



# DISABILITY BUDGETS IN INDIA

Tracking Federal Allocations and Spending Patterns (2021-2026)



# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# INTRODUCTION

India's commitment to disability inclusion is grounded in constitutional guarantees and reinforced through landmark legislation such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. Yet, the real test of this commitment lies in how public finances are allocated and spent. This report "Disability Budgets in India", offers a detailed analysis of how disability welfare is reflected in the Union Government's budgeting across key ministries.

Among all Union Ministries reviewed, only three - Social Justice and Empowerment, Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development - have identifiable budgetary line items explicitly earmarked for disability. Even within these, allocations often stagnate or shrink in proportional terms despite increases in overall ministry budgets. For example, the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) under Rural Development and Scheme for Implementation of the RPwD, 2016 (SIPDA), under Social Justice face flat or declining allocations, often paired with significant underutilisation.

Other ministries, including those responsible for education, sports, finance, and law, feature ambitious commitments to disability inclusion in their schemes and policies, but lack transparency on financial allocations. There is no disaggregated budget data available to assess how much is actually spent on persons with disabilities under these schemes. The Ministry of Skill Development is a notable case as it reports data on the number of persons with disabilities benefitting from training programmes, yet fails to provide clear monetary figures tied to those beneficiaries.

This report aims to bridge that critical information gap. By examining both allocations and utilisation patterns, based on publicly available data, we highlight systemic inconsistencies and underscore the urgent need for **budget transparency and data-driven accountability** in disability-related policymaking. The findings are intended to inform legislators, civil society, researchers, and budget watchers working to align India's fiscal priorities with its constitutional promise of inclusion.

Considering funding constraints, we have not examined state-level disability budgets and have restricted ourselves to studying the Union budget. The study of Union budgets with a disability lens is an annual research output from Pacta, and we have published similar reports for the years 2023 (Pacta, 2023) and 2024 (Pacta, 2024). Budget allocations are available up to the current financial year (2025–26). However, actual expenditure data is only available up to 2023–24, so the trends have been presented on that basis.

This report uses person-first language, referring to individuals as "persons with disabilities." This is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities released by the Supreme Court of India in 2024, available on the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) website. Terms such as "differentlyabled," "specially-abled," or "disabled" are avoided in this paper. These expressions are considered euphemistic or patronising and are explicitly discouraged in the Supreme Court's handbook.

<sup>1</sup>The term PwD (Persons with Disabilities) or Divyang may appear in this report where it is directly quoted or referenced from official government policy documents.

# 1. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) is the nodal ministry for disability welfare in India. It formulates policies, implements schemes, and oversees institutions dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities. Through the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), the government provides financial assistance, aids and appliances, skill training, and promotes accessibility and inclusion. There are provisions for persons with disabilities in the Department of Social Justice as well.

## A. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

#### **DEPwD Budget\* Vis-à-Vis MSJE Budget**

\*DEPwD Budget<sup>2</sup> includes the following subheads:

- National Program for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities<sup>3</sup>
- Scholarship for Students with Disabilities
- Support to Autonomous Bodies<sup>4</sup>
- Support to PSUs <sup>5</sup>
- Secretariat budget

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>(Government of India, 2025)

<sup>3</sup>Includes Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disability Act

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Includes National University of Rehabilitation Science and Disability Studies, Rehabilitation Council of India, Centre for Disability <sub>5</sub>Sports, Support to National Institutes

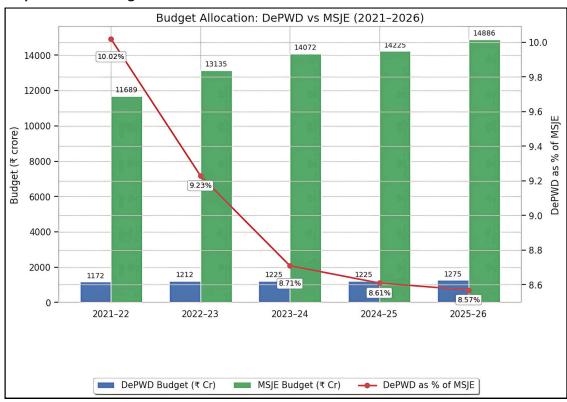
Includes National Handicapped Finance and Development,Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India

Table 1: Budget Allocation: DEPwD Vis-à-Vis Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (in crores)

Budget Year	DEPwD	MSJE	DEPwD as % of MSJE Budget
2021-22	1172	11689	10.02%
2022-23	1212	13135	9.23%
2023-24	1225	14072	8.71%
2024-25	1225	14225	8.61%
2025-26	1275	14886	8.57%

Budget for persons with disabilities under DEPwD stagnates at around ₹ 1200 crore

Figure 1: Disability Related Allocation in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Budget



#### Key Observations - DEPwD Budgets

- While both DEPwD and MSJE budgets have seen gradual increases in absolute terms, the DEPwD's share of the MSJE budget is steadily declining.
- The allocation for disability dropped from 10.02% in 2021-22 to 8.57% in 2025-26.
- Despite rising budgets, disability-focused allocations are not keeping pace with overall ministry growth.

