



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**  
**CHINTAN SHIVIR WITH STATES/UTs**  
**24.04.2026 to 26.04.2026**  
**(AT THE LALIT, CHANDIGARH)**  
**AGENDA**

**अंत्योदय का संकल्प, अमृतकाल का प्रतिबिम्ब**

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**List of Abbreviations**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full Form</b>
<b>ADIP</b>	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances
<b>AS</b>	Additional Secretary
<b>AVYAY</b>	Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana
<b>CABE</b>	Central Advisory Board of Education (Context: Empanelled Auditor)
<b>CRP</b>	Community Resource Person
<b>CSIR</b>	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
<b>DBT</b>	Direct Benefit Transfer
<b>DDG</b>	Deputy Director General
<b>DEPWD</b>	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
<b>DNO</b>	District Nodal Officer
<b>DNT</b>	De-notified Tribes
<b>DoSJE</b>	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>EBC</b>	Economically Backward Classes
<b>EIC</b>	Early Intervention Center
<b>GER</b>	Gross Enrolment Ratio
<b>IIM</b>	Indian Institutes of Management
<b>IIT</b>	Indian Institutes of Technology
<b>INO</b>	Institutional Nodal Officer
<b>JRF</b>	Junior Research Fellow
<b>JS</b>	Joint Secretary
<b>MoSJE</b>	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
<b>NAMASTE</b>	National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem
<b>NAPDDR</b>	National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction
<b>NBCFDC</b>	National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation
<b>NCC</b>	National Cadet Corps
<b>NET</b>	National Eligibility Test
<b>NISD</b>	National Institute of Social Defence
<b>NMBA</b>	Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan
<b>NSS</b>	National Service Scheme
<b>OBC</b>	Other Backward Classes
<b>PM-AJAY</b>	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana
<b>PM-SURAJ</b>	Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan
<b>PM-YASASVI</b>	PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India
<b>PMU</b>	Project Management Unit

<b>PPPP</b>	Public–Private–People Partnerships
<b>PwD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>RPwD</b>	Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>RVY</b>	Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
<b>SAMAVESH</b>	Single Access Mechanism for All Verticals of Empowerment & Social Harmony
<b>SEED</b>	Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs
<b>SETU</b>	Scholarship for Educational Transformation & Upliftment
<b>SHG</b>	Self-Help Group
<b>SHREYAS</b>	Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme
<b>SIPDA</b>	Scheme for Implementation of the RPwD Act
<b>SMILE</b>	Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise
<b>SNO</b>	State Nodal Officer
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SRF</b>	Senior Research Fellow
<b>SRMS</b>	Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
<b>TAT</b>	Turn Around Time
<b>UDID</b>	Unique Disability ID
<b>UGC</b>	University Grants Commission
<b>UT</b>	Union Territory
<b>VCF</b>	Venture Capital Fund
<b>VISHWAS</b>	Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayata

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**MINUTE TO MINUTE PROGRAMME**

<b>DAY 1</b>	
<b>24.04.2026, Friday</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>4:30 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	Registration & Arrival of Dignitaries
<b>5:00 PM - 5:15 PM</b>	Exhibition Inauguration and round
<b>5:15 PM – 5:20 PM</b>	Welcome of Dignitaries
<b>5:20 PM – 5:22 PM</b>	Lighting of Lamp
<b>5:22 PM – 5:26 PM</b>	National Song (Vande Mataram)
<b>5:26 PM – 5:31 PM</b>	Welcome Address by Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India
<b>5:31 PM – 5:36 PM</b>	Address by Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India
<b>5:36 PM – 5:41 PM</b>	New Launches of – (i) Single Access Mechanism for All Verticals of Empowerment & Social Harmony (SAMAVESH) Portal, (ii) Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) 2.0 App, (iii) Scholarship for Educational Transformation & Upliftment (SETU) App, (iv) SMILE App, (v) Book on Minimum Standards for Dementia Care Homes (vi) Model Guidelines for Beggar Homes and (vii) Signing of MOUs between NISD and Universities/Institutions.
<b>5:41 PM – 5:48 PM</b>	Address by Shri B. L. Verma, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Social Justice & Empowerment
<b>5:48 PM – 5:55 PM</b>	Address by Shri Ramdas Athawale, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Social Justice & Empowerment
<b>5:55 PM – 6:00 PM</b>	Felicitation of Nasha Mukti Mitr
<b>6:00 PM – 6:20 PM</b>	Address by Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>6:20 PM – 6:40 PM</b>	Address by Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Hon'ble Administrator of Chandigarh

**DAY 1****24.04.2026, Friday**

<b>6:40 PM – 6:42 PM</b>	National Anthem
<b>7:00 PM onwards</b>	Cultural Programme followed by Dinner

**DAY 2****25.04.2026, Saturday**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>6:30 AM to 7:15 AM</b>	Yoga Session
<b>8:30 AM – 9:15 AM</b>	Thematic Breakfast: Topic I- Leveraging Community Engagement and Exploring Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPP) model for Enhanced Social Justice Delivery
<b>9:30 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	Welcome Remarks and Objective and Outline of Chintan Shivir- by the Secretary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten themes identified (Seven from DoSJE and Three from DEPwD)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants divided into five theme-based discussion groups.</li> <li>• Each group will have two themes</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each group to have a Lead Coordinator and Rapporteur</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups deliberate on assigned themes and identify key policy issues, implementation gaps, reform new initiatives, best practices and actionable recommendations with timelines.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States/UTs may present their respective PPTs on best practices (in 2 slides) during Breakout Sessions on the Themes assigned to them.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each group will prepare a 7-8 slide presentation summarising key recommendations with way</li> </ul>

<b>DAY 2</b>	
<b>25.04.2026, Saturday</b>	
	forward and timelines on actionable points.
<b>10:00 AM – 10:10 AM</b>	Group photo session at Pool side
<b>10:10 AM – 10:15 AM</b>	Movement to designated breakout rooms
<b>BREAKOUT MORNING SESSION (10:15 AM to 12:45 PM)</b>	
<b>10:15 AM – 11:45 AM</b>	5 Group deliberations on one of the theme out of two assigned themes
<b>11:45 AM – 12:45 PM</b>	Preparation of presentations
<b>THEMATIC LUNCH BREAK (12:45 PM – 1:45 PM):</b> <b>Topic II- Strengthening Last-Mile Delivery and Implementation Mechanism in the Ministry of Social Justice &amp; Empowerment (MoSJE)</b>	
<b>1:45 PM – 2:30 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 1 (Theme 1) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>2:30 PM – 3:15 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 2 (Theme 1) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>3:15 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 3 (Theme 1) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>TEA BREAK (4:00 PM – 4:30 PM)</b>	
<b>4:30 PM – 5:15 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 4 (Theme 1) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>5:15 PM – 6:00 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 5 (Theme 1) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>6:00 PM – 6:10 PM</b>	Concluding Remarks for the Day by Joint Secretary (Coordination), MoSJE
<b>8:00 PM onwards</b>	Dinner

<b>DAY 3</b>	
<b>26.04.2026, Sunday</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<b>6:30 AM to 7:15 AM</b>	Yoga Session
<b>8:15 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	Thematic Breakfast: Topic III- “जागरूकता से सुलभता” Awareness to Accessibility under MoSJE
<b>BREAKOUT MORNING SESSION (9:00 AM to 11:30 AM)</b>	
<b>9:00 AM – 10:15 AM</b>	5 Group deliberations on second assigned theme
<b>10:15 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	Preparation of presentations
<b>11:00 AM – 11:40 AM</b>	Presentation by Group 1 (Theme 2) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>11:40 AM – 12:20 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 2 (Theme 2) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>12:20 PM – 1:00 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 3 (Theme 2) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>THEMATIC LUNCH BREAK (1:00 PM – 2:00 PM):</b>	
<b>Topic IV- Simplification of Processes in DoSJE Schemes (प्रक्रिया सरलीकरण)</b>	
<b>2:00 PM – 2:40 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 4 (Theme 2) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>2:40 PM – 3:20 PM</b>	Presentation by Group 5 (Theme 2) followed by Open House Discussion and Concluding Remarks
<b>TEA BREAK (3:20 PM – 3:30 PM)</b>	
<b>3:30 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	Remarks by participating Hon’ble Ministers of States/UTs and Open House Discussion
<b>4:00 PM – 4:15 PM</b>	Concluding Remarks by Hon’ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment
<b>4:15 PM – 4:30 PM</b>	Press Briefing
<b>8:00 PM onwards</b>	Dinner

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**TOPICS FOR THEMATIC MEALS**  
**(For Breakfast/Lunch Discussion)**

1. **Topic I (25.04.2026):** Leveraging Community Engagement and Exploring Public–Private–People Partnerships (PPPP) model for Enhanced Social Justice Delivery
2. **Topic II (25.04.2026):** Strengthening Last-Mile Delivery and Implementation Mechanism in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)
3. **Topic III (26.04.2026):** “जागरूकता से सुलभता” Awareness to Accessibility under MoSJE
4. **Topic IV (26.04.2026):** Simplification of Processes in MoSJE Schemes (प्रक्रिया सरलीकरण)

**TOPICS FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS****मंथन सत्र****25.04.2026**

1. **Group–I (25.04.2026):** शिक्षा से समृद्धि (Shiksha se Samridhi): Strengthening Scholarship Delivery and Educational Access
2. **Group–II (25.04.2026):** नशामुक्त भारत (Nasha Mukht Bharat): Strengthening De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Ecosystems
3. **Group–III (25.04.2026):** श्रम की गरिमा (Shram ki Garima): Dignity in Labour (Transition from Manhole to Machine-Hole Ecosystem: Mission Zero Sanitation-Related Deaths)
4. **Group–IV (25.04.2026):** गरिमामय वृद्धावस्था (Ageing with Dignity): Ageing in place with Holistic approach and Infrastructure Support Systems in India
5. **Group–V (25.04.2026):** नन्हे कदम स्वावलंबन की ओर: Early Intervention

**26.04.2026**

1. **Group–I (26.04.2026):** अंत्योदय से आत्मनिर्भरता (Antyodaya se Aatmanirbharata): Accelerating Socio-Economic Development through Area-Based Interventions
2. **Group–II (26.04.2026):** समावेशन, पहचान और एकीकरण (Samaveshan, Pehchan aur Ekikaran )
3. **Group–III (26.04.2026):** आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण (Arthik Sashaktikaran): Democratizing Credit Access :Expanding Access to Credit and Financial Empowerment
4. **Group–IV (26.04.2026):** सुगम्यता से समावेश: Accessibility
5. **Group–V (26.04.2026):** पहचान से सम्मान Certification for PwDs

# चिंतन शिविर

“अंत्योदय का संकल्प, अमृत काल का प्रतिबिम्ब”

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR THEMATIC MEAL (BREAKFAST/ LUNCH) SESSIONS**

1. Each breakfast and lunch session shall have a designated Meal Coordinator at every table to brief participants on the thematic outline and expected outcomes.
2. A total of 12 tables will be arranged, with each Meal Coordinator supported by one Rapporteur and Facilitator.
3. All participants have been pre-informed of the thematic meal discussion assigned for each breakfast and lunch session.
4. The Facilitator shall assist the Meal Coordinator and Rapporteur in guiding discussions.
5. At the conclusion of each meal session, the Rapporteur shall compile a summary of recommendations.
6. After completion of each breakfast and lunch session, all respective Rapporteurs immediately shall submit the recommendations to the designated officer [ Sh Mahesh Kumar Meena, Director].
7. The compiled recommendation summary shall be submitted in the form of soft copy to Shri Mahesh Kumar Meena, Director on [dir-scd-dosje@gov.in](mailto:dir-scd-dosje@gov.in) and Whatsapp no. 9650834358, by all respective Rapporteurs.

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### मंथन सत्र

The breakout sessions -मंथन सत्र- are structured to enable focused and solution-oriented discussions, allowing participants to leverage their domain expertise to analyse challenges, share experiences, and collaboratively develop actionable solutions. Each session is designed to comprehensively address the full spectrum of issues, including situational assessment, problem identification, solution formulation, innovative approaches, best practices, scalability, monitoring and review mechanisms, ensuring deliberations are both outcome-driven and sustainable.

#### 1. SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT

The group would aim to establish a shared understanding of the current landscape in social justice and empowerment initiatives.

The Group Members will reflect on:

- The present implementation status of relevant schemes and programmes
- Coverage of beneficiaries, regional variations, and outreach mechanisms
- Institutional arrangements, roles of implementing agencies, and coordination frameworks
- Available data, trends, and field-level observations

**Expected Output:** A concise summary capturing the current situation, highlighting the strengths and ongoing efforts, which will form the foundation for identifying gaps and solutions.

#### 2. IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGES AND COMPLICATIONS

The Group Members will discuss operational, institutional, and systemic challenges that impede effective implementation. Areas to focus may include:

- Gaps in service delivery, awareness,
- Capacity constraints of implementing agencies, including administrative and technical and infrastructure/ limitations.
- Socio-cultural and behavioural barriers affecting beneficiary participation
- Coordination issues among multiple stakeholders including Departments ( Centre and States)
- Fund Flow and resource constraints

**Expected Output:** A categorized list of challenges (administrative, financial, social, technological, and operational) prioritized based on urgency and impact.

