

By Speed Post/Email

No. P-12011/1/2025-Policy [CN: 46822]
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Dated: 19 March, 2026

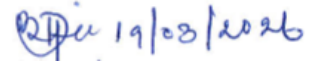
Office Memorandum

Subject: Forwarding minutes of Eighth Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability held on 08.01.2026 at DAIC Janpath, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject cited above and enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability held under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment on 08.01.2026 at DAIC Janpath, New Delhi with a request to submit the Action Taken Report (ATR) in respect of the concerned recommendations at the earliest.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: As Above



(Debala Bhattacharjee)

Under Secretary to the Govt of India

(Email: debala.joarder@gov.in)

To,

- 1) All the members of the Central Advisory Board on Disability
- 2) Concerned PDs, DEPwD/Ministry/Department/State Authorities for whom the recommendations are made.

Copy for kind information to:

- 1) PS to Hon'ble Minister, M/o SJE
- 2) PS to Hon'ble MoS (BLV), M/o SJE
- 3) Sr.PPS to the Secretary, DEPwD
- 4) PPS to JS (RS)/JS (MKN)/JS (FS)/DDG (DEPwD)
- 5)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8TH CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY
08TH JANUARY 2026

8th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Dr. Virendra Kumar on 08th January, 2026 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. List of participants is at **Annexure I**. The meeting started with National Anthem followed by lighting of lamp by the dignitaries.

2. Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, DEPwD, welcomed Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and Chairperson of the Central Advisory Board on Disability, along with Shri B. L. Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State. She also extended a warm welcome to the other Members of the Board, including Dr. M. Mathiventhan, Hon'ble Minister from Tamil Nadu; Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; representatives from various Central and State Ministries, Departments and organizations; and non-official Members. The Secretary further welcomed representatives from State Governments/UT Administrations, experts, and representatives of organizations working in the field of empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), including those participating through virtual mode.

3. In her introductory remarks, Secretary, DEPwD, expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister, the Hon'ble Minister of State, Members of the Board, representatives from State Governments/UT Administrations, experts, and representatives from organizations working in the field of PwD empowerment for their participation. She highlighted the critical statutory role of the Central Advisory Board on Disability in guiding and strengthening the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 across the country, and emphasized that the Board serves as an important platform for policy dialogue, inter-governmental coordination, and incorporation of diverse perspectives from States/UTs and other stakeholders.

4. Secretary, DEPwD outlined the key issues proposed for deliberation during the meeting, including inclusive education, early identification and intervention, accessibility, social security, use of technology, and effective implementation of flagship schemes. She informed that the agenda would go beyond routine review of schemes and would include focused discussions on specific initiatives such as the Unique Disability ID (UDID) Project and measures to collectively address bottlenecks in timely certification, leveraging AI in empowering Divyangjans, inclusive education etc. She also invited Members to share their suggestions and inputs on the agenda items and other issues. Emphasizing that effective and uniform implementation of the RPwD Act is a shared responsibility; she noted that the judiciary has repeatedly underlined the need for strict compliance with the Act. The Secretary further underscored the importance of cross-learning and sharing of best practices by States/UTs and assured Members that all suggestions would be duly considered, and that the Department would work collaboratively with all stakeholders for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

5. Shri Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, DEPwD and Member Secretary DEPwD made a brief presentation on each of the agenda points for deliberations of the Central Advisory Board. A copy of the presentation is at **Annexure II**. The following agenda items were placed for discussion for the Central Advisory Board:-

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Seventh CAB meeting held on 15.12.2024
2. Effective implementation of UDID project
3. Issues pertaining to ADIP scheme
4. Issues pertaining to AIC-SIPDA
5. Expanding the ambit of Early Identification
6. Use of AI in Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities
7. Inclusive Education
8. New initiatives of DEPwD.

6. Following the presentation, it was open for all CAB members to start the discussion. The gist of submissions made by Members of the Board is as under:

Dr. M. Mathiventhan, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu

6.1 The Hon'ble Minister began by expressing sincere gratitude for the two-way API access granted to the UDID database, which has facilitated effective data validation and reduced duplications. He presented the following requests for consideration:

(i) Enabling of bulk marking or deletion of UDID records as "Deceased" at the central level based on state-verified lists, as the current system only allows one-by-one inactivation;

[Action: UDID Div, DEPwD]

(ii) Reintroduction of GST exemptions on motor vehicles for persons with locomotor disabilities, withdrawn since September 2025, to support their mobility;

[Action: M/o Finance]

(iii) Extension of GST exemptions to all assistive devices for persons with disabilities, similar to those for hearing aids, and to revive the incentive scheme for private establishments employing such individuals;

[Action: ADIP Div., DEPwD, M/o Finance]

(iv) Reconsider and revive incentive scheme for private establishments;

[Action: SIPDA, DEPwD]

(v) Release of pending remuneration of ₹9 lakh for the State UDID Coordinator;

[Action: UDID Div., DEPwD]

(vi) Provision of access to the ARJUN Portal for integrating state-level assistive device distribution;

[Action: ADIP Division, DEPwD]