#### **Trends in Scheme-Wise Budget Allocation of DEPwD**

Figure 2: Scheme-wise Budget Allocation of DEPwD Over the Last 5 years (2021-22 to 2025-26)

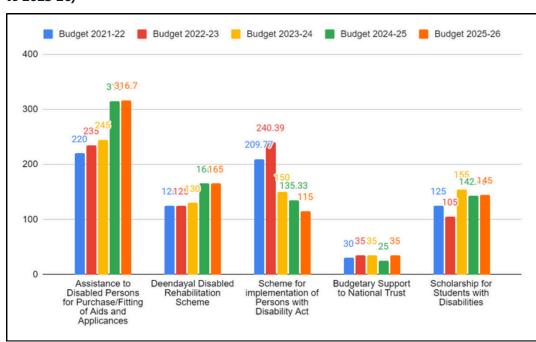
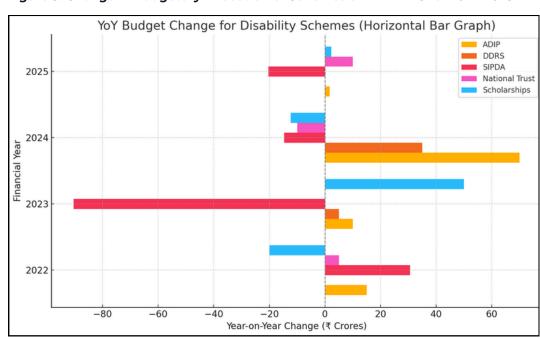


Figure 3: Change in Budgetary Allocation of Schemes of DEPwD Over 2022-2025



#### **Insights On Budgets of Key DEPwD Schemes:**

#### **Positive Trends:**

- ADIP Scheme shows consistent positive growth, especially a major jump in 2023-24 (+₹70 crore), reflecting increased support for assistive devices.
- DDRS jumped ₹35 crore in 2023-24, then plateaued, suggesting a one-time boost.
- Scholarships for students with disabilities saw a big rise in 2023-24 (+ ₹50 crore), indicating stronger educational focus.

#### **Negative Trends:**

- SIPDA shows a steep drop in 2023-24 (-₹90.39 crore) and continues to decline.

  Scheme for Implementation of RPwD Act (SIPDA) shows significant underutilisation every year (See Figures 4,5, 6, 7 and 8):

  i. 2021-22: ₹209.77 Cr allocated, only ₹108.44 Cr used (~48% utilisation)

  ii. 2022-23: ₹240.39 Cr allocated, only ₹65.59 Cr used (~27% utilisation)

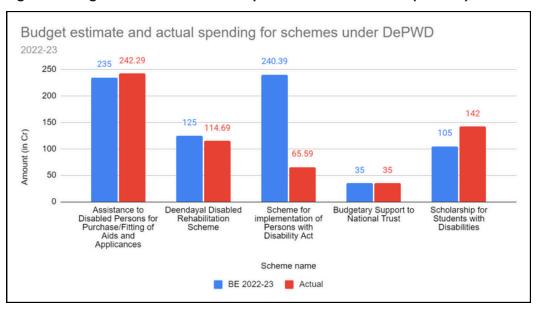
  iii. 2023-24: ₹150 Cr allocated, only ₹76.79 Cr used (~51% utilisation)
  - Despite landmark judgments on RPwD, such as Rajive Raturi v. Union of India (2024), the budget allocation for SIPDA declined in 2025-26.
  - This points to reduced emphasis on infrastructure/accessibility projects under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act. The underutilisation of the SIPDA budget is a key cause for reducing allocations to SIPDA. This is concerning as meaningful implementation of the RPwD Act is the strongest pathway for inclusion of persons with disabilities. Effective utilisation of budgeted allocations should not be a challenge, considering that there are ≈ 10000 f disability themed nonprofits in India and they struggle to raise funds.

# **Utilisation of DEPwD Budget Over the Last Three Financial Years**

Budget estimate and actual spending for schemes under DePWD 2023-24 290.6 300 245 200 155 150 130 129.98 130.07 Amount (in Cr) 76.79 100 35 35 Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Assistance to Deendayal Disabled Scheme for Budgetary Support to National Trust implementation of Persons with Disability Act Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Rehábilitation Scheme Aids and Applicances Scheme name ■ BE 2023-24 ■ Actual

Figure 4: Budget Estimate Vs Actual Expenditure Under DEPwD (2023-24)





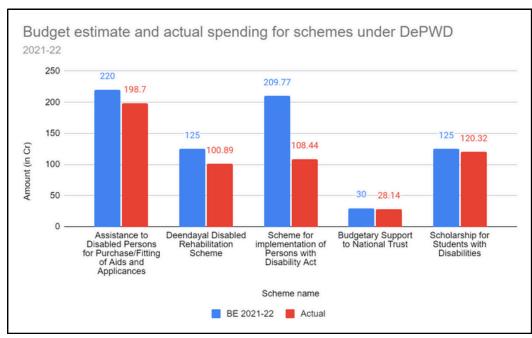
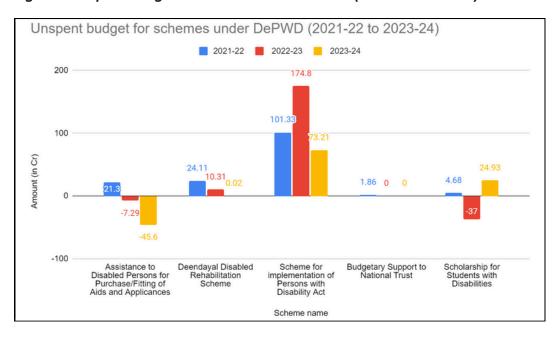


