(As on 05.04.2018)

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

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#### ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 4 YEARS FROM 2014-15 TO 2017-18

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment strives for the following objectives:

- (a) Undertaking following measures for rehabilitation:
  - (i) Physical rehabilitation, which includes early detection and intervention, counselling and medical rehabilitation; and assistance in procuring appropriate aids and appliances for reducing the effect of disabilities;
  - (ii) Educational rehabilitation;
  - (iii) Economic rehabilitation including vocational education;
  - (iv) Social empowerment.
- (b) Developing rehabilitation professionals/personnel,
- (c) Improving Internal Efficiency /Responsiveness/Service Delivery and
- (d) Advocating empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through awareness generation among different sections of the society.

#### **EXPENDITURE AT A GLANCE**

Plan Expenditure Report of the Department (2014-15 to 2017-18)

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	% Increase in Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	375.00		337.96
2015-16	540.00	62%	487.19
2016-17	695.49	29%	684.19
2017- 18	955.00	37%	928.32

#### I. MAJOR CONTINUING PROJECTS

#### A. ADIP Scheme:-

The main objective of the Scheme is to provide grants-in-aid to the various implementing agencies (National Institutes/ Composite Regional Centres /Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)/District Disability Rehabilitation Centres/State Handicapped Development Corporations/other local bodies/ NGOs) so that they are in a position to assist needy disabled Persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances to promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through reducing the effects of disabilities and at the same time enhance their economic potential. The scheme also envisages conduct of corrective surgeries, whenever required, before providing an assistive device.

Details of Budget Allocation, funds released and Number of Beneficiaries under ADIP Scheme.					
Year  Budget Allocation  Sincrease in Budget Allocation  Sincrease in Budget Allocation  Runds released (Rs.in crore)  Covere					
2014-15	100	-	101.28	265602	
2015-16	151.40	51%	151.16	245584	
2016-17	170	13%	170.00	290295	
2017-18	200	18%	200	195824*	

<sup>\*</sup> Does not include final figure for the last quarter

#### B. Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA)

Grants-in-aid is provided under the Scheme to States/UTs and various Government Institutions/Organizations mainly for creation of barrier free environment accessible website and skill training programmes. -

Total Budget Allocation and Expenditure under the SIPDA Scheme					
Year	Budget Allocation	% increase in Budget Allocation	Amount Released (Rs in crore)		
2014-15	61.41	-	43.09		
2015-16	99	62%	69.42		
2016-17	193	95%	186.83		
2017-18	273.06	42%	272.23		

#### C. District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC)

These centres are set up in un-served districts of the country for providing comprehensive services to PwDs. A total number of 310 districts have been identified for setting up these centres. 245 centres were set up before 2014-15. 18 centres have been set up after that making the total figure of 263 till date.

### D. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) financial assistance is provided to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities which is aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, psychological and/or social functional levels.

The number of NGOs covered, number of beneficiaries and amounts released during the last four years are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	NGOs Covered	Amount released	No. of Beneficiaries for whom GIA released
2014-15	640	50.08	36159
2015-16	579	50.19	35461
2016-17	592	45.00	32298
2017-18	520	60.00	35125

The scheme has been revised and streamlined which is applicable from 01.04.2018.

# E. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is a Schedule 'C' Miniratna Category II Central Public Sector Enterprise owned by Govt. of India operating with an objective of providing relief to disabled persons to the maximum extent possible by way of manufacturing rehabilitation Aids for persons with disabilities and by promoting, encouraging and developing the availability, use, supply and distribution of Artificial Limbs and other Rehabilitation aids to the disabled persons of the country. The Corporation has covered 1,98,160 PwDs during 2015-16 and 2,43,623 PwDs during the year 2016-17 under ADIP Scheme through 1697 camps (2015-16) and 1098 camps (2016-17). During 2017-18 the no. of beneficiaries covered was 1,48,730 through 907 camps.

The scheme for modernization of ALIMCO was issued on 12.08.2015 with a total cost of Rs.286.00 crore out of which Rs.200.00 crore is to be provided by the Ministry. As per the revised scheme of modernisation the total cost involved is Rs 338 crore out of which grant in aid will be Rs 200 crore. So far Rs. 15 crores has been

released under this project. After completion of the Modernization Plan of ALIMCO, the company is expected to touch a turnover of Rs.282.00 crore by 2020-21 as against the turnover of Rs.162.70 crore during 2014-15. The purpose of the project is to serve higher number of beneficiaries with state of art of products. It is expected that on completion of the proposed project, the Corporation will be expected to serve around six lakhs beneficiaries across the country as against 2.34 lakhs beneficiaries served during 2017-18 by the Corporation.

