

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

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**National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities-2013
The Government as well as public and private sectors should work hand in hand
to improve the skill-levels of PwDs with a view to enhance their employability
says the President**

The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities-2013 at a function organized by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment here today. Congratulating the awardees the President said that this important day gives us an opportunity to reflect on our collective endeavours to create an inclusive society in which all members, including the differently abled, enjoy equal opportunities and have the right to realize their full development potential.

The President said that with a positive and humane attitude, the society, NGOs and individuals should extend support and guidance to the differently-abled and their families to ensure their socio-psychological and emotional integration into the mainstream of society.

In September, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly convened a High-level Meeting of all nations to highlight the close linkage between development and disability, the President said that since, it was felt the development of a nation is not possible if the needs and capacities of PwDs are not recognized, all nations resolved to seriously consider disability concerns in all their developmental activities. This is a remarkable step taken internationally for improving the quality of lives of persons with disabilities. India has fully endorsed this stand.

The President said that the Government is at an advanced stage of bringing in a new and comprehensive law in consonance with the provisions of the UN Convention. This holistic piece of legislation would entail major responsibilities not merely on the Central Government, but also on State Governments, local bodies, and even private service providers.

The President stressed that specific schemes, programmes and facilities must be formulated particularly for the empowerment of children, women, and senior citizens with disabilities as they need special consideration. Education can equip the differently-abled to be strong enough to face the world. Children with disabilities should adequate opportunities to pursue their education which can enable them to get gainful employment.

The President said that economic empowerment of persons with disabilities is key to their well-being and can enable them to lead a life with dignity. We have provisions for reservation in employment in establishments in the Government sector for Persons with Disabilities. However, concerted efforts are required to fill up the backlog of the reserved vacancies. The Government

as well as public and private sectors should work hand in hand to improve the skill-levels with a view to enhance their employability.

Extending a warm welcome to the President, the Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Kumari Selja said that the National Awards will spur the awardees to make even greater efforts and reach greater heights of success and achievement in future and they will be a source of inspiration to others.

The Minister further said that the theme selected by the United Nations for this day is: **“Break barriers, open doors: for an inclusive society and development for all”** as Persons with disabilities face barriers in participation in all aspects of society, which are not just physical but also attitudinal, communicational, cultural, economic, environmental, institutional, political, religious, social or structural barriers which hamper their full and effective participation.

The Minister said that over one billion people, or approximately 15 per cent of the world’s population, live with some form of disability and face barriers which exclude them from participating as equal members of society. They are disproportionately represented among the world’s poorest, and lack equal access to basic resources, services and also have a higher mortality rate.

The Minister added that the celebration of this year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities provides an opportunity to further raise awareness of disability and accessibility, as a cross cutting development issue and further our efforts to promote accessibility and remove all types of barriers; to realize our goal of full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society. The Ministry is fully committed to removing barriers, physical or otherwise for the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The Government is actively endeavoring to bring in a new Act in place of the existing PwD Act of 1995. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2013 is at an advanced stage of finalization. The new Bill envisages more rights and entitlements to all categories of persons with disabilities and would also provide for strong implementation mechanisms. All States and Central Ministries have supported the Bill and have also given valuable suggestions.

The Minister was pleased to inform that during the last three years, a sum of Rs. 95 crore was released to various State Governments and other bodies for making their premises/buildings and websites accessible to persons with disabilities. The Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to earmark 3% of their total budget for including PwDs. State Governments have also been requested to have a State Policy to give sufficient attention to the problems of PwDs and especially to ensure speedy issue of disability certificates.

Gainful employment is essential for the empowerment of PwDs. The Ministry issued an important notification in July, 2013 regarding identification of posts in the Central Government for persons with disabilities. The Corporate Affairs Ministry has also been requested to urge the corporates to adopt a policy for employment of PwDs. The Ministry is also undertaking an ambitious plan of upskilling PwDs with vocational skills to increase their employability.