Figure 6: Budget Estimate Vs Actual Expenditure Under DEPwD (2021-22)





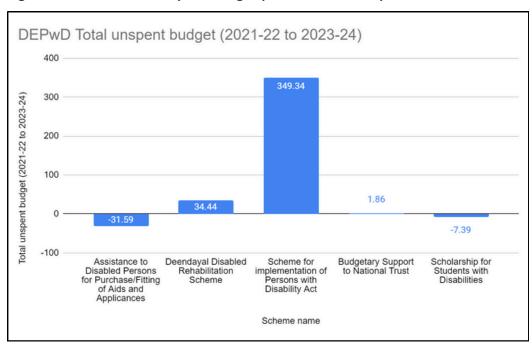


Figure 8: DEPwD-Total Unspent Budget (2021-22 to 2023-24)

#### **B.** Department of Social Justice

The Department of Social Justice, within the MSJE also includes **provisions** for persons with disabilities in their schemes. These provisions often appear in schemes targeted at specific populations (such as Scheduled Castes or senior citizens) and reflect a **crosscutting recognition** of disability inclusion, albeit with limited budgetary visibility. Some schemes that mention persons with disabilities are:

# National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (M.Phil. & Ph.D.)<sup>7</sup>

This scheme includes a provision for PwDs belonging to the SC category, as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Candidates with 40% or more disability are eligible for reservation under the existing PwD quota.

#### Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)<sup>8</sup>

A Central Sector Scheme that provides assistive devices to economically disadvantaged senior citizens suffering from age-related disabilities or infirmities. Devices are intended to restore near-normal functioning and must meet standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

### Scheme of Top Class Scholarship for SC Students<sup>9</sup>

The scheme reserves **12 admission slots** in national institutes that cater specifically to Pwds. These slots are available to SC students seeking education in fields related to disability and rehabilitation, thereby fostering both representation and expertise in the disability sector.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>(GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP (Effective From 25.11.2021) Modified on 13/03/2023 1. Background National <sup>8</sup>Fellowshi. 2023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>(Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) | Ageing With Dignity Department of Social Justice & Empowerment - Government of India, n.d.) (Scheme Guidelines of Scheme of Top Class Scholarship for SC Students Applicable From 2024-25 1 Objectives and Coverages a. The S, n.d.)

# 2. MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) supports disability welfare through early detection, medical rehabilitation, and issuance of disability certificates. It also works to make healthcare services and infrastructure accessible under schemes like Ayushman Bharat.

Only mental health schemes appear as separate line items in the Union Budget, which is why we have included mental health scheme allocations to calculate the disability budget of MoHFW.

# Disability Allocations\* Vis-à-Vis MoHFW Budget

\*Disability Budget under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare denotes the combined budget allocated to the following initiatives for mental health:

National Tele Mental Health Programme	The National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP), also known as Tele-MANAS, is a 24/7 helpline that provides mental health support via telecommunication		
National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro- Sciences, Bengaluru	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru is a world-renowned centre of excellence in the realm of mental health and neurosciences		
Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur	The Institute provides high- quality, cost-effective mental health care to the people of the north eastern region of India through exceptional services in an environment of education, teaching, and research		

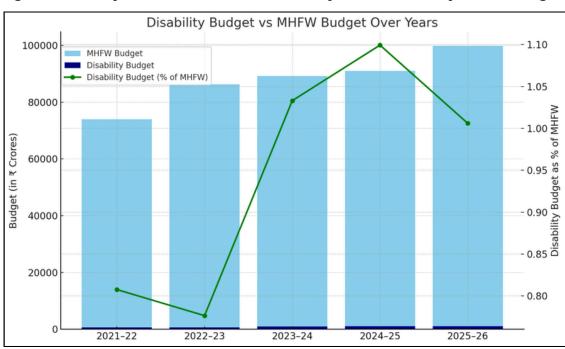
Table 2: Budget Allocation: Disability Related Vis-à-Vis Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (in crores)

Budget Year	Disability Budget	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (M0HFW) Budget	Disability Budget as % of MSJE Budget
2021-22	597	73,932	0.81%
2022-23	670	86300	0.78%
2023-24	921	89155	1.03%
2024-25	2024-25 1000 90959		1.10%
2025-26	1004	99858	1.01%