#### F. National Handicapped Finance And Development Corporation (NHFDC)

National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation(NHFDC) is a Not for Profit Company incorporated on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1997 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, and is working as an Apex Corporation for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).NHFDC is wholly owned by Govt. of India and has an authorized share capital of Rs.400.00 crore and paid up share capital of Rs.342.58 Crore.

The progress made by the Corporation in last 4 years is summarized as under:(Rs. in Crore)

Financial Year	Self-Employment		Scholarships		Skill Development	
	Amount	No. of PwDs	Amount	No. of PwDs	Amount	No. of PwDs
2014-15	101.49	14703	18.08	3000	10.00	8500
2015-16	131.08	20552	19.73	2500	16.35	17000
2016-17	107.51	16101	16.40	1864	18.46	20000
2017-18	90.14	11767	-	-	-	-

#### **G.** National Institutes

In order to meet the requirements of specific disabilities, Govt. of India has established seven National Institutes (NIs) in specific disabilities under the Department. These are engaged in Human Resource Development, providing Rehabilitation Services to the Persons with Disabilities and Research & Development. Brief of seven National Institutes is as under:-

1. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities – This institute takes care of the persons with low vision and blindness. They provide aids and appliances for these persons and they also have a National

- Braille Library in which books in Braille are available to persons with visual disabilities. They also provide e-books for students, conduct training and research programme and have a blind school.
- 2. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Speech and Hearing Disabilities They deal with issues relating to persons with deaf and hard of hearing. They provide various types of rehabilitation services and aids and appliances. They hold courses in special education and also conduct research programmes.
- 3. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities They have a school for persons with disabilities including locomotor disability. They have elaborate rehabilitation services for persons with physical disabilities. They also run courses and conduct research.
- 4. National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities This institute caters to the problems of persons with multiple disabilities. They provide rehabilitation services, run courses and conduct research.
- 5. **National Institute for the Locomotor Disability** This institute deals with matters relating to persons with locomotor disability and conduct courses, training and research.
- 6. **National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research** They are dealing with locomotor disability apart from rehabilitation services, training and research. They also conduct courses.
- 7. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities This institute deals with persons with intellectual disabilities. They provide rehabilitation services, training and research.

During the last four years, details regarding number of beneficiaries covered by National Institutes, is as under:-

S.	Name of the Institute	Number of beneficiaries			
No	Name of the institute	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun	220177	237259	419895	291102
2	National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD) Kolkata	194691	204088	174241	204775
3	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Persons with Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai	94740	86287	286714	290768
4	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad	162640	110326	289657	301077

5	Swami Vivekanand National Institute for the Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack	215963	267793	288798	317790
6	Pt. Deendayal Upadhayaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD) New Delhi	74837	93157	139895	130459
7	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai	88464	135943	292946	291411
	Total	1051512	1134853	1892146	1827382

### Details of Budget Allocation and Fund Released under NIs.

Year	Budget Allocation	% Increase in Budget Allocation	Amount released (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	87	-	78.97
2015-16	106	21.63	104.28
2016-17	200.89	89.51	201.39
2017-18	222.50	10.75	222.50

#### H. Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)

These are rehabilitation centres at the State level which provide rehabilitation service, training and conduct research. Before 2014-15, CRCs were 8 in number. Presently, these centres are 14 in number.

#### **II. NEW INITIATIVES**

## A. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Central Government has enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which came into force w.e.f 19.04.2017. The Act has replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right and full Participation) Act, 1995.

