



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF 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 and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Diary No. DNO/26/CCPD/7135

Dated: 29/09/2026

Case No: DNO/26/CCPD/7135

In the Matter of

Complainant

Shri Kovid Jagdeo Manohar

Versus

Respondent(s)

1. The Chairman, Staff Selection Commission
2. The Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

1. Background of the Case

1.1 The Complainant is a person with benchmark disability. He submitted a grievance dated 27.09.2026 and stated that he is scheduled to appear in the SSC CGL examination on 01.10.2026. He stated that the SSC notice allows scribes up to 22 years of age. However, when he tried to register his chosen scribe, who is 20 years and 3 months old, the portal rejected the scribe, apparently allowing only scribes below 20 years of age. He contacted the SSC help desk, but the issue has not yet been resolved. He further stated that he needs a scribe who is sufficiently literate and fluent in English to read and communicate the questions to him. He can solve the questions himself and write on paper using his residual vision. Due to his severe tunnel vision and night blindness, he also requires task lighting at his examination desk. He clarified that the lighting is required separately and cannot replace the scribe. He also seeks permission to use a 1 mm black pen as an assistive device. He has requested SSC to allow registration of his chosen scribe as per the notified age limit, provide a suitable scribe if an SSC-provided scribe is assigned, provide task lighting at his examination desk, and allow him to use a 1 mm black pen. He has also requested that his disability and

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट न०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in
(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)
(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF 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 and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Diary No. DNO/26/CCPD/7135

Dated: 29/09/2026

personal information be kept confidential and used only for necessary processing.

2. Hearing

2.1. A preliminary hearing was conducted on 29.09.2026 wherein the following parties/representatives were present:

Sl. No.	Name of the Parties / Representatives	On Behalf of
1.	Shri Kovid Jagdeo Manohar	Complainant
2.	Shri Jitendra Kumar, Deputy Director, SSC HQ, New Delhi	Respondent 1
3.	Shri Sanjay Kumar, Under Secretary, SSC HQ, New Delhi	Respondent 1
4.	Shri Ajay Kumar, Under Secretary, DEPwD	Respondent 2

3. Record of Proceedings

3.1 During the proceedings, the Complainant reiterated his grievance and the Respondent submitted that the age restriction for an own scribe is intended to maintain the credibility and fairness of the examination and to prevent persons having greater age, experience or educational advantage from acting as scribes for candidates with disabilities. It was submitted that the educational qualification of the scribe is required to be one level below that prescribed for the examination. The Respondent referred to the guidelines/Office Memoranda governing scribes and submitted that the age and qualification requirements are intended to minimise the possibility of malpractice.

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364, 20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य मे पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखे)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF 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 and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Diary No. DNO/26/CCPD/7135

Dated: 29/09/2026

3.2 The Court sought clarification regarding the specific Office Memorandum/guidelines on the basis of which the age of the scribe was being restricted to 20 years. The Respondent stated that the guidelines relied upon were issued by the DEPwD dated 01.08.2025. The Court also noted that SSC's own notification dated 04.11.2025, at Point 4, sub-point (I), provides that for the Graduate Level Examination, the age of an own scribe shall be 22 years, while prescribing 20 years for Matric Level and 10+2 Level examinations. Further, the Court noted that vide DEPwD OM dated 01.07.2026, applicability of the revised guidelines dated 01.08.2025 extended the period of abeyance upto 31.12.2026. The Court therefore sought clarification regarding the apparent inconsistency between the Respondent's submission of a 20-year age restriction and its own notified requirement of 22 years for Graduate Level examinations.

3.3 The Respondent submitted that the Complainant could, in the present circumstances, avail a scribe provided by SSC as an only remedy. The Court observed that requiring the Complainant to accept an SSC-provided scribe, despite his having identified a scribe of his choice who is within the age limit specified in SSC's own notification, would effectively deprive him of the choice of his own scribe without a clear basis for such restriction.

4. Observation and Recommendation

4.1 The Court observed that the conditions governing scribes are intended to safeguard the integrity of the examination while facilitating effective participation of candidates with disabilities. While prescribing the educational qualification of a scribe at a level below that of the examination may serve as a reasonable safeguard against malpractice, the imposition of a rigid age restriction, by itself, does not appear to have a rational connection with the stated objective where the requisite educational qualification is already prescribed. In the present case, the Respondent itself submitted that the purpose of the restriction is to prevent scribes with greater experience or educational advantage from assisting candidates; however, this concern can be addressed through the prescribed qualification requirement. The Court therefore observed that the age restriction, particularly when applied to a candidate who has chosen a scribe meeting the applicable qualification requirements, does not appear warranted.