#### Key Insights on Disability Allocation in MoHFW Budget:

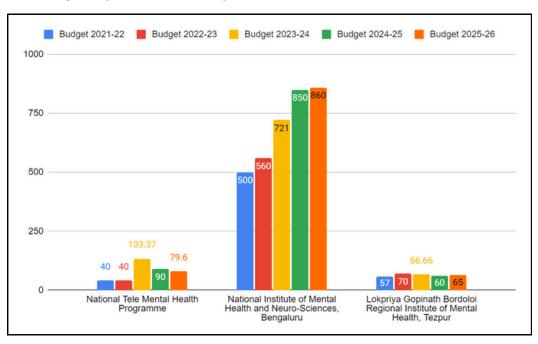
The disability budget has kept pace with the growth in the ministry budget, but forms a very minuscule portion of the whole budget (~1%). Also, there is a decline in allocation in FY 2025-26 despite the growing need to address Mental Health (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Disability Related Allocation in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Budget



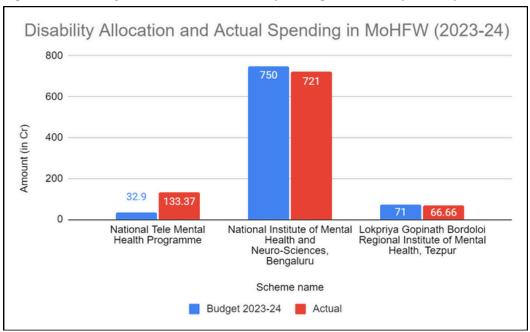
# Trends in Scheme-Wise Budget Allocation Under MOHFW

Figure 10: Trends in Disability Related Budget Allocation of MoHFW Over the Last Five years (2021-22 to 2025-26)



# **Utilisation of Disability Budget in MoHFW Over the Last Three Financial Years**

Figure 11: Disability Allocation and Actual Spending in MoHFW (2023-24)



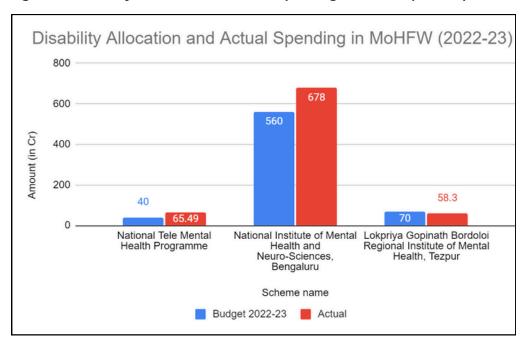
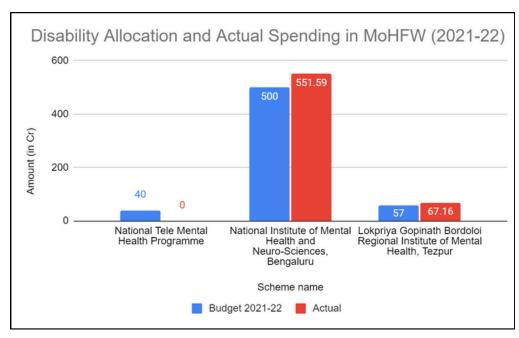


Figure 12: Disability Allocation and Actual Spending in MoHFW (2022-23)

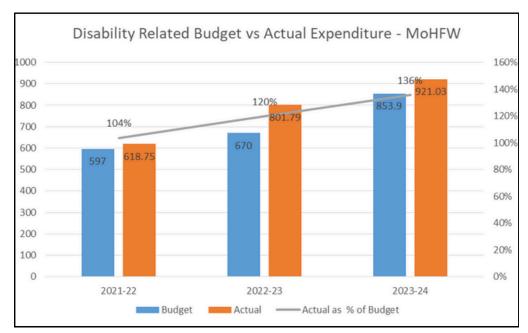




#### Key Insights on Utilisation of Budgets under MoHFW

As can be seen from Figures 11-14, between 2021-22 and 2023-24, actual expenditure on mental health has almost always exceeded the allocated budget, especially under the **National Tele Mental** Health Programme. In 2023-24, spending rose to over 136% of the budget, highlighting both growing demand and serious underestimation in planning.

Figure 14: Disability Related Budget Vs Actual Expenditure (2021-22 to 2023-24) - MoHFW



Some of the other prominent programs and schemes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for which budgetary commitments are not publicly available are:10

- National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer,
   Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS): This
   program aims to provide early diagnosis and treatment of non communicable diseases, including those affecting persons with
   disabilities
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK): The RBSK scheme provides health screening and early intervention services to children with disabilities
- District Disability Rehabilitation Centers (DDRCs): The MoHFW has established DDRCs in various districts to provide rehabilitation services

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>(Ojha, 2023).

# 3. MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Rural Development supports disability welfare by ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in rural employment schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and social assistance programs like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). It promotes accessible infrastructure and livelihoods to enhance rural participation and the well-being of persons with disabilities.

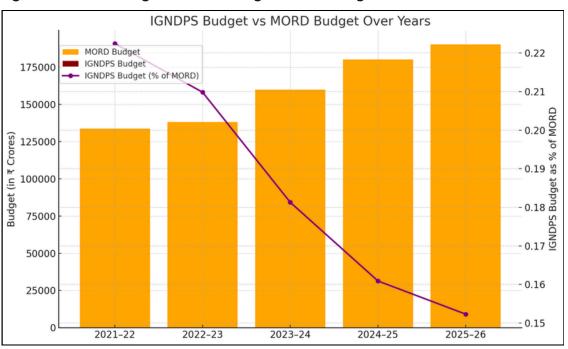
MoRD also runs the **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)** for BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities between the age group of 18-64 years, providing ₹ 300 per month per beneficiary, ₹ 500 for people over 80 years. It is the only disability focussed scheme under the MoRD with a clear, dedicated central budget allocation.