(vii) Authorizing the Deputy Director of the Commissionerate for Welfare of the Differently Abled as an ex-officio person under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act for filing complaints;

[Action: DIR Div, DEPwD; RCI]

(viii) Release of ₹50 crore under the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation to the State Apex Cooperative Bank in Tamil Nadu

[Action: NDFDC; AGP section, DEPwD]

(ix) Extending ₹2.21 crore annually to strengthen the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities office

[Action: Policy Div, DEPwD]

(x) Streamlining the National Scholarship Portal to prevent misallocation of applications, and rejection of eligible applications

[Action: Scholarship Div; DEPwD]

(xi) Release of the balance grant under the Accessible India Campaign in line with Madras High Court directions

[Action: AIC Div; DEPwD]

The Hon'ble Minister concluded by requesting favorable consideration of these proposals.

Shri E T Mohd. Bashir, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Kerala) and Member, CAB.

6.2 **Hon'ble MP** appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the Department with regard to integration of Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. He emphasized the need for stronger coordination and convergence among various Ministries/Departments and stakeholders, noting that integrated and collaborative approaches are essential for holistic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities across sectors.

6.3 The Hon'ble Member highlighted that the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 should adequately address the needs of Persons with Disabilities and students with disabilities. He stressed that supportive skills, assistive devices, rehabilitation services, and inclusive support mechanisms should be integral components of the implementation of NEP 2020. For this purpose, he requested for establishment of a National Institute (NI) in the state of Kerala.

[Action: NI Division, DEPwD in consultation with M/o Education and MoHFW]

6.4 He further strongly recommended that DEPwD may enhance coordination with all concerned Ministries/Departments and stakeholders to ensure integrated efforts for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in education, skill development, employment, and social inclusion, thereby enabling full participation of PwDs in all aspects of life.

[Action: UDID, ADIP, DIR Divs, DEPwD and RCI]

Shri Tukaram H. Mundhe, Secretary, Divyang Kalyan Department

6.5 Shri Tukaram H. Mundhe, underscored the need for API-based integration of all platforms of DEPwD including the UDID, ARJUN, RCI, etc. portals and provide access to the state government to strengthen State-level implementation of the different schemes.

[Action: IT/ NIC of DEPwD]

6.6 He emphasized that secure and direct access to integrated UDID data is essential for timely verification of beneficiaries and efficient delivery of services and benefits by using UDID data for state schemes like scholarships, matrimonial schemes, skill development, self employment and employment etc.

6.7 Referring to the ARJUN Portal, he highlighted the difficulties faced by States in data verification and in achieving convergence with similar State Government schemes. He accordingly requested the provision of appropriate technological solutions, including API-based access, integration, to enable seamless data verification, convergence, and alignment of benefits across Central and State schemes.

[Action: ADIP of DEPwD]

6.8 He further stated that access to UDID data through API integration would significantly enhance implementation of various State schemes and services, including Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, concessions in public transport services, and verification processes for competitive and entrance examinations such as CET, MSRTC for providing concessions, thereby ensuring accurate authentication of Persons with Disabilities and improved reach of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

6.9 Shri Mundhe also raised concerns regarding the existing UDID certification and grievance redressal framework. He suggested introduction of an additional institutional layer in the UDID ecosystem, in the form of “Reference Authorities”, to address complaints, disputes, or grievances relating to UDID cards is essential. Currently, such cases are handled case to case. He noted that at present there is no clearly defined authority and feature in UDID for resolution of grievances and reference authorities for referring the complaints for verification and resolution of such issues.

6.10 He also raised the issue of data-sharing protocols in the MoUs related to UDID API integration. He observed that the existing process, wherein States are required to approach the Central Government for each instance of data sharing with stakeholders, is time-consuming. He suggested that once UDID data is shared with the State PwDs Department/Divyang Kalyan Vibhag, States may be empowered to share and integrate such data with other State Departments, in accordance with prescribed norms and requirements, to facilitate efficient service delivery.

[Action: UDID of DEPwD]

6.11 Finally, he raised the issue of master access to the UDID database as states have to contact the central ministry every time for analyzing data. It is therefore requested to provide states with master access so that UDID data could be used in better, effective and transparent manner for providing services, redressing grievances and addressing the issues of PwDs.

[Action: UDID of DEPwD]

Shri Uday Prakash, Saksham National Advisory Board

6.12 Shri Uday suggested that involvement of persons with disabilities may be ensured in various professional bodies such as advocates, chartered accountants and medical professionals. He cited an example in which Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the Bar Council of India to move a proposal for facilitating PwDs participation. He stated that the Government may consider passing appropriate resolutions and initiating necessary amendments in the relevant Acts, including the Chartered Accountants Act and other professional regulations, so as to enable and promote greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in these professions.

[Action: Policy of DEPwD]

6.13 He emphasized the importance of training and sensitization of Hon'ble Judges and Special Public Prosecutors on disability-related laws and issues. He informed that the Ministry of Law and Justice has already initiated steps in this direction and suggested that this Ministry may also undertake similar initiatives in coordination with the Law Ministry to further strengthen awareness and effective implementation of disability rights legislation.

