

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

Subject: Revised Guidelines for the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Empowerment of Person with Disabilities is an interdisciplinary process, covering various aspects namely, prevention, early detection, intervention, education, vocational training, rehabilitation and social integration etc. Section 24 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides formulation of schemes and programmes to safeguard and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Further, section 39 of the said Act mandates the Government to promote awareness campaigns and sensitization programmes inter alia for advance recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities and of their contributions to the work force, labour market and professional fee.

Keeping in view the spirit of the above provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the Government intends to confer National Awards in recognition of contributions/skills of persons with disabilities individually or otherwise and also in recognition of the contribution made by Individual, the Government and the private bodies in the field of empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Now, therefore, with a view to give effect to the intention of the Government to confer such National Awards, the Central Government hereby prescribes guidelines for the National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, hereunder: –

1 Description and categories of the awards.

I. National Awards for Individual Excellence

No.	Category of Award	No. of Awards	Component of Awards
1.	Sarvshresth Divyangjan (Most Outstanding Persons with Disabilities) (Belonging to any field or activity i.e. Education/ Health/ Employment /Art & Culture/ Sports/ Creative work/ Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities/ Social service/ etc. - a Role Model)	06 (03 for Male and 03 for Female)	A certificate, a medal and Cash component of Award: Rs. 2.00 lakh to every awardees
	Open to all persons with disabilities having any of the specified disabilities under the RPwD Act.		

<p>2.</p>	<p>Shresth Divyangjan (Outstanding Persons with Disabilities)</p> <p>A. Locomotor Disability (Locomotor, Muscular Dystrophy, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims, Leprosy Cured, Cerebral Palsy)</p> <p>B. Visual Impairment (Blindness, Low Vision)</p> <p>C. Hearing Impairment (Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech & Language disability)</p> <p>D. Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation, Mental Behavior, Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder)</p> <p>E. Any specified disability except the disabilities mentioned from Sr.No. (A) to (D) above. (Developmental Disorder, Disability caused due to Blood Disorder, Hemophilia, Thalassaemia, Sickle Cell Diseases, Chronic Neurological Conditions, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Disability)</p> <p>Note: If suitable person(s) in any one or more of the above sub-categories are not found, the awards may be given to additional person(s) in other sub-categories. (In the fields of employment/self-employment, health/sports, art, culture drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work, empowerment of PwDs)</p>	<p>10 (01 for male and 01 for Female in each category- A to E)</p>	<p>A certificate, a medal and Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh to every awardees</p>
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3.	<p>Shresth Srijansheel Divyang Bal/Balika (Outstanding Creative Child with Disabilities-Male/Female)</p> <p>(Children with disabilities upto the age of 18 years belonging to any of the category of specified disabilities under the RPwD Act)</p> <p>(In the field of art & culture drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work etc.)</p>	02 (01 for male and 01 for female)	A certificate, a medal and Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh to each awardee
4	<p>Divyangjano Ke Sashaktikaran Ke Liye Karyarat Sarvshresth Vyakti (Most Outstanding Person working for the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)</p>	01 Award	A Certificate, a medal and cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh
5.	<p>Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Karyarat Sarvshresth Punarvas Peshewar</p> <p>(Most Outstanding rehabilitation professional /personnel working in the field of disability)</p>	01 Award	A Certificate, a medal and cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh
6.	<p>Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshresth Anusandhan/ Navpravartan /Utpad Vikas (Most Outstanding Research/Innovation/Product Development in the field of Disability)</p>	01 Award	A Certificate, a medal and cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh
	Total	21 Awards and 21 medals	Cash Component Rs. 27 lakhs

II. National Awards for Institutions engaged in Empowering persons with disabilities

Sr N.	Category of Award	No. of Awards	Component of Award
1.	<p>Divyangjano Ke Sashaktikaran Mein Karyarat Sarvshresth Sansthan (Most Outstanding Institution working for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Private Organization, NGO))</p>	02 (01 Award for providing Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services 01 Award for Inclusive Education)	A certificate and a shield to each awardee

