

**Press Information Bureau
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Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

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**Students with disability to get fellowship in Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)
Scheme: Mukul Wasnik**

The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Mukul Wasnik flagged off Badhte Kadam III, an awareness campaign of National Trust here today. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) Scheme formulated and funded for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes will also support scholars from disabled category.

Shri. Wasnik expressed confidence that Badhte Kadam III, is a unique step which will not only sensitize the civil society but also give disability a new dimension to think over. The Minister further expressed that it is not only the responsibility of the National Trust but the responsibility of every citizen of the country to create more awareness and express solidarity with the persons with disabilities. The Minister also said that 'Badhte Kadam', an awareness campaign, is striving hard to change the perception of the people regarding disability and raise awareness on developmental disabilities and National Trust focused disabilities in the general public, the parents and guardians of the disabled children.

The National Trust, since its inception, is working hard to reach out to the persons with disabilities in every corner of the country. Inclusive Education, Community Participation and Social Acceptance have been the underlying concepts of all its programmes. In this regard the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment is making every endeavour to enable and empower persons with disabilities to live as independently and as fully as possible.

Badhte Kadam which is organized for the third time will be held from October 24 to 2nd December 2011. During this period all of India will be part of Badhte Kadam a discoverability awareness raising campaign. During this campaign the emphasis will be on changing the attitudes of the people to understand disability in a developmental context, creating more opportunities for Persons with Disability in the community participation, enabling and empowering them to access National Trust and ministry's schemes and above all to celebrate diversity.