Year End Review 2018 - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

What is the DEPwD for?

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- A separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social justice & Empowerment in 2012.
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- The Department was renamed as Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2014.
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- The Department acts as a nodal agency for matters pertaining to disability and persons with disabilities.
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- It is primarily entrusted with the task of empowerment of person with disabilities (PwDs) to build an inclusive society.
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- It works to ensure equal opportunities for their growth and development to lead productive, safe and dignified life.
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- Towards this end, the department undertakes the following measures -
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i. Physical rehabilitation - includes early detection and intervention counselling, medical rehabilitation and assistance in procuring appropriate aids and appliances
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ii. Educational rehabilitation including vocational education
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iii. Economic rehabilitation and social empowerment
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iv. Developing rehabilitation professionals/personnel
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v. Improving internal efficiency/responsiveness/service delivery
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vi. Advocating empowerment of PwDs through awareness generation among

different sections of the society
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What are the key schemes and initiatives?

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- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme -** More than 1400 ADIP Camps were organized and more than 2.4 lakh Divyangjan were provided Aids Assistive Devices in 2018.
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- A Mega Distribution Camp was organized at Gwalior for distribution of Aids & Assistive devices to the Divyangjan and Senior Citizens.
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- It was done through ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), a CPSE under the Ministry.
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- **Accessible India Campaign (AIC)** - The aim is to create universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Built Environment, Transport, and ICT ecosystem.
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- So far, Access Audit of more than 1600 buildings in 50 cities has been completed by the auditors.
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- Accessibility provisions have been made in airports, railway stations, public transport buses, public websites, etc.
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- 100 Accessible websites of various State Government/UTs were launched as part of Accessible India Campaign.
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- **Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project** - The Department has the UDID project to create national database for PwDs.
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- This is to issue Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card along with disability certificate.
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- Once the project covers all persons with disabilities, UDID Card will be made mandatory for availing various government benefits.
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What are the major activities/achievements over the year?

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- 17-member Blind Cricket World Cup winning Indian Team was felicitated and presented with a cash award.
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- The first and second meeting of the Central Advisory Board on disability was held.
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- The Board deliberated on important policy issues such as inclusive education, implementation of Rights of Persons With Disabilities (RPWD) Act, Accessible India Campaign (AIC), etc.
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- The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities launched the 'Inclusive India Initiative'.
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- The objective is to work for the inclusion of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
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- First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words developed by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi was launched.
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- ISL dictionary consists of various categories of words such as legal terms, medical terms, academic terms, technical terms and daily use words.
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- The Department organized the '1st Sensitization Meeting of Stakeholders to make Delhi a Model Accessible City'.
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- The Department coordinates the meeting of all key stakeholders, sensitize them about the legal mandates and would hold supervisory role in this entire journey.
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- The Department organized a meeting with the Scientists of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO).
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- It was on the issue of commercialization of various technological interventions developed by DST for the benefits of PwDs.
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- A National workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities was held.
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- Various core issues relating to promoting skill development for Persons with Disabilities, Skill curriculum design, participation of industry and experts were deliberated upon in the meeting.
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- A National Conference was organised to create awareness about important components of revised scheme of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC).
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- DDRCs provide comprehensive services to PwDs and facilitate creation of infrastructure and capacity building at the district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation, training of rehabilitation professionals.
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- A National Workshop on Physical and Mental Disabilities in the light of Global Best Practices in Care, Rehabilitation and Research was held.
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- The outcome of the workshop will support protocol development in the service deliveries and encourage adaptation of global best practices in Indian context.
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- A three day international event of the "Global IT challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018" was hosted by the Department.
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- Youth with disabilities from 18 countries participated in the event. India won three medals in the event.
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- An MoU has been signed between the Government of Australia and the Government of India for cooperation in the disability sector.
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Source: PIB

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