2.	<p>Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshresth Niyokta (Most Outstanding Employer for Persons with Disabilities)</p> <p>(Government Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies/Private Sector)</p>	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee
3	<p>Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshresth Placement Agency (Most Outstanding Placement Agency for Divyangjan) (excluding Government/State Government/Local Body)</p>	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee
4	<p>Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Ke Karyanvayan/Badhamukt Vatavaran Ke Srijan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya/UT/Zila (Most Outstanding State/UT/District in implementation of Accessible India Campaign/ creating barrier free environment)</p>	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee
5.	<p>Sarvshresth Sugamya Yatayat ke Sadhan/ Soochana Evam Sanchar Prodyogiki (Most Outstanding accessible means of transport/Information and Communication Technology (Private/Government Organization)</p>	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee
6.	<p>Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam/UDID Evam Divyang Sashktikaran ki Anya Yojanaon ke Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya/UT/Zila (Most Outstanding State/UT/District in implementation of RPwD Act/UDID and other schemes for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)</p>	02 (01 Award for State/UT and 01 award for District)	A certificate and a shield to each awardee
7.	<p>Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam, 2016 Ke Apne Rajya Mein Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya Divyangjan Aayukt (Most Outstanding State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for performance in their State in implementation of RPwD Act, 2016)</p>	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee

8.	Punarvas Peshewaron Ke Vikas Mein Sanlagn Sarvshresth Sangathan (Most Outstanding Organization Engaged in Development of Rehabilitation Professionals)	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee
9.	“Corporate Samajik Uttaradayitva ke Madhyam se Divyangjan Sashaktikaran mein Utkrisht Yogdan Dene Wale Sarvashreshth Sarvajanik Kshetra ke Upkram / Niji Kshetra ki Company” (“Outstanding Public Sector Undertaking/Private Sector Company contributing to empowerment of Divyangjan through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)”)	01 Award	A certificate and a shield to the awardee
Total 11 Awards, 11 Shields and Certificates			
10.	Additional Awards – In category (I) or in category (II) or in both as considered appropriate by the National Selection Committee	03 Awards	In the case of Category (I) the cash component for sub-category (1) will be Rs.2.00 Lakh, and for sub-category (2,3,4,5 &6) cash component will be Rs.1.00 Lakh each but for category (II) only Shield and Certificate.
	Grand total	35 Awards and Rs. 33 lakhs cash component. 21 medals and 11 Shields (excluding additional awards.)	

2. Procedure for inviting applications for the awards and selection of Awardees:

- (i) Applications to be submitted by eligible candidates or establishments or institutions in categories as prescribed in Para-1 above in the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (www.awards.gov.in) of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India (after it becomes operational) in prescribed application form as at Annexure to these Guidelines. Applications may be submitted through self-nomination containing all relevant details specified in the format available on the above portal alongwith requisite documents and the applicant will be solely responsible for the authenticity of the documents submitted. The Department may verify the authenticity of the documents as and when considered necessary. Applications submitted online only be considered.
- (ii) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) shall intimate the opening of the National Awards Portal as well as the prescribed period for submission of applications through advertisement in the newspapers/web site of the Department.
- iii) A recipient of National Award for Empowerment of Divyangjan can apply for the National Award subsequently only after 5 years.

3. For short-listing of applications by Screening Committees

- (i) There shall be Screening Committees for short listing of awardees in different categories of national awards. The Screening Committees shall comprise of four to five members, including the Chairperson, out of the following:
 - a. Serving or retired officers of the rank of Joint Secretary or above of the Central Government or Officers of the reputed Government Institutions;
 - b. Eminent personalities and experts in the field of disability or expert in the relevant field of award;
 - c. Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations;
 - d. Officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and organizations under the Department shall act as Convener of the Screening Committees.

(ii) The National Selection Committee shall decide the nomination of the awardees for various categories on the basis of recommendation of the Screening Committees.

(iii) The Chairpersons & Conveners of the Screening Committees shall assist the National Selection Committee in the selection process.

(iv) The non-official members of the National Selection Committee/Screening Committees shall be entitled to TA and DA in accordance with the financial rules and procedures as applicable in Government of India for eminent personalities nominated as non-official members in Committees/Boards/Panels.

(v) The awardees nominated under different categories of the national award shall be informed about date and venue of the national award function each year through Post/Telephone/Email. The awards may be received personally by the selected individuals or representative of the institution.

4. National Selection Committee

(a) The selection of the awardees shall be made on the basis of recommendations of the Screening Committees by a National Selection Committee.

