



# Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Year End Review 2023

**For Prelims:** Initiatives by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**For Mains:** Year End Review of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Initiatives and Achievements of the Department

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the year-end-review of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** for the year 2023 was released.

## What are the Key Highlights of the Initiatives and Achievements?

- **Historic Gatherings and Festivals for Inclusion:**
  - The Department hosted events like a **special gathering at Rashtrapati Bhavan and India's First Festival of Inclusion (Purple Fest)** in Goa, involving thousands of Divyangjan and transgenders, setting world records, and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **India-South Africa cooperation in Disability Sector:**
  - The Union Cabinet signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and the Government of South Africa, focused on cooperation in the [Disability Sector](#).
- **Divya Kala Mela:**
  - The **Divya Kala Mela 2023**, held in different cities throughout the year, stands as a testament to the Government's commitment to fostering holistic development and empowerment for persons with disabilities.
  - With a vision aligned with the Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the Government aims to ensure **equal participation of divyang individuals in India's overall growth**.
- **Disabilities Awareness Days:**
  - The DEPwD embarked on a year-long celebration, commemorating various disability awareness like [World Braille Day](#) on January 4 to [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) on December 3, 2023d in 2023.
- **Recognition of Achievements:**
  - Government felicitated **Abilympics winners**, honoring Indian Deaf Cricket Team and Para Swimmer Shri Satendra Singh Lohia, celebrating excellence in the field of disabilities, and recognizing their contributions.
- **Initiatives and Reforms:**
  - The government launched transformative programs like integrating universal accessibility courses into architectural programs, releasing anonymous data through [UDID \(Unique](#)

[Disability ID\) portal](#), and introducing portals for skill training, employment opportunities, and online case monitoring.

▪ **Empowering Through Entrepreneurship:**

- Government partnered with **institutes to support and empower 3000 Persons** with Disabilities through enterprise initiatives, fostering collaboration between government, corporate, and institutions.

▪ **Technology and Accessible Resources:**

- The government launched ISL (Indian Sign Language) dictionary terms, Video Relay Service, and online courses in Indian Sign Language, along with ensuring accessible books through SugamyaPustakalaya.

▪ **Sports and High-Tech Training Centers:**

- Inaugurated India's first high-tech sports training center for Divyangjan, named after former Prime Minister [Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee](#), in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, emphasizing equal opportunities in sports and talent enhancement.

▪ **Legal Support and Financial Inclusion:**

- Delivered impactful judgments, providing interest rate rebates to divyangjan borrowers, promoting financial inclusion through NDFDC loans, and collaborating for universal design centers for reading.
  - DEPwD announces 1% interest rate rebate to divyangjan borrowers under NDFDC Loan.

▪ **[Assistance to Disabled Persons Camp \(ADIP\) Scheme:](#)**

- The Scheme witnesses remarkable achievements, with grants-in-aid totaling Rs.368.05 crore, benefiting 2.91 lakh beneficiaries.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. India is home to lakhs of persons with disabilities. What are the benefits available to them under the law? (2011)**

1. Free schooling till the age of 18 years in government run schools.
2. Preferential allotment of land for setting up business.
3. Ramps in public buildings.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (d)**