

GUIDELINES
ON
PROJECT ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSIBLE LEARNING
MATERIALS

UNDER SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (SIPDA)

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India

1. BACKGROUND

Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential. Further, providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's continued ascent, and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation (NEP, 2020). So, Education plays an important role in the life of an individual whether he is from any group in society. It holds the same importance for students with visual disabilities.

According to the Census 2011, there were about 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India, constituting 2.21% of the total population in the country. The school-going population for the visually impaired is as under:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
5-9	1,91,404	1,67,714	3,59,118
10-19	4,21,447	3,52,587	7,74,034
20-29	1,55,987	79,448	2,35,435
Total	7,68,838	5,99,749	13,68,587

Students with visual disabilities are an umbrella group that represents low vision and blindness. RPWD Act 2016 indicates a low-vision person as a distinct category of the disabled person. Students with blindness are majorly dependent on Braille books and resources. Whereas, students with low vision have the potential to use their residual vision in the planning and execution of the assigned tasks.

Most of the organizations and special schools for students with visual disabilities are striving for providing different accessible formats for making them access to different textbooks and learning contents. Braille Books, Tactile Diagrams. Large Print Books, Talking Books (Narrated Voice), and E-Pub are popular formats that are being used to provide accessible material for students with visual disabilities.

The mandate of the Constitution is to ensure equality, freedom, justice, and dignity of all individuals, which implies an inclusive society for all, especially the disadvantaged. Article 16 (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution of India has given direction about the right of equality.

The Central Government enacted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 which

came into force with effect from 7th Feb 1996. The Act is the basic legislation that deals with the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Section 27 (f) of Chapter V (Education) of the Act provides that the appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall by notification make schemes for providing every child with a disability, free of cost special books and equipment needed for their education. Section 17(g) also states that it 'to provide books, other materials, and appropriate assistive devices to students with benchmark disabilities free of cost up to the age of eighteen years'. Section 16(v) that all persons who are blind or deaf or both 'is imparted in most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication'.

This Act further emphasizes in Section 16 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides that all educational institutions provide inclusive education to children with disabilities and provide reasonable accommodation according to the individual's requirements and provide necessary support individualized or otherwise in environments that maximize academic and social development consistent with the goal of full inclusion.

In view of above background, the Central Sector Scheme of "Support for Establishment/ Modernization/Capacity Augmentation of Braille Presses" was started in the year 2014-15 to provide the Braille material and literature to the school-going visually impaired children in India. Till 2022-23 financial assistance has been provided to 28 Braille Presses (Establishment of New Braille Presses-13, Modernized Braille Presses-12 and Capacity Augmented of old Braille Presses- 03) with the total financial support of Rs. 47.78 crores (non-recurring grants to 28 Braille Presses to the extent of Rs. 31.34 crore and recurring grants of Rs. 16.44 crore to 16 Braille Presses).

The emergence of the Central Sectorial Braille Press Scheme has led to meeting the needs of Braille books at large. But, up to April 2023, the project covers only school textbooks in Braille up to Class XII. College-going students are devoid of getting Braille books support at large. As per Census, 2011 total of 2,85,599 students in the country with visual impairment under the age group 16 to 19 years. Out of this, 1,54,075 students were attending educational institutions. This is estimated now to be approximately 1,80,268 individuals with visual impairment (as current population growth from the census 2011. This large group of individuals needed to be catered to under some schemes to get accessible books and learning materials.

The first principle of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is proving '*multiple means of Representation.*' Hence, it is imperative that learning content and textbook should be made available in multiple formats for students with visual disabilities in addition to Braille.