(b) The National Selection Committee shall consist of the following :

i.	Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Chairperson, ex-offico
ii.	Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment	Vice-Chairperson, ex-offico
iii.	Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divangjan) M/o SJ&E	Member, ex-offico
iv.	Chairperson, National Commission for Women	Member
v.	The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities	Member
vi.	Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India	Member
vii.	Chairperson, National Trust, New Delhi	Member
viii.	Special Secretary/Additional Secretary, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment	Member
ix.	Director, Lalit Kala Academy or his/her representative	Member
x.	Representative of CSIR not below the rank of JS	Member
xi.	Representative of Rehabilitation Wing of DRDO	Member
xii.	Head of Department, Deptt. of Rehabilitation, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	Member
xiii.	Representative of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).	Member

xiv.	Joint Secretary/JS level Officer of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) MSJE	Convener
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- (c) The National Selection Committee referred to above may select higher number of awardees in any or all the categories or sub-categories referred to in the Table under Para-1.
- (d) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities may co-opt members to the National Selection Committee.
- (e) The decision of the National Selection Committee shall be by a majority vote and in the extent of votes on both sides being equal, the Chairperson presiding over a particular meeting shall have a casting vote.
- (f) Selection Committee while selecting the awardees in the category give due representation to both rural and urban persons with disabilities and shall ensure equitable regional representation.
- (g) The decision of the National Selection Committee shall be final.

5. Criteria for selection.

5.1 For Category I - National Awards for Individual Excellence

- (A) (i) **Sarvshresth Divyangjan (Most Outstanding Divyangjan)** – There shall be 6 Awards (3 for male and 3 for female).

Open to all persons with disabilities having any of the 21 specified disabilities under the RPwD Act, 2016 and engaged in any field or activity i.e. Education/Health/Employment/ Art & Culture/Sports/Creative work/ Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities/Social service/ etc. who may exceptionally be a Role Model).

- (ii) **Shresth Divyangjan (Outstanding Divyangjan)** – There shall be 10 Awards with 2 Awards (1 for male and 1 for female) in each of the following categories:-
- a. Locomotor Disability- (Locomotor, Muscular Dystrophy, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims, Leprosy Cured, Cerebral Palsy)
 - b. Visual Impairment-(Blindness, Low Vision)
 - c. Hearing Impairment - (Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech & Language disability)

- d. Intellectual Disability – (Mental Retardation, Mental Behavior, Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder)
- e. Any specified disability except the disabilities mentioned from Sr. (a) to (d) above.

(Developmental Disorder, Disability caused due to Blood Disorder, Hemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Diseases, Chronic Neurological Conditions, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease, Multiple Disability)

In the fields of employment/ self-employment, health/sports, art, culture, drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work, empowerment of PwDs etc.

However, if suitable person(s) in any one or more of the above sub- categories are not found, the awards may be given to additional person(s) in other sub-categories.

Sl. No.	Criteria	Weightage
(i)	Type of Disability Extent of Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 40% to 59% 04 b. 60% to 79% 10 c. 80% and above : 20 	20%
(ii)	Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. By birth or early childhood (0-6 years): 5 b. Subsequently : 2 	05%
(iii)	Education/Qualification acquired before getting disability: 0 Qualification with & after having disability: 5	05%
(iv)	Extent of mobility, self-care and independence etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Independently: 4 b. With the help of escort/assistive device: 10 	10%
(v)	Staying in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rural: 10 b. Urban areas/Towns: 5 c. Metropolitan Cities : 2 	10%
(vi)	Achievements in the field of Education /Health/Employment/ Art & Culture/ Sports /Social service/ drawing, painting, music, Academics/ entrepreneurial activities, teaching or any other type of	50%

	creative work for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities etc. and it's impact on the society.	
(vii)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	

iii) **Shresth Srijansheel Divyang Bal/Balika (Outstanding Creative Child Male/Female – 2 Awards (one for male and one for female))**

(Open to Children with disabilities upto the age of 18 years and belonging to any of category of specified disabilities under the RPwD Act, 2016) – In the field of art & culture drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work etc.)