### 3. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONABLE NEXT STEPS

In this segment may focus on generating evidence based, implementable and sustainable solutions to address identified challenges. The Group Members may consider:

- Measures to strengthen implementation and service delivery
- Strategies for improved beneficiary outreach and awareness
- Convergence with other social schemes and government programmes
- Capacity building, training, and institutional strengthening initiatives

**Expected Output:** Clear, actionable recommendations classified into short-term, medium-term, and long-term interventions.

### 4. INNOVATIVE, AND REFORM- ORIENTED APPROACHES

Participants would be encouraged to think beyond conventional approaches and propose transformative ideas. Discussion prompts include:

- Innovative models leveraging technology, community-led approaches, or public-private partnerships
- Policy reforms or regulatory changes to enhance scheme effectiveness
- Incentive-based mechanisms or behavioral change strategies to encourage participation and compliance
- Potential pilot initiatives to test new approaches

**Expected Output:** A list of innovative, out-of-the-box solutions and recommendations for reform or pilot testing.

### 5. BEST PRACTICES AND SCALABILITY

The learning from successful initiatives and assessing their potential for wider adoption:

- Documenting successful interventions from States, UTs, Districts, PRIs (RLB/ ULBs) etc
- Identifying key factors contributing to success, such as stakeholder coordination, Digitalisation, innovative approaches, or community engagement
- Evaluating feasibility, resource requirements, and institutional readiness for replication

**Expected Output:** A repository of best practices and actionable recommendations for scaling up effective interventions.

### 6. MONITORING AND REVIEW MECHANISM

Effective monitoring is critical to ensure accountability and measure impact. Participants will deliberate on:

- Existing monitoring frameworks and their limitations
- Use of digital dashboards, mobile applications, or data-driven systems for real-time tracking

- Levels and frequency of reviews at District, State, and Central levels
- Outcome-oriented indicators versus output-oriented metrics
- Feedback mechanisms to incorporate beneficiary insights

**Expected Output:** Recommendations for a robust monitoring and evaluation framework with clear KPIs and review mechanisms.

## 7. CONSOLIDATION AND WAY FORWARD (5 MINUTES)

The final segment focuses on synthesizing and prioritizing recommendations:

- The rapporteur will summarize key discussion points from each segment
- Participants will validate and refine recommendations
- Top priority actions will be identified for immediate consideration
- A roadmap for implementing recommendations will be outlined

**Expected Output:** A clear, actionable set of recommendations and a structured roadmap for follow-up actions to be presented by a group representative.

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**GROUPS FOR THEMATIC MEALS**

*Thematic breakfast and lunch sessions shall be conducted as structured discussion platforms with designated seating arrangements comprising 12 tables, with 10-15 members at each table to ensure diverse interactions and exchange of perspectives*

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
1.	Ms. Mona Khandar, AS	Sh. Gaurav Singh Rajawat, Dir	Sh. Aditya, PMU
2.	Ms. Debolina Thakur, AS&FA	Sh. Subrata Halder, DS	Ms. Ishani, Consultant
3.	Ms. Yogita Swaroop, Sr. E.A.	Sh Mahesh Kumar Meena, Dir	Sh. Krishna Bhardwaj, NSKFDC
4.	Ms. Monali P. Dhakate, JS	Ms. Kajal Singh, Dir	Sh. Shubham Bhardwaj, US
5.	Ms. Pratima Gupta, DDG	Sh. Arun Kumar Karn, US	Sh. Sijo, Consultant
6.	Sh. P.K. Thind, JS	Sh. Amresh Bahadur Pal, Dir	Ms. Soujanya, PMU
7.	Shri Rajeev Sharma, JS	Sh. Vineet Singhal. Dir	Sh. Sultan Singh Meena, US
8.	Smt. Sumita Singh, JS	Sh. Ashish Thakare, Dir	Sh. Manish Kumar Mishra, US
9.	Ms. Richa Shankar, DDG	Sh. Jasbir Singh, DS	Sh. Ram Charan Meena, US
10.	Sh. Prabhat Singh, MD, NSKFDC	Sh. Sudhanshu Kumar Pandey, DS	Sh. Diwakar Kumar, Consultant
11.	Sh. Prabhat Tyagi, CMD, NSFDC	Sh. Sushant Shukla, US	Dr. Neeta Singh, Consultant
12.	Sh. Abhijit Roy, Sr. Controller of Accounts	Sh. Kumar Nityanand, DS	Ms. Sagrika, Consultant

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**GROUP-WISE ALLOCATION OF THEMES FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

S. No	Group (States/UTs)	Theme	Schemes for Discussion	States/UTs Nominated	Coordinator (C)/ Facilitator (F)/ Rapporteur (R)
<b>25. 04. 2026</b>					
1	Group-I (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>शिक्षा से समृद्धि (Shiksha Samridhi):</b> Strengthening Scholarship Delivery and Educational Access	Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, Top Class, Overseas Scholarships	Karnataka Uttar Pradesh Himachal Pradesh Odisha Rajasthan Bihar Delhi Mizoram Odisha	C-JS (PKT) R - Dir (ABP) F - US, Sh. Shameem Alam/ AD, Ms Deepshika Yadav
2	Group-II (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>नशामुक्त भारत (Nasha Mukta Bharat) :</b> Strengthening De-addiction and Rehabilitation Ecosystems	NAPDDR and related initiatives	Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh Haryana Manipur Goa Meghalaya Puducherry Tripura	C - DDG (PG) R - Dir (GSR) F - US, Sh. Arun Kumar Karn, Dr. Sijo, SPO
3	Group-III (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>श्रम की गरिमा (Shram ki Garima):</b> <b>Dignity in Labour</b> (Transition from Manhole to Machine-Hole)	NAMASTE , SRMS	Chandigarh Sikkim Tamil Nadu Kerala Maharashtra	C - Sr. E.A.(YS) R - MD, NSKFDC Sh. Prabhat K

S. No	Group (States/UTs)	Theme	Schemes for Discussion	States/UTs Nominated	Coordinator (C)/ Facilitator (F)/ Rapporteur (R)
		Ecosystem: Mission Zero (Sanitation-Related Deaths)		Assam, Gujarat, Bihar, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh	Singh F – GM, NSKFDC Sh. Krishna Bhagat
4	Group-IV (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>गरिमामय वृद्धावस्था (Ageing with Dignity) :</b> Ageing in place with Holistic approach and Infrastructure Support Systems in India	AVYAY - RVY	Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Haryana, Sikkim, Ladakh, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, A & N Island	C- JS (MPD) R- Dir. (Ms. Kajal Singh) F – Sh. Shubham Bhardwaj, US (Sr.C) and Ms. Sagrika, Legal Consultant
5	Group-V (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>नन्हे कदम स्वावलंबन की ओर: Early Intervention</b>	ADIP, Cross-disability Early Intervention Centers (EICs) for children with Disability	Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Meghalaya, Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar, Ladakh, Nagaland	C- JS (Sh. Rajeev Kumar), DEPWD R- Dir (VS) F – US, Sh. Sultan Singh Meena

S. No	Group (States/UTs)	Theme	Schemes for Discussion	States/UTs Nominated	Coordinator (C)/ Facilitator (F)/ Rapporteur (R)
26.04.2026					
1	Group-I States/UTs) (7-8	अंत्योदय से आत्मनिर्भरता (Antyodaya se Aatmanirbharata): Accelerating Socio-Economic Development through Area-Based Interventions	PM-AJAY, SAMRAS	Tamil Nadu West Bengal Odisha Karnataka Chhattisgarh Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan Punjab Telangana	C-AS (MK) and AS&FA R - JS (SK) & JS (PKT) and Dir. (ABP) F- US, Sh. Sewak Paul, Sh. Diwakar, Consultant and Ms. Eshwin, Consultant
2	Group-II States/UTs) (5-7	समावेशन, पहचान और एकीकरण (Samaveshan, Pehchan aur Ekikaran) Inclusion, Identity, and Integration)	SMILE (Transgender Persons & Beggary Component s), SEED	Uttar Pradesh Tamil Nadu Madhya Pradesh Manipur Mizoram Rajasthan Himachal Pradesh Nagaland	C - Sr. E.A.(YS) R - Dir (GSR) and DS (Sh. Sudhanshu Kumar Pandey) F - Dr. Neeta, Consultant , Ms. Anureeta,

S. No	Group (States/UTs)	Theme	Schemes for Discussion	States/ UTs Nominated	Coordinator (C)/ Facilitator (F)/ Rapporteur (R)
					Legal Consultant, Sh. Amit Kumar, SO
3	Group-III (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण (Arthik Sashaktikaran) : Democratizing Credit Access</b> (Expanding Access to Credit and Financial Empowerment)	VCF, VISHWAS, PM-SURAJ	Andhra Pradesh Punjab Haryana Andaman & Nicobar Islands Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Ladakh Lakshadweep	C - MD (NBCFDC) R - US (Sh Sushant Shukla), EID F - Dr. Sijo, SPO and Ms. Ishani, Consultant
4	Group-IV- IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME (7-8 States/UTs)	<b>सुगम्यता से समावेश: Accessibility</b>	Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan	Delhi Goa Tamil Nadu Odisha Karnataka Kerala Arunachal Pradesh Meghalaya Uttar Pradesh Gujarat	C- AS (Ms Manmeet Nanda), DEPWD R- Dir (PA) F - US, Sh. Manish Kumar Mishra

S. No	Group (States/UTs)	Theme	Schemes for Discussion	States/UTs Nominated	Coordinator (C)/ Facilitator (F)/ Rapporteur (R)
5	Group-V (7-8 States/UTs)	पहचान से सम्मान Certification for PwDs	Unique ID for Persons with Disability UDID Card	Telangana Odisha Andhra Pradesh Andaman & Nicobar Jharkhand West Bengal Bihar Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland	C- JS ( Sh Rajeev Sharma), DEPWD R- Dir (VS) F – US, Sh. Sultan Singh Meena

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**CONCEPT NOTES FOR THEMATIC MEALS****Topic I (for Breakfast/ Lunch Session Discussion):  
“Leveraging Community Engagement and Exploring Public–Private–People Partnerships (PPPP) model for Enhanced Social Justice Delivery”****1. Background**

The schemes of the *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)* are designed to deliver sustainable social and behavioural outcomes, extending beyond just financial assistance. These include reducing relapse in de-addiction programmes, addressing intergenerational begging, enabling safe livelihood transitions for sanitation workers, promoting dignity and inclusion of transgender persons, supporting active ageing and improving post-scholarship outcomes.

These outcomes are influenced not just by administrative processes or digital systems but are also influenced by social factors such as family environment, community norms, peer influence, local leadership and trust in institutions. Accordingly, effective implementation requires engagement that goes beyond transactional processes, with a focus on the social context shaping beneficiaries' lives.

**2. Importance of Communities**

a) **Trust and Credibility of Local Actors:** Vulnerable and stigmatised groups are more likely to respond effectively to familiar and credible local actors and institutions including teachers, community leaders, frontline workers (ASHA/Anganwadi), self-help group (SHG) leaders, religious figures and peers with lived experience. Whereas, formal mechanisms like digital portals and official communications often have limited influence in shaping behaviours, making the credibility of the messenger of critical importance.

b) **Sustained and Repeated Engagement:** Sustainable behavioural change requires continuous reinforcement through repeated engagement, visible role models, community validation and interaction with families and networks. Isolated interventions, in the absence of such reinforcing mechanisms, are unlikely to produce durable outcomes.

c) **Social Nature of Dignity and Inclusion:** Restoring dignity and fostering inclusion is inherently a collective process, dependent on family, community and workplace acceptance, as well as equitable access to opportunities. These outcomes cannot be achieved through administrative measures alone and require broader societal participation.

### **3. Need for Participation from Society and Private Sector**

To achieve impactful social justice outcomes at scale, MoSJE needs to develop a structured framework for community and stakeholder engagement. This may be done so, by introducing a “*social participation infrastructure*” to complement existing administrative and digital systems.

This “*social participation infrastructure*” framework may include Community Resource Persons (CRPs), peer mentors (including recovered beneficiaries), senior citizen and youth volunteers, as well as networks associated with SHGs, NSS, NCC, and CSR or philanthropic initiatives. These actors serve as a bridge between the State and beneficiaries, strengthening outreach, building trust and sustaining engagement across schemes.

### **4. Key Discussion Questions for Chintan Shivr**

- i. How can community participation be institutionalised within MoSJE schemes?
- ii. Is there potential to create a structured National Social Justice Volunteer Corps, leveraging existing models such as NMBA/NAPDDR?
- iii. How can recovered beneficiaries serve as peer mentors, and what are the most effective ways to engage them?
- iv. How can citizen participation be linked to measurable social outcomes?
- v. What opportunities exist for structured collaboration with private sector and philanthropic organisations to achieve outcome-oriented interventions?

### **5. Policy and Strategic Direction**

While administrative and technological systems are critical for improving access and efficiency, sustained social outcomes require deeper engagement with communities and social networks. In this context, a Public–Private–People Partnership (PPPP) approach may be explored to strengthen implementation and impact.

The Ministry may consider identifying select schemes for pilot interventions to assess the role of structured community participation in achieving sustainable behavioural and social outcomes.

**Topic II (for Breakfast/ Lunch Session Discussion):  
Strengthening Last-Mile Delivery and Implementation Mechanism**

**1. Background**

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) implements a broad range of programmes covering rehabilitation, inclusion, livelihoods, elderly care, de-addiction, disability support, scholarships, and social defence.

Over the past decade, the Ministry has strengthened policy frameworks, scheme design, digital platforms, and convergence mechanisms. While these efforts have improved programme delivery, some challenges persist at the last-mile level, partly due to capacity constraints at the State and district levels and the need for enhanced monitoring support at the central level. Strengthening implementation capacity, therefore, remains an important area of focus.