#### **IGNDPS Allocation Vis-a-Vis MoRD Budget**

Table 3: IGNDPS Allocation Vis-a-Vis MoRD Budget

Budget Year	MoRD Budget (₹ Cr)	IGNDPS Budget (₹ Cr)	IGNDPS as % of MoRD
2021-22	1,33,690	297	0.222%
2022-23	2022-23 1,38,204 290		0.210%
2023-24	1,59,964	290	0.181%
2024-25	1,80.233	290	0.161%
2025-26	1,90,406	290	0.152%

Figure 15: IGNDPS Budget as a Percentage of MoRD Budget



#### Key Insights on Disability Allocation in MoHFW Budget:

#### Stagnant IGNDPS Allocation

The IGNDPS budget has remained unchanged at ₹290 crore since 2022-23. This stagnation comes **despite a 42.4% increase** in the overall MoRD budget from ₹1.33 lakh crore (2021-22) to ₹1.90 lakh crore (2025-26) (Table 3).

#### • Declining Proportional Priority

IGNDPS's share of the total MoRD budget has been declining annually, from 0.222% in 2021-22 to 0.152% in 2025-26 (Figure 15).

#### Budget Imbalance

While other flagship schemes under MoRD (like PMAY-G and MGNREGA) have seen boosts, IGNDPS hasn't followed the same trajectory, potentially indicating **policy stagnation or de-prioritisation.** 

# 4. MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP\*

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship promotes disability welfare by providing inclusive skill training and entrepreneurship programs for persons with disabilities. While the Ministry provides data on the number of beneficiaries with disabilities across its various schemes, there is limited data on the budget specifically allocated or spent on them.

### Some schemes/provisions by the MSDE for trainees with disabilities:

#### Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

It is a scheme for skill-based training of the youth across the country including the candidates who are persons with disabilities under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). According to the latest available data (2023-24), only 0.01% of the total budget of the PMKVY was spent on persons with disabilities (Table 4)

Table 4: PMKVY 4.0: Budget Spent on Trainees with Disabilities

PMKVY	INR ₹
Budget Spent on Trainees with Disabilities	4.92 Lakhs
Total Budget	520 Crores

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2023

#### • Craftsmen Training Scheme

i. No tuition fee will be charged from **"Divyang trainees"** to take admission in Industrial Training Institute (ITIs) / National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

ii. For persons with visual impairment, one special subject namely "Psychomotor skill" is being conducted in place of 'Engineering Drawing' for the Engineering trades.

iii. For candidates with visual impairment, user-friendly tools, equipment and measuring instruments such as a Braille systembased micro meter for holding the jobs & simplifying the drilling process are used.

iv. The Directorate General of Training has enhanced the reservation of "PWD quota" in the year 2019 from 3 % to 4 % for five categories of benchmark disabilities under the Craftsmen Training Scheme. Still the actual representation of persons with disabilities remains less than 0.5% (Table 5).

v. ITIs have provided appropriate infrastructure for trainees with disabilities, including accessible toilets and ramps. The number of ITIs with the facilities provided by them is presented in **Figure 16**.

Table 5: Number of Trainees with Disabilities Trained by ITIs in AY 2023-24.

Admission Year	Total Admitted	Admitted Persons with Disabilities	% of Persons with Disabilities Against Total
2021	12,25,851	4,853	0.40%
2022	12,50,640	4,882	0.39%
2023	14,38,503	5,049	0.35%

National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)

NIESBUD is an autonomous entrepreneurship development institute under MSDE. It imparts various training programmes covering 1,95,395 beneficiaries during the last five years (2017-18 to 2021-2022) which includes 1,907 candidates with disabilities. Based on this, we estimate that **1% of the NIESDBUD budget** goes for training of persons with disabilities.

#### • Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSSs)

The Scheme of Support to JSS [NGOs] for skill development is a scheme of its kind which helps the marginalised, disadvantaged and under served sections of society to realise their full potential through specially tailored skill training which facilitates self/wage employment to non-literate, neo-literate, person with rudimentary level of education up to 8th standard and school dropouts up to 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years. The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities, 'Divyangjan' and other backward sections of the society. The beneficiaries of this scheme who are persons with disabilities, is quite low i.e. less than 0.5% (Table 6).