Sl. No.	Criteria	Weightage
(ii)	Type of Disability Extent of Disability a. 40% to 59% 04 b. 60% to 79% 10 c. 80% and above : 20	20%
(iii)	Disability a. By birth or early childhood (0-6) years): 5 b. Subsequently : 2	05%
(iv)	Education/Qualification acquired before getting disability: 0 Qualification with & after having disability: 5	05%
(v)	Extent of mobility, self-care and independence etc. a. Independently: 4 b. With the help of escort/assistive device: 10	10%
(vi)	Staying in a. Rural: 10 b. Urban areas/Towns: 5 c. Metropolitan Cities : 2	10%
(vii)	Achievement in the field of art & culture, drawing, painting, music, sports or any other type of creative work etc.)	50%
(viii)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate shortlisting of applicants	

iv) **Divyangjano Ke Sashaktikaran Ke Liye Karyarat Sarvshresth Vyakti (Most Outstanding Person working for the empowerment of Persons the Disabilities)- One Award**

One National Award shall be given to individuals working for the cause of the persons with specified disabilities. Eminence of individual shall be determined on the following basis:-

The organization in which he/she works considers him/her as outstanding.

- a. He/she has been responsible for initiating new program or services in the last 10 years resulting in benefiting the people with disabilities particularly in rural areas.
- b. Paid officers of the Institution shall not be eligible for selection. However, paid workers/officers of the NGOs working for the cause of the disabled could be eligible.
- c. His/her contribution should be outstanding in the areas of disabled welfare/rehabilitation/education/training etc.
- d. His/her contribution in developing rehabilitation model for Community Based Rehabilitation and replicating the same in the inaccessible rural areas.
- e. Outstanding person championing the welfare and overall development of the disabled and sensitizing the community regarding rights and equal opportunities for the disabled.
- f. The quality of the work performed by the individual in the cause of the disabled and its significance for the cause shall also be given due weight- age.
- g. He/she has outstanding professional achievements to his/her credit.

v) **Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Karyarat Sarvshresth Punarvas Peshewar/Personnel (Most Outstanding rehabilitation professional/personnel working in the field of disability) — One Award**

(One National Award shall be given to the best Rehabilitation Professional/Worker engaged in providing rehabilitation services or empowerment of persons with disabilities):-

Sr	Item	Weightage
1	Nature of Rehabilitation given to Persons with Disabilities	20%
2	Academic, Technical, Professional achievements in the field of rehabilitation qualifications	10%
3	Rehabilitation services provided in urban or rural areas	10%
4	No. of years of rehabilitation services provided	10%
5	Total number of persons benefitted	10%
6	Achievements in developing rehabilitation model for Community Based Rehabilitation and replicating the same in the inaccessible rural areas.	10%

7	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	30%
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(vi) Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshresth Anusandhan/ Navpravartan /Utpad Vikas (Most Outstanding Research/Innovation/Product Development in the field of Disability) – One Award

One National Award shall be given to the best research or technological innovation aimed at improving the life of persons with disabilities or the development of new cost-effective product for manufacture aimed at improving the life of persons with disabilities. The selection criteria for

- a. The innovative projects or technology shall be:
- i. Development of an outstanding device, aid or adaptation which substantially improves the chances of the persons with disabilities in receiving education, obtaining or retaining employment and in being totally integrated in the socio-economic life of the community; and
 - ii. The effectiveness of the device in increasing the mobility, productivity and employment prospects of the persons with disability, maintainability of the device and its reparability.
- b. The criteria for easy and most cost-effective adaptability of technology shall be as follows:

Sr.No.	Evaluation criteria	Weightage
1	State of Development idea/Concept prototype working model	20%
2	Innovation New Product Alternative	15%
3	Patented/Applied	10%
4	Cost Effectiveness/affordability	10%
5	Adding import substitution and self reliance	5%
6	Safety of use	5%
7	Commercialization	5%
8	Effectiveness of device in promoting education, enhancing mobility, promoting accessibility	10%

9	Publication: Journal/Other scientific magazine/published in newspapers	10%
10.	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	10%

B. National Awards for Institutions engaged in Empowering Persons with Disabilities.

1. Divyangjano Ke Sashaktikaran Hetu Sarvshresth Sansthan (Most Outstanding Institution working for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Private Organization, NGO) –**Two Awards.**

- I. One Award for providing holistic comprehensive Rehabilitation Services; and
- II. One Award for promoting and imparting Inclusive Education or educational institutions that are preparing children with disabilities for inclusive education for higher studies.

