

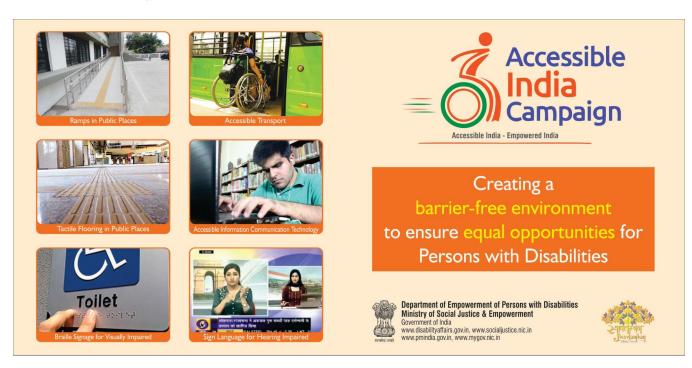
# Accessible India Campaign

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## Why in News

The deadline for the government's **Accessible India Campaign (AIC)** has been extended to March 2020 due to slow progress.

- AIC is the nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and **Empowerment.**
- The aim of the Campaign is to make a barrier-free and conducive environment **for Divyangians** (Persons with Disabilities - PwDs) all over the country.



• Launched by the Prime Minister of India on International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2015.

#### • Background

 Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 categorically provided for nondiscrimination in transport and in the built environment.

It needs to be noted that **the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** replaced the PwD Act, 1995.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with
 Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory, under Article 9
 casts obligations on the Governments for ensuring to PwDs accessibility to (a)
 Information, (b) Transportation, (c) Physical Environment, (d) Communication
 Technology and (e) Accessibility to Services as well as emergency services.

#### • Three Components of AIC

- Built Environment Accessibility
- Transportation System Accessibility
- o Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

### • Targets entailed under the three components

- Making 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals fully accessible by December 2018.
- Completing accessibility audit of 50% of government buildings and making them fully accessible in 10 most important cities/towns of States by December 2019.
- Ensuring that 50% of railway stations in the country are converted into fully accessible railway stations by March 2018.
- Ensuring that 25% of Government owned public transport carriers in the country are converted into fully accessible carriers by March 2018.
- Conducting accessibility audit of 50% of all government (both Central and State Governments) websites and converting them into fully accessible websites by March 2017.

**Source: TH**