Therefore, it is imperative that the project Braille Press should extend its coverage to students across age groups from the foundational level to the

Higher Education level. At the same time, it is very imperative that the scheme should cater to all the popular accessible formats including Talking Books (Narrated), E-Pub/Digital, and Large Print materials under the project for college-going students and others.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

The followings are the major objectives of the Project:

- i. To provide financial support as a Recurring Grant-in-Aid to the 'approved and functional implementing agencies' for providing free-of-cost *Accessible Learning Materials* to school-going children with visual impairment and students with visual impairment pursuing higher education programs.
- ii. To provide financial support as Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid for setting up of:
 - a) New Braille Presses/Capacity Augmentation/Modernization of existing Braille Presses.
 - b) Capacity Augmentation/Modernization of Existing Talking Book Studios.
 - c) New Digital Book Production Centre/Capacity Augmentation/Modernization of existing Digital Book Production Centre.
 - d) New Large Print production Centre/Capacity Augmentation/Modernization of existing Large Print production Centre.

3. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

3.1 Accessible Learning Material –

For this project, Accessible Learning Material means Text Books, Reference Books, Syllabus and Workbooks and other prescribed material by the Central or State Boards of School Education (including NIOs and other Open Schooling Boards), Statutory Professional Councils, or Universities either in the following formats: -

- a) Braille
- b) Digital Accessible Books/E-Pub/Inclusion of pdf format along with narrative feature.
- c) OCR – Structure E-Pub without proofreading
- d) Human Narrated Recording
- e) Large Print
- f) Large Print with Braille

3.2 Central Nodal Agency-

There will be a Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for channelizing the funds for the Project. For this project, presently the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Secunderabad is the Central Nodal Agency (CNA).

3.3 Implementing Agencies-

Those organizations who are directly involved in development and production of Accessible Learning Materials under the Project and receives GIA for recurring and non-recurring expenditures will be implementing agencies.

3.4 Nodal Agency-

For this project, the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun would be the Nodal Agency for the implementation of the Scheme. The institute would be responsible for scrutinizing the proposal, obtaining reports from Implementing Agencies, evaluating their performance, and preparing agenda for consideration of proposals by the Competent Authority/Body.

3.3 Prescribed Formats–

Prescribed application formats mean formats and Performa duly approved by the Screening Committee of the project for

- applying to be empaneled as implementing agency under the project for non-recurring GIA
- Periodical Reports (Monthly Reports) to obtain information of the beneficiaries for recurring GIA
- Evaluation Formats (including pre-installation and post-installation inspection) for monitoring and evaluation purpose

4. Screening Committee-

The Screening Committee will act as a guiding and executive committee to execute actions as per the objectives of the Project and the Committee meeting is to be organized at least twice a year. The committee will have the following composition:

1.	Joint Secretary/Deputy Director General (DDG) dealing with this project at DEPwD	Chairman
2.	Deputy Secretary/Director, DEPwD handling this Project.	Member Secretary
3.	Director, NIEPVD	Member
4.	Deputy Secretary/Director (Finance), DEPwD	Member
5.	One expert to be nominated by the DEPwD	Member
6.	One expert to be invited by the Nodal Agency	Member

The Screening Committee will be responsible for the followings:

- 4.1. To consider the proposals for implementing agencies under the project.
- 4.2. To consider the proposal of Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid for implementing agencies.
- 4.3. To consider the proposals for Recurring Grant-in-Aid for implementing agencies.

- 4.4. To review the actions of the nodal agency and direct for necessary action to be taken under the project.
- 4.5. To review and finalize the rates against the development of accessible learning material under reimbursement of recurring grant in aid.
- 4.6. To approve the proposal of the nodal agency regarding the conduction of training programs, workshops, meetings, etc. under the project.
- 4.7. To develop a monitoring mechanism for the project.
- 4.8. To approve and reimburse the administrative expenses by the Nodal Agency.
- 4.9. To take any related decision concerning the project to achieve the objectives.
- 4.10. To take decision for continuation of Grant to the Implementing Agencies.

