

Foundational Training Program for the Group-I officers
Institute of Dr.MCR HRD
Govt of Telangana
2026

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016

United Nations General Assembly adopted its Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in **2006** and India as a **signatory and ratified** the said Convention in **2007**

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities are (RPWD) 2016 is a **landmark legislation** in India which ensures **equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation** for **persons with disabilities**

Replacing PWD Act 1995, it **aligns with the UN convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (U N C R P D)

The Act **mandates** the Government for training on **disability rights** in all courses for the training of Panchayati Raj Members, legislators, administrators, police officials, judges and lawyers as an endeavor to develop **human resource** for the purposes of this Act. Sec.47 (a)

“Person with Disability” means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, **hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others** (S.2)

Salient Provisions of the Act

Rights and Entitlements:

Govt shall ensure that the Persons with disabilities enjoy the **right to equality, life with dignity and respect for his or her integrity** by providing appropriate environment and shall **not to be discriminated or deprived** of his or her **personal liberty on the ground of disability**. (S.3)

Government shall **take measures to protect** from being subjected to **torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment** (S.6)

Government shall take measures to protect from all forms of **abuse, violence and exploitation**. **In case of incidence** shall take cognizance and provide legal remedies available against such incidents. (S.7)

Salient Provisions of the Act

Rights and Entitlements:

they should be given **equal protection and safety** along with others in situations of risk, armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) shall maintain record of details of persons with disabilities in the district and take suitable measures **to inform** such persons of any **situations of risk** so as to enhance **disaster preparedness**. (S.8)

No child with disability shall be separated from his or her parents on the ground of disability except on an order of competent court, if required, in the best interest of the child like in situation where the parents are unable to take care of a child with disability. (S.9)

Salient Provisions of the Act

Rights and Entitlements:

The **State Election Commissions** shall ensure that **all polling stations** are **accessible** and all **materials** used in **electoral process** are easily **understandable** to them. (S.11)

Govt to ensure that persons with disabilities are **able to exercise the right to access any court, tribunal, authority, commission** or any **other body having judicial or quasi-judicial or investigative powers** without discrimination on the basis of disability. (S.12)

Government shall ensure that the persons with disabilities **enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis** with others in all aspects of life and have the right to equal recognition (S.13)

Salient Provisions of the Act

Rights and Entitlements:

provide support of a limited guardian when **unable to take legally binding decisions**, to take such legally binding decisions on his behalf **in consultation with such person** (S 14)

(“**limited guardianship**” means a system of **joint decision** which operates on **mutual understanding** and **trust** between the guardian and the person with disability, which shall be **limited** to a **specific period** and for **specific decision** and **situation** and shall operate **in accordance to the will** of the person with disability)

Salient Provisions of the Act

Education:

Govt shall endeavor that educational institutions provide **inclusive education** to the children with disabilities and **shall admit without discrimination**. Provide **scholarships** and **free books** and **barrier-free access to all facilities** and provide opportunities for sports and recreation activities equally with others **(S.16)**

Survey for **specific learning disabilities** in children at the earliest and take suitable pedagogical and other measures to overcome them.

ensure that the education to persons **who are blind or deaf** or both is imparted in the **most appropriate languages and modes** and means of communication **Braille or Sign language**

Samagra Siksha Abhiyan implementing inclusive education **(BUDDIES)**

Salient Provisions of the Act

Skill Development and Employment:

Shall provide **exclusive skill training programs** for persons with disabilities including **provision of loans** at concessional rates (S.19)

Government **establishment shall not discriminate** against any person with disability in any matter relating to employment (S.20)

However, Government **may exempt** any establishment from this section, having regard to the **type of work carried** in the establishment (S.20)

An employee who **acquires a disability** during his or her service and **if not suitable** for the post he was holding, **shall be shifted to some other post** with the **same pay scale** and **service benefits**

Salient Provisions of the Act

Social Security, Health, Rehabilitation and Recreation

Govt shall, within the limit of its economic capacity, formulate necessary **schemes** and programs to enable them to **live independently** or in the community (S.24)

However, the **quantum of assistance** under such schemes and programs shall be at least **25%** higher than the similar schemes applicable to others

Schemes like provisions of **aids and appliances, medicine** and diagnostic services and **corrective surgery free of cost ; Disability pension; Unemployment allowance; care-giver allowance**

Early Child Intevention



Salient Provisions of the Act

Reservations & Concessions for persons with benchmark disabilities

5% **seats** institutions of higher education.