The criteria for giving awards in this category shall be as under:-

Sl.No.	Criteria	Weightage
(i)	Has started comprehensive service for people with various disabilities.	10%
(ii)	Has adapted new equipments.	10%
(iii)	Has provided new services.	15%
(iv)	Has undertaken new strategies for improving existing services	10%
(v)	Has followed-up the clients in rehabilitation.	5%
(vi)	The Institution should have at least 10 years' experience in the field in the area of education/training/ rehabilitation etc.	10%
(vii)	The contribution of the institution in extension of outreach services in and around its working headquarters.	5%
(viii)	Motivation, involvement and participation of community for rehabilitation of the disabled particularly in rural areas	10%

(ix)	While selecting the institutions due weight age would be given to voluntary action through participation of local public and efforts for rendering rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities.	5%
(x)	The geographical area in which the Institution is providing services	5%
(xi)	The category(ies) of disability for which the institution is providing services	5%
(xii)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	10%

2. Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshresth Niyokta (Most Outstanding Employer for Persons with Disabilities)– One Award

- a. The outstanding employers of the persons with disabilities under
- i. Government organization;
 - ii. Public Sector Undertaking or Autonomous Body or Local Government Body; and
 - iii. Private or Non Governmental Organization; shall be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:-

Sl. No.	Criteria	Weightage
(i)	That at least 10% of the employees are persons with disabilities subject to a minimum of persons with disabilities in a given establishment. (In case of large Establishment employing 100 persons with disabilities or more, the condition of 10% need not be rigidly adhered to)	20%
(ii)	That wherever necessary minor adjustment / modifications in the machinery have been made;	5%
(iii)	That necessary environmental modifications at the worksite have been made including barrier free access;	10%
(iv)	That the employees with disabilities are offered the same conditions in service, including the rates of pay as given to other employees for similar work;	15%
(v)	That the employers have shown sympathetic understanding of the problems of the persons with disabilities	5%
(vi)	That when necessary and feasible, such additional facilities such as accommodation and transport etc, are provided	5%

(vii)	Retention rate	10%
(viii)	Employees assessment	10%
(ix)	Productivity ensured	10%
(x)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate shortlisting of applicants	10%

3. Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshresth Placement Agency (Most Outstanding Placement Agency for Persons with Disabilities) (excluding Government/State Government/Local Body) – One Award

There shall be one National Award under the category of placement agency of person with disabilities (excluding Government/State Government/local bodies)

The best placement agency for placement of persons with disabilities shall be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:-

Sl. No	Criteria	Weightage
(i)	Placed at least 50% registered unemployed disabled persons in employment during the last five years and that at least 30% of them were women;	20%
(ii)	Total number of persons with disabilities placed during the last five years	10%
(iii)	His/her follow-up during the last five years coupled with placements of the people registered with him/her up to the end of the last year is outstanding;	25%
(iv)	The percentage of dropout employees should not exceed 20% in a given year;	15%
(v)	The placement officer shall provide placement to all categories of disabled persons and maintain a balance amongst them while assisting for placement.	10%
(vi)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	20%

4. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Ke Karyanvayan/Badhamukt Vatavaran Ke Srijan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya/ UT/ Zila (Most Outstanding State/UT/District in implementation of Accessible India Campaign/creating barrier free environment)- One Award

One award shall be given for the outstanding work in Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan and creation of barrier free environment/working condition for the persons with disabilities, the working place with easy mobility, toilet facilities and directions in the sign language and other indicators, which facilitate easy movements and integrate the persons with disabilities in its overall working milieu.

Sr. No	Criteria	Weight
1.	(a) i) Total number of Public buildings in the State* ii) Total Number of Public buildings* identified for creation of barrier free environment. iii) Total number of public buildings out of the above made accessible from Accessible India Campaign funds. * Offices, Cinema Halls, Theatre, Parks, Hospitals, Museums, Police Stations, Tourists places, Monuments, Educational Institutes, Banks, Post offices, ATMs, Commercial Complexes, Market places, Streets, Libraries, Courts etc.	15%
2.	i) Total number of cost estimates sent to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities ii) Total number of buildings for which funds have been given and utilized. (financial year- wise details to be given beginning 2015-16 onwards)	15%
3	Total number of buildings retrofitted with following details:- a) Accessible Parking with marking as per accessibility standards b) Accessible route connecting parking to alighting point c) Tactile tiles/pavers from parking to main accessible entrance and till rooms d) Accessible reception counter e) Accessible entrance/doors/corridors f) Ramps – wherever there are level differences or lift is absent g) Accessible lift	30%

	h) Signage (audio-visual) conspicuously placed i) Accessible toilet at each floor j) Accessible staircase (color contrasting strip and Continuous handrails).	
4.	i. Total number of buildings made accessible from state funds. ii. Other important initiatives taken up improve accessibility of public buildings.	20%
5.	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants.	20%