**2. Core Challenges:**

**a) Capacity considerations at State and District Levels**

State departments, District Administrations, Urban Local Bodies, and line agencies are at the forefront of programme delivery, often operating under significant administrative and operational demands, including responsibilities such as elections, law and order, and disaster response.

In such a context, factors such as staff mobility and capacity limitations can impact continuity and depth of implementation. This may be reflected in delays, variations in outcomes, and a focus on procedural compliance, with relatively limited bandwidth for sustained beneficiary engagement and local-level innovation. Strengthening field-level capacity, continuity, and support systems can help unlock more consistent and impactful programme outcomes.

**b) Limited Central Monitoring Capacity**

Department-level oversight operates within existing resource constraints, including limited human resources, multiple responsibilities handled by PMUs, evolving monitoring systems, and continued reliance on manual follow-ups.

In this context, real-time performance visibility may at times be limited, which can affect the pace of issue identification, cross-state learning, and timely escalation or resolution of field-level challenges. Strengthening monitoring systems, streamlining processes, and augmenting institutional capacity can help enhance responsiveness and overall programme effectiveness.

### **3. Key Issues for Policy Discussion**

- i. **Strengthening PMUs:** Can PMUs be reoriented from reporting-focused units to active implementation support, including field diagnostics, problem-solving, and state capacity building?
- ii. **Outcome-Based Monitoring:** Can monitoring shift from activity- and expenditure-based reporting to outcome-focused indicators such as continuity of rehabilitation, livelihood stability, and grievance resolution?
- iii. **Implementation Support Structures:** Is there a need for structured support at the district level, including thematic experts or empanelled partners, to complement existing State systems?

### **4. Potential Reform Models for Discussion**

- i. **Mission Control Framework at DoSJE:** Central monitoring through integrated dashboards, automated alerts, and structured review mechanisms.
- ii. **Outcome-Focused Reviews:** Periodic reviews prioritising measurable social outcomes rather than expenditure alone.
- iii. **District-Level Support Mechanisms:** Deployment of trained personnel or partners to assist with implementation, coordination, and beneficiary tracking.

### **5. Discussion Prompts**

- i. What are the key bottlenecks in last-mile delivery across MoSJE schemes?
- ii. Which schemes are most affected by capacity constraints at the State level?
- iii. Is a dedicated implementation support layer needed within MoSJE?
- iv. How can PMUs be strengthened to provide hands-on support rather than just reporting?
- v. How can technology enhance monitoring while reducing reporting burden?
- vi. Which pilot models can be tested at district level to improve scheme delivery?
- vii. How can accountability be linked to outcome-based performance indicators?

**Topic III (for Breakfast/ Lunch Session Discussion):**  
**“जागरूकता से सुलभता” Awareness to Accessibility**

**Introduction:**

Awareness Generation and Outreach play a vital role in the effective implementation of any scheme, especially in social sector where this component helps in mobilising communities and engaging diverse stakeholders including individual, family, workplace, and society at large. Further, extensive engagement strengthen unified effort and help in improving the policy formulation. In DoSJE, NISD is extensively involve in the awareness generation and sensitisation activities and programmes across Drug Prevention, Senior Citizen Welfare, Welfare of Marginalised and vulnerable section of society. Further, MoUs have been signed with religious and social organisation for this purpose.

**The DePwD is implementing** "Awareness Generation & Publicity Scheme" as one of the component under SIPDA Scheme across the country. The main objective of the scheme is creation of general awareness about the schemes and programmes of the Government for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and to train and sensitize key functionaries of the Central/State Government/Local Bodies and other service providers on a regular basis on disability related matters through State/District/Block level workshops with the aim to raise awareness among employees and peer groups about capabilities of PwDs.

**Activities under AGP Schemes:**

(i) **Divya Kala Mela (DKM)**- This has been promoted as a special project under AGP to enable persons with disabilities to showcase their talent and promote the sale of products made by them. Since December 2022, **30 Divya Kala Melas (DKMs)** and **27 Divya Kala Shakti (DKSs)** programmes have been organized across the length and breadth of the country, covering various **States/UTs** and benefitting **PwD vendors, with around 2,500 beneficiaries**. The cumulative sales - approximately **Rs.24.5 crore**. Loan Sanctioned to more than **1200 beneficiaries** worth approx **Rs.23 crore**.

(ii) **Divya Kala Shakti (DKS)** - This is for showcasing the extraordinary talents of Divyang artists, the Department organizes cultural programme titled “Divya Kala Shakti – Witnessing Abilities in Disabilities” . It is a platform where Divyang Artists from different States, Cultural Societies, Institutions, Civil Societies with various

disabilities participates. 27 Divya Kala Shakti have been organised till date. The 27<sup>th</sup> DKS organized on 01<sup>st</sup> March, 2026 at Dehradun as a side event of Divya Kala Mela

### **(iii) Purple Fest/Fairs and Purple Talks:**

- ❖ 'Purple' is often associated with disability awareness, inclusion and advocacy campaigns.
- ❖ 03 Purple Fests held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2024, 2025 and 2026, witnessing participation of approximately 14,000, 23,000 and 8,000 persons, respectively. Purple Fairs, being organized at district levels, to promote overall empowerment of PwDs. 60 Purple Fairs conducted so far, 16 in North-Eastern region, and 5 in universities/training institutes. Around 40% of purple fairs were organised in Aspirational Districts.
- ❖ The Purple Talk initiative is a collaborative knowledge platform that showcases innovation, technology and research for the empowerment of Divyangjan.

### **(iv) AI-based Divya Bot:**

- ❖ The Department introduced AI-based Chat Bot {9646622622} & Voice Bot {011-44739626} in 2025. It provides 24x7 accessible digital tool for obtaining instant information on schemes, programs, and services available for Divyangjans.
- ❖ 279 Schemes and 18 Directories across states/central govt, containing DEPwD Benefit Centers like PM-Divyasha Kendra's, RCI Professionals, NIs/CRCs/DDRCs/DDRS, Halfway Homes etc. added on the Divya Bot. So far 38,852 people have interacted via Voice Bot and WhatsApp Bot.

### **Way Forward:**

- Behaviour change and public participation
- Cross-learning
- Localization and community-based approach
- Tech-Enabled Outreach- Develop digital platforms that break down language and literacy barriers (such as voice-first interfaces), so that last-mile citizens can benefit.
- Feedback through Social Media and Toll free numbers

**Topic IV (for Breakfast/ Lunch Session Discussion):**  
**“Simplification of Processes in DoSJE Schemes (प्रक्रिया सरलीकरण)”**

### **1. Background**

The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE) implements a wide range of schemes aimed at supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities, including scholarships, rehabilitation programmes, livelihood interventions and social defence initiatives.

Over time, these schemes have been strengthened through policy reforms, digital platforms and improved fund flows. However, procedural complexities continue to affect ease of access, particularly for first-time beneficiaries and vulnerable populations with limited administrative capacity.

The effectiveness of schemes is therefore influenced not only by their design and funding but also by the simplicity, clarity and accessibility of processes involved in accessing them.

### **2. Key Challenges in Existing Processes**

a) **Documentation Burden:** Beneficiaries are often required to submit multiple documents across different stages, including identity verification, income certificates, caste certificates and institutional endorsements. In many cases, similar documents are repeatedly required across schemes, increasing the compliance burden.

b) **Fragmentation of Platforms and Processes:** Different schemes operate on separate portals, formats and workflows, leading to duplication of effort for both beneficiaries and implementing agencies. This fragmentation can affect user experience and reduce efficiency at the field level.

c) **Limited Handholding for Beneficiaries:** While digital platforms have improved access, many beneficiaries, especially in rural or vulnerable contexts, may face challenges in navigating application processes, tracking status, or resolving issues without structured support.

d) **Procedural Delays and Verification Layers:** Multiple levels of verification, while important for accountability, may lead to delays in approval and disbursement. In some cases, procedural compliance takes precedence over timely service delivery.

### **3. Need for Process Simplification**

Simplification of processes is essential to ensure that schemes are not only well-designed but also easily accessible and user-friendly. This requires a shift towards (i) Reducing redundancy in documentation, (ii) Standardising processes across

schemes, (iii)Enhancing user experience through integrated platforms and, (iv)Strengthening facilitation and grievance redressal mechanisms

Simplified processes can significantly improve beneficiary outreach, reduce administrative burden and enhance overall scheme effectiveness.

#### **4. Key Discussion Questions for Chintan Shivr**

- i. Can common documentation frameworks be developed across schemes to reduce repetition?
- ii. Is there scope for integrating multiple scheme portals into a unified interface?
- iii. How can verification processes be streamlined while maintaining accountability?
- iv. What role can frontline workers and local institutions play in assisting beneficiaries?
- v. How can grievance redressal systems be strengthened to resolve procedural bottlenecks?

#### **5. Policy and Strategic Direction**

The discussion may focus on identifying key procedural challenges across schemes and understanding how different States have addressed them. It may also look at whether documentation requirements can be reduced without affecting transparency and accountability, and whether a common platform can be developed for beneficiaries to access multiple schemes. The role of States in simplifying processes at the implementation level, along with the possibility of piloting simpler models in select schemes or districts, may also be explored.

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## CONCEPT NOTE FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **Group-I (25.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): शिक्षा से समृद्धि (Shiksha se Samridhi): Strengthening Scholarship Delivery and Educational Access**

#### **A. Points for discussion on SC and BC Scholarship Schemes**

##### **1. Initiating Scholarship Registration process along with Admission Process**

**Problem Statement:** Currently, the scholarship registration process is not aligned with the admission process. Late opening and late closing of the scholarship portals delay the entire process of disbursement.

**Critical Gaps:** Lack of awareness and delayed registrations also lead to delayed account opening and other Aadhaar seeding issues.

##### **Expected Outcomes**

- Adoption of an "Apply at Source" model with pre-filled admission data and active registration on day one of admission will increase coverage and reduce delays in fresh applications.
- Aadhaar seeding camps in the institutions will reduce the payment failure rates and will increase the success rate.
- States to simplify documentation and mandatorily issue Freeship Cards and grant tuition fee waivers at the time of admission.

##### **2. Inconsistencies in Implementation of DoSJE Scheme Guidelines by some States/UTs**

**Problem Statement:** Scheme guidelines implemented by some States/UTs include additional criteria beyond those issued by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE), resulting in inconsistencies in eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and timelines across some States/UTs.

**Critical Gaps:** Variations in the implementation of scheme guidelines issued by DoSJE across States/UTs, including the imposition of additional criteria at the level of States/UTs, lead to delays in verification and challenges in monitoring compliance.

**Expected Outcomes:** Uniform adoption of DoSJE guidelines across all States/UTs, with minimal deviations, to ensure consistency, transparency, and faster verification timelines.

##### **3. Processing of Renewal Cases by end of Q1 of the ongoing Financial Year**

**Problem Statement:** Renewal cases, constituting a significant share of total beneficiaries (more than 40% of the total applications processed), are processed along

with regular fresh cases leading to financial hardship and uncertainty for regular students who depend on timely support to sustain their education.

**Critical Gaps:** Renewal applications are processed with delays despite these cases being of pre-verified students and only require proof of continued study.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

- Introduction of auto-renewal (subject to basic validation)
- Simplified documentation for renewal cases and a mandate to complete disbursement of renewal cases by end of Q1 of the ongoing Financial Year, leading to improved student retention and continuity in education.

#### **4. Payment Spillovers and limited Onboarding of States on the National Scholarship Portal:**

**Problem Statement:** A significant portion of scholarship disbursement is concentrated in the first quarter and the last quarter (especially in the month of March), undermining timely financial support to students and leading to spillover of payments into subsequent Financial Years.

**Critical Gaps:** Delayed verification, sanction processes, and late fund releases by the States results in students receiving scholarships after critical academic timelines such as fees and examinations.

**Expected Outcomes:** Aligning the opening and closing of State Scholarship portals with National Scholarship Portal to ensure uniformity and efficiency in the implementation of scholarship schemes and ensuring that the spillovers of the earlier years, if any, are to be mandatorily processed by the end of April of the succeeding Financial Year.

#### **5. Delay in Release of Central Share due to delayed State-Level Processes:**

**Problem Statement:** Reducing the Turn Around Time (TAT) for scholarship disbursement is essential to ensure timely credit of funds to beneficiaries and minimize delays in financial support.

**Critical Gaps:** The average Turn Around Time of 4-5 weeks for Central share disbursement is contingent on States/UTs submitting their share paid data on National Scholarship Portal, leads to delays causing financial distress to students and increased grievances.

**Expected Outcomes:** Reduce the Turnaround Time to 3 weeks by enabling real-time or weekly processing of scholarship applications, minimizing backlogs and reducing verification levels and ensuring faster verification, approval, and disbursement.

#### **6. Grievance Redressal Mechanism at State/UT Level**

**Problem Statement:** Despite large beneficiary coverage, grievance handling systems are not upto the mark and have not been able to address the concerns properly leading to increased student dissatisfaction.

**Critical Gaps:** Absence of time-bound disposal, poor awareness regarding rejection reasons, lack of escalation mechanisms, and weak grievance analysis hinder effective grievance redressal

**Expected Outcomes:** Establishment of a comprehensive and holistic eco system with time-bound, transparent grievance system with auto-escalation, clear communication and notifications using SMS/Emails, dashboards, and regular monitoring.