Upper age relaxation of 5 yrs for admission in higher education institutions

May give relaxation of **upper age limit for employment** as it thinks fit

5% reservation in **allotment of** agricultural land and housing

5% reservation in **all poverty alleviation** and various developmental schemes

5% five per cent reservation in allotment of **land on concessional rate**

Salient Provisions of the Act

Reservations & Concessions

Government shall appoint in every Government establishment, not less than 4% of the total number of vacancies in the cadre strength in each group of posts meant to be filled with persons with benchmark disabilities of which, 1% each shall be reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (a), (b) and (c) and 1% for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (d) and (e). (S.35)

(a) blindness and low vision 1%

(b) deaf and hard of hearing 1%

(c) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy 1%

(d) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness

(e) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness in the posts identified for each disabilities

Salient Provisions of the Act

Registration of Institutions for Persons with Disabilities and Grants to such Institutions

No person shall **establish** or **maintain** any institution for persons with disabilities except in accordance with a **certificate of registration** issued in this behalf by the competent authority (S.51)

The **District Welfare Officer**, Department for WCD&SC issues registration certificate in Form-B appended to the Telangana State Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 within a period of 90 days.

Director of Welfare of Disabled & Senior Citizens Department is the **appellate authority** if District Welfare Officer refused to grant a certificate of registration

Salient Provisions of the Act

Certification of Specified Disabilities

Government designates persons, who shall be competent to issue the certificate of disability.

The certificate of disability issued under this section shall be valid across the country.

Act recognized 21 types of Disabilities

Any **person aggrieved** with decision of the certifying authority, may appeal to the appellate authority against such decision, **within ninety (90) days** from the date of the decision..

Salient Provisions of the Act

State Advisory Boards on Disability and District Level Committee

Government will constitute the **State Advisory Boards** as per the Rule 8 of Telangana State Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018

Functions:

- (a) **Advise** the District Authorities on **matters relating to rehabilitation and empowerment** of persons with disabilities.
- (b) **Monitor the implementation** of the provisions of the Act and the rules made there under by the District authorities.
- (c) Assist the District authorities in implementation of schemes and programmes of the Government for empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Salient Provisions of the Act

(d) Look into the **complaints** relating to non-implementation of the provisions of the Act by the **District authorities** and **recommend** suitable **remedial measures** to the concerned authority to redress such complaints.

(e) look into the **appeal** made by the **employees of Government establishments** aggrieved with the action taken by the **District level establishments** under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Act and recommend appropriate measures.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities:

Government shall appoint one of the candidates out of the panel recommended by the Screening Committee under sub-rule (2) as the State Commissioner. Term for 3yrs or 65 yrs of age.

Functions:

- (a) identify, *suo motu* or otherwise, provision of any law or **policy, programme** and procedures, which are **inconsistent** with this Act, and **recommend necessary corrective steps**;
- (b) inquire, *suo motu* or otherwise **deprivation of rights** of persons with disabilities and safeguards available to them in respect of matters for which the State Government is the appropriate Government and take up the matter with appropriate authorities for corrective action
- (c) (c) review the **safeguards provided by or under this Act** or any other law for the time being in force for the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and recommend measures for their effective implementation;

- (d) review the **factors that inhibit the enjoyment of** rights of persons with disabilities and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
- (e) undertake and promote research in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (f) promote **awareness of the rights** of persons with disabilities and the safeguards available for their protection;
- (g) **monitor implementation** of the provisions of this Act and **schemes, programmes** meant for persons with disabilities;
- (h) **monitor utilisation of funds** disbursed by the State Government for the benefits of persons with disabilities;

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Powers:

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any documents;
- (c) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- (d) receiving evidence on affidavits; and
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents

THANK YOU

1. Physical Disabilities:

A. Locomotor disability:

(a) "leprosy cured person" means a person who has been cured of leprosy but with residual impairments

(b) "cerebral palsy" means a Group of **non-progressive neurological condition affecting body movements and muscle coordination**, caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the **brain**, usually occurring before, **during or shortly after birth**

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(c) "dwarfism" means a medical or genetic condition resulting in an adult height of 4 feet 10 inches (147 centimeters) or less

1. Physical Disabilities:

A. Locomotor disability:

(d) "muscular dystrophy" means a group of hereditary genetic muscle disease that weakens the muscles that move the human body and persons with multiple dystrophy have incorrect and missing information in their genes, which prevents them from making the proteins they need for healthy muscles. It is characterised by progressive skeletal muscle weakness, defects in muscle proteins, and the death of muscle cells and tissue

(e) "acid attack victims" means a person disfigured due to violent assaults by throwing of acid or similar corrosive substance.

1. Physical Disabilities:

B. Visual impairment:

- (a) "blindness" means a condition where a person has any of the following conditions, after best correction— (i) **total absence of sight**; or (ii) **visual acuity less than 3/60 or less than 10/200** (Snellen) in the better eye with best possible correction; or (iii) limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of less than 10 degree.

