statutory notification issued by the Central Government, the matter warrants a detailed examination. Accordingly, the Court is of the considered view that the present complaint raises substantial questions requiring adjudication and deserves to be admitted for further proceedings.

2.5 Accordingly, the Respondents is recommended to submit a comprehensive Action Taken Report (ATR) within seven (7) days, specifically addressing:

- i. the statutory basis for excluding candidates with hearing disability from the post of Nursing Officer despite the Gazette Notification dated 04.01.2021;
- ii. the legal authority under which the participating institutions have identified the permissible disability categories for the post;
- iii. the manner in which such identification is consistent with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the aforesaid Gazette Notification; and
- iv. the reasons for permitting the Complainant to participate in the recruitment process up to the stage of choice filling before declaring her ineligible.
- v. The Respondents shall also place on record all relevant notifications, recruitment rules, and policy documents relied upon in support of their stand.

3. This is issued with the approval of the Hon'ble Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

(Vikas Trivedi)
Dy. Chief Commissioner