5. Sarvshresth Sugamya Yatayat Ke Sadhan/Soochana Evam Sanchar Prodyogiki (Most Outstanding accessible means of transport/Information and Communication Technology (Private/Government Organization)-One Award

The criteria for selection shall be as under:-

Sl.No.	Criteria	Weightage
(i)	Accessible means of Transport 1. Availability of accessible vehicles (low-floor vehicles or vehicles with ramps and lifts for wheelchair users and individuals with mobility aids)- 25% 2. Designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities, located close to entrances- 5% 3. Availability of accessible travel information online and offline, including routes, schedules, and accessibility features of vehicles and stations- 10% 4. Availability of trained staff to provide assistance to persons with disabilities- 10% 5. Existence of clear and comprehensive policies and guidelines on accessible transport, aligned with national and international standards- 20% 6. Provision of regular training to staff on disability awareness and how to assist persons with disabilities using the transport system- 5%	75%
(ii)	Information and Communication Technology (i) Adherence to Accessibility Guidelines and Laws- 10% (ii) Development and deployment of ICT systems, products, and services- 10% (iii) Website and Web Application Accessibility- 10%	75%

	<p>(iv) Developing desktop and mobile applications that are accessible through keyboard navigation, screen readers, and other assistive technologies-10%</p> <p>(v) Creating and disseminating digital documents (e.g., PDFs, Word documents) in accessible formats-10%</p> <p>(vi) Accessibility Features Built into Products and Services -5%</p> <p>(vii) Initiatives to raise awareness about digital accessibility and promote digital inclusion for individuals with disabilities-5%</p> <p>(viii) Other important initiatives taken up to improve accessibility of information by creating accessible contents/ documents etc.-15%</p>	
(iii)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate shortlisting of applicants in both the cases.	25%

6. Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam/ UDID Evam Divyang Sashaktikaran Ki Anya Yojanaon Ke Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya/UT/Zila (Most Outstanding State/UT/District in implementation of RPwD Act/UDID and other schemes for empowerment of Divyangjan)- Two Awards (1 Award for State/UT and 1 Award for District)

Outstanding work in empowerment of persons with disabilities and the criteria for selection shall be as under:

Sl. No.	Criteria	Weight
(i)	Overall planning and strategy of the state in providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and setting up good Institutional infrastructure including state commissioner for persons with disabilities (PwDs).	10%
(ii)	Percentage of persons with disabilities who have been issued disability certificates/ UDID Cards	5%
(iii)	Percentage coverage of identified persons with severe multiple disabilities under IGNDPS	5%
(iv)	Achievement of State in implementing Central Sector Schemes:	10%
(v)	Percentage of government elementary secondary schools having: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ramps with railings b. Special teachers c. Health/Medical facilities d. Accessibly toilets 	10%

(vi)	PwDs who have been placed in Government jobs against the stipulated 3% quota for them	10%
(vii)	Special efforts made to provide barrier free environment in public spaces/Implementation of AIC	5%
(viii)	Expenditure on State Sector schemes for PwDs as % of the total State Plan Outlay	5%
(ix)	Percentage of PwDs provided vocational training during last five years	5%
(x)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	35%

7. Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam 2016 Ke Apne Rajya Mein Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya Divyangjan Aayukt (Most Outstanding State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for performance in their State in implementation of RPwD Act, 2016)- One Award

Under the RPwD Act, 2016, State Governments /UT Administrations have been mandated to take forward programmes and policies for empowerment of persons with disabilities. The State Commissioner, Persons with Disabilities is accordingly take the steps:

- i. Identify, suo motu or otherwise, provision of any law or policy, programme and procedures, which are in consistent with the RPwD Act, and recommend necessary corrective steps
- ii. Inquire, suo motu or otherwise deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities and safeguards available to them in respect of matters for which the State Government is the appropriate Government and take up the matter with appropriate authorities for corrective action
- iii. Review the safeguards provided by or under the Act or any other law for the time being in force for the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
- iv. Review the factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend appropriate remedial measures undertake and promote research in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- v. Promote awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the safeguards available for their protection;
- vi. Monitor implementation of the provisions of this Act and schemes, programmes meant for persons with disabilities;

- vii. Monitor utilisation of funds disbursed by the State Government for the benefits of persons with disabilities; and perform such other functions as the State Government may assign.