[Action: Policy of DEPwD]

Ms. Shashanka, Secretary, Social Welfare, UT of Ladakh

6.14 Ms. Shashanka pointed out that at present no Composite Regional Centre (CRC) is functional in the Union Territory of Ladakh following its separation from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. In this regard, it was requested that, until a new CRC is established in Ladakh, the existing CRC of Jammu and Kashmir may be allowed to continue providing services to Divyangjans in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

[Action: NI Division, DEPwD]

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Shri Kumarpal Mehta, Delhi

6.15 Shri Kumarpal Mehta suggested that suitable facilities and procedural accommodations be provided for persons with disabilities in the justice delivery system to ensure timely access to justice. It was requested that the Department may issue appropriate advisories to the Ministry of Law and Justice and the concerned courts to put in place proper arrangements so as to reduce repeated court visits by persons with disabilities.

[Action: Policy of DEPwD & Department of Justice]

Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary, Disability Commission, Govt of Goa

6.16 Shri Taha Haaziq recommended that the Government of India may consider issuing appropriate directions to strengthen the powers of the State Commissioners and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities by upgrading their role from largely recommendatory to more directive in nature.

[Action: Policy Div; DEPwD]

6.17 It was also suggested that a standardized organizational and functional structure for the offices of State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities may be prescribed uniformly for all States to ensure consistency and effectiveness.

[Action: Policy Div; DEPwD]

6.18 With reference to State and National funds under Section 88 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, Shri Haaziq highlighted the lack of clear guidelines regarding the mandatory allocation of funds by States. It was stated that, in the absence of clarity, States are following varied practices. In this regard, it was recommended that clear directions may be issued specifying a mandatory allocation ratio, such as 3% or 5%, to be uniformly followed by all States for creation of a dedicated fund, over and above existing schemes.

[Action: Policy Div; DEPwD]

6.19 He emphasized the need to strengthen inclusive education by developing curricula based on the principles of Universal Design for Learning so as to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all learners.

[Action: M/o Education]

6.20 Sh. Haaziq appreciated the successful organization of the International Purple Fest, held in association with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, and the United Nations India Office, and informed that the event witnessed participation of over one lakh people through approximately 270 events conducted over four days.

6.21 He further underscored the importance of training and sensitization of Judges on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and informed that a detailed training programme for all Judges of the State of Goa was scheduled to be held on the upcoming Saturday.

Professor Daval Singh Panwar, National President, SAKSHAM

6.22 The member emphasized the importance of the Braille Council of India for persons with disabilities and pointed out that the Council was abolished some time ago. In this regard, he requested that the Braille Council of India may be re-established at the earliest.

[Action: Braille/ADIP Div, DEPwD]

6.23 The member further requested that new technologies and innovative solutions relating to Braille may be included under the ADIP Scheme so as to enhance accessibility for persons with visual impairments.

[Action: Braille/ADIP Div, DEPwD]

6.24 The Member also highlighted that several key posts, including those of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Directors of NIEPVD, are presently vacant. He requested that these vacancies may be filled at the earliest to ensure effective functioning of the institutions.

[Action: Policy Div; NI Div; DIR of DEPwD]

6.25 He also pointed out that the prices of Braille books and accessories at NIEPVD, Dehradun have increased by nearly sixteen times and requested that the revision be reconsidered to ensure that visually impaired persons do not face difficulties in purchasing these items.

[Action: NI Div of DEPwD]

Suresh Patil, Maharashtra

6.26 The Member requested attention on the Early Intervention Centres under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and that these centers are not properly assessed, so there is a need for a proper assessment of these centers so that it can reach the needy PwDs.

[Action: DIR Div, DEPwD]

6.27 It was suggested that the Department of Posts may consider introducing a suitable savings or deposit scheme for persons with severe locomotor disabilities, including those with more than 90 per cent disability, who are unable to access regular financial institutions.

[Action: D/o Posts]

6.28 The Member also suggested that the Government of India may extend support to vocational training institutions to strengthen skill development and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

[Action: Skill Div; DEPwD]

Dr. Avinash Wachasundar, Pune, Maharashtra

6.29 The Member pointed out that cochlear implant surgeries have not been undertaken for the past two years and requested that the provision of cochlear implants under the ADIP Scheme may be continued, as cochlear implants can make a significant difference in the life and development of children with hearing disabilities.

[Action: ADIP Div, DEPwD]

6.30 The Member highlighted the acute shortage of special teachers, particularly in rural areas, and emphasized the need to take appropriate measures to strengthen inclusive education through availability of trained special educators.

[Action: State Governments]

6.31 With reference to special schools for children with hearing impairment, the Member stated that while earlier children were admitted at a later age, advances in early detection have led to infants as young as six to ten months requiring intervention. He therefore requested that existing special schools may be empowered to provide pre-school level services to cater to early intervention and training needs.

