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Assistance to Disabled Persons Scheme

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Why in News

Recently, a Samajik Adhikarita Shivir (social empowerment camp) for distribution of aids and assistive devices to **Divyangjan** under the **ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons) Scheme** was organised in Punjab.

Divyangjan or Divyang: Earlier, in 2015 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) instead they will be referred to as Divyangjan or Divyang (**one with a divine body**).

Key Points

- **About:**
 - **Ministry:**
 - **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is the Nodal ministry
 - It has been 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**.

The 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 enhancing 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, **Non-governmental Organizations (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 Initiatives:**
 - **Accessible India Campaign: Creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs:**
 - **DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme:**
 - **National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities.**
 - **Unique Disability Identification Project:**
 - **International Day of Persons with Disabilities:**
- **Initiatives for Mental Health:**
 - **National Mental Health Programme.**
 - **KIRAN: Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline.**

Source: PIB