

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

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Research and development activities for differently-abled people

According to the information received from Department of Science and Technology, the Department is implementing a programme “Technology Interventions for Disabled and Elderly (TIDE)” with a mandate to promote basic research, development and adaptation of technology for improving quality of life for benefit of elderly population and disabled people in the country through application of science and technology.

Its ongoing research activities include Research, Design and Development of cost effective and affordable prototypes of assistive devices required by differently abled persons in different built environment; development of protocols; preventive technology packages for persons having disabilities. Some of the technologies developed through research projects under this initiative include:-

- Low-Cost Electronics Refreshable Braille Display for the Visually Impaired
- Development of an assistive device for public bus access for the visually impaired
- Mobile Phone assisted Remote Speech Therapy Platform
- Low Cost Hi-fidelity Audio Signal Enhancement Device for Hearing Disability
- Interactive Teaching Aids and Computer Assisted Interventions for Children with Autism
- Locator and Communicative device for Dementia Patients with GSM and GPS technologies
- Stair Climbing Wheel chair (manual) for up/down Climbing
- Multimodal interface to desktop for the spastic and physically-challenged users
- Coherent Communication System (CCS) for comatose and people with multiple disabilities

An amount of Rs. 300 Lakh has been allocated for the programme.

The National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun is running a Special School for the visually impaired at Dehradun. There is a proposal to establish college for students with hearing impairment in each of the five zones of the country. A Central Sector Scheme for this purpose has been finalized recently. As per the Scheme, funds are envisaged to be provided to existing colleges to upgrade their facilities. The Screening Committee set up under the scheme has the mandate to identify such colleges in the country.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha here today.