The salient features of the new Act:-

a) The new law provides for various rights and entitlements for Persons with Disabilities. These rights and entitlements include equality and non-

- discrimination, community life, protection against cruelty and inhuman treatment, access to justice, legal capacity etc.
- b) The Act also mandates the appropriate Governments to frame schemes and programmes in the area of social security, health, rehabilitation, recreation, skill development etc. for effective empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.
- c) The types of disabilities have been revised from existing 7 to 21;these are: Blindness; Low-vision; Leprosy Cured; Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing); Locomotor Disability; Dwarfism; Intellectual Disability; Mental Illness; Autism Spectrum Disorder; Cerebral Palsy; Muscular Dystrophy; Chronic Neurological conditions; Specific Learning Disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; Speech and Language disability; Thalassemia; Hemophilia; Sickle Cell disease; Multiple Disabilities including deaf blindness; Acid Attack victims & Parkinson's disease.
- d) Reservation has been revised from 3% to 4% in Government jobs for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.
- e) 5% reservation for student with benchmark disabilities in higher educational institutions.
- f) Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 year shall have the right to free education.
- g) For strengthening the Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign, stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings (both Government and private) in a prescribed time-frame.
- h) Strengthening the Office of Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities and the offices of State Commissioners of Disabilities has been proposed.
- i) The Act provides for penalties for offences, committed against Persons with Disabilities; designated special Courts have been proposed to handle cases relating to violation of rights of PwDs).

#### **B. Scholarship Schemes**

- (a) Pre-Matric Scholarship:-The scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities was launched during 2014-15. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the students with disabilities, for studying in class IX & class X.
- **(b) Post-Matric Scholarship:**-The scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities was launched during 2014-15. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the students with disabilities for studying in class XI and up to Post Graduation level.
- (c) Scholarship for Top Class Education:-The Scheme of Scholarship for Top Class Education was launched in April, 2015. The objective of the scheme to provide financial assistance to the students with disabilities for Graduate/Post Graduate

Degree or Diploma Courses in 240 institutes of excellence like IITs, IIITs, IIMs etc, as notified in the scheme.

- (d) National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD):-It is a fellowship scheme for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. courses in any University, recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC). The number of fellowships to be given is 200 per annum.
- **(e)** National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disabilities:-The scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for Students with Disabilities was launched during 2014-15 with the objective of providing financial assistance to the students with disabilities for pursuing studies abroad at the level of Masters' Degree and Ph.D.
- (f) Free Coaching for Students with Disabilities:-This scheme has recently been launched with effect from April, 2017. The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching for students with disabilities with a view to enable them to appear in competitive examinations, jobs in Govt./Public sector and for admission in technical & professional courses.

Beneficiaries and amount released under Scholarship Schemes in last four years:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No	Name of Scholarship	Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
	Scheme					
1	Pre-Matric	No. of	-	2368	7927	12593
	Scholarship	beneficiary				
	Scheme			4 (0 00	550 57	00/00
		Amount	-	160.02	553.57	906.93
2	Post-Matric	No. of	-	3565	6281	7657
	Scholarship	beneficiary				
	Scheme	Amount		321.39	981.98	1491.55
		Amount	-	321.39	701.70	1491.55
3	National	No. of	306	527	589	666
	Fellowship	beneficiary				
	for PwDs	Λ	100150	1007 70	1005 (0	2024 47
		Amount	1324.52	1996.68	1925.63	3024.47
4	Top Class	No. of	-	14	42	37
	scholarship	beneficiary				
	Scheme	Α		00.04	0/07	// 00
		Amount	-	23.84	86.07	66.83
5	National	No. of	-	-	2	3
	Overseas Scholarship	beneficiary				
	Scholarship	Amount	-	-	37.27	70.23

6.	Free	No. of	-	-	-	250
	Coaching for	beneficiary				
	Students					
	with	Amount	-	-	-	87.22
	Disabilities					

Details of Allocation and Funds released under Pre Matric Schol	arship.
	(Rs.in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	% increase in Budget Allocation	Funds released		
2014-15	1	-	-		
2015-16	5	500%	1.6		
2016-17	6	20%	5.54		
2017-18	10	67%	9.07		

# Details of Allocation and Funds released under Post Matric Scholarship. (Rs.in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	% increase in Budget Allocation	Funds released
2014-15	2	-	-
2015-16	10	500%	3.21
2016-17	10	0	9.82
2017-18	16.05	60.5%	14.91

Details of Allocation and Funds released under Top Class Scholarship (Rs.in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	% increase in Budget Allocation	Funds released
2014-15	1	-	0
2015-16	0.50	-	0.24
2016-17	1.20	140%	0.86
2017-18	1	-	0.67

# Details of Allocation and Funds released under National Fellowship for PwDs. (Rs.in crore)

		% increase in	Founds and a cond
Year	<b>Budget Allocation</b>	Budget	Funds released
		Allocation	