[Action: State Governments; M/o Education; DIR Div. of DEPwD]

Jaysingh Krushnaraoji Chavan, Maharashtra, CAB Member

6.32 The Member recommended that the unutilized funds allocated to the states may be used by the central government for helping Divyangjan in getting employment.

[Action: D/o Expenditure]

Ms. Normit Lepcha, Principal Director-cum-Secretary, Sikkim Disability Department

6.33 Ms. Normit Lepcha informed that the State has already identified land for establishment of a Composite Regional Centre (CRC), and requested that the process for expediting approval and further action may be taken at the earliest, as the land is presently lying vacant and other departments are awaiting its utilization.

[Action: NI Div, DEPwD]

6.34 She further informed that two proposals have been submitted under the Accessible India Campaign and requested that the same may kindly be examined and processed at the earliest.

[Action: AIC Div, DEPwD]

Ms. Ira Singhal, Ministry of Education

6.35 Ms. Ira informed that new guidelines for Block Resource Centres (BRCs) are being formulated and stated that it is proposed to ensure close coordination between BRCs and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs). It was emphasized that the mandate and expertise of CRCs may be appropriately integrated within the functioning of BRCs to strengthen service delivery.

[Action: M/o Education & NI of DEPwD]

6.36 She further informed that under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), several treatments and therapies for children with disabilities and persons with disabilities have been included in the revised scheme parameters. It was requested that States may coordinate with their respective Health Departments to leverage the coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh under PMJAY, so that such therapies can be provided through BRCs, particularly in view of limited resources for free provision of these services.

[Action: State Governments]

Dr. Rupali Roy, M/o Health& Family Welfare

6.37 Dr. Rupali clarified that many diseases have been covered under PMJAY and the National Health Authority under the MoH&FW are working to provide the benefits of health schemes of the government to the persons with disabilities. She also ensured that the ministry will share the list of the various diseases listed under PMJAY.

Comment of Ms. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, DEPwD

6.38 Ms. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Addl. Secretary informed that the funds under AIC have already been granted to the States/UTs from the month of June to August and 3-4 review meetings have also been done, however, funds have not been utilized by various States/UTs yet. In this regard, DO letter has also been written by herself and the Secretary, DEPwD. She requested to utilize the funds properly before 31.03.2026 as the funds will be sent to Consolidated Fund of India after the end of FY 2025-26 and the entire exercise of granting of funds will have to be repeated. She also highlighted that the States in need of the 2nd Installment need to send a complete proposal along with a Utilization Certificate of the first installment. She also requested for appropriate use of the funds as Harmonized Guidelines are not being followed for making Accessible Toilets and other Accessibility features.

[Action: State Governments]

7. **Sh. B.L. Verma, the Hon'ble Minister of State**, extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries present in the meeting and noted the importance of the CA Board meeting that gives the opportunity of apprising the members of details of action taken so far and deciding the roadmap of actions to be taken in future. He noted that with the enactment of RPwD Act 2016, the mandate to the Government of India has extended from Policy Formulation to ground level implementation of the Act's provisions. He highlighted the importance of submitting Utilization Certificates timely and need of spreading awareness about PMDK centers and its effective functioning. He emphasized on speedy UDID certification by the States. He also outlined how 19700 camps under ADIP have benefitted more than 33 Lakh people. Hon'ble MoS, highlighted the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Samuhik Prayas in the overall development of the country and how important it is to strengthen the PwDs so that they can contribute in the nation's development. He concluded by

saying that all concerned may work together to realize the recommendations made by the board members before the next CAB meeting.

8. Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment (HMSJE), greeted the Hon'ble Ministers from various States/UTs, Members of the Central Advisory Board, delegates from States/NGOs, and representatives from Central Ministries/Departments, and appreciated the collective efforts of the Centre, States/UTs, NGOs and other stakeholders towards the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. He acknowledged the valuable suggestions, concerns and best practices shared during the meeting and assured the Board that all issues raised would be examined positively by the Department and followed up in coordination with the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

9. He noted that, following the vision of Hon'ble PM, the Department underscored the importance of holistic development of North East regions and is working to realize the goal through effective implementation of schemes/programmes in that region as in regions across the country.

10. While acknowledging the various issues raised by the CAB members, he expressed concern about increase in the price of Braille books. Emphasizing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Samuhik Prayas" and the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat @2047, the Hon'ble Minister underscored the need for Persons with Disabilities to become self-reliant by transforming disability into strength. He further desired that the next meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability may be planned as a full-day meeting and may be organized in another State with focused and detailed deliberations.

11. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair from the Member-Secretary, CAB and JS (Policy), DEPwD.