Table 6: Jan Shikshan Sansthan: Details on Number of Trainees with Disabilities (2018-2024)

FY	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Divyangjan Trained	318	1897	1025	1250	2745	1701	8936
Total Trained	1,67,283	4,15,332	3,59,796	4,61,996	7,26,284	5,06,078	26,36,769
Percentage of PWD Trained/Total Trained	0.19%	0.46%	0.28%	0.27%	0.38%	0.34%	0.34%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Press Information Bureau, 2022

#### • National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

The MSDE launched the NAPS on 19.08.2016 to provide financial incentive to the establishments undertaking apprenticeship programmes under the Apprentices Act, 1961. The beneficiaries of this scheme who are persons with disabilities is quite low i.e. less than 0.3% **(Table 7).** 

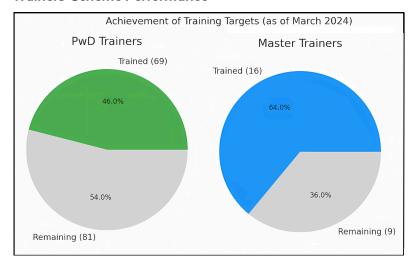
Table 7: NAPS: Details on Number of Trainees with Disabilities (2018-2024)

FY	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023- 24	Total
Divyangjan Trained	36	689	749	2012	1662	1559	6707
Total Trained	35,333	2,06,903	3,07,742	5,90,189	7,38,704	9,31,406	28,10,277
Percentage of PWD Trained/Total Trained	0.10%	0.33%	0.24%	0.34%	0.22%	0.17%	0.24%

#### Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness of Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)

There is no specific budget provision for persons with disabilities under SANKALP. However, a project "Inclusive Academy for Training and Master Trainers" amounting to ₹ 1.09 crore has been approved to SCPwD for training of Master Trainers and Trainers with Disabilities. It is being implemented by MSDE in partnership with Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD). The project involves training of 150 persons with disabilities professionals as Trainers and 25 professionals as Master Trainers. Based on the learnings from the project, a trainer academy will be exclusively developed for the training of PwD trainers.

Figure 16: Inclusive Academy for Training and Master Trainers' Scheme Performance



# 5. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Education promotes disability inclusion and welfare through several schemes that enable learning of children with disabilities in schools.

As per the latest data, 21,14,110 children with disabilities were enrolled in schools (of a total of 24,80,45,828) (UDISE data, 2024). Children with disabilities enrolled in school comprise 0.8% of the total number of children in schools (Figure 18).

#### **Key Schemes:**

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is India's flagship school education scheme integrating elementary to senior secondary education. It promises inclusive education for all, with specific provisions for children with disabilities under the Inclusive Education (IE) component. Total Allocation for Samagra Shiksha: ₹41,249 crore.

NIPUN Bharat<sup>13</sup> scheme for Foundational Learning includes aspirational goals for children with disabilities. Though NIPUN Bharat scheme briefly acknowledges the importance of empathy and sensitivity from teachers and peers towards children with disabilities, it stops short of outlining any substantive strategies to address their unique learning requirements.

Across various schemes (Box 1), there is no publicly available disaggregated budget data showing how much is allocated or spent on disability specific interventions for children with disabilities. Key areas like special educators, devices, or transport stipends remain untracked in official financial reports.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Britton, 2021

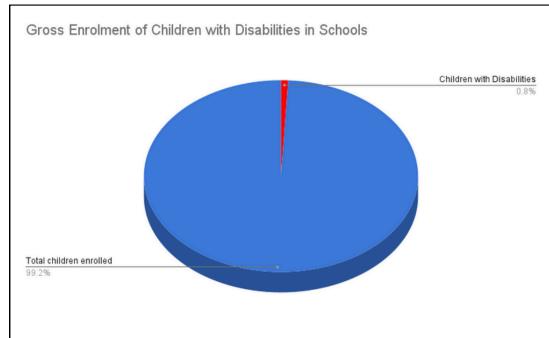


Figure 17: Latest Data (2023-24) on the Number of CWSN Enrolled in All Schools

# Box 1: Key Provisions for Children with Disabilities under Ministry of Education

Based on Samagra Shiksha norms, NCERT guidelines, NIPUN Bharat and the PRASHAST app:

- Early Identification & Assessment Camps annually
- Assistive Devices & Aids provided post-assessment of disability
- Transport Allowance ₹6000/year per child (for every child in sparse location)
- Stipend for female children with disabilities ₹200/month (10 months)
- Home-based education for children with severe/multiple disabilities
- Special Educators for 21 disability types (as per RPwD Act 2016)
- Accessible infrastructure ramps, toilets, handrails
- Teacher Training 5-21 days on inclusive pedagogy
- Peer Sensitisation & Inclusive Activities
- NCERT's PRASHAST App digital tool for disability screening

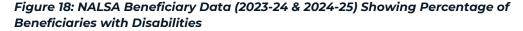
# 6. MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

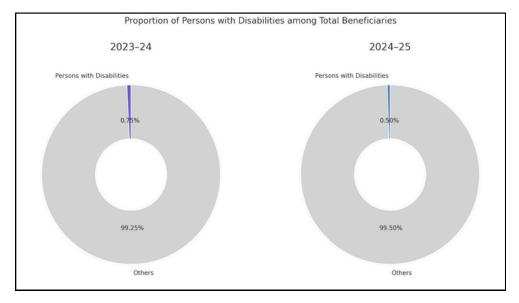
#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Law & Justice plays a key role in disability welfare by formulating, reviewing, and providing legal clarity on laws that protect the rights of persons with disabilities, such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. It ensures that legislation is aligned with constitutional guarantees and international commitments on the rights of persons with disabilities. Though there are disability specific schemes and provisions, there is no carved out budget for disability specific initiatives.