In order to promote excellence and recognition of performance of a State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in achieving the mandated activities under the RPwD Act, 2016 in any State/UT, a National Award has been instituted for the purpose.

Criteria for selection:-

Sl.No.	Criteria	Weight
(i)	Overall planning and strategy in providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities and setting up good Institutional infrastructure.	20%
(ii)	Grievances of persons with disabilities registered and disposed off during the last 3 years	20%
(iii)	Steps taken/Coordination with the State authorities on issues concerning persons with disabilities including issuance of disability certificates/UDID/Implementation of RPwD Act/Rules etc.	20%
(iv)	Conference/Workshops, seminars organized/conducted in disseminating disability rights, rehabilitation, economic empowerment of persons with disabilities	10%
(v)	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate shortlisting of applicants	30%

8. Punarvas Peshevaron Ke Vikas Mein Sanlagn Sarvshresth Sangathan (Most Outstanding Organization Engaged in Development of Rehabilitation Professionals) – One Award

Many Government Institutes/NGOs, Central/State Open Universities are engaged in running courses approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India from Certificate, Diploma, PG Diploma, Bachelors and Masters, M.Phil., and Ph.D. levels in the field of rehabilitation of persons. A National Award has been instituted with the objective of promoting disability, special education, research and thus creating a pool of rehabilitation professionals/personnel in the country and to promote excellence and recognize performance.

Criteria for selection:

Sl.No.	Criteria	Weightage
(i)	No. of Years of providing training to Rehabilitation Professionals	10%
(ii)	No. of Rehabilitation Professionals trained	15%
(iii)	<p>Curriculum Design and Content</p> <p>(a) Extent to which the curriculum incorporates current research, best practices, and internationally recognized guidelines in rehabilitation.</p> <p>(b) Range of rehabilitation specializations and topics covered (e.g., physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, rehabilitation counseling, assistive technology).</p>	15%
(iv)	<p>• Faculty and Trainers</p> <p>Credentials, experience, and active involvement of the faculty/trainers in their respective rehabilitation fields.</p>	10%
(v)	Conference/Workshops, seminars organized/conducted for upgradation of skills of Rehabilitation Professionals	10%
(vi)	<p>Accreditation and Recognition</p> <p>Accreditation Status: Holding accreditation from recognized national or international bodies relevant to rehabilitation education and training.</p>	10%
(vii)	<p>Research and Innovation: Involvement in research activities that contribute to the advancement of rehabilitation knowledge and practice.</p>	10%
(viii)	Awards/appreciation received at the National/State levels	10%
((ix))	Screening Committee may devise any other assessment parameter which may facilitate short-listing of applicants	10%

9. “Outstanding Public Sector Undertaking/ Private Sector Company Contributing to Empowerment of Divyangjan through Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR)”

The criteria for selection shall be as under:-

Sl. No.	Criteria	Weightage/Marks
i	Total CSR expenditure specifically directed towards empowerment of persons with disabilities during last 5 years	20
ii	Number of beneficiaries (Divyangjan) directly impacted through CSR initiatives	20
iii	Coverage in underserved/aspirational /remote areas	15
iv	Contribution towards assistive devices, rehabilitation, education, skilling, or livelihood generation for Divyangjan	15
v	Partnerships with Government/NGOs/Institutions for implementation	10
vi	Sustainability of interventions (long-term programmes vs one-time activities)	10
vii	Additional parameters as devised by Screening Committee for assessment	10
	Total	100

6. Calendar of Activities to be followed each year

The calendar of activities to be followed each year with regard to the awards is given at Annexure- C.

7. Presentation of awards:

- i. The awards will be presented in New Delhi on 3rdDecember, every year which has been declared as the “International Day of Persons with Disabilities”.
- ii. The boarding and lodging expenses of the awardees and one escort shall be borne by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- iii. To and fro travelling expenses and accommodation for up to one day prior and after the day of awards ceremony shall be arranged and the expenditure shall be reimbursed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- iv. Being eminent personalities, the TA/DA admissibility of the awardees and their escorts shall be equivalent to a Class-I officer of the Central Government in pay level 14 (pre-revised Grade pay Rs.10,000/- in the Pay Matrix in terms of para-1(III) of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India O.M. No.19047/1/2016-E.IV dated 14.9.2017 as amended from time to time.