5. ROLE OF NODAL AGENCY:

5.1 Following will be the role of the Nodal Agency:

- a) Issue advertisements & notify through the website of the Nodal Agency inviting proposals for development of accessible materials for the Children/Students with Visual Impairment.
- b) Receive the applications from the organizations for Establishment as implementing agency along with the financial implication for the project in the *prescribed application format* and scrutinize the same with reference to eligibility criteria.
- c) Competent Authority of the Nodal Agency will constitute the inspection team. The Team will conduct assessment and physical verification of the scrutinized organization/institute in a prescribed assessment format-applying under the project.
- d) Submitting the Inspection report to DEPwD for perusal and information.
- e) Examine the applications and recommend the same for consideration by the Screening Committee. Nodal Agency will ensure all the correct and checked documents to be sent to DEPwD/Screening Committee.
- f) The Competent Authority of the Nodal Agency will constitute an inspection committee to visit the Implementing Agency/Grantee organization for post-installation inspection with a *prescribed assessment format* along with *required documents*.
- g) To develop/establish a monitoring mechanism including web based online platform.

- h) The inspection committee will submit the Inspection report to the Nodal Agency and will forward the same along with the *required documents* to DEPwD for consideration and necessary action.
- i) Receive the requisition from implementing agencies for Recurring GIA and the same will be placed before the screening committee for approval.
- j) Obtain the periodic Progress Report in *prescribed reporting format* from the implementing agencies and maintain its record and place the same before the screening committee for needful action.
- k) Prepare and submit the performance-cum-achievement report to DEPwD on the basis of the periodic progress report.
- l) The Nodal Agency should organize periodical training programs/workshops for all machine operating staff, record keepers, accountants, and assistants in the implementing agencies to ensure higher productivity, adoption of all rules as per GFR, and maintain transparency in the activities of the project.
- m) Nodal Agency will develop/maintain a portal that will include a) restricted access of master copies to the implementing agencies, b) public access to the catalog of different implementing agencies, and c) scope of resource mobilization among implementing agencies. Nodal Agency will keep the record of all generated master copy through implementing agencies on behalf of DEPwD.

6. ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The eligible organizations may apply for being an implementing agency for the production of either-or multiple formats of accessible learning material. If any organization wishes to become implementing agency under the project, they should have to fulfill the essential criteria as specified in 6.1 and additional criteria as specified in 6.2:

6.1 Essential Criteria/Eligibility Condition for Implementing Agency

States/UTs or their agencies working in this area are eligible to apply for the Project.

Or, The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) must be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), or any relevant Act of the State/Union Territory; or the trust must be registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882.

The organization must be registered either under the erstwhile Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 or the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) must be registered under Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog (NGO Portal) and possess a unique ID of NGO Darpan.

Renewal/validity of registration as of the date of application will be mandatory as per the extant norms as applicable for concern State.

6.2 Additional Criteria

Additional Criteria for Braille Press

- There should be no high-speed computerized Braille press in the concerned State/UT. However, this condition can be relaxed in the case of large states.
- For the Braille press setup, a minimum of exclusive 1500 square feet of the built-up area should be available for the establishment of the Braille press along with an additional built-up area of at least 400 Square feet for the exclusive storage of Braille paper and Braille books;

Additional Criteria for E-Pub/Digital Book Production

- There should be no E-Pub/digital book production Centre/implementing agency in the concerned State/UT already established under the project. However, this condition can be relaxed in the case of large states.
- A minimum of exclusive 500 square feet of the built-up area should be available for the establishment of the E-Pub/digital book production centre;

Additional Criteria for Human-Narrated Talking Book Production

- Organization should have Human-Narrated Talking Book Production facilities.
- There should be no other implementing agency in the concerned State/UT already established under the project.
- A minimum of exclusive 1000 square feet of built-up area should be available for the establishment of the Human-Narrated Talking Book Production Centre.

Additional Criteria for Large Print Book Production

- There should be no Large Print Book Production Centre/implementing agency in the concerned State/UT already established under the project. However, this condition can be relaxed in the case of large states.
- A minimum of exclusive 1000 square feet of built-up area should be available for the establishment of the Large Print Book Production Centre.

Additional Criteria for all Format Accessible Learning Material Production

- There should be no “all Format Accessible Learning Production” Centre/Implementing agency in the concerned State/UT already established under the project. However, this condition can be relaxed in the case of large states.