## **7. Mental Health Support for eligible applicants**

**Problem Statement:** Eligible SC students, often from economically and socially vulnerable and marginalised backgrounds, face academic pressure, financial stress, and social challenges, yet mental health support is not integrated into the scheme framework.

**Critical Gaps:** Lack of structured support systems, low awareness, stigma, and absence of counselling services limit mental health support for students.

**Expected Outcomes:** Integration of counselling support, guidance from professionals and helplines, awareness initiatives, and confidential support channels to promote student's mental health and well-being.

## **8. Capacity Building of Institutional Nodal Officers and District Nodal Officers:**

**Problem Statement:** Capacity constraints among Institutional Nodal Officers (INOs) and District Nodal Officers (SNOs) create challenges in handling scholarship applications on the state scholarship portals and National Scholarship Portal.

**Critical Gaps:** Limited technical capacity, inadequate awareness of portal procedures, and insufficient training restrict the ability of INOs and DNOs to efficiently manage applications and perform their coordinating roles.

**Expected Outcomes:** Strengthening capacity through targeted training, improved user guidance, and continuous technical support will enhance the efficiency of INOs and DNOs, leading to better coordination, faster processing of applications, and improved overall implementation of the scholarship system.

## **9. Regular Data Cleaning exercise to be undertaken by States/UTs**

**Problem Statement:** Defective, dummy, or incomplete applications are often kept on hold by States, leading to inaccuracies in data assessment and overall estimates by the Department.

**Critical Gaps:** Lack of regular data cleaning by the States/UTs leads to the accumulation of invalid or incomplete applications, while delays in rejection decisions and inadequate status updates reduces transparency and reliability for planning and monitoring.

**Expected Outcomes:** Regular data cleaning mechanisms to ensure only valid applications are retained in the system. Timely decision-making and updating of rejected applications to maintain accurate and reliable data.

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**Group-II (25.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): नशामुक्त भारत (Nasha Mukht Bharat):  
Strengthening De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Ecosystems**

**National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) नशामुक्त भारत  
(Nasha Mukht Bharat): Strengthening De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Ecosystems  
(Group II)**

**Background Note**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) is the nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction and, as part of its mandate, has introduced measures to curtail substance abuse in the country. MoSJE formulated and enacted the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR). The scheme focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counseling, treatment, rehabilitation of individuals with substance dependence, training, and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations.

**Major components under NAPDDR include:**

- i. Preventive Education and Awareness Generation
- ii. Capacity Building Treatment and Rehabilitation
- iii. Focused Intervention in vulnerable areas
- iv. Programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs, as part of State Action Plans
- v. Survey, Studies, Evaluation, Research and Innovation on the subject covered under the scheme.
- vi. Programme Management
- vii. Monitoring & Evaluation, Surveillance and Social Audit

**Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan**

With an aim to further enhance preventive education and awareness generation efforts, the Ministry launched Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) on 15th August 2020 in 272 districts identified as most vulnerable in terms of substance use. The Abhiyaan on 15th August 2023 has been expanded to all Districts of the country. The major stakeholders and beneficiaries of the NMBA are Youth, Women, Children, Educational Institutions, Civil Society, and the Community at large.

Some of the major achievements of the Abhiyaan are as follows:

- There has been a 294% increase in individuals seeking treatment and counseling, rising from 2.08 lakh in 2020-21 to 8.20+ lakh in 2024-25.

- NMBA's outreach rose from 1.4 crore (2021) to 25.99+ crore, reaching 9.39+ crore youth and 6.40+ crore women through 8.23+ lakh activities.
- 6.21+ lakh recovered users have joined NMBA activities
- The strong force of NMBA Master Volunteers has increased from 8000 in 2021 to 28,000 in 2025.
- The number of treatment and rehabilitation centers increased from 490 (2020-21) to 768 (2025-2026), including 154 Addiction Treatment Facilities in government hospitals.
- In 2024, 3+ crore people across 2+ lakh institutions took the mass pledge against drug abuse.
- The 14446 toll-free helpline has handled 4.69+ lakh calls, integrated with the MANAS helpline and TELE Manas.
- MoUs with 08 spiritual organisations including The Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris, Sant Nirankari Mission, ISKCON, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, All World Gayatri Pariwar, Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Dhanwantari Ashram and University of Patanjali enabled outreach to 3.37+ crore people.
- Sportspersons like Olympic Medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Suresh Raina, Ajinkya Rahane, Sandeep Singh, Savita Poonia, Brahmanand Sankhwalkar and Aman Sehrawat have shared messages in support of the NMBA.
- For NMBA's 5th-year celebration, the "5 Varsh 1 Sankalp" MyGov quiz saw 1,13,719 participants; 1,55,853 events reached 4.13 crore people, with 1.8 crore offline and 20 lakh e-pledges.
- Amritsar event attended by 10,000+ participants, and nationwide participation of 6.3+ crore people across 2,10,000+ locations.
- NMBA enabled convergence with 15+ Ministries/Departments, including MHA, Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, WCD, AYUSH, RD, NCB, and Border Guarding Forces.
- Sports-led outreach included rallies, races, and tournaments across J&K, Assam, Haryana, Manipur, Gujarat, Meghalaya, and Sikkim.
- Women-led efforts include Mahila Mandal Sabhas, SHGs, Anganwadis, and ASHA workers across states.
- Grassroots initiatives include Nasha Mukti Chaupals (MP), Night Baithaks (Rajasthan) etc

#### Existing mode of implementation of NAPDDR

S. No.	Mode of implementation	Funding pattern
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1.	Grant-in-Aid to the NGOs across the country	1. UTs without legislatures – 100% by GoI 2. NE States, J&K, Ladakh and Sikkim – 95% by GoI and 5% by respective NGOs 3. All other States/UTs – 90% by GoI and 10% by respective NGOs
2.	Grant-in-Aid to National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS Delhi and Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur for operation of Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF)	100% by GoI
3.	State Action Plans (SAPs) by the State Govts./UT Administrations	100% by GoI

As stated in Table above, the existing mode of NAPDDR implementation is being revised and the Proposed mode of Implementation of NAPDDR is as follows:

S. No.	Mode of implementation	Proposed Funding pattern	Centre: State/UT Shares	NGO Contribution
State Action Plans (SAPs) by the State Govts. /UT Administrations				
1.	All the SAP components (as is presently there in the current scheme)	UTs without legislatures	100:0	NA
2.	Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF)	NE States, J&K, Ladakh, HP, Uttarakhand and Sikkim	90:10	
		All other States/UTs	60:40	
3.	Implementation through NGOs in States/UTs	UTs without legislatures	100:0	0%
		NE States, J&K, Ladakh, HP, Uttarakhand	90:10 of Govt Share	5%

	and Sikkim		
	All other States/UTs	60:40 Govt Share	of 10%

**The major changes proposed are as follows:**

Component	Major changes
Financial Assistance & Fund Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60:40 funding pattern (Central: State)</li> <li>• 20% increase in funding under NAPDDR facilities like DDACs, for instance: Staff salary aligned with NHM rates</li> <li>• Fund flow via SNA SPARSH / State Account</li> <li>• Capacity building, treatment, rehabilitation</li> <li>• 100% Central funding for surveys, research, innovation, M&amp;E</li> <li>• ₹15 lakh per district annually</li> </ul>
Preventive Awareness	<p>State action plan with an emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationwide awareness programs</li> <li>• Scale-up NAVCHETNA mission in schools</li> <li>• Targeted prevention-based modules for youth, women, students, families, SHGs, Anganwadi, PRIs</li> <li>• IEC &amp; media strategy (print, TV, radio, digital) in collaboration with Central Bureau of Communication Scale up ODIC and CPLI in DDACs</li> </ul>
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of service providers / health professionals and other staffs of deaddiction centres</li> <li>• Develop State - level pool of resource persons</li> <li>• Hybrid training features (online / offline / phygital) Capacity building modules for target groups</li> </ul>
Treatment & Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand de-addiction centres across the country (1700+)</li> <li>• ATFs to be primary treatment centres</li> <li>• Repurposing IRCAs &amp; DDACs as rehabilitation &amp; reintegration centres</li> <li>• Expand facilities in prisons &amp; for women / children</li> </ul>

	Mandatory Mental Health Authority Registration under the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 for all the facilities
Inter Departmental Synergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-ministry initiatives for drug demand reduction</li> <li>• Interdepartmental coordination via committees / stakeholder discussion groups (Alignment of existing schemes)</li> </ul>
Monitoring Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-level monitoring committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ State-level Consultative Committee - Headed by Hon'ble State / UT Minister - to meet annually</li> <li>✓ State-level Steering and Monitoring Committee - headed by Chief Secretary - to meet quarterly</li> <li>✓ District-level Committee - headed by District Collector - to meet monthly and have mandatory inspections quarterly</li> <li>✓ Sub-division level Committee - headed by Sub-Collector / SDM - to meet &amp; have mandatory inspections monthly</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drug Demand Reduction Cells at Centre &amp; State</li> <li>• Quarterly &amp; bi-monthly reviews for accountability</li> <li>• Integrated portal for all the facilities and sharing of data across districts – DDACs and ATFs and periodic reporting on national portal by the Committees</li> </ul>

**Way Forward:**

- To expand and strengthen treatment & rehabilitation infrastructure
- To conduct the 2nd National Survey on 'Extent and Patterns of Substance Use in India' with National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS
- Capacity building of Nasha Mukta Bharat Master Volunteers, service providers and other professionals
- Widespread publicity and awareness generation

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**Group-III (25.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): श्रम की गरिमा (Shram ki Garima):  
Dignity in Labour (Transition from Manhole to Machine-Hole Ecosystem:  
Mission Zero Sanitation-Related Deaths)**

**NATIONAL ACTION FOR MECHANISED SANITATION ECOSYSTEM (NAMASTE)**

**1. Implementation of National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers**

**Interventions for SSW component of NAMASTE scheme are as under:**

- (i) Profiling of Sewer/Septic Tanks cleaning workers and their family.
- (ii) Appointment of RSA in every District.
- (iii) Constitution of ESRU in larger ULB of Districts and Municipal Corporations to cover Urban and Rural areas having:
- (iv) Operationalization of National Helpline number (14420)
- (v) Distribution of safety PPE kits to identified SSWs
- (vi) Providing safety equipment to ERSUs
- (vii) IEC Campaign: Targeting Safai Mitras, Operators/Contractors, and Citizens through RWAs etc. through print and digital media, innovative media interventions and by organizing workshops/webinars.
- (viii) Health Insurance coverage of SSWs and manual scavengers and their dependents under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (after validation of SSWs by ULBs)
- (ix) Occupational Safety Training to SSWs
- (x) SUY- Upfront Capital subsidy to the sanitation workers for procurement of vehicles/equipment for sanitation related work.

**Expectation from State Governments/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):**

- (i) Ensure nomination of RSA in each District.
- (ii) Ensure setting up of ERSU in the largest ULB of each District and Municipal Corporation.
- (iii) Operationalize helpline number (14420) in each ERSU.
- (iv) Nomination of SSWs for SUY.
- (v) IEC in ULBs.
- (vi) Uploading the details of machinery and specialised workers for hazardous cleaning on the portal.

**NAMASTE Portal:**

A web portal and a dashboard has been developed and the details of login ID and password has also been shared with all States/UTs. All relevant information, including the information relating to SSWs Survey data, NHA data, SUY data, ERSU data, workshop management, Court Cases Report, status of compensation disbursement, etc. are uploaded on the same.

District Admin may also enter the details regarding deaths of Sewer and Septic tank workers, FIR status and compensation details on the NAMASTE portal.

**2. Implementation of Wastepicker component of NAMASTE scheme**

Waste Pickers has been included as additional target group along with Sewer Septic Tank Workers under NAMASTE scheme with the following interventions:

- i. Profiling of 2,50,000 waste pickers during 2024-25 and 2025-26, covering 4900+ ULBs and clusters of Gram Panchayats (Block level)
- ii. Occupational safety training on occupational hazards and safe handling of waste
- iii. Provision of PPE kits to waste pickers
- iv. Health Insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat –PMJAY
- v. Capital subsidy up to Rs. 5.00 lakh for Waste Collection Vehicles for Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) to Waste pickers.
- vi. IEC Campaign etc.

**Expectation from Urban State Governments/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):**

**1. Profiling:** To commence profiling in all the pending ULBs where profiling is yet to be started. (*ULBs Pending-322*)

**2. Saturation Certificate and Invoices** are required to submit to the NSKFDC for the disbursement of funds.

**3. IEC activity:** To utilise IEC funds and to submit a utilisation certificate along with Geo-Tagged photos.

**4. Aayushman Cards:** ULBs should organise E-KYC camps for the generation and downloading of the cards.

**5. Monitoring of RO:**

- Monitor the empanelled Resource Organisation of your respective States
- Ensure that Resource Organisations complete the profiling in all allotted ULB.

- Ensure that ROs are providing handholding support in formation of SHGs, DWCC, distribution of PMJAY Card and accessing the benefits under PMJJBY.

#### **6. Proposal for Dry Waste Collection Vehicle:**

- States/UTs should instruct ULBs to ensure identification of DWCCs/SHGs requiring vehicles for efficient collection and transportation of dry waste.
- Also support Waste picker SHGs in preparing and forwarding proposals as per the guidelines of the scheme.