#### **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**

NALSA, set up under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987,** by the Department of Justice, is pivotal in ensuring access to justice for marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, by providing free legal aid. In **2024-25, only 0.5%** of total beneficiaries were persons with disabilities, **8,313 out of 1,657,527** beneficiaries. This marks a decline from **2023-24, where persons with disabilities made up 0.74% of the total, 11,591 out of 1,550,164 beneficiaries.** 





### **Key Initiatives Under the Ministry of Justice** for Persons with Disabilities

- The NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024<sup>14</sup> updates and revises NALSA's previous scheme, NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015. It seeks to align the mandate of the Legal Services Institutions (LSIs) with the legislative provisions under the RPwD and MHCA, with an aim to ensure access to legal services for persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities.
- NALSA (Legal Services for Differently Abled Children) Scheme, 2021<sup>15</sup> focuses on legal literacy for teachers, donors and officers responsible for welfare of the children with special needs (CwSN). It has been subsumed under NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024.

#### Election Commission of India (ECI)<sup>16</sup>

Though independent, the ECI has initiated efforts for inclusion of persons with disabilities and align closely with the legal framework set by the Ministry of Law and Justice. However no details on budgetary allocations are known.

#### **Key Efforts for Accessible Voting:**

- Braille-enabled Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)
- Assistance at polling stations, including wheelchairs, priority entry, and volunteers.
- Voter helplines, awareness campaigns, and home voting options under Rule 27A of the Conduct of Election Rules.
- Voters with disabilities can mark their disability during registration to receive support services.
- Launched the "Accessible Elections" campaign in 2018.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> National Legal Services Authority, 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>National Legal Services Authority, 2024

Election Commission of India, n.d

Election Commission of India, 2018

# 7. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

#### **About the Ministry**

The **Department of Financial Services** (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance is entrusted with overseeing India's social security architecture, including banking, insurance, and pension systems.

#### ➤PM Suraksha Bima Yojana 18

Among the flagship social security schemes, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), an accident insurance scheme, is intended for persons incurring disabilities. There is no publicly available data on the number of beneficiaries with disabilities enrolled under PMSBY (Table 9). Under this scheme:

- For total and irrecoverable loss of both eyes or loss of use of both hands or feet or loss of sight of one eye and loss of use of a hand or foot, a subscriber shall get ₹ 2 Lakh.
- For total and irrecoverable loss of sight of one eye or loss of use of one hand or foot, a subscriber shall get ₹1 Lakh.

Table 8: PM Suraksha Bima Yojana: Approximation of Claim Amount Per Person

Parameter	As on 26 April 2023 <sup>19</sup>	As on 23 April 2025 <sup>20</sup>
Total Enrolments	34.18 crore	51.06 crore
Total Claims Disbursed	1,15,951	1,57,155
Total Amount Disbursed	₹2,302.26 crore	₹3,121.02 crore
Average Payout per Claim	₹1.98 lakh (approx.)	₹1.98 lakh (approx.)

**Nearly 20,000** persons receive claims per year, thus yearly disbursement in this scheme comes to ₹ 400 crore per year (approx.)<sup>21</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Ministry of Finance, n.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Press Information Bureau, 2023

Press Information Bureau, 2025 a

Includes Death claims

#### Tax Benefits for Persons with Disabilities

### Section 80U – For Persons with Disabilities

- Deduction from gross total income:
  - ₹75,000 for persons with ≥40% disability
  - ₹1,25,000 for persons with ≥80% (severe) disability
- Requires a valid disability certificate.

#### **Section 80DDB**

• Deduction for treatment of specific diseases (e.g., autism, cerebral palsy), up to ₹40,000-₹1,00,000 depending on age and disability.

### Section 80DD – For Families of Persons with Disabilities

- Deduction for expenditure incurred on medical treatment, training, or insurance for a dependent with disability:
  - ₹75,000 (≥40% disability)
  - ₹1,25,000 (≥80% disability)
- Covers expenses and insurance premium (e.g., LIC Jeevan Aadhar, Jeevan Vishwas).

#### **Provisions for Persons with Disabilities Routed Through Other Ministries:**

- **Ministry of Heavy Industries** Excise duty concession to persons with disabilities given by the Ministry of Finance, 8 % instead of 16% for persons with disabilities buying a car. (Ministry of Heavy Industries, n.d.) An online portal <sup>22</sup> has been launched for issuing certificates to persons having orthopaedic disability of 40% or above, irrespective of the fact that the applicant drives the vehicle themselves or otherwise.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME Ministry) Insurance schemes like those under KVIC or Coir Board have converged under PMSBY.<sup>23</sup>
- **Ministry of Textiles** <sup>24</sup> Schemes for power loom workers, handicraft artisans have been converged under PMSBY.

<sup>24</sup>ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ministry of Heavy Industries, n.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>The insurance premium is borne by the Ministry

# 8. MINISTRY OF SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) is tasked with promoting sports and youth development across India. While inclusion of persons with disabilities in sports is often emphasised in national policy discourse, the lack of clear budgets raises concerns about the depth of actual implementation.

Key schemes under the MoYAS are detailed in Box 2 However, there is no dedicated budget head and no itemised data on funds allocated to para-athletes under schemes like Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) or Sports Authority of India (SAI).