- A minimum of exclusive 4000 square feet of built-up area should be available for the establishment of the all Format Accessible Learning Material Production Centre.

Note: -Criteria may be relaxed for government bodies/agencies. In the case of the application originating from a voluntary organization, the applicant should have been in existence as a registered organization for the last five years and should be running educational programs for persons with visual impairment continuously for the last five years; and there should be a proper system of auditing of accounts in case of NGOs. Bank guarantee will be required in case of non-government organizations compulsory as per guidelines of govt. of India.

7. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:

- 7.1 The implementing agencies should have to submit the periodic progress report to the Nodal Agency in the *prescribed reporting format* and keep the record of the same.
- 7.2 Apply for reimbursement against the production of accessible learning material which has been specified for reimbursement against recurring grant by the Screening Committee and not claimed for payment and even not applied for grant against any other schemes.
- 7.3 If they didn't print/produced in any month/period (as decided by the Screening Committee) they should have to send the 'NIL' report for that particular period to the Nodal Agency.
- 7.4 Keep the record of orders received from the schools/institutes/any other organization working for children with visual impairment along with details of students getting benefits under this project.
- 7.5 Keep the record of proof of dispatch and obtain the acknowledgment of receipt of accessible learning material by the schools/colleges/institutes/organizations.
- 7.6 Keep the records of bills/vouchers and audited accounts related to the project and provide the same to the Nodal Agency as and when required.

8. BENEFICIARIES

- 8.1 Students with visual disabilities enrolled from the foundational level to the secondary level of schooling will be eligible for the followings:
(Through implementing agencies or defined mechanisms)
 - 8.1.1 Textbooks including, but not limited to, Computer Books, Workbooks Music Books from Preschool to class XII.
 - 8.1.2 A set of Braille books for the blind teacher (for a batch of up to 20 students) may also be included in the Project.

- 8.1.3 Tactile maps/pages (up to 10 pages per student per academic year upto class XII)
- 8.1.4 Textbooks in Braille may also be provided to students with visual impairment enrolled in under-recognized central boards and State boards including open schooling boards (NIOS).
- 8.1.5 The Braille Calendar can be given to Children/Persons with Visual Impairment from class V onwards once in a year.

8.2 Students with visual disabilities enrolled in higher education will be eligible to getting following under the project:

(Through implementing agencies or defined mechanisms)

- Maximum ceiling of 2000 Braille pages per student will be given to the students with visual impairments enrolled in General Higher Education Programmes (e.g. B. A, M.A, B.Sc., B. Com, etc.) and;
- Maximum ceiling of 5000 Braille pages per student will be given to the students with visual impairments enrolled in Professional Higher Education Programmes (LLB, LLM, Special Education programs, etc.).

8.3 Large Print books may be provided to the students with low vision enrolled in school education.

8.4 E-Pub books should be made available for all students of visual impairment.

8.5 OCR– Structured E-Pub without proofreading format needs to be provided to students pursuing higher education programs or needs to be available on short notice.

9. CAPACITY BUILDING

9.1 Capacity Building of different stakeholders will be part of the project to strengthen the availability of accessible learning material for persons with visual impairment across the age and places in the country.

9.2 Nodal Agency will organize Capacity Building Programs for the followings:

- Technicians/Braille Press Operators
- Braille Press Managers/Administrators
- Development of E-Pub and digital books
- Data management and metadata entry
- Talking books narrators or any other emerging issues.

9.3 Training of officials at Nodal Agency for creation and maintenance of an online portal regarding the availability of accessible learning material with all formats in the digital copy.