2014-15	10	-	7.46
2015-16	20.57	105.7%	18.73
2016-17	23.62		23.62
2017-18	36.41	14.82%	30.70

Details of Allocation and Funds released under National Overseas Scholarship (Rs.in crore)			
Year	Budget Allocation	% increase in Budget Allocation	Funds Released
2014-15	1	-	-
2015-16	0.50	-	-
2016-17	1	100%	0.38
2017-18	2	100%	0.70

Details of Allocation and Funds released under Free Coaching for Student with Disabilities (Rs.in crore)			
Year	Budget Allocation	% increase in Budget Allocation	Funds Released
2014-15	3.00	-	-
2015-16	0.50	-	-
2016-17	1.00	100%	-
2017-18	2.00	100%	0.90

#### C. Accessible India Campaign

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Accessible India Campaign (AIC) on 3<sup>rd</sup>December, 2015 for creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Built Environment, Transport, and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem.

#### **I- Built Environment Accessibility**

# **Enhancing the proportion of accessible Government Buildings**

#### **Achievement:**

- Audit of 1662 buildings identified by state government and audit reports submitted to the State Nodal Officers;
- Sanction of Rs 187 crores issued for 722 buildings. (Funds for the rest of the cities under process).

# **II- Transportation System Accessibility**

#### **Enhancing proportion of accessible Airports**

#### **Achievement:**

- Accessibility features in 48 Domestic Airports have been provided.
- All 34 International airports are made accessible.

#### Enhancing the Proportion of accessible railway-stations:

#### Achievement:

Out of 709 A1, A & B category railway stations, 667 are made accessible in short term features. Short term features are – (1) Provision of standard ramp;
 (2) Earmarking two parking lots for physically challenged; (3) Provision of nonslippery walkway from parking to Station Building; (4) Provision of signages; (5) Provision of at least one disable friendly toilet; and (7) May I help you booth. Two long-term features: platform engraving on edges – in 646 stations; trolley path facility - in 623 stations is provided.

### **Enhancing the proportion of accessible Public Transport**

#### **Achievement:**

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has issued instructions to the States and Executive Director of organisations of State Undertakings to ensure that 10.2 % of Government owned Public Transport is made fully accessible to the PwDs by March, 2018.
- 13613 out of 135878 number of buses have been provided with accessibility features.

### **III- Information and Communication System accessibility**

Enhancing proportion of accessible documents and websites that meet internationally recognised accessibility standards

#### **Achievement:**

- 917 websites of States/UTs have been identified to make it accessible. Already 205 websites have been made accessible and work is in progress for others.
- Ministry of Electronic & information Technology (MeitY) has initiated a project development of Content Management Framework (CMF) for making 100 Government websites accessible. Out of which 79 websites have been made accessible, 3 websites have been made accessible but yet to go live, 2 websites are in process of being made accessible and 4 websites are yet to be on boarded.
- MeitY had issued accessibility guidelines regarding making Government notifications/circulars accessible on 28th May 2015.

• In a path breaking initiative to empower persons with disabilities, 100 Accessible websites of various State Governments/UTs under Accessible India Campaign were launched on the occasion of 'National Conference on Improving Accessibility' on 19.01.2018.

# D. National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Training of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under the Scheme for Implementation Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA).

The Department launched the NAP for Skill Training of PwDs in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

➤ Beneficiaries & Funds released for skill training programme during last four vears:-

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crore)	No. of Beneficiaries
2014-15	10.23	9000
2015-16	22.04	28042
2016-17	32.99	44276
2017-18	81.85	58210

#### E. Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project

Department is in the process of implementing UDID Project with a view to create a national data-base for Persons with Disabilities and also to issue unique ID card to every one of them.

• 6,11,293 E-UDID Cards alongwith disability certificates has been issued through UDID portal in about 388 Districts across 17 States namely Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura. Printing of Plastic UDID Cards has commenced recently and 1000 plastic cards have been dispatched to Persons with Disabilities so far.

#### F. Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC)

• The Government has set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, under the aegis of this Department on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. The main objective of the Centre will be to develop manpower for teaching and conducting research

in Indian Sign Language.

 "First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words", developed by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi, was launched on 23.03.2018. ISL dictionary consists of various categories of words, for example, legal terms, medical terms, academic terms, technical terms and daily use words. Dictionary of another 3000 words is under process.