Annexure – I

List of the Participants

Sl. No	Details of the Participants
1.	Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister (SJE), Govt. of India, Chairperson
2.	Shri B.L. Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State (SJE), Govt. of India
Hon'ble Ministers/MPs from States/UTs	
3.	Shri E T Mohammed Bashir, Hon'ble MP (Kerala)
4.	Dr. M. Mathiventhan, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Members/Representatives from Central Ministries/Departments	
5.	Ms. V Vidyavathi, Secretary, DEPwD- Member
6.	Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, DEPwD- Member Secretary

7.	Sh. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, M/o Panchayati Raj
8.	Dr. Rupali, ADG, M/o Health & Family Welfare
9.	Dr. Lavneesh, ADG, M/o Health & Family Welfare
10.	Shri Sanjay Kumar, SO, Dept. of Telecommunication
11.	Ms. Prabha Sharma, ADG, Dept. of Post
12.	Sh. Sunil Kumar Meena, SO, Dept. of Post
13.	Sh. Natla Sudheer Reddy, Scientist-C, M/o Electronics& Information Technology
14.	Mrs. Ira Singhal, DS, D/o School Education& Literacy
15.	Sh. Rajeev Balree, US, D/o Higher Education
16.	Sh. AK Gopal, DS, DoPT
17.	Sh. AK Sinha, US, DoPT
18.	Sh. Susheel Kumar Kalra, Director, DPIIT
19.	Dr. Anita Aggarwal, HOD (SEED), M/o Science & Technology
20.	Sh. Prateek Kumar Tiwari, ICS, D/o Legal Affairs
21.	Sh. Arvind Kumar, DS, Niti Aayog
22.	Dr. R Shilpa Manogna, Associate Professor, NCERT
23.	Sh. Roshan Kumar, DS, National Council of Teacher Education
24.	Sh. Peeyush Kapasi, Director, Railway Board
25.	Sh. Kunal Soni, Director, Railway Board
26.	Sh. Gautam Mondal, JS, Railway Board
27.	Sh. Adarsh Chaurasia, ASO, Railway Board
Member /Representatives from States/UTs	
28.	Sh. Ravi Prakash Reddy, Director, M/o Women, Children& Divyangjan, Andhra Pradesh
29.	Dr. Kulashree Nath, ACS, Secretary, Social Welfare Dept. (Assam)
30.	Sh. Bhuwan Kumar, Deputy Director, Dept. of Social Welfare, Bihar
31.	Dr. Palika Arora, Director, Social Welfare, UT of Chandigarh
32.	Sh. Sham Rawat, Nodal Officer, Dept. of Social Welfare, UT of Chandigarh
33.	Sh. Kumar Pal Mehta, Social Welfare Dept, Delhi
34.	Sh. Taha I Haaziq, Commissioner, O/o SCPD, Goa
35.	Sh. Arpit Gahlawat, Joint Director, Social Justice Dept, Govt of Haryana
36.	Sh. Suresh Sharma, Joint Director, Empowerment of SC/OBC/ Differently Abled, Himachal Pradesh
37.	Smt. Nachiketa Mishra, Nodal Officer, Dept. of Women, Child Development & Social Security, Govt of Jharkhand
38.	Dr. K Muniyappa, Member, Dept. of Women, Child and Disabled Development, Govt of Karnataka.
39.	Ms. Shashanka Ala, Administrative Secretary, Social& Tribal Welfare Dept, Ladakh
40.	Sh. Tukaram Mundhe, Secretary, Social Welfare Dept, Govt of Maharashtra
41.	Smt. Bridget Warshong, Dy. Commissioner for PwDs, Social Welfare Dept, Meghalaya
42.	Sh. Pravin Bakshi, Commissioner for PwDs, Social Welfare Dept, Meghalaya
43.	S. Ragini, Director, Social Welfare Dept, UT of Puducherry

44.	G. Bharthy, Social Welfare Dept, UT of Puducherry
45.	Smt. Norpit Lepcha, Principle Secretary, Social Welfare Dept, Govt of Sikkim
46.	Smt. Tashi Doma Bhutia, Joint Director, Social Welfare Dept, Govt of Sikkim
47.	P. Thinesh Kannan, Legal Consultant, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu
48.	Sh. Shivraman, PA to Dr. M Mathiventhan, Govt of Tamil Nadu
49.	Sh. Rajesh Kannan, Officer, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu
50.	Dr. Priblata, Deputy Director, D/o EPWD, UP
51.	Shri Khurshid Sanai, Additional Secretary, Social Welfare Dept, UT of J&K
52.	Dr. Archana Yadav, Commissioner for PwD, Govt. of Chhatisgarh.
Members/Representatives from National Institutes & Autonomous Organizations under DEPwD	
53.	Dr. S. Govindraj, CCPD, New Delhi
54.	Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Director, PDUNIPPD, New Delhi
55.	Dr. Lalit Narayan, Director, NILD, Kolkata
56.	Sh. Anil Kumar, CMD, NDFDC, New Delhi
57.	Dr. Vineet Rana, CMD, NDFDC, New Delhi
58.	Dr. Akhilesh Shukla, NIMHR Sehore
59.	Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD
60.	Dr. Nachiket Raut, Director, NIEPMD Chennai
61.	Dr. B. V Ram Kumar, Director, NIEPID Secunderabad
62.	Dr. K. C Mohapatra, Director, SVNIRTAR, Odisha
63.	Sh. Kumar Raju, Director, ISLRTC, New Delhi
64.	Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Director, ISLRTC, New Delhi
Nominated Members	
65.	Sh. Dayal Singh Panwar, National President, SAKSHAM
66.	Sh. Suresh Patil, Maharashtra
67.	Sh. Jaysingh Krushnaraoji Chavan, Maharashtra
68.	Dr. A.M. Wachasundar, Maharashtra
69.	Dr. Uday Prakash Warunjikar, Maharashtra