10. FUNDING PATTERN OF NON-RECURRING AND RECURRING GIA

10.1 Release of Non-Recurring Grant

10.1.1 The Non-Recurring GIA will be released to the organization by the nodal agency after approval of the project and sanction of the grant by the Screening Committee with the following upper limits:

Sl.No.	Item	Suggested Items / Equipment & Machinery	Upper limits
1.	Braille Press	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heavy Duty Braille Embosser 2. Desktop Computers 3. Computer Table/Chair 4. Software/Braille Translators 5. Staplers 	Establishment / Modernization / Capacity Augmentation: Up to 2 Crores
4.	Large Print Press	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monochrome Production Printer 2. Digital Colour Production Printer 3. 10 KVA online UPS 4. Desktop Computers 5. Paper Cutting Machine 6. Heavy Duty Stapling Machine 7. Desktop publishing and designing software application. 8. Air Conditioner 9. Computer Tables & Chairs 	Establishment / Modernization: Up to 70 Lakhs
5.	Talking Book Studio(Human Narrated)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desktop Computers 2. Required Software 3. Sound-Cards 4. Micro Phones 5. Speakers/ Headphones 6. Online UPS 7. Modification/Upgradation of existing studios (for better acoustic features/air conditioning) 8. Computer Tables & Chairs 	Upgradation/Modernization: Up to 10 Lakhs
6.	E-Pub Production Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required Software (OCR/Screen Reader / Epub Player, etc.) 2. Desktop Computers 3. Computer Tables & Chairs 4. Scanner (High Capacity) 	Establishment / Modernization / Capacity Augmentation: Up to 6 Lakhs

*Additional furniture, fixtures and civil or electrical work not to be considered as part of project proposal. Rates will be dynamic and to be reviewed by Screening Committee Meeting

on periodical basis.

- 10.1.2 The Non-recurring cost of implementation of the project will be released in two equal installments i.e. 50% of the total cost as the first installment in advance under the GFR norms and remaining 50% as the Second installment after a need-based assessment of the requirement of installation of a second set of machine/ equipment. Assessment criteria to be fixed by Screening Committee.
- 10.1.3 On the basis of the post installation assessment report, the Nodal Agency would submit the requirement of the 2nd instalment of eligible Implementing Agencies for consideration by the Screening Committee.
- 10.1.4 The non-recurring grant may also be released against major maintenance for such implementing agencies, whose production will be relatively high as per norms. Such a proposal may be put forwarded to Screening Committee after assessment and financial implications structured by the Nodal Agency.
- 10.1.5 The non-recurring grant should be issued to Nodal Agency for the creation of an online portal monitoring system subject to the approval of the Screening Committee.

10.2 Release of Recurring Grant

- 10.2.1 Under this project, recurring financial assistance will be provided to the 'approved and functional implementing agencies' to enable them to provide free-of-cost accessible learning materials to students with visual impairment as per the objectives subject to approval of the Screening Committee and with the following upper limits:

Sl.No.	Item	Item	Rate of Reimbursement
1.	Braille Press	Braille Page Embossing	Rs.2.5 per page
		Braille Master Copy (special cases where master copy not available and to be supplied to less than 20 beneficiaries)	Rs.40 per page
4.	Large Print	Large Print Books (up to Class VIII)	Rs. 1.5 per page A4 (monochrome) Rs.5 per page for colour (cover page)

5.	Talking Book (Human Narrated)	Human Narrated Audio Accessible Book	Rs.1500/- per Hour (Finished Recording Hour)
6.	E-Pub (Master copy including .brf format)	Accessible E-Pub (Validated; eg. ACE validator) Output format: 1. Epub&.brf& 3. Master Word Copy (Images integrated with description text with no spelling error)	Rs.70 per page (Print Pages)

*Recurring GIA to be done on reimbursement mode and subject to submission of reports in desired format with beneficiary details. Rates will be dynamic and to be reviewed by Screening Committee Meeting on periodical basis.

* All master copy (should be integrated with disclaimer/copyright notice and will be property of Nodal Agency/DEPwD).

10.2.2 “Implementing Agencies being operated by State Government/ UT Administration/NGO which have been sanctioned non-recurring grants under the Project, are functional to provide free of cost accessible learning materials to students with visual impairment and are regular in submitting/uploading periodic progress reports to the Nodal Agency.