#### **7. Issue advisories to all ULBs:**

- To saturate the profiling in Urban.
- Integration of Waste Pickers into the Solid Waste Management value chain by allocating Dry Waste Collection Centre's.
- Facilitation of occupational safety training and distribution of PPE kits.
- Facilitating access to social security benefits, including the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme, Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, and registration under the E-Shram portal.

#### **Expectation from Rural State Governments/Blocks/ GPS:**

**1. Nomination:** Nomination of District Nodal Officer, Master Trainer, Block Nodal Officer and Surveyors

**2. RBI Form:** Fill the form in the format shared and submit to NSKFDC for opening of bank account in RBI. Subsequently, to complete the mapping of bank account on PFMS portal in coordination with the Finance department of NSKFDC.

#### **3. Issue advisories to all Blocks/GPs:**

- To undertake profiling exercise through NAMASTE application in a time bound manner.
- Issuance of occupational ID cards to validated Waste Pickers
- Integration of Waste Pickers into the Solid Waste Management value chain by allocating Dry Waste Collection Centre's.
- Facilitation of Occupational safety training and distribution of PPE kits.
- Facilitating access to social security benefits, including the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme, Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, and registration under the E-Shram portal.

*Profiling of Waste Pickers has been started in 5 States/UTs in Rural Areas (Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Kerala and Telangana )*

**3. Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)**

SUY provides for upfront capital subsidy for procurement of sanitation related equipments/vehicles with a view to promote mechanized cleaning.

The upfront capital subsidy has been increased to 50% of the project cost. The ceiling for the subsidy has been revised from the existing maximum of ₹5.00 lakh to a maximum of ₹7.50 lakh for individual project and from ₹18.75 lakh to ₹25.00 lakh for group projects (max 05 persons).

A new component has been added for providing upfront capital subsidy upto 25% of the project cost, subject to a maximum of ₹10.00 lakh per unit (whichever is lower), to Private Sanitation Service Organisations (PSSOs) and Private Contractors, to procure and deploy mechanised cleaning equipment/vehicles.

**4. Implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 20.10.2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 324 of 2020 filed by Dr. Balram Singh against Union of India and others.**

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**Group-IV (25.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): गरिमामय वृद्धावस्था (Ageing with Dignity): Ageing in place with Holistic approach and Infrastructure Support Systems in India**

**BACKGROUND NOTE FOR DISCUSSION WITH STATES ON ATAL VAYO ABHYUDAY YOJANA (AVYAY)**

**Breakout session topic: Ageing With Dignity**

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Department for the welfare of senior citizens in the country. In view of the growing elderly population and the need for a comprehensive social protection and care framework, the Government is implementing the **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)** as an umbrella scheme for the welfare and empowerment of senior citizens. The scheme seeks to promote active and productive ageing, ensure shelter and care for indigent elderly persons, strengthen awareness generation, and foster social and inter-generational bonding.

**Details of components under AVYAY scheme are as follows:**

- i. **Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)** Provides grant-in-aid for running Senior Citizen Homes, Continuous Care Homes, Mobile Medicare Units, Physiotherapy Clinics and other service delivery institutions for senior citizens, especially indigent elderly persons.
- ii. **State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC):** Enables States/UTs to formulate and implement State-specific elderly welfare interventions based on local needs and priorities.
- iii. **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):** Provides physical aids and assisted-living devices to eligible senior citizens belonging to economically weaker sections.
- iv. **Elderline:** Offers telephonic information, guidance, emotional support and linkage with welfare services for senior citizens through a dedicated helpline framework.
- v. **PM-SPECIAL/Geriatric Care Support Initiatives:** Support the creation of trained geriatric caregivers and promote institutional and home-based elderly care services.
- vi. **Other Initiatives for Senior Citizens:** Include awareness generation, active ageing initiatives, intergenerational bonding measures, and community-based support systems.

At present, under AVYAY, the Government is supporting **705 Senior Citizen Homes, 13 Continuous Care Homes, 17 Mobile Medicare Units and 3 Physiotherapy Clinics** at the national level. Further, aids and assistive devices have been provided to more than **7.93 lakh** eligible senior citizens under the **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)** through camp mode and walk-in mode. In

addition, **Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras** are being revamped as **Pradhan Mantri Divyasha-Vayoshri Kendras (PMD-VK)** to cater to the needs of senior citizens as well.

### **Existing focus of implementation and challenges:**

The present implementation framework of AVYAY includes grants-in-aid support for the senior citizen homes, delivery of aids and assistive devices, State-led interventions through SAPSrC, helpline-based support, and training of caregivers. While important progress has been made, the next phase of implementation requires stronger State ownership, State-level planning, measurable outputs and outcomes, and improved convergence of both Centre and State. The challenge is to reach out to the last senior citizen by creating mass awareness and sensitization, materialize the planning into action and use of IT/AI not only to integrate but also to improve the service delivery for the welfare of our senior citizens.

### **Key Areas for Discussion with States/UTs**

#### **i. Saturation of Districts with Senior Citizen Homes**

The availability of senior citizen homes, especially for indigent elderly persons, remains an important area for review. As per the AVYAY guidelines, the role of the States to assess the district-wise availability of the senior citizen homes and identify the gap/ insufficient districts is very prominent. At present, out of 778 districts, there is coverage of 406 districts with at least one centrally supported senior citizen home, leaving a gap of 372 districts with centrally sponsored senior citizen homes. To provide a one stop solution the Senior Citizen Welfare Portal was developed and launched. Mapping of existing senior citizen homes, attendance based system through CCTV (face recognition), following minimum standards would ensure faster service delivery and real time monitoring for which the States will play an important role.

#### **ii. Development of a Portal to track maintenance Applications under the MWPSA Act, 2007**

Under Section 5, of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (MWPSA), States/ UTs are required to constitute the Tribunals for the disposal of the maintenance applications filed by the Senior Citizens. Presently, there is no mechanism to track the constitution of these Tribunals and the applications filed by senior citizens. Further, no centralized / State wise data is available regarding the implementation of the timelines by the authorities for the disposal of the applications received in these Tribunals. Thus, there is a need to strengthen transparency, timely disposal, and monitoring of applications before Maintenance and Appellate Tribunals for which the State/UTs will have to take the lead.

#### **iii. Creating a trained workforce of Geriatric Caregivers**

The growing need for home-based and institutional care has increased the importance of training geriatric caregivers. Under the PM-SPECIAL component of the AVYAY Scheme, 35,480 Geriatric Caregivers have been trained so far. To bridge the gap between the demand and supply of the Geriatric Care Givers, States/ UTs have an important role in the candidate mobilization, imparting training with empaneled training partners (NSQF level-4, standardized course) including the On-job training (OJT) in the district hospitals, medical colleges, nursing institutions etc and linking the caregiving training with the livelihood opportunities with the local employment systems.

**iv. Intergenerational Bonding**

One of the Principles of the National Policy is "Ageing in Place", which can be achieved with engagement of different generations. The Centre has been doing programs in different places with the help of States/UTs for sensitizing and creating awareness on this important factor. There is an important role of the States/ UTs to achieve this goal through regularly implemented programs like "Sankalp" Pledge Taking Ceremonies, organizing Walkathons etc in the Schools/ Colleges at regular intervals, organizing at least two Grandparents' Parents Teachers Meetings (GPPTM) in the schools, active interaction on No Bag Day, etc., which will create a positive reinforcement and strengthen the bonds which are the basic social fabric of our society. Young volunteers and Senior Citizens can be sensitized and mobilized to learn from each other through life experience sharing, digital literacy, mentoring and educating etc.

**v. Expenditure and Utilization under the State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)**

The SAPSrC is an important instrument for State-specific elderly welfare interventions under AVYAY. Under the State Action Plan component, during FY 2025-26, out of the mother sanction issued for the amount of Rs 95.25 Cr, only Rs 47.45 Cr (49.8%) have been utilized by the States/ UTs. Systematic planning and timely submission of SAP can be a tool to achieve inclusive age friendly society.

**Way Forward**

1. Prioritize filling of the gap districts / Aspirational districts with at least one senior citizen home, adherence to minimum standards, and timelines for ensuring accessible senior citizen homes across all districts. Integration of State/ UTs web portal on SCWF Portal.
2. Development of a digital portal/dashboard for tracking maintenance applications under the MWPSA Act. The portal may capture key stages such as filing, notice, hearing, disposal, and appeal status, and support district-wise monitoring of pendency and disposal within prescribed timelines.
3. The State / UTs to ensure mobilization, training of the geriatric caregivers along with OJT and livelihood opportunities in the State.

4. Each district of the State/ UTs to conclude at least one structured intergenerational bonding initiative under AVYAY or related programmes.
5. To increase annual outlays, improve utilization rates, ensure timely submission of proposals, and make greater use of the flexibility available for innovative and State-specific elderly welfare interventions by the States/ UTs.

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**Group-V (25.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): नन्हे कदम स्वावलंबन की ओर: Early Intervention: Fostering Early Detection and Holistic Support to Empower Children with Disabilities**

## 1. Background

Early childhood (0–6 years) is a critical period for cognitive, physical, and social development, with nearly 80–90% of brain development occurring during this stage. Timely identification and intervention in cases of developmental delay or disability are therefore essential to minimise long-term functional limitations and improve quality of life. Early intervention has been shown to significantly improve developmental outcomes, enhance functional independence, and reduce long-term rehabilitation costs. The importance of early identification and prevention is also recognised under **Section 25 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**.

In this context, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has operationalised **Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres (CDEICs)** under the **Scheme for Implementation of RPwD Act (SIPDA)**.

## 2. Overview of CDEIC

CDEICs are designed as **institution-based, single-window centres** to provide comprehensive early identification and intervention services for children (0–6 years) with developmental delays and disabilities. Key features include:

- i. **Parent-centric service delivery model** ensuring ease of access and continuity of care
- ii. **Transdisciplinary approach** integrating medical, therapeutic, and educational interventions
- iii. **Individualized Intervention Plans (IIP)** for child-specific therapy and progress monitoring
- iv. Provision of integrated services including:
  - a. Screening and early diagnosis;
  - b. Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy;
  - c. Psychological assessment and parental counselling and
  - d. Referral services for specialised care

## 3. Institutional Coverage and Reach

- i. At present, **28 CDEICs are operational** across National Institutes (NIs), Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), and Regional Centres (RCs) of DePwD **as annexed**.

- ii. Since inception, **approximately 21 lakh beneficiaries** have been covered under CDEIC services, indicating significant outreach and increasing utilisation over time.

The institutional model has enabled structured service delivery through established rehabilitation infrastructure across the country.

#### 4. Institutional Framework and Performance

CDEICs are supported under SIPDA through a demand-driven, proposal-based mechanism with phased fund release linked to progress, compliance, and utilisation certificates, ensuring standardised operations. Each centre receives up to ₹20 lakh as one-time infrastructure support and recurring annual assistance (₹54.36 lakh for multidisciplinary staff and ₹3 lakh for contingencies), with infrastructure funds released in stages and recurring grants disbursed bi-annually. The centres are staffed by a multidisciplinary team comprising rehabilitation professionals, therapists, special educators, early interventionists, visiting specialists, and support staff to ensure comprehensive service delivery. The expenditure under CDEIC component is as follows:

Year	Expenditure (₹ in lakh)
2021–22	115.11
2022–23	467.07
2023–24	287.43
2024–25	582.63
2025–26	≈900

The financial performance reflects a **significant upward trajectory in recent years**, with **FY 2025–26 recording the highest-ever expenditure since inception of the scheme**. The current year's expenditure is approximately **1.5 times higher than the previous peak observed in FY 2024–25**, indicating accelerated expansion and operationalisation of centres.

#### 5. Key Achievements

- i. Establishment of a **structured early intervention ecosystem** across institutional networks
- ii. Provision of **integrated, multidisciplinary services under one roof**
- iii. Facilitation of a **continuum of care** from early detection to intervention and inclusion in education
- iv. Positive outcomes in terms of **developmental progress and school readiness**
- v. High levels of **caregiver satisfaction**, as observed in third-party evaluation

#### 6. Convergence Framework

Effective early intervention requires convergence across multiple sectors. CDEICs operate within a broader ecosystem involving:

- i. **Health Sector:** Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) / DEICs for early screening and identification
- ii. **ICDS (MWCD):** Anganwadi network for community-level outreach and referral
- iii. **Education Sector:** Samagra Shiksha for inclusive education pathways

Strengthening these linkages is critical for ensuring a **seamless pathway from identification to intervention to inclusion.**

## 7. Emerging Priorities and Way Forward

The next phase of CDEIC implementation may focus on **strategic expansion and system strengthening**, including phased **scaling to underserved and aspirational regions** based on need and institutional readiness; institutionalising **convergence with ICDS, RBSK, and Samagra Shiksha**; augmenting specialised human resources, particularly therapists; and **enhancing community awareness and referral linkages**. Simultaneously, emphasis may be placed on effective operationalisation of existing guidelines, strengthening MIS and digital integration, and developing a monitoring framework to improve overall effectiveness and impact.

## 8. Role of States/UTs in Strengthening CDEIC Ecosystem

States/UTs are critical to strengthening the CDEIC ecosystem through robust early identification and referral (via Anganwadi and RBSK), convergence with existing systems such as DEICs under NHM and Samagra Shiksha, and sustained community awareness and outreach. Their role further extends to supporting availability and capacity building of trained human resources, as well as enabling integrated data sharing and outcome-based monitoring, thereby ensuring effective last-mile delivery and holistic service provision.