सत्यमेव जयते



Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,
Govt. of India

8th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on
Disability

Chaired By: Dr. Virendra Kumar

Hon'ble Minister (Social Justice and Empowerment),

Govt. of India

08.01.2026



Agenda points for 8th CAB

1

**Action Taken Report On
7th CAB discussions**

2

UDID Implementation

3

**Issues pertaining to
ADIP scheme**

4

**AIC-SIPDA Implementation
Challenges**

5

**Early Identification &
Intervention (0-6 YEARS)**

6

**Use of AI in Empowerment
and Rehabilitation**

7

Inclusive Education

8

New Initiatives of DEPWD



Agenda Item 1: Action Taken Report on 7th CAB discussions

Key Issues Discussed

- Expansion of PMDKs in state hospitals, and using the ARJUN portal under the ADIP scheme to track beneficiaries
- Boosting innovation and affordability in assistive technology
- Strict implementation of the statutory 4% reservation for Persons with Disabilities in government jobs and improving the NDFDC loan scheme to boost self-employment



Key ATR Points

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

- **Expanded** PMDKs to **100** centers (including 17 in state hospitals such as Aizawl and Chennai), **onboarded Delhi and Rajasthan on the ARJUN portal**, and continued review of cochlear implant operations under ADIP along with an impact evaluation.
- **Modernized ALIMCO product lines** (colorful prosthetics, lightweight walkers, AI-enabled vision glasses), supported self-employment via motorized clip-on wheelchairs, and secured ISO and BIS certifications for 19 product categories with more in process.



सत्यमेव जयते

Key ATR Points

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) (contd..)

- Directed National Institutes, CRCs, National Trust, NDFDC, CCPD and others to regularly inform CAB members of initiatives, and ensured circulars, notifications, and key events are updated on the website and social media.
- Established a data-sharing interface with Tamil Nadu for UDID and launched DISLI/DTISL through ISLRTC, national institutes, and CRCs, creating annual capacity for about 840 interpreters and 220 deaf teachers (around 1,000 professionals a year)



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Key ATR Points

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

- Post Identification Guidelines for uniform and effective implementation of reservation policy issued in Nov 2024 and circulated to all State/Uts/Central Ministry/Department for compliance.
- The list of identified posts dated 04.01.2021 is currently under review.



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Key ATR Points

State Implementation Highlights

- **Uttar Pradesh:** 1.4 million UDID cards issued; 4% reservation reconfirmed in government jobs
- **Delhi:** "Sugamya Sahayak Scheme" launched; 5-year MoU with ALIMCO for aids/appliances
- **Lakshadweep:** ALIMCO Rehabilitation Centre operational; accessibility ramps in all govt institutions



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Key ATR Points

State Implementation Highlights

- **Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Sikkim:** District-level certification centers, backlog resolution, festival programs for economic empowerment
- **Madhya Pradesh:** Awareness about schemes like DDRS, UDID; encouraging PwD athletes for training at CDS Gwalior
- **Tamil Nadu :** Opening of CRC and ALIMCO facilities, extensive ADIP assistive device coverage, implemented reservation in promotions, repeal of discriminatory laws, vocational training for persons with intellectual disabilities, and complete compliance with SC order in Seema Girijalal case.



Key ATR Points

Central Ministries/Departments

- The **Ministry of Education** strengthened Inclusive Education under Samagra Shiksha, notified pupil-teacher ratios for special educators, complied with Supreme Court directions on teacher recruitment, launched PM e-Vidya DTH Channel 31 for hearing-impaired learners, and coordinated ISL curriculum and national consultations on CwSN.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development (NSAP)** continued IGNDPS, providing central disability pensions of Rs. 300 per month (18–79 years) and Rs. 500 per month (80+ years) to eligible BPL persons with 80% and above disability.

Contd....



Key ATR Points

Central Ministries/Departments (contd..)

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** instructed its bodies to publicize and facilitate use of the Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior, by youth with disabilities.
- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** initiated collaboration with National and State Judicial Academies and disability organizations to train judicial officers and public prosecutors on handling PwD-related matters and circulated instructions to state Law Secretaries.



Agenda Item 2: UDID Implementation

5 Key Points

- **Board Sitzings:** Mandate weekly boards; allow bi-weekly/daily in high-pendency districts
- **Private Specialists:** Empanel private medical professionals per March 2024 guidelines
- **Hospital Network:** Notify additional CHCs, PHCs & district hospitals in rural/semi-urban areas
- **Monitoring:** Implement robust state-level oversight with regular audits & accountability
- **Awareness:** Launch targeted campaigns through community outreach, media & local networks

Outcome: Expanded assessment boards, wider hospital network, rural access, strict monitoring, and awareness campaigns together speed assessments, cut backlogs, and improve nationwide disability certificate accessibility.