Annexure 'A'

Application form for National Awards for individual excellence

1.	Category of Award	
	1. Sarvshresth Divyangjan	
	2. Shresth Divyangjan	
	3. Shresth Divyang Srijansheel Bal/Balika	
	4. Divyangjano Ke Liye Karyarat Sarvshresth Vyakti	
	5. Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshresth Punarvas Peshewar (Rehabilitation Professional)	
	6. Divyangata Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshresth Anusandhan /Navpravartan/Utpad Vikas (Tick mark only one category) (Separate application if to apply for more than one)	
2.	Name:	
	(a) in English (in BLOCK Capital letters)	
	(b) in Hindi	
3.	Address:	
	(a) Residential	
	(b) Office	
4.	Telephone numbers:	
	(a) Residential	
	(b) Office	
5.	E-mail address, if any	
6.	Sex	
7.	Date of Birth/Age	
8.	Nature/Category of disability	
9.	Percentage of disability(Certificate of competent authority to be attached)	
10	Qualification:	
	(a)Academic (b) Technical/Professional Qualifications acquired after onset of disability should be clearly indicated. (Certificate and testimonial should be attached)	
11.	Field or Activity associated with:	
	a. Education	
	b. Health	
	c. Employment	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Art & Culture e. Sports f. Creative Work g. Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities h. Social Service 	
12.	<p>Whether employee or self- employed</p> <p>i) If employee :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Name of the Employer (b) Designation or Post held (c) Scale of pay and salary drawn (d) Nature of work engaged on <p>ii) If self-employed :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Trade/Profession with which associated (b) Monthly Income (c) How far you have upgraded your skill in that trade/profession with a view to absorb yourself fully as a self-employed? 	
13.	<p>Achievements (Certificates/Appreciation letters) in the field of activity at the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. International level b. National Level c. State level d. District level e. Organisation level 	
14.	<p>Awards, Medals, honours received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Name of the Award b. Conferring Agency c. Year of conferment 	
	Any other achievement for consideration of the National Award	

It is certified that the information furnished above is correct and based on facts and records available with me.

(Signature of the Applicant with date)

Annexure 'B'**Application form for National Awards for Institutions engaged in Empowering Persons with Disabilities**

1	Award Category applied for:	
i.	Divyang Sashaktikaran Hetu Sarvshresth Sansthan	
ii.	Divyango Ke Liye Sarvshresth Niyokta	
iii.	Divyango Ke Liye Sarvshresth Placement Agency	
iv.	Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Ke Karyanvayan/Badhamukt Vatavaran Ke Srijan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya/UT/Zila	
v.	Sarvshresth Sugamya Yatayat ke Sadhan/Soochana Evam Sanchar Prodyogiki Govt./Private organisation	
vi.	Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam/UDID Evam Divyang Sashaktikaran ki Anya Yojanao ke Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya/UT/Zila	
vii.	Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam, 2016 Ke Apne Rajya Mein Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshresth Rajya Divyangjan Aayukt	
viii.	Punarvas Peshewaron Ke Vikas Mein Sanlagn Sarvshresth Sangathan	
(Tick mark only one category of award) (Separate application if to apply for more than one)		
1	Name of the Institution in English (In BLOCK Capital letters) and Hindi	
2.	Postal address of Institution with Pin Code and telephone number.	
3.	Web-site/E-mail address	
4.	Year of establishment	
5.	Nature of work undertaken by the Institution	
6.	Details of work done by the Institution including places and the number of disabled persons covered by the Institution.	
7.	Specify the outstanding achievements/ Contribution of the Institution in the Past ten years in the area of welfare of persons with disabilities and rehabilitation/ education including technical education and vocational training to persons with disabilities.	
8.	Whether Institution have received any Award in the past. If so, specify and give brief account.	

Signature of President/Secretary of the Institution with date

ANNEXURE-C

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF ACTIVITIES FOR NATIONAL AWARD

S.N.	Activities	Date and Month
1.	Advertisement of National Awards /Opening of National Awards Portal	After 1 st May
2.	Last date of receipt of applications	15 th July
3.	Constitution of Screening Committees and National Selection Committees	20 th July
4.	Meetings of the Screening Committees	01 st September
5.	Verification of short-listed candidates	30 th September
6.	Meeting of the National Selection Committee	15 th October
7.	Information/confirmation to awardees	31 st October
8.	Presentation of National Awards	03 rd December