- (a) (b) "low-vision" means a condition where a person has any of the following conditions, namely: (i) visual acuity not exceeding 6/18 or less than 20/60 upto 3/60 or upto 10/200 (Snellen) in the better eye with best possible corrections; or

- (a) (ii) limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of less than 40 degree up to 10 degree.

1 Physical Disabilities:

C. Hearing impairment:

- (a) "**deaf**" means persons having **70 DB** hearing loss in speech frequencies in both ears;
- (a) "**hard of hearing**" means person having **60 DB to 70 DB** hearing loss in speech frequencies in both ears;

D. "speech and language disability" means a permanent disability arising out of conditions such as laryngectomy or aphasia affecting one or more components of speech and language due to **organic or neurological causes**.

2. Intellectual disability:

- (a) "**specific learning disabilities**" means a heterogeneous group of conditions wherein there is a deficit in processing language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself as a difficulty to comprehend, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations and includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and developmental aphasia;
- (b) "**autism spectrum disorder**" means a **neuro-developmental** condition typically appearing in the **first three years** of life that significantly **affects** a person's **ability to communicate, understand relationships** and relate to others, and is frequently associated with **unusal or stereotypical rituals or behaviours**.

3. Mental behaviour :

"**mental illness**" means a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life, but does not include **retardation** which is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person, specially characterised by subnormality of intelligence.



4. Disability caused due to :

(a) chronic neurological conditions, such as

- (i) "**multiple sclerosis**" means an **inflammatory, nervous system** disease in which the **myelin sheaths around the axons** of nerve cells of the **brain and spinal cord** are damaged, leading to demyelination and **affecting** the ability of nerve cells in the **brain and spinal cord** to **communicate with each other**;
- (ii) "**parkinson's disease**" means a progressive **disease of the nervous system** marked by **tremor, muscular rigidity**, and slow, imprecise movement, chiefly affecting middle-aged and elderly people associated with **degeneration of the basal ganglia of the brain** and a deficiency of the neurotransmitter dopamine

4. Disability caused due to :

(b) Blood disorder:

- (i) "**haemophilia**" means an inheritable disease, usually affecting only male but transmitted by women to their male children, characterized by loss or **impairment of the normal clotting ability** of blood so that a minor would may result in **fatal bleeding**;
- (ii) "**thalassemia**" means a group of inherited disorders characterized by **reduced or absent amounts of haemoglobin**.
- (iii) "**sickle cell disease**" means a hemolytic disorder characterized by chronic anemia, painful events, and various complications due to associated

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BUDDIES

Visually challenged woman to become a judge in Kerala after topping merit list

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Lawyer Thanya Nathan C. will most likely enter the annals of Kerala's judicial history as the first visually challenged woman judge.

Ms. Nathan, who is totally blind, has been ranked first on the merit list of persons with benchmark disabilities in the recent judicial service examination for the selection of Civil Judges (Junior Division) in the Kerala Judicial Service. Joyson Sajan, with cerebral palsy, came second.

It was a landmark judgment by a Supreme Court Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan in 2025 which noted that "visually impaired candidates



Thanya Nathan C. had secured the first rank in her LL.B. examination from Kannur University. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cannot be said to be 'not suitable' for judicial service and they are eligible to participate in selection for posts in judicial service". That paved the way for Ms. Nathan to become a judge.

"This should probably

be for the first time that a candidate with visual disability is clearing the judicial service examination in Kerala. It's not known whether such candidates had earlier applied for the post. Currently, there are

no visually challenged judges in Kerala," judicial sources said.

Overcoming her limitation, 24-year-old Ms. Nathan secured the first rank in the LL.B. examination from Kannur University. She began her practice as a junior to a lawyer at Taliparamba in Kannur.

"My senior and a few others encouraged me to take the recruitment exam. I studied law using the Braille system. Now, technology has come to the aid of people like me, where screen-reading software helps us read texts," Ms. Nathan, who does not need a white cane to move around, told *The Hindu*. "I am confident of overcoming the challenges."

Person with benchmark disability means a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority

Baby Revathi – Inspiration for Establishing Bhavitha Centres in AP - 2011-12



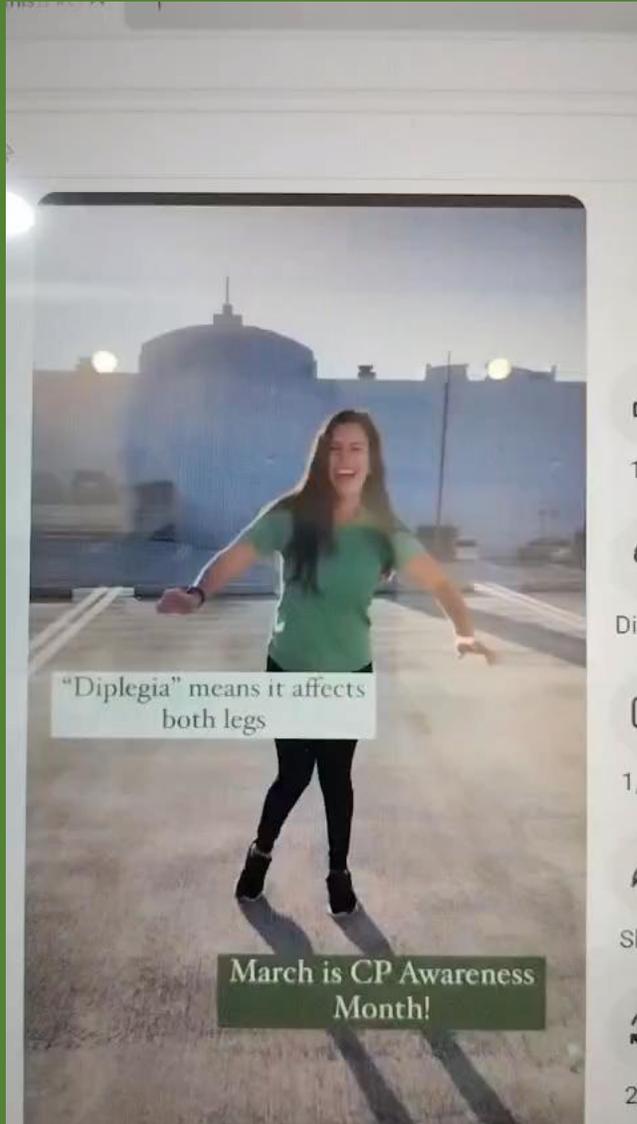
Ms Revathi with her
Cochlear Implant Instrument



Baby Revathi covered under
(Early Child Intervention) -
Home Based Education
in 2007 -08, Hyderabad



Ms Revathi with her Father (Dec,2024)
Sri Balaraju, Wanaparthy, Telangana

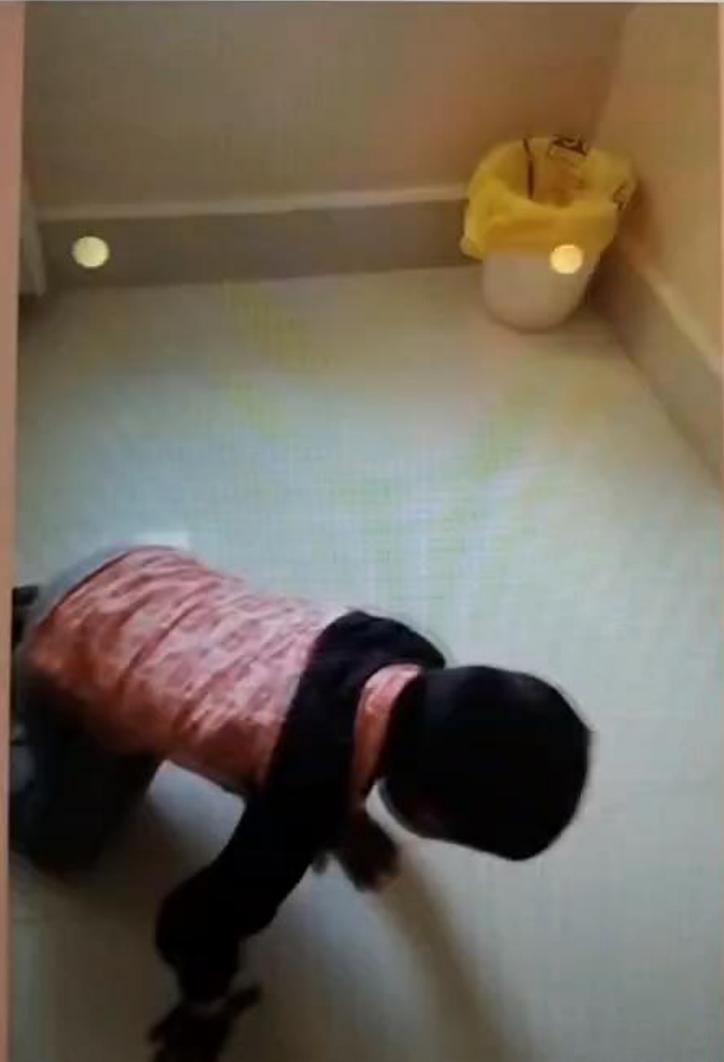


"Diplegia" means it affects both legs

March is CP Awareness Month!

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ystrophy



Muscular Dystrophy

BACK

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty:

It means that maintaining freedom requires constant awareness and effort, as there is a continuous temptation for those in power to encroach on individual rights.

To secure and preserve liberty, people must actively and perpetually guard against potential threats and abuses of power, both from external forces and within their own society.