4.2 The Court noted that the DEPwD's Office Memorandum dated 29.08.2018, containing the Guidelines for conducting Written Examination for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, provides that a candidate has the discretion to opt for his/her own scribe or request the examining body for a scribe. In case of an own scribe, the prescribed criterion is that the qualification of the scribe should be one step below the qualification of the candidate taking the examination. Where the examining body provides the scribe, the qualification should not be more than the minimum qualification prescribed for the examination and should

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF 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 and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Diary No. DNO/26/CCPD/7135

Dated: 29/09/2026

be at least matriculate.

4.3 Therefore, the Court recommended that the Respondent permit the Complainant to use his chosen scribe, subject to verification of the applicable eligibility requirements, rather than compelling him to avail an SSC-provided scribe. The Respondent shall also extend reasonable accommodation in respect of the Complainant's requirement for task lighting, appropriate for a person with low vision, particularly in view of his severe tunnel vision and night blindness. Such task lighting shall be provided at his examination desk in a manner that facilitates his reading and writing without causing disturbance or inconvenience to other candidates. The Respondent shall also permit the use of a 1 mm black pen as an assistive device, subject to appropriate verification to ensure that it does not facilitate any form of malpractice.

4.4 The Court further recommended that assistive devices sought by candidates with disabilities should not be rejected merely because they are not ordinarily used in the examination. Such devices may be permitted after appropriate examination and verification by the Respondent to ensure that they do not contain any connectivity, communication, recording or storage capability, or otherwise facilitate malpractice. The Respondent shall accordingly undertake a reasonable and proportionate verification of the 1 mm pen and any other permitted assistive device before the examination and, upon being satisfied that it cannot facilitate malpractice, allow its use.

4.5 The Court recommended that the Respondent should not treat the present grievance as an isolated or one-off incident. The issue concerning the age restriction of own scribes may affect similarly situated candidates appearing in the examination. The Respondent may therefore identify candidates affected by the same issue and facilitate their use of own scribes in accordance with the applicable eligibility conditions, rather than requiring such candidates individually to seek an SSC-provided scribe.

4.6 It is clarified that, if the Complainant himself wishes to avail an SSC-provided scribe, he may submit a request to the Respondent for the same, and the Respondent shall make the necessary arrangement. The Respondent is recommended to ensure that the Complainant is provided task lighting at his examination desk, in addition to the scribe facility, keeping in view his severe tunnel vision and night blindness. The said accommodation shall not be treated as a substitute for the scribe.

4.7 The Respondent shall submit an **Action Taken Report by 30.09.2026**, indicating the arrangements made for the Complainant, the decision taken regarding his chosen scribe, the accommodation concerning task lighting and the 1 mm black pen, and the steps taken in respect of other similarly situated candidates, in view of the examination scheduled on 01.10.2026. Failure to do so may

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट नं०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in

(पया भविष्य में पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)

(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)



न्यायालय मुख्य आयुक्त

COURT OF 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 and Empowerment

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

Diary No. DNO/26/CCPD/7135

Dated: 29/09/2026

compel this Court to initiate action as per sections 89 and 93 of the RPwD Act, 2016. The Respondent shall ensure that the disability and personal information of the Complainant is kept confidential and is used only to the extent necessary for processing and facilitating the examination. Consequently, the Court has determined no further intervention necessary.

5. Accordingly, the case is disposed of.

Yours faithfully,

(S. Govindaraj)
Commissioner

5वीं मंजिल, एनआईएसडी भवन, प्लॉट न०. जी-2, सेक्टर-10, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली-110075; दूरभाष: 011-20892364, 20892275
5th Floor, NISD Building, Plot No.G-2, Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075;Tele# 011-20892364,
20892275

E-mail: ccpd@nic.in; Website: www.ccdisabilities.nic.in
(पया भविष्य मे पत्राचार के लिए उपरोक्त फाईल/केस संख्या अवश्य लिखें)
(Please quote the above file/case number in future correspondence)