## 9. Conclusion

CDEICs have laid a **robust foundation for early identification and intervention** in the disability sector, with significant coverage and institutional support. With targeted expansion, strengthened convergence, and enhanced monitoring, the initiative has the potential to play a transformative role in:

- i. Reducing long-term disability burden
- ii. Promoting inclusive education
- iii. Improving socio-economic outcomes for children with disabilities

## List of CDEICs

S. No.	National Institutes (NIs) / Other Central Institutions	S. No.	Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) / RCs
1	Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack	1	CRC, Guwahati
2	National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata	2	CRC, Bolangir
3	Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD), Delhi	3	CRC, Ranchi
4	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad	4	CRC, Patna
5	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai	5	CRC, Lucknow
6	National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun	6	CRC, Srinagar
7	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), Mumbai	7	CRC, Nellore
8	National Institute for Mental Health & Rehabilitation (NIMHR), Sehore	8	CRC, Rajnandgaon
9	Atal Bihari Vajpayee Training Centre for Disability Sports (ABVT CDS), Gwalior	9	CRC, Davangere
—	—	10	CRC, Kozhikode
—	—	11	CRC, Sundernagar
—	—	12	CRC, Bhopal
—	—	13	CRC, Ahmedabad
—	—	14	CRC, Gorakhpur
—	—	15	CRC, Imphal
—	—	16	CRC, Madurai
—	—	17	CRC, Jaipur
—	—	18	CRC, Varanasi
—	—	19	RC, Noida

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**Group-I (26.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): अंत्योदय से आत्मनिर्भरता (Antyodaya se Aatmanirbharata): Accelerating Socio-Economic Development through Area-Based Interventions**

**CONCEPT NOTE ON ACCELERATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AREA-BASED INTERVENTIONS (ABI) UNDER PM-AJAY**

**Introduction**

The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) adopts a comprehensive area-based and beneficiary-centric approach to reduce poverty among Scheduled Castes (SCs) through a combination of livelihood generation, infrastructure development, and educational support.

- The Adarsh Gram component anchors the area-based intervention (ABI) strategy by aiming for saturation of key socio-economic indicators in SC-majority villages.
- Grants-in-Aid and Hostel components strengthen livelihood ecosystems and human capital formation, respectively, thereby ensuring a holistic pathway to socio-economic transformation.

**Convergence: Integrated Development across Components**

- At the area level, the Adarsh Gram component focuses on saturation of infrastructure and services through Village Development Plans (VDPs).
- Grants-in-Aid projects typically combine skill development, income generation, and supporting infrastructure, while the Hostel component enhances access to education, creating synergy with area-based development efforts.
- The challenges persist in the form of departmental silos, rigid scheme guidelines, and weak coordination among implementing agencies, which limit effective convergence. In practice, there is inadequate integration between hostel facilities and the local education ecosystem, and components are often implemented in parallel without unified planning. Addressing these gaps requires enabling greater flexibility in aligning projects with local needs and developing integrated management information systems (MIS) for cross-component tracking.

**Community Participation: Inclusive and Demand-Driven Development**  
Community participation is central to the design and implementation of PM-AJAY,

particularly in the Adarsh Gram component, where VDPs are expected to be prepared through Gram Sabha consultations.

Active involvement of community institutions such as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and local collectives is essential to ensure that livelihood interventions under Grants-in-Aid and educational support through hostels are aligned with local needs.

Nevertheless, participation remains limited due to low awareness about scheme components, inadequate involvement of communities in identifying livelihood opportunities, and social barriers affecting vulnerable SC groups. In many cases, VDPs are prepared with insufficient grassroots engagement, and beneficiaries are not fully involved in designing livelihood projects.

Community oversight of hostel utilization and maintenance is also weak. Strengthening participatory planning processes, improving awareness, promoting social audits, and involving local institutions in hostel management and beneficiary identification can significantly enhance the effectiveness of interventions.

### **Cluster-Based Development: Integrated Area and Livelihood Approach**

Cluster-based development forms a critical pillar of the area-based intervention (ABI) approach under PM-AJAY. The Adarsh Gram component provides the spatial focus by targeting SC-majority villages for saturation of development indicators. Complementing this, the Grants-in-Aid component promotes cluster-based livelihood development by combining skilling, asset creation, and infrastructure support. The Hostel component contributes indirectly by improving educational attainment, thereby enabling long-term human capital development within these clusters. However, there are gaps in linking infrastructure development with livelihood generation, and economic activities under Grants-in-Aid are often not organized in a cluster mode. Additionally, hostel locations are not always aligned with educational and economic clusters, and infrastructure is sometimes underutilized or delayed. To address these issues, there is a need to promote cluster-based livelihood models aligned with local resources, link Grants-in-Aid projects more closely with Adarsh Gram clusters, and strategically locate hostels near education and skill hubs.

### **Continuous Monitoring: Outcome-Oriented and Integrated Tracking**

Continuous monitoring is essential to ensure that PM-AJAY delivers intended outcomes at both area and beneficiary levels. Monitoring systems need to capture not only area-level transformation in Adarsh Grams but also outcomes related to income generation and educational access through Grants-in-Aid and Hostels.

At present, monitoring tends to focus on outputs such as assets created or hostels constructed, rather than outcomes like income enhancement, employability, and

educational attainment. Fragmented monitoring systems, limited use of outcome indicators, and weak data integration constrain effective decision-making.

Implementation challenges include delays in data reporting, inconsistencies in records, and limited use of digital tools for real-time tracking. Strengthening monitoring would require developing integrated dashboards covering all components, introducing outcome-based indicators, conducting regular data-driven reviews, and institutionalizing third-party evaluations and feedback mechanisms.

### Points for Discussion

- How can convergence across Adarsh Gram, Grants-in-Aid, and Hostel components be institutionalised at the district and State levels?
- What mechanisms can enhance meaningful community participation, especially in identification of livelihood activities and monitoring of outcomes?
- How can cluster-based livelihood models be scaled, ensuring alignment with local economic potential and market linkages?
- What reforms are needed to shift monitoring from outputs to measurable socio-economic outcomes such as income enhancement and educational attainment?
- How can digital platforms and MIS systems be leveraged for real-time, integrated monitoring across components?

### Way Forward

- **Strengthen Convergence:** Institutionalise district-level convergence committees and integrate all components within VDP-based planning frameworks.
- **Deepen Community Engagement:** Mandate participatory planning processes- involve community institutions in planning and implementations, enhance awareness, and expand social audit mechanisms,
- **Promote Cluster-Based Models:** Identify clusters with high concentration of SC population and low socio-economic development, and develop model clusters combining infrastructure, livelihoods, and skilling, aligned with local resource endowments.
- **Align Human Capital Investments:** Strategically locate and integrate hostels with education and skilling ecosystems to maximise impact.
- **Adopt Outcome-Oriented Monitoring:** Introduce clear outcome indicators, develop integrated dashboards, and enable real-time tracking of progress.
- **Enhance Institutional Capacity:** Build capacities of State and district-level implementing agencies for planning, convergence, and monitoring.

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**Points of discussions for the Samras Hostel Scheme for Chintan Shivar on  
26.04.2026**

### **1. Geographical Concentration to Educational Disadvantage**

**Problem Statement:** Educational deprivation among marginalized communities is concentrated in specific districts and regions, resulting in unequal access to quality education. This leads to spatial imbalance continues to impede equitable human capital formation and inclusive regional development.

**Critical Gaps:**

- Limited availability of quality educational and residential infrastructure in identified districts.
- Lack of targeted, region-specific interventions aligned with demographic concentration.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Improved access to education in underserved regions.
- Reduction in regional disparities in human capital development.

### **2. Inadequate Social Integration in Educational Spaces**

**Problem Statement:** Segregated residential and educational arrangements limit meaningful interaction among students from diverse social backgrounds. This restricts peer learning opportunities and weakens social capital formation essential for long-term advancement.

**Critical Gaps:**

- Segregated residential and educational environments limiting peer interaction.
- Lack of platforms fostering inclusive and diverse student engagement.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Strengthened social cohesion and reduced discrimination.
- Enhanced peer learning and social capital formation.

### **3. Barriers to Continuity from School to Higher Education**

**Problem Statement:** Students from disadvantaged groups face multiple location-specific constraints such as distance, cost, and lack of safe accommodation. These barriers disrupt educational continuity, leading to high dropout rates and low transition to higher education.

**Critical Gaps:**

- Inadequate residential support near educational institutions.

- Financial, distance, and safety constraints disrupting student progression.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Improved transition rates from secondary to higher education.
- Increased retention and Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in disadvantaged regions.

**4. Fragmented Approach to Inclusion Across Social Groups**

**Problem Statement:** Existing schemes are largely designed in silos for specific communities, leading to duplication and inefficiencies. This fragmented approach constrains the development of inclusive ecosystems that ensure equitable access and representation.

**Critical Gaps:**

- Siloed schemes for different communities causing duplication and inefficiency.
- Lack of integrated platforms ensuring equitable representation.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Streamlined and equitable access to hostel and educational support.
- Strengthened inclusive ecosystems promoting collective empowerment.

**5. Inadequate Convergence with Holistic Development Needs**

**Problem Statement:** Interventions are predominantly focused on physical infrastructure, with limited integration of academic and skill development support. The absence of convergence with digital access, career guidance, and well-being services restricts overall beneficiary outcomes.

**Critical Gaps:**

- Overemphasis on physical infrastructure without academic and skill support.
- Limited integration of digital access, career guidance, and well-being services.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Improved employability and skill readiness among beneficiaries.
- Holistic development leading to sustainable self-reliance.

**6. Weak Lifecycle-Based Educational Support (School to Career)****Problem Statement:**

- There is a lack of a structured continuum of support across different stages of education, from school to higher education and beyond. This disrupts the

development of a sustained pipeline of skilled youth from disadvantaged communities.

**Critical Gaps:**

- Lack of continuity in support across different education stages.
- Absence of structured pipeline from school education to employment.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Seamless educational progression from school to higher education.
- Creation of a skilled, self-reliant workforce contributing to economic growth

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**Group II (26.04.2026) (5-7 State/UTs) समावेशन, पहचान और एकीकरण  
(Samaveshan, Pehchan aur Ekikaran) Inclusion, Identity, and Integration)**

**(i) SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTs**

**Introduction:** The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (SEED) is a flagship initiative for the holistic development of the most neglected, marginalized, socially and economically deprived DNT, NT, and SNT communities, adopting a multi-dimensional approach covering education, livelihoods, housing, and health.

Through its integrated design, SEED seek to address historical marginalization by improving access to opportunities in education, employment, health care and housing, thereby enabling sustainable socio-economic upliftment.

**Components of SEED Scheme**

**1. Educational Empowerment (Free Coaching)**

To provide good quality coaching support to Class 12 and graduate students from families with annual income up to ₹8 lakh for major competitive exams (UPSC, SSC, banking, defence, IIT-JEE, NEET, CAT, CLAT, etc.

**Implementation:** Through NGO Partner and Central University of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

**2. Livelihood Component**

The livelihood component promotes economic empowerment through formation and strengthening of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing ₹25,000 per SHG to support inter-lending and financial inclusion.

**Implementation:** Through National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

**3. Housing Component**

Housing support is facilitated through convergence with existing schemes PMAY-Gramin: ₹1.20 lakh (plain areas), ₹1.30 lakh (hilly areas) and PMAY-Urban.

**Implementation:** The DWBDNC facilitates by identifying DNT households, assisting in documentation, and coordinating with Governments.

**4. Health Component :** The health component aims to provide financial protection and access to quality healthcare through **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year

DWBDNC facilitates: Ayushman card registration and documentation and Coordination with National Health Authority and State agencies

## Implementation Challenges

### 1. Barriers in Obtaining Certificates:

- a) Eligible DNT beneficiaries face considerable difficulties in obtaining essential caste and income certificates, which act as a gateway for accessing entitlements under the scheme. This procedural hurdle significantly restricts their inclusion.
- b) States have been urged to proactively assist beneficiaries in navigating certification processes, particularly given that DNTs remain among the most marginalized and often lack awareness of administrative requirements.
- c) Inadequate inter-state coordination given the inter-district and inter-state mobility of DNT communities has resulted in unresolved beneficiary issues and weakened trust in implementation systems.

**2. Weak Inter-Departmental Coordination:** The need for improved coordination between implementing agencies with State and District-level departments is emphasized to ensure efficient delivery of livelihood interventions and health services, including the issuance of Ayushman cards and processing of claims.

**3. Low Stakeholder Awareness:** Inadequate awareness among both DNT community members and implementing agencies regarding scheme provisions, eligibility criteria, and available benefits has emerged as a systemic constraint. This has adversely affected outreach, enrolment, and effective utilization of benefits, particularly in areas such as health coverage and free coaching support.

**4. Financial Inclusion Bottlenecks:** Recognizing that many Denotified Tribes (DNTs) individuals lack formal residential proof, it is recommended to consider e-KYC with face recognition as an alternative verification mechanism to avail benefits of the scheme.

### Points for Discussion

- How can States streamline the issuance of caste and income certificates for DNT beneficiaries?
- What institutional mechanisms are needed to establish effective district-level coordination systems?
- What steps are required to improve inter-state and inter-district coordination, given the high mobility of DNT communities, to ensure access to certificates and entitlements?
- What strategies can be adopted to improve awareness among beneficiaries and frontline implementing agencies?
- How can partnerships with implementing agencies be strengthened to improve service delivery across scheme components?
- What are the key challenges in ensuring access to quality healthcare for DNT communities in remote and migratory settings, and what targeted State interventions are required?