UDID initiatives

- **Self-service smart dashboard** implemented for ease of Divyang citizens
- **Advisory cum SOP** to handle the cases of PwBD candidates applying for jobs or admission
- Mandatory **Phone numbers and Aadhaar** for better connect with applicant and prevent duplicacy.

Contd.....



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UDID initiatives

- Process of re-opening of UDID card application after generation of card is stopped to prevent fake cases, if any.
- API being shared with various state and central departments on demand.
- Aadhaar API is being used to pre-fill certain fields for ease of Divyang applicants.
- Facility of bulk download of data is being provided to each state in respect of their data



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Agenda Item 3: Issues pertaining to ADIP scheme

- **PMDK Expansion** - Geographic coverage strategy (across country including NE), state responsibilities, and expected outcomes
- (planning to open total **300 PMDKs** by 2029-30)
- **ADIP-SSA Funding** - Addressing delays in fund transfers for children with special needs, with special focus on NE states
- **Arjun Portal Adoption** - Digital platform for preventing duplicate allocations, current status, and implementation steps; only two States (Delhi and Rajasthan) have onboarded; other States to take proactive steps to the onboarding

Contd....



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Agenda Item 3: Issues pertaining to ADIP scheme

- **Block/Village-Level Implementation** - District administration support, camp logistics, and specialized approach for NE region
- **Scheme Convergence** - Using multiple funding sources (state schemes, CSR, MP/MLA funds) for better quality devices
- **NE Region Engagement** - Increasing camp requests through proactive beneficiary identification and representative engagement
- **UDID Integration** - Linking disability certification with assistive device eligibility to reduce bureaucratic delays



Contd.....

Agenda Item 4: AIC-SIPDA implementation challenges

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Challenge 1: Delayed and Incomplete Proposal

- States/UTs and implementing agencies submit proposals late or with incomplete information
- Causes processing delays and fund allocation postponements
- Reduces ability to plan interventions effectively
- Delay in execution of work once GIA is released for any proposal

(contd...)



Contd.....

Agenda Item 4: AIC-SIPDA implementation challenges (contd...)

Challenge 2: Pending Utilization Certificates (UCs)

- Release of further funds contingent on receipt of UCs for earlier releases
- States and UTs delay in submitting UCs
- 3 • Creates bottleneck in fund flow and implementation

(contd...)



Contd.....

Agenda Item 4: AIC-SIPDA implementation challenges

Challenge 3: Inadequate Proposals from North-Eastern States

- Particularly insufficient proposals from NE region
- Affects overall utilization of allocated funds
- Results in underutilization of scheme benefits in NE

(contd...)



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Contd.....

Agenda Item 4: AIC-SIPDA implementation challenges

Recommended Actions

- State governments must establish systems for timely proposal submission
- Dedicated officers for proposal preparation and timely UC submission along with additional demands
- Quarterly compliance reviews
- Capacity building for implementing agencies
- Clear timelines and accountability mechanisms



Agenda Item 5: Early Identification & Intervention (0-6 YEARS)

Understanding the Scale and Urgency

- **Sets context:** 20.42 lakh children with disabilities vs. only 28 CDEICs
- Identifies the massive service gap (<0.2% coverage)
- **Explains why** CDEICs are needed as holistic solution

The Critical Window and Intervention Benefits

- Highlights 0-6 years as critical for brain development
- Cost-effectiveness and lifetime impact of early detection
- 5-7x better outcomes with early intervention
-

(contd...)



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Agenda Item 5: Early Identification & Intervention (0-6 YEARS)

Hub-and-Spoke Model with Multi-Sectoral Collaboration

- Details the implementation structure (Hub = CDEICs, Spokes = community screening)
- Explains MoHFW-DEPwD coordination roles
- Describes ASHA/ANM training and ICDS/POSHAN integration



Contd.....

Agenda Item 5: Early Identification & Intervention (0-6 YEARS)

Strategy for phased expansion and expected outcome

- Sanctioned 28 CDEICs during current EFC cycle
- 2026-2030 timeline with pilot-scale-expand approach (27 new CDEICs)
- Capacity building strategy
- Comparative list of equipment, salary components of professionals proposed for enhancement in next EFC to attract professionals to work in field of CDEICs



Contd.....

Agenda Item 5: Early Identification & Intervention (0-6 YEARS)

Strategy for phased expansion and expected outcome

- Quality improvements (school readiness, developmental outcomes)
- System integration benefits and stigma reduction
- Equitable access and foundational inclusive education
- Implemented 5% annual increment in salary component .
- Planned to hike the fixed infrastructure component for next EFC.



Agenda Item 6: Use of AI in Empowerment and Rehabilitation

- The **India AI Mission (approved March 7, 2024)** seeks to make India a global AI leader
- **AI-powered assistive technologies and mobility solutions**—such as speech/text converters, smart readers, sign language tools, navigation apps, and advanced prosthetics
- Personalized learning and skilling use adaptive e-learning, **AI-driven vocational training, and tailored platforms to support education, skills, and employment readiness** for diverse disability profiles.



Contd.....

