



## Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

**For Prelims:** Accessible India Campaign, Government's Initiatives for Person with Disabilities

**For Mains:** Performance of Accessible Indian Campaign, Related Initiatives

### Why in News?

The **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign)** is going to complete 7 years in December 2022.

- The aim of the Campaign is to make a **barrier-free and conducive environment** for Divyangjans ([Persons with Disabilities - PwDs](#)) all over the country.

### What is the Accessible India Campaign?

- **About:**
  - It was launched by the Prime Minister of India on **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015.
- **Implementing Agency:**
  - AIC is the nationwide flagship campaign of the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Background:**
  - **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995** categorically provided for non-discrimination in transport and in the built environment.
    - It needs to be noted that the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** replaced the PwD Act, 1995 to comply with [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UNCRPD\)](#).
  - **UNCRPD**, to which India is a signatory, under Article 9 casts obligations on the Governments for ensuring to PwDs accessibility to:
    - Information
    - Transportation
    - Physical Environment
    - Communication Technology
    - Accessibility to Services as well as emergency services.
- **Components of AIC:**
  - Built Environment Accessibility
  - Transportation System Accessibility
  - Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

## How has the Accessible India Campaign Performed?

- **Built-Up Environment:**
  - Access Audit of 1671 buildings completed.
  - 1,630 Government buildings, including 1030 Central Government buildings have been provided with features of accessibility.
- **Transportation Sector:**
  - **Airports:**
    - 35 International Airports and 55 Domestic Airports have been provided with features of accessibility.
    - Ambulifts are available at 12 airports.
  - **Railways:**
    - All 709 A1, A & B category railway stations have been provided with seven Short Term Facilities.
    - 603 railway stations have been provided with 2 Long Term Facilities.
  - **Roadways:**
    - 1,45,747 (29.05%) buses have been made partially accessible and 8,695 (5.73%) made fully accessible
- **ICT Ecosystem (Websites):**
  - Nearly 627 Central and State/UT government websites have been made accessible.
- **Accessibility in TV viewing:**
  - 19 private news channels are telecasting partially accessible news bulletins.
  - 2,447 news bulletins have been telecast with subtitling/sign-language interoperation.
  - 9 general entertainment channels have telecast 3686 scheduled programs/movies using subtitling
- **Education:**
  - Out of 11,68,292 government and government aided schools, 8,33,703 schools (71%) have been made barrier free with the provision of ramps, handrails and accessible toilets
- **Monitoring:**
  - Activities under the Accessible India Campaign are being monitored through a **Management Information System (MIS)** portal.
- **Sugamya Bharat App:**
  - Helping in **crowdsourcing grievances of accessibility** being faced on ground in infrastructure and services and forwarding for redressal.

- Helpful in creating **sensitization and awareness generation** about importance of accessibility.
- COVID-19 related complaints which are meant only for Divyangjans are being given top priorities.

## What are the Recent Initiatives to Empowerment of Disables?

### ▪ India:

- [Unique Disability Identification Portal](#)
- [DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme](#)
- [Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances](#)
- [National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities](#)

### ▪ Global:

- [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [UN Principles for People with Disabilities](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q.** Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss. **(2017)**

**Source:** [PIB](#)

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