

Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act (RPwD Act)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

Recently, a government committee rejects inclusion of 9 new medical conditions in RPwD Act disability list.

- **RPwD Act, 2016** - It is an act that Replaced the PwD Act, 1995, to provide rights, dignity, and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **Under the Schedule of the RPwD Act** - Individuals affected would have legal recognition as persons with disabilities and become eligible for a range of benefits and protections.

***“Person with benchmark disability”** is a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability, it has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the authority.*

21 Disabilities Included in the RPWD Act 2016

1. Blindness
2. Low-vision
3. Leprosy Cured persons
4. Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
5. Locomotor Disability
6. Dwarfism
7. Intellectual Disability
8. Mental Illness
9. Autism Spectrum Disorder
10. Cerebral Palsy
11. Muscular Dystrophy
12. Chronic Neurological conditions
13. Specific Learning Disabilities
14. Multiple Sclerosis
15. Speech and Language disability
16. Thalassemia
17. Haemophilia
18. Sickle Cell disease
19. Multiple Disabilities including deaf-blindness
20. Acid Attack victim
21. Parkinson's disease

- **Committee led by** - The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and chaired by DEPwD Secretary.
- **The committee observations on 9 new rejected medical conditions**
- **Palmoplantar keratoderma** - Severe cases with functional impairment could already be addressed under the existing category of locomotor disability.
- **Single-sided deafness** - The disability percentage does not cross 16.66 even when hearing loss is profound in one ear overall hearing capacity is not significantly compromised.
- **Epilepsy** - Chronic Drug Refractory Epilepsy has already been recognised under "chronic neurological conditions" in the disability-assessment guidelines of March 2024.
- **Factor-XIII deficiency** - A rare blood disorder, rarely causes major physical limitations, can be accommodated within locomotor disability.
- **Ichthyosis** - A skin condition, patients with severe functional restrictions can again be included under locomotor disability provisions.
- **Asthma** - It is a chronic but treatable disease that does not result in long-term disability, cannot be included in the list.
- **Laryngectomy** - It has been already covered under "speech and language disability"

as defined in the 2024 DEPwD guidelines.

- ***Vital organ failure*** – These conditions require medical treatment, transplantation or palliative care, and are best dealt with through healthcare and social-security schemes.
- ***Ostomy*** – This involves surgically creating an opening for waste elimination and is considered a medical outcome rather than a permanent disabling condition.

Reference

[The Hindu| Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act](#)