Agenda Item 6: Use of AI in Empowerment and Rehabilitation

- Accessible digital governance is strengthened through **AI-based accessibility audits, smart kiosks for service navigation, data hubs, and feedback/chatbot systems** for real-time monitoring and grievance redress.
- The IndiaAI Application Development Initiative promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, including **PwD-led startups, open datasets, and pilot AI solutions** (such as six shortlisted tools for learning disabilities showcased in May 2025 with institutions like NIEPID).



Contd.....

AI based initiatives by Institutions under DEPWD

- **ALIMCO** convened the **National conference “AI for Empowering PwDs”** in Bengaluru (30.05.2025) bringing together 151 stakeholders
- **ALIMCO** is deploying **GenAI powered conversational kiosks** to provide multilingual **voice/text self service support** for PwDs and sr. citizens
- Going forward, **ALIMCO** will embed auditable AI governance and inclusive design while deploying AI for smarter rehab devices, talent, and expert-led nationwide accessibility improvements.



Contd.....

AI based initiatives by Institutions under DEPwD

- **AYJNISHD (D)** has initiated **collaboration with Google (Project Euphonia)** for **speech recognition** for persons with atypical speech(eg Parkinson, Amyotrophic later sclerosis).
- **AYJNISHD(D)** has signed **MoU with SVAR** for development of **AI powered speech therapy app**.
- **NIEPID uses Cognitive Botics** , an innovative AI based platform for **community rehabilitation and support services**



Agenda Item 7: Inclusive Education Progress

ADIP-SSA Implementation Challenges

Focus: Ground-level implementation bottlenecks under the Aids & Assistive Devices scheme

Key issues:

- 60-40 funding structure delays and synchronization problems
- ALIMCO distribution delays forcing States to procure from open market
- UDID mandatory card requirement bottlenecks (especially for neuro-diverse children)
- Maintenance issues & transportation damage (particularly North East)
- Low awareness of ALIMCO products among schools/parents/educators
- Product gaps (ear moulds, corrective eyeglasses needed)

Recommendation: Fund flow mechanism revision, enhanced assessment capacity, multi-channel awareness campaigns



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Agenda Item 7: Inclusive Education Progress (Contd...)

Inclusive Education Progress vs Persistent Challenges

Focus: NEP 2020 & RPwD Act implementation status and remaining barriers

Progress:

- 2,114,110 CWSN enrolled (though only 0.85% of total)
- Accessibility Code (January 2024) notified
- PTR norms implemented (1:10 primary, 1:15 secondary)
- 1,35,480 educators trained
- State innovations (Delhi mapping, Kerala home visits, Andhra Pradesh tech-driven)
- Tripartite MoU signed between DEPwD, NIOS and NCERT to create inclusive education ecosystem



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Contd.....

Agenda Item 7: Inclusive Education Progress (Contd...)

Inclusive Education Progress vs Persistent Challenges

Challenges:

- Limited CDEIC-BRC/CRC convergence;
- Transportation barriers;
- Rehabilitation professional shortages;
- Need for neuro-diverse child accommodations and
- Technology-driven device requirements



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Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPwD



World Braille Day (Jan 4)

10,000 docs accessible + AI-powered mobility apps + Braille in 14 languages



CRC Madurai (Jan 4)

Infrastructure expansion for rehab services in southern India



CRC Jaipur Foundation (Jan 15)

Infrastructure development for Divyangjan rehabilitation



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Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPwD



ISLRTC International Symposium (Jan 12)

Global collaboration on sign language interpreter education



NIMHR Inauguration (Jan 17)

First specialized institute for mental health rehabilitation



23rd Divya Kala Mela (Jan 9-19)

Economic empowerment platform for Divyang entrepreneurs in Vadodara



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Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPWd



ISLRTC-NBT MoU (Feb 2025)

500 storybooks converted to ISL for Deaf children



24th Divya Kala Mela (Feb 14-24)

Extended to Jammu for geographic reach expansion



Announcement of ALIMCO Auxiliary Centre (Tripura) (March,1)

Local production capacity in North-East for aids/devices



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Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPWd



AI for Empowering PwDs (May 30)

Global conference on AI applications for disability



Inclusive India Summit (May 15)

3 landmark MoUs for accessibility infrastructure with **I for Humanity Foundation, Nipman Foundation and Young Leaders for Active Citizenship and Ramp my city Foundation**





Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPwD



DEPwD-NIOS-NCERT MoU (June 18)

Framework for NEP 2020
inclusive education
implementation



Project Inclusion MoU (July 7)

Capacity building for
educators and rehabilitation
professionals



Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPWd



Research initiatives on Ayush practices September, 19

₹5.26 crore funded for integration of traditional healing practices



NIEPID-DISHA Curriculum Launch (October, 9)

Uniform curriculum for children with intellectual disabilities



Agenda 8 : New Initiative of DEPWd



Sugamya Bharat App Revamp

AI chatbot + integrated
government schemes



Six New CDEICs Established

Expansion across Imphal,
Madurai, Jaipur, Varanasi,
Noida, Gwalior



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Thank You