- How can last-mile healthcare delivery (e.g., Ayushman Bharat enrolment and follow-up care) be improved for scattered and mobile DNT populations?
- What skill development strategies can be adopted to enhance livelihood opportunities for DNT youth, considering their traditional occupations and mobility patterns?
- How can awareness about residential schools be improved at the village level, especially given seasonal migration of parents?
- What measures can ensure enrolment and retention of DNT children in residential schools despite family migration?
- How can financial inclusion challenges, particularly in opening bank accounts, be effectively addressed?

### **Expected Outcomes**

- 1. Strengthen Institutional Mechanisms:** Many States are not issuing DNT certificates, and inter-state consultation remains weak, particularly due to high inter-district and inter-state mobility. States should establish District-Level Coordination Committees to provide structured support to DNT beneficiaries
- 2. Simplify Access to Entitlements:** Streamlined support mechanisms for certificate acquisition, enabling eligible DNTs to access scheme benefits without procedural delays.
- 3. Enhance Financial Inclusion:** Resolution of bank account opening bottlenecks through coordinated action with banking correspondents and State authorities to ensure financial inclusion of beneficiaries.
- 4. Expand Awareness and Outreach:** Enhanced awareness campaigns targeting both community members and frontline implementing stakeholders to drive enrolment across all four SEED components.
- 5. Improve Convergence and Partnerships:** Strengthened partnerships of implementing agencies with State and District-level departments to accelerate livelihood cluster formation and Ayushman card enrolment.

**(ii) SMILE SCHEME ‘COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE ACT OF BEGGING’**

**1. KEY COMPONENTS OF THE SUB-SCHEME**

The SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)–Beggary Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme being implemented across India in a phased manner. Implementation of the scheme commenced on 23.10.2023 and it is currently operational in selected 195 cities across 33 States/UTs, covering major religious, tourist, and urban locations.

The scheme is implemented through District Administrations, Urban Local Bodies, and partner NGOs. The scheme focuses on the comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging through a structured approach involving survey & identification, mobilization, provision of shelter and basic services, and sustainable rehabilitation through skill development and convergence with welfare schemes.

**2. SCHEME COVERAGE :**

- Since inception of the scheme (i.e. 23.10.2023), the scheme is operational in 195 cities - 31 cities in phase-1 (i.e. from 23.10.2023 – 31 March 2024), 50 cities in phase-2 (FY 2024-25) and 100 cities in phase-3 (FY 2025-26) across **34 States/UTs**, covering major religious, tourist, and historical places.
- 14 cities including 4 Metropolitan cities (Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata & Mumbai) have been selected for implementing of the scheme in March, 2026. These cities are in the initial process of consent, nomination of nodal officer, opening of bank account etc.

**3. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

- 99 fully operational shelter homes across 34 States/UTs
- **96 cities** have initiated preliminary activities such as surveys, IEC/media campaigns, and awareness programs.
- **31 cities are yet to start implementation of the scheme & bank account mapping in PFMS**
- 10 cities - Panaji & Madgaon (Goa), Bokaro (Jharkhand), Pune, Thane, Solapur (Maharashtra), Durgapur (West Bengal) and 3 Metro cities (Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai) are yet to provide their consent.

**4. IDENTIFICATION AND REHABILITATION STATUS**

- **Since inception of the scheme, i.e., 23.10.2023, a total of 31,262 persons (16,823 male, 11,137 female, 615 transgender persons and 2,653 children) have been identified as engaged in the act of begging, out of which 10,017 persons including 4,465 male, 2,295 female, 604 transgender persons and 2,653 children have been rescued and rehabilitated under the sub-scheme.**
- All identified children have been provided counselling, medical aid, and rehabilitation with most of them reunited with their families or provided alternative support such as admission to Anganwadi centres, schools, and child welfare committees, etc. as per the requirements.

- **Two national workshops and eight orientation/training programs** have been conducted for nodal officers and implementing agencies.

## 5. ACTIONABLE POINTS

- **Submission of Pending Utilization Certificates (UCs):** Cities yet to submit UCs for the first instalment released in FY 2023-24 (Amritsar, Panchkula, Omkareshwar, Srinagar, Trambakeshwar, Ujjain, Warangal) must expedite the process to facilitate the release of the next instalment.
- **Consent for Pending Cities:** 10 cities - Panaji & Madgaon (Goa), Bokaro (Jharkhand), Pune, Thane, Solapur (Maharashtra) and Durgapur (West Bengal) and 3 Metro cities (Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai) are yet to provide their consent.
- **Expansion of Scheme to all Metropolitan Cities-**DO letter dated 14.01.2026 sent to Chief Secretaries of 6 States and reminder dated 13.03.2026 issued to respective District Authorities for inclusion of Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai under SMILE-Beggary scheme. Consent still required from Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. Action plan to be submitted by all identified Metro cities.
- **Organisation of mass awareness and outreach camps-**State/UTs have been requested vide DO letter dated 17.03.2026 to organize awareness and outreach camps in high begging prevalence areas to ensure fast-track Aadhaar enrolment, PM-JAY registration and access to core welfare schemes.

Targeted beneficiaries: individuals engaged in begging, the elderly, disabled, women and children. Aadhaar enrolment of children may help reunion with their family

- **Expansion of Scheme to New Cities: Ministry proposes to expend the scheme to all the State/UT Capital Cities which have not covered so far. They are:**

S.No.	State / Union Territory	Capital City
1	Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
3	Assam	Dispur
4	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
5	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair)
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Daman
7	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti

## 7. MAJOR CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE SCHEME FOR NEXT FIVE YEAR (2025-26 TO 2030-31)

### State-Level Monitoring Mechanism

- States/UTs to be actively involved in implementation & continuous monitoring
- Each State/UT to designate a State Nodal Officer (SNO) to coordinate with district authorities & municipal corporations and to be entrusted with key responsibilities such as Selection of IA, fund disbursement, UC submission, progress data sharing, shelter home monitoring & sensitization. D.O. letter dated 19.02.2026 and reminders dated 09.03.2026 and 19.03.2026 issued to all States/UTs
- Only 6 States/UTs (Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Puducherry, Himachal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand) have appointed SNO so far.

### Introduction of Social Protection Measures

- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) – ₹436/year
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) – ₹20/year

### Key Features:

- Premium borne by Department
- Coverage for up to 5 years per beneficiary for rehabilitated beneficiaries to reduce vulnerability and prevents relapse into begging due to death/disability risks

### Financial Implication (5 Years):

- Target: 35,000 beneficiaries
- Total Cost: ₹4.32 Cr (within scheme outlay)

Shelter stay has been increased from 3 to 6 months → min. 6 months (up to 12 months for elderly, psychiatric & long-term destitute)

Increase in Per City Allocation — ₹48.70 Lakh → ₹55.80 Lakh

Particulars	Existing Guidelines	Revised Proposal (2025–31)
Rescue Transport Assistance	₹200 × 200 persons = ₹40,000	₹200 × 100 persons
Aadhaar/Benefits Card	₹150 × 200 persons = ₹30,000	₹150 × 100 persons
Clothing & Hygiene Kits	₹1,200 × 200 = ₹2.40 lakh	₹1,200 × 100
Cook	₹8,000/month	₹10,000/month
Security Guard	₹8,000/month	₹10,000/month
Housekeeping/MTS	Not available	₹1.20 lakh/year (New)
Skilling & Training	₹400 × 200 = ₹0.80	₹200/day × 15 days × 100

	lakh	= ₹3.00 lakh
IEC / Awareness	₹2.00 lakh (lump sum)	₹1.00 lakh (City) + ₹1.00 lakh (IA)
Administrative Expenses	₹1.00 lakh	₹1.00 lakh (Authority) + ₹1.00 lakh (IA)
Recurring Cost	₹48.70 lakh	₹50.80 lakh
Non-Recurring Cost	Nil	₹5.00 lakh
<b>Total (Year-1)</b>	<b>₹48.70 lakh</b>	<b>₹55.80 lakh</b>

## 8. CHALLENGES/BOTTLENECKS AND WAY FORWARD

### Shortcomings/bottlenecks:

- Lack of State/UT level involvement and monitoring system
- Slow progress in executing various steps – consent, nomination of nodal officer, mapping scheme/bank details in PFMS
- Inadequate IEC & awareness and outreach programme
- Weak Convergence with departments like health, education, skilling and other welfare scheme at district level
- Underutilisation/Non-utilization of grants within financial year
- Lack of systematic post-resettlement tracking and follow up
- Irregular & Inadequate data reporting

### Way forward

- Establish a State/UT-level monitoring mechanism through designation of State Nodal Officers for effective oversight and coordination.
- Constitute inter-departmental task forces at State/District level under senior officers to ensure convergence, accountability, and streamlined implementation.
- Conduct regular review meetings at State/District level and enforce time-bound timelines for submission of Utilization Certificates and data updation.
- Ensure completion of surveys/identification and timely submission of rehabilitation data in the prescribed format, with explanations for delays wherever applicable.
- Strengthen capacity building and training of field functionaries for accurate real-time data entry and effective implementation.
- Improve post-rehabilitation support mechanisms, including follow-up mentoring, skilling, and linkage with livelihood programmes, SHGs, and financial assistance.
- Promote timely fund disbursement by District/Urban Local Bodies to implementing NGOs/agencies to avoid implementation delays.
- Develop flexible outreach strategies, including IEC campaigns through print, digital, and community media, especially for those outside shelter systems.
- Ensure regular uploading of real-time data on the SMILE-Beggary Portal **SMILE-Beggary Portal (<https://smile-b.dosje.gov.in/>)** and maintain data quality and consistency.
- Encourage documentation and dissemination of best practices and success stories for replication across States/UTs.

### **(iii) SMILE Sub-Scheme: Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons**

#### **1. Background**

Transgender persons in India continue to face structural exclusion across identity recognition, education, healthcare, housing, and livelihoods. The judgment in *NALSA v. Union of India* recognized transgender persons as a “third gender” and affirmed their right to dignity and self-identification.

Subsequently, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 established the statutory framework for non-discrimination and access to welfare measures. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026 further refines the definition and targeting of beneficiaries, introduces structured certification mechanisms, and strengthens institutional accountability for delivery.

Within this legal framework, the SMILE sub scheme- Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons, operationalizes welfare interventions for transgender persons through a structured and integrated approach.

#### **2. Scale and Coverage Context**

As per Census 2011 approximately 4.87 lakh persons were identified under the “other” gender category, though this is widely considered an underestimation. The potential eligible population is estimated at around 4.8 lakh and above. However, the number of verified beneficiaries currently linked to the scheme through identity certification stands at approximately 30,000. This reflects a significant gap between the estimated population and actual coverage under the scheme.

#### **3. Scheme Components and Coverage**

##### **3.1 Identity, Certification and Digital Access**

The identity and certification component serves as the foundational entry point for accessing all benefits under the scheme. It enables transgender persons to obtain legal recognition in the form of an Identity Certificate and ID Card through the National Portal for Transgender Persons. The process involves application, verification, and issuance by the competent authority, typically at the district level, followed by creation of a digital record that facilitates service linkage.

This component is critical as it determines eligibility for all subsequent interventions and enables tracking and targeting of beneficiaries. As per available data, more than 30,000 Identity Certificates and corresponding ID Cards have been issued, forming the primary beneficiary base of the scheme.

##### **3.2 Garima Greh (Shelter and Rehabilitation)**

Garima Greh provides safe and secure residential facilities for transgender persons who are homeless, have faced family rejection, or are otherwise in vulnerable conditions. The component is designed as a transitional rehabilitation mechanism

that offers not only shelter but also food, basic healthcare, counselling, and skill development support.

These shelters are implemented through empanelled non-governmental organizations with financial support from the Ministry. They play a critical role in stabilizing beneficiaries and facilitating their reintegration into society by providing them with safe shelter, life skill trainings and an opportunity to reintegrate back to society.

At present, 23 Garima Greh shelters are operational across 17 States and Union Territories, with approximately 400 to 430 beneficiaries currently residing in these facilities. Cumulatively, more than 650 beneficiaries have been supported under this component. Despite this progress, the coverage remains limited in relation to the overall need. Proposed additional no. of Garima Grehs to be made operational per year for the next five years, subject to approval of EFC is 13 per year, totalling to 65 additional Garima Grehs.

### **3.3 Healthcare Support (Ayushman TG)**

The healthcare component provides financial protection and access to medical services through convergence with the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Under this component, eligible transgender persons are provided health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per beneficiary per year. This intervention is particularly significant given the high cost of healthcare and the limited availability of specialized services for transgender persons.

### **3.4 Livelihoods and Skill Development**

The livelihoods and skill development component aims to promote economic empowerment and long-term rehabilitation of transgender persons. It focuses on providing market-linked skill training, facilitating wage employment, and supporting self-employment opportunities through convergence with national skilling ecosystems and implementing partners.

This component is critical for addressing structural exclusion from formal employment and ensuring sustainable income generation. However, there is currently no consolidated national dataset capturing the number of beneficiaries covered under this component, highlighting a significant gap in monitoring and reporting.

### **3.5 Education Support**

The education component seeks to promote continuation and completion of formal education among transgender persons by providing financial assistance in the form of scholarships from Class IX onwards. This intervention addresses the high dropout rates observed among transgender students and aims to improve long-term socio-economic outcomes. While implementation is ongoing, there is limited availability of consolidated data on beneficiaries under this component, indicating the need for improved tracking mechanisms.