The Minister was happy to inform that the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme has been approved. UGC have selected 396 scholars and the Ministry is in the process of distribution an amount of Rs 15 crores to them.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of MNRE, Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, Minister of State for Social Justice, Ms. StutiKacker, Secretary, Department of Disability Affairs, , Shri Sudhir Bhargava, Secretary, Ministry of SJE, Smt. Poonam Natarajan, Chairperson, National Trust, Maj. Gen. Ian Cardozo, Chairman, Rehabilitation Council of India and Shri Prasanna Kumar Pincha, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

List of Awardees

I. Best Employee/ Self Employed with Disabilities			
No.	Sub-category		
1.	Blindness	Male	Sh. Sanjay HariharGaonkar, Maisha Nagar, Kalwa, Thane, Dighe, Navi Mumbai.
		Female	Ms. PreetiMonga, 164-B Pocket-A MayurVihar PH-II, Delhi-110091
2.	Low Vision	Male	Sh. GhenkarMarotiBabarao, 'Mangalmurti', BangarNagar, Hingoli, Tq. District-Hingoli-431513.
		Female	-----
3.	Leprosy Cured	Male	-----
		Female	-----
4.	Hearing Impairment	Male	Sh. PuneetSubhash Bhardwaj, 2, Sugam Enclave, Opposite Ramada Hotel, Prahladnagar, Ahmadabad.
		Female	-----
5.	LocomotorDisability	Male	Sh. ManojDawar, E-24, Lajpat Nagar – 1, New Delhi-110024
		Female	Ms. Ranjita Singh, B-38, NIRD, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh

6.	Cerebral Palsy	Male	Sh. AshwinKarthik S. N., 161, 5 th Cross PoornapragnaLayout, Near Katriguppa Water Tank, BSJ 3 rd Stage,Bengaluru - 85
		Female	Smt. Vidhina Bhatia, A-57, Shahpura, Near ManishaMarket, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh – 462039
7.	Mental Retardation	Male	Sh. Neeraj Sharma, K-73, Shyam Nagar, New Delhi-18
		Female	-----
8.	Mental illness	Male	-----
		Female	-----
9.	Autism	Male	-----
		Female	-----
10.	Multiple Disabilities	Male	-----
		Female	-----
II	Award for Best Employers and Placement Officer/ Agency		
No.	Sub-category		
1.	Best Employer	(i) Government organization	-----

		(ii) Public Sector Undertaking/ Autonomous / Local Government Body	-----
		(iii) Private/ Non Governmental Organization	Designmate (I) Pvt. Ltd. Horizon, Swati Society Road, Near Darpancircle, Navrangpura, Ahmadabad, Gujarat.
2	Best Placement Officer/ Agency	(i) Autonomous Government Organization/ Public Sector Undertaking	Shri D.R. Sharma, Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch, Red Cross Bhawan, Sector-12, Faridabad, Haryana-121007.
		(ii) Private/ Non-Governmental Organization/ Office	Mrs. Anubhuti M. Bhattacharaya , ANUBHUTI-HR Consultants D3-3071, VasantKunj, New Delhi- 110 70
III.	Award for Best Individual & Institution Working for the Cause of Persons with Disabilities		
No.	Sub-category	No. of awards	Nature of awards
1	Best Individual	Professional	Dr. ShanthaRadhakrishna, SriGanapathySachidananda (SGS), VagdeviCentre for the Rehabilitation of Communication Impaired, 3 rd C Main, 7 th Cross, Girinagar II Phase, Bengaluru- 560085
		Non Professional	Sh. Swami Biswanathanda, VivekanadMission Asram, Vivek Nagar, P. O-Chaitanyapur (Haldia) P.S. & Block-Sutahata, Dist- PurbaMedinipur, West Bengal – 721645.

2	Best Institution	(i) An organization providing holistic comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities in a comprehensive manner	Jointly to Asha Bhavan Centre, Kathilabanitabal, Uluberia, Howrah-711316, West Bengal & Vasavi Club International, "PREM" 1-1-385/32, Beside-Mutyamma Temple, Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad-500080, Andhra Pradesh.
		(ii) An organization promoting inclusive education to the children/persons with disabilities	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh, NITTR, Sector-26, Chandigarh-160019.
IV Role Model Awards			
No.	Sub-category		
1.	Blindness/ low vision	Male	Dr. Rajdeep Manwani, Shri DurgaKunj No. 149, Laxmi Road, 8 th Cross, Shanti Nagar, Bengaluru-560027
		Female	Ms. Nupur Jain, 1910, Sobha Mayflower, Ballunder Village, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560103.
2.	Leprosy cured	Male	Mr. Suresh Ramkrushna Dhondge, The Leprosy Mission Trust India Kothara Community Hospital, PO Paratwada, Dist- Amravati-444805.
		Female	No application was received.

3.	Hearing impairment	Male	Sh. Dilip Kumar Bhattacharyya, 48, Bediadanga 2 nd lane, New Ballygunge, Kolkata-700039.
		Female	Ms. Vujjini Janaki, H. No-16-11-16/165, Sripuram colony, Moosarambagh, Malakpet, Hyderabad, 36-Andhra Pradesh.
4.	Locomotor Disability / Cerebral Palsy	