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Assistance to Disabled Persons Camp

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Why in News

Recently, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment has virtually inaugurated an **Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Camp** for **free distribution of assistive aids and devices to *Divyangjan* or *Divyang***.

These are Hindi word meaning the '**one with a divine body**'. The Prime Minister decided that **persons with disabilities** should no longer be referred to as **disabled persons** or ***viklang*** (someone with **non-functional body parts**).

Key Points

- The camp was organized by the **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur**.
ALIMCO is a **not-for-profit Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** established in **1972** and it works under the aegis of the **Department of Empowerment of Person with Disability (DEPwD)**.

- **Assistance to Disabled Persons Scheme:**

- It is in operation **since 1981.**

- **Definition:**

- The scheme follows the definitions of various types of disabilities as given in the **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PWD) Act 1995.**

- PWD Act was replaced by the **Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.**

- **Objective:**

To assist the needy disabled persons in **procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances** that can promote their **physical, social and psychological rehabilitation** by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

- **Grants:**

Grants-in-aid are released to **various implementing agencies** (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, State Handicapped Development Corporations, NGOs, etc.) **for purchase and distribution of aids and assistive devices.**

- **Assistance:**

- **Aids/appliances which do not cost more than Rs. 10,000** are covered under the Scheme for single disability. However, in **some cases the limit would be raised to Rs.12,000.** In the case of **multiple disabilities**, the **limit will apply to individual items separately** in case more than one aid/appliance is required.

- **Full cost of aid/appliance** is provided if the **income is up to Rs. 15,000 per month** and **50% of the cost of aid/appliance** is provided if the income is **between Rs. 15,001 to Rs. 20,000 per month.**

- **Other Related Government Initiatives:**
 - **Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016:**

"Person with disability" means a person with long term **physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments** which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others.
 - **Accessible India Campaign: Creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs:**

A nation-wide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility that will enable PwDs to gain access for equal opportunity and live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society.
 - **DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme:**

Under the scheme, **financial assistance** is provided to NGOs for providing various services to PwDs, like special schools, vocational training centres, community-based rehabilitation, pre-school and early intervention etc.
 - **National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities:**

It aims to increase opportunities for students with disabilities for pursuing higher education and grants **200 fellowships per year** to students with disability.
 - **Unique Disability Identification Project:**
 - It aims to create a national database for PwDs and issuing **Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Card** along with disability certificate.
 - Once the project covers all persons with disabilities, UDID Cards will be made mandatory for availing various government benefits.
 - **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances:**

It aims at helping the disabled persons by bringing suitable, durable, scientifically-manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach.
 - **International Day of Persons with Disabilities:**
 - It is celebrated worldwide on **3rd December** and was proclaimed in **1992** by **United Nations General Assembly** resolution 47/3.
 - It aims to **promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development** and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.
 - **Initiatives for Mental Health:**
 - **National Mental Health Programme**, which was launched in **1982** to improve the status of mental health in India.
 - **KIRAN: Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline** for addressing mental health issues, coordinated by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Tamil Nadu and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR), Madhya Pradesh.

Source: PIB