### 3.6 Awareness and IEC/BCC

The awareness and information, education and communication component aims to address social stigma and improve awareness regarding the rights and entitlements of transgender persons. Activities under this component include public campaigns, community outreach, and sensitization of stakeholders. This component plays a critical enabling role, as social stigma continues to be a major barrier to accessing services and opportunities. While activities are being undertaken at the national level, outcomes remain largely unquantified, underscoring the need for measurable indicators.

### 4. Key Issues Emerging from Implementation

The analysis of component-wise implementation highlights several systemic challenges. There remains a significant gap between the estimated transgender population and the number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme. While progress has been made in identity certification, coverage under other components such as shelter and healthcare remains limited. Additionally, there are substantial gaps in data availability, particularly in relation to livelihoods and education components, which affects monitoring and evaluation. Implementation is further constrained by capacity limitations at the State and District levels. The absence of an integrated real-time monitoring system also limits the ability to track outcomes and ensure effective delivery.

### 5. Way Forward

Going forward, there is a need to scale up beneficiary identification through the use of technology-enabled solutions such as mobile-based, geo-tagged data collection systems. Expansion of the Garima Greh network with clearly defined norms and standards is required to address shelter gaps. Efforts must also be made to increase enrolment and utilization under the healthcare component through targeted outreach.

A shift towards **outcome-based monitoring**, focusing on indicators such as livelihood stability, health access, and successful reintegration, is essential. Strengthening of district-level implementation structures and improved convergence with other schemes will also be critical. These measures must be aligned with the provisions of the Amendment Act, 2026 to ensure better targeting and delivery of benefits.

States and Union Territories are required to prepare and submit a comprehensive training plan within a period of two months. The plan should identify short-term, employment-linked courses and clearly define parameters such as duration, location, batch size, and number of courses, based on the transgender population in the State/UT. It should also indicate expected outcomes in terms of skilling, placement, and livelihood generation. Simultaneously, States/UTs are required to undertake identification and mobilization of transgender persons through structured field outreach. This includes leveraging NGOs, CBOs, and community networks to facilitate enrolment into scheme components and ensure last-mile coverage.

For effective implementation, States/UTs must empanel suitable training partners, including eligible government institutions and credible NGOs/CBOs, ensuring that

adequate infrastructure and training capacity are available. This should be complemented by ensuring readiness for inclusive implementation, including non-discriminatory access to training programmes and facilitation of basic requirements such as documentation and identity certification. Training programmes shall commence only after approval of the training plan by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Targeted outreach measures are to be undertaken in areas with high transgender population through organization of camps for identification, awareness, registration, and issuance of identity certificates. In parallel, States/UTs are expected to expand shelter and rehabilitation facilities under Garima Greh to enhance coverage and strengthen support services for vulnerable individuals. Focused efforts are also required to promote skill development and livelihood opportunities through short-term and long-term training programmes, along with support for entrepreneurship. This must be complemented by measures for financial inclusion, including facilitation of Jan Dhan accounts, access to credit, and financial literacy. States/UTs must ensure linkage of transgender persons with healthcare services under PM-JAY, including access to gender-affirming care. Further, digital and IT enablement should be prioritized through the rollout of a mobile application for survey, real-time data capture, and service tracking, along with revamping of the existing web portal to improve access to schemes, benefits, and monitoring systems.

Finally, sustained efforts towards awareness generation and capacity building are essential, including organization of job fairs, sensitization programmes, and stakeholder training, to ensure an enabling environment for effective implementation and improved outcomes.

## **6. Conclusion**

The SMILE sub-scheme provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities faced by transgender persons through interventions spanning identity, shelter, healthcare, livelihoods, education, and awareness.

While the scheme has established a foundational ecosystem, current coverage remains limited and uneven across components. The next phase of implementation must focus on scaling up convergence, strengthening data systems, and ensuring outcome-oriented delivery to achieve meaningful and sustained inclusion of transgender persons.

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**Group–III (26.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण (Arthik Sashaktikaran): Democratizing Credit Access: (Expanding Access to Credit and Financial Empowerment**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, through its corporations—**NSFDC, NBCFDC, and NSKFDC** (collectively referred to as Financial Development Corporations or FDCs)—has been consistently extending concessional financial assistance to its target groups belonging to **Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Safai Karamcharis (SK)**.

These corporations primarily provide bulk funding to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) working for the welfare of these target groups. While States are well aware of these mechanisms, emerging priorities in recent years have led to a greater focus on grant-based schemes by the States. As a result, the credit gap has increasingly been addressed through **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** and **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, which have also been engaged in implementing concessional financial schemes of the FDCs.

On an average, these three FDCs lend approximately **Rs 1400 Crore** annually, with an outstanding loan portfolio in excess of **Rs 5100 Crore** at any given point in time. Cumulatively, about **56.59 lakh beneficiaries** have been supported through concessional loans amounting to **Rs 21,082 crore**. Periodic evaluations of these schemes indicate a high degree of beneficiary satisfaction and continued relevance.

These concessional schemes are primarily designed to meet the credit requirements of individuals within the **Rs 3–5 lakh income group**, enabling livelihood generation, self-employment, and small enterprise development.

Access to credit has been further strengthened through the **VISVAS Yojana (Interest Subvention Scheme)**. Building on its pilot phase experience, the VISVAS Yojana has evolved into its current robust design by subventing loans of **Rs 5662 Crore** of more than **4 lakh** beneficiaries. Under the scheme existing eligible borrowers from target groups—who have availed loans from PSBs and RRBs—are provided interest subvention benefits. Additionally, subsidies for eligible individuals and **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** are delivered through the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** mechanism. The system is designed as a two-way interface, incorporating SMS-based communication and a feedback mechanism to enhance transparency and accountability.

Since FY 2023–24, all these economic empowerment initiatives have been integrated through the **PM-SURAJ portal**, launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This unified digital platform facilitates both direct and indirect financing by the Ministry and enables State agencies to submit bulk claims to FDCs efficiently.

For promoting larger-scale entrepreneurial activities, the Ministry also implements a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) Scheme aimed at supporting high-potential ventures among the target groups.

The scheme of "**Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC)**", was first of its kind VC Fund in the country, under the Social Sector Initiative of Govt. of India, to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes and to provide concessional finance to them. The Final Closing of the Fund was declared to SEBI on 31st March 2025 as the Fund had reached its target corpus of Rs.750 crore. The Fund has an investible corpus of Rs.640 crore, and as on 31st March, 2026, entire investible corpus has been sanctioned to 259 Companies across India. Similarly, **Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (VCF-BC)** was launched in year 2018 by MOSJE, GOI for providing concessional finance to OBC entrepreneurs with a corpus size of Rs.200 crore. The investible corpus of VCF-BC is approx. Rs.187 crore, out of which Rs.142.88 crore has already been sanctioned to 31 companies across 12 states.

**Pradhan Mantri- Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ)** Portal (<https://pmsuraj.dosje.gov.in/>), was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13th March 2024. PM SURAJ is a unified digital portal aims to consolidate and streamline economic empowerment initiatives under a single digital platform. The objective of the portal is to promote the economic empowerment of people from marginalized communities such as Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and Safai Karamcharis. PM SURAJ integrates the credit schemes of all three Finance and Development Corporations (FDCs, namely NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC), enabling Channel partners of FDCs to submit beneficiary details.

The portal features a comprehensive dashboard that provides an integrated overview of coverage of State, District, Channelizing Agencies, Gender-wise beneficiaries and the total amount disbursed to beneficiaries by the Apex Corporations of the MoSJ&E. The dashboard also provides details of achievements of the Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon Ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) Yojana of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJ&E), Government of India. In addition, the achievements of the MOSJ&E's Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are also displayed on the Portal.

The PM-SURAJ portal provides an online platform for target groups of FDCs under the aegis of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, to apply for loans at concessional interest rates. The platform facilitates online loan applications, either directly or through Common Service Centers (CSCs).

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**Group-IV (26.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): सुगम्यता से समावेश: Accessibility: Enhancing Universal Access and Barrier-Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities.**

**1. Introduction :** Accessibility is a fundamental right and a prerequisite for the full participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in society. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, and the flagship Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign), the Government of India is committed to creating a barrier-free environment across three pillars:

- Built Environment (Public buildings, hospitals, schools).
- Transportation System (Airports, Railway Stations, Public Transport).
- Information & Communication Technology (ICT) (Websites, documents, media).

**2. Objective of the Chintan Shivir :** The aim is to move beyond physical targets and focus on the qualitative impact of accessibility interventions :

- Identify bottlenecks in the utilization of funds under the SIPDA (Scheme for Implementation of the RPwD Act).
- Share "Best Practices" from high-performing States.
- Bridge the gap between infrastructure creation and actual ground-level usability as reported by accessibility auditors and the Sugamya Bharat App.

**3. Key Themes for Deliberation**

States and UTs are expected to come prepared with data and insights on the following:

- Financial Discipline & Utilization: Analysis of funds released versus Utilization Certificates (UCs) submitted. States must address why significant portions of funds remain pending in certain jurisdictions.
- Audit vs. Implementation: Moving from "Technical Completion" to "Functional Accessibility." Discussion will include feedback from empaneled auditors (e.g., CABE, Samarthyam) regarding the quality of retro-fitting.
- Grievance Redressal: The role of the Sugamya Bharat App in identifying barriers. Best-performing states (e.g., Odisha, Gujarat, Meghalaya) will share how they are resolving complaints at an accelerated pace.
- Innovative Mobility: Looking at successes in urban transport, such as the Kochi Metro model and "Sugamya Yatra" initiatives.

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**Group-V (26.04.2026) (7-8 States/UTs): पहचान से सम्मान Certification for PwDs: Streamlining Universal Identity Issuance for Seamless Service Delivery for Persons with Disabilities**

### Introduction

The Unique Disability ID (UDID) Scheme, implemented by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), aims to create a national database of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and issue a standardized identity card across India. The scheme reflects the vision of “Pehchan Se Samman”, emphasizing dignity through recognition and inclusion.

### Objectives

The scheme seeks to: (i) create a centralized database of PwDs; (ii) issue a unique disability ID valid nationwide; (iii) eliminate duplication and fraud; (iv) streamline delivery of benefits; and (v) enhance transparency and efficiency in governance.

### Key Achievements

As per recent data, over 1.36 crore UDID cards have been generated, covering more than 50% of the target population 2.68 crore (as per census 2011) and 78% as per CCPD registry wherein total registered PwDs are 1.74 crore (as per 28.12.2023 data). The UDID card processing performance varies across States/UTs, depending upon the medical infrastructure, manpower engaged, number of PwD population. The national average processing time stands at 214 days.

### State/Ut-Wise Status (As On 30.03.2026)

The Statement below shows the State/UT wise UDID cards and pending applications as on 30.03.2026:

State/Union Territory	UDID cards issued	Pending applications
Andaman And Nicobar Islands	7002	221
Andhra Pradesh	988113	6757
Arunachal Pradesh	4667	243
Assam	245709	25395
Bihar	721514	131789
Chandigarh	13050	1084
Chhattisgarh	276242	644
Delhi	110890	29302
Goa	13380	508
Gujarat	496725	13035
Haryana	237747	30517
Himachal Pradesh	110337	13318
Jammu And Kashmir	230300	17599
Jharkhand	213376	27020
Karnataka	936528	50486

Kerala	429722	35679
Ladakh	4272	83
Lakshadweep	1398	1
Madhya Pradesh	1010748	17045
Maharashtra	1424057	85858
Manipur	17010	4262
Meghalaya	34705	70
Mizoram	7539	288
Nagaland	3999	287
Odisha	951814	45339
Puducherry	24742	431
Punjab	384929	4281
Rajasthan	743159	39679
Sikkim	5925	56
Tamil Nadu	1027409	15023
Telangana	877669	20769
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman And Diu	4735	631
Tripura	45662	719
Uttar Pradesh	1680809	162328
Uttarakhand	106863	1326
West Bengal	237031	51500
<b>Total</b>	<b>13629777</b>	<b>833573</b>

### Digital Integration

The scheme has enabled API-based integration for real-time data exchange, authentication, and verification of beneficiaries. This facilitates seamless delivery of welfare schemes, prevents duplication, and ensures transparency. Data is updated regularly, minimizing delays and manual intervention.

### Major Reforms (2024–2025)

Key reforms include the launch of an upgraded UDID portal with improved security and user interface, revised disability assessment guidelines for uniformity, and extensive capacity building through training of medical professionals. Citizen-centric features such as a self-service dashboard allow PwDs to update personal details through e-KYC without visiting hospitals.

**Institutional Measures**

UDID Facilitation Centres have been established in National Institutes and CRCs. Aadhaar-based login systems and OTP-based verification have been introduced to enhance authenticity. SOPs for grievance redressal in education and employment have also been issued, along with appellate mechanisms in several States.

**Challenges**

Despite progress, challenges remain, including uneven implementation across regions, delays in processing, incomplete coverage, and digital accessibility barriers. Infrastructure and manpower constraints also affect efficiency in certain areas.

**Way Forward**

Future efforts should focus on achieving universal coverage, reducing processing timelines through automation, expanding integration with welfare schemes, strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms, and increasing awareness among beneficiaries.

**Conclusion**

The UDID Scheme is a transformative initiative that enhances inclusion and dignity for PwDs through a unified identity system. Continued reforms and focused implementation will help realize its full potential and ensure equitable access to benefits for all eligible individuals.

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