#### **III. OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

- The Government issued instructions for conducting special recruitment drive for fill up the vacancies meant for persons with disabilities in various central Government establishments in May, 2015. Out of 15,694 identified vacancies, 13,539 vacancies have been filled up so far.
- Instructions have been issued to all Central Ministries/Department to ensure meeting the needs of persons with disabilities including accessibility requirements as per provisions of RPwD Act, 2016 in all Public Funded Schemes and Projects.
- During the Navsari Camp, 3 Guinness World Records were created jointly by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and ALIMCO.
  - First record, created by Biggest Wheelchair Logo/Image by 1000 Divyangjan, which made the event historical.
  - Second world record created by fitting 1200 Hearing Aids to 600 persons (1200 hearing aids) within 8 hours at a single location.
  - Third world record created by lighting most oil lamps simultaneously at a single venue by Divyangjans.
  - A fourth Guinness World Record was created on 05 November, 2016 when 3,911 persons with hearing impairment were fitted with hearing aids in 8 hours at Manipur.
  - ➤ Under ADIP Scheme, grants-in-aid of Rs.622.45 crore was utilized during the last four years benefitting 9.97 lakh beneficiaries approximately through 6459 camps.
    - 299 Mega Camps/Special Camps were organized covering 28 States for distribution of aids and assistive devices under the ADIP Scheme at the cost of about Rs.256.30 crore benefitting 3.25 lakh Divyangjan approximately.
    - Aids and Assistive Devices costing Rs.125.43 crore approx. were provided to 3.02 Lakh Divyang Children with Special Needs (DCWSN) through 4054 Camps under ADIP-Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the Primary Schools all over the country.

- Under ADIP Scheme, approximately 4726 motorized tricycle have been distributed to eligible Divyangian.
- For the first time, Cochlear Implant program under the ADIP Scheme was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014. Under this Scheme, 172 Hospitals (both Government and Private) across the country have been empanelled. During the period, about 1142 cochlear implant surgeries (913 under ADIP Scheme and 229 under CSR) have been successfully completed and their rehabilitation progressing.
- ➤ A National Consultation Workshop on Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities was organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2017 in New Delhi, to finalize strategy and action plan for skill development of PwDs. The workshop was organized in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation, focusing on intellectual and developmental disabilities in addition to other disabilities.
- ➤ Department felicitated the team that won the Global IT Challenge 2016 for Youth with Disabilities on 22nd February 2017 in the presence of the Minister and T-20 Blind Cricket World Cup winning team on 28th February in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- ➤ Department organised felicitation function to give cash award to Rio Paralympics and World Cup winners of Indian Blind Cricket Team held in Cape Town, South Africa and Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- A two-day National Conference on "Empowering Deaf through Indian Sign Language" was organized on 20th-21st March, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous organization under the Department The conference was conducted with the prime objective of providing a common platform to all the professionals working in the field of education for the Deaf and Indian Sign Language (ISL) to share experiences on various aspects of communication, education and employment of the Deaf.
- ➤ Following six Regional Zonal Conferences were organized to discuss important schemes / Programmes of the Department:-
  - (a) Western Regional Conference was held in Mumbai 11.05.2017 attended by the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Dio, Dadar and Nagar Haweli;
  - (b) Southern Regional Conference was held in Chennai on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 attended by States of Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andaman Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry;
  - (c) Northern Regional Conference was held in Chandigarh on 26.05.2017 attended by States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh.
  - (d) Central Regional Conference and Eastern Regional Conference were held on 02.06.2017 and 09.06.2017 at Bhopal and New Delhi respectively to discuss important schemes / Programmes of the

Department. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal were attended.

- (e) Review Meeting with eight North Eastern States was held on 23.02.2018 at Guwahati, Assam to discuss issues relating to Schemes/Programs/Initiatives undertaken by the Department.
- ➤ The National IT Challenge for Youth with Disability in the age group of 13-19 years in the category of visual impairment, hearing impairment, locomotor disability and development disability was held in collaboration with National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra on 20-21 July, 2017. The winners of this competition were nominated to participate in the Global IT Challenge, 2017 which was held at Hanoi, Vietnam during 18-22 September, 2017. Indian team received 3 awards, in which 20 Asian countries participated.

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