



## Antar Drishti

### Why in News?

On 7th April 2025, **the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun**, and **the National Association for the Blind (NAB), New Delhi**, jointly **inaugurated 'Antar Drishti'**.

### Key Points

- **Objective and Features:**
  - 'Antar Drishti' is designed as a **unique sensory dark room** to simulate the daily experiences of [persons with visual impairments](#).
  - The facility enables sighted individuals to engage in activities in complete darkness, thereby **promoting empathy and understanding** of the challenges faced by **persons with blindness or low vision**.
  - The initiative aims to **foster inclusion by bridging the perceptual gap** between the general public and the lived experiences of visually impaired individuals.
- **Implementation of the 'Enable Inclusion' App:**
  - Through this partnership, NIEPVD will implement the **'Enable Inclusion' App** developed by Amar Seva Sangam for **early detection, intervention, and tracking of children with developmental disabilities**.
  - NIEPVD will integrate its specialization in visual disabilities to enhance the app's accessibility and responsiveness for users with visual impairments.
  - The app will provide **personalized support through tele-counseling, rehabilitation planning, and early intervention**, advancing DEPwD's vision of accessible, inclusive, and tech-driven empowerment for persons with disabilities across India.

### NIEPVD

- The **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Impairment (NIEPVD)**, under **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, has been working since 1943 for the education, training, rehabilitation, and empowerment of the visually impaired.
- It **established a Regional Centre in Chennai in 1988** for serving the Southern Region, and coordinates four CRCs at Sundernagar (H.P.), Gorakhpur (U.P.), and Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide rehabilitation and skill development services for persons with disabilities.

### Other Initiatives for Persons with Disability

- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:**
  - It aims to **protect and promote** the rights of **persons with disabilities (PwDs)**.
  - It aims to give effect to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UNCRPD\)](#), which India ratified in **2007**.
  - A person with a benchmark disability is defined as someone with **at least 40% of a specified disability**.
- **Unique Disability Identification Portal:**

- The project is being implemented with a view of **creating a National Database for persons with disabilities (PwDs)**, and to **issue a Unique Disability Identity Card** to each PwDs.
- **DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):**
  - DDRS is a **Central Sector Scheme** of Government of India which has been implemented **since 1999** for providing financial assistance to **NGOs working** for education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- **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 disabilities.

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