#### **Box 2 Key Schemes Relevant to Para-Athletes Under MoYAS**

#### 1. Khelo India: ₹1,000 crore (includes Khelo India Para Games):

- Intended to build a robust sports ecosystem from grassroots to elite level
- First Khelo India Para Games held in Dec 2023 in New Delhi with 1,400+ athletes
- No public data on budget allocation or expenditure specifically for the Para Games

#### 2. TOPS (within SAI allocation):

- Supports India's elite athletes (including para-athletes) with training, foreign exposure, and financial assistance
- Para-athletes like Devendra Jhajharia, Sumit Antil, Avani Lekhara, and others have benefited
- Yet, separate data on support to para-athletes under TOPS is unavailable

#### 3. Para Games/Para-Athlete Support

- Includes grants to the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and others
- No publicly shared breakdown of how much of this funding reaches para-sport disciplines.
- Paris Games (2024) Avani Lekhara is the only Indian female athlete to win three medals, including multiple gold medals.
- India sent its largest contingent for the 2024 Paris Games, consisting of 84 people competing across 12 sports. India won 29 medals with seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze medals, making them the most successful Games ever.
- **4. National Sports Policy 2025**<sup>25</sup>: Under the key pillar 'Sports for Social Development', "Promoting participation among women, economically weaker sections, tribal communities, and persons with disabilities through focused programs" (Press Information Bureau, 2025b) is mentioned as the goal of the new and more inclusive policy. It promises better focus on para-sports.

#### 5. Special Awards and Incentives:

- Recognition via Arjuna, Khel Ratna, and cash awards.
- Provided post-event, often with no structured follow-up for long-term athlete development.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>Khelo Bharat Niti, 2025

# 9. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

#### **About the Ministry**

The Ministry of Home Affairs administers several schemes that provide financial and institutional support to individuals who acquire disabilities due to **terrorist violence**, **naxal attacks**, **communal riots**, **duty-related injuries**, **or acid attacks**.

While these schemes are not part of mainstream disability welfare programming, they represent a critical support mechanism for civilians and security personnel with acquired disabilities.

Despite the existence of welfare schemes for persons with disabilities (**Box 3**), there is no available data on the portion of the Ministry of Home Affairs' budget allocated to them, nor is there any information on the number of beneficiaries.

#### Box 3 Key Schemes for Persons with Disabilities Under MoHA

### 1. Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims of Terrorist, Communal, and Naxal Violence<sup>26</sup>

- Provides ex gratia compensation to civilian victims or their families.
- In case of permanent incapacitation, a District Medical Officer's certificate is required confirming:
  - ≥50% permanent disability, with no expected variation.
  - The injury renders the person unfit for normal life permanently.
- Compensation is offered on humanitarian grounds to help sustain livelihoods.

# 2. Ex-Gratia Compensation to CAPF (formerly CPMF) Personnel Boarded Out due to Disability 27

- Applies to Central Armed Police Forces personnel injured during service.
- Eligibility:
  - Disability must be attributable to or aggravated by service.
  - o Covered under Central Civil Services (Extraordinary Pension) Rules.
- Includes lump sum ex gratia payment, disability pension, and family benefits depending on severity.

#### 3. Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme for Wards/Widows of CAPF Personnel<sup>28</sup>

- Wards of ex-CAPF personnel with disabilities injured in the line of duty are eligible.
- Offers financial support for higher education.
- Includes both academic tuition support and monthly scholarship (differentiated for boys/girls).

#### 4. Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) - Acid Attack Victims 29

- Acid Attack has been identified as a disability under RPwd Act, 2016.
- Offers financial assistance of ₹1 lakh to female acid attack victims.
- Male victims may receive up to ₹1 lakh depending on injury severity and assessment.
- Funds are disbursed based on state/UT recommendations and medical evidence of permanent disfigurement or disability.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>REVISED GUIDELINES OF 'CENTRAL SCHEME FOR ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIANS VICTIMS/FAMILY OF VICTIMS OF TERRORIST, COMMUNAL AND NAXAL. n.d.

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Home Affairs, 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme For the Wards of Central Armed Police Forces, Assam Rifles & States/UTs Police Person, n.d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) – Acid Attack Victims, 2022

# 10. CONCLUSION

Despite India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ambitious rights-based legislation, the 2025-26 Union Budget allocated merely 0.025% of the total budget to disability welfare- far below the 5% advocated by disability rights groups 30 and significantly lower than the 0.1-0.5% of GDP recommended for basic to comprehensive disability interventions in developing countries. In contrast, OECD countries spend an average of 1.5% of GDP on incapacity benefits. To bridge this gap, India must elevate disability from a narrow welfare concern to a cross-sectoral policy priority, substantially increase budgetary commitments across all ministries, and ensure allocations are informed by meaningful consultations with persons with disabilities.

Additionally, transparent monitoring, outcome-focused expenditure reviews, and systematic efforts to improve fund utilisation are essential for translating the state's rhetorical commitment to inclusion into meaningful, measurable progress. Finally, systematic disability data collection, about persons with disabilities across health, education, tax, justice, livelihoods and public spaces is immediately required in order to secure a meaningful understanding of the opportunities for disability inclusion and accessibility.

30 (Paul, 2024)

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