10.2.3 The administrative expenditure (up to 5 %)at Nodal Agency will be reimbursed under recurring grant in aid.

10.2.4 The portal management expenses and capacity building training expenses should also be reimburse under recurring grant in aid to the Nodal Agency.

11. MONITORING MECHANISM

11.1 Compliance of GFR, 2017(as amended) and other relevant provisions

The procurement shall be effected as per the GFR provisions. Furthermore, nodal agency and the implementing agencies shall maintain an Asset Inventory and ensure that there is no duplication of assets

11.2 Monitoring and Verification of the Assets Created

Pre Installation and Post Installation Inspection shall be conducted for monitoring and inspection of the assets created. The detailed proforma for the Inspections to be conducted by the nodal agency for Pre-Installation and Post-installation are available at **Annexure-‘A’** and **Annexure-‘B’**, respectively.

11.3 Quality of Service Delivery and Beneficiary Identification

In order to ensure the targeted delivery and quality of service periodically, implementing agencies shall submit a monthly report prescribed in **Annexure- 'C'** to the nodal agency. Furthermore, the details pertaining to the beneficiaries shall be compiled in the format as prescribed in **Annexure-'D'** and duly submitted to the Department quarterly.

11.4 Monitoring of outcomes

To monitor the performance of the Project, nodal agency shall take periodic reviews to ascertain that the progress of the identified indicators as per NITI Aayog's Output Outcome Monitoring Framework is following the right trajectory. In case if the progress is not found to be in order during the course of the Financial Year, nodal agency shall submit a detailed report identifying the bottlenecks and suggestive remedial actions to be followed for the discussion of the Screening Committee and Department's consideration and necessary corrective actions.

11.5 Physical verification

The Central Project Monitoring Unit(CPMU) of this Department shall conduct periodic verifications of quality and outcomes of service delivery claimed by the implementing agencies directly with the beneficiaries(students) through the Schools/institutes, the details of which shall be made available by the nodal agency as per **Annexure-'D'**. Such verification should be conducted for not less than 10% of the total beneficiaries.

12. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 12.1** The implementing agencies shall be open for inspection by an officer deputed by the DEPwD/Nodal Agency anytime without prior notice.
- 12.2** The implementing agencies must submit/upload the progress report to the nodal agency on or before the 5th day of every month in a prescribed format.
- 12.3** Implementing agencies will ensure that equipments procured under the project should complete a minimum machine life as per term and condition and with optimal productivity.
- 12.4** The implementing agencies shall use the full capacity of the machine/equipment/resources and the same will be monitored by Nodal Agency.
- 12.5** The organization shall utilize the Non-Recurring Grant-In-Aid within 3 months from the date of obtaining the grant from the nodal agency. The time of utilization of funds may be extended for the next 3 months after the approval of the Nodal Agency. If the organization fails to utilize the grant-in-aid, then the organization shall have to return the grant-in-aid with 18% of interest.

- 12.6** The implementing agencies shall submit the utilization certificate of the Non-Recurring grant-in-aid after obtaining the grant along with detail of expenditures.
- 12.7** It is expected that the nodal agency and implementing agencies should abide by provisions made by the Copyright Amendment Act, 2010.
- 12.8** It is expected that accessible learning material should be developed in a manner that it could be used for students with other disabilities or students with print disabilities.
- 12.9 Non-Governmental Organizations will forward the complete proposal through District Social Welfare Officer/Disability Officer/ State Govt.
- 12.10 The existing implementing agencies under the “Project on Financial Support to Braille Presses” will be merged with this project.
- 12.11 Nodal Agency in consultation with DEPwD may move any infrastructure/machine/equipment/resources procured/created under the project to any other implementing agencies or Nodal Agency.
- 12.12 The Project is majorly aimed to cater the needs of person with visual disabilities, but the content developed under the project should consider the needs of person with print disabilities as well as other disabilities.
- 12.13 Whosoever implementing agencies will not comply the norms and guidelines and/ or violating the norms will be blacklisted and legal action may be taken against such implementing agencies/organization.
- 12.14 In case of any discrepancies the DEPwD decision will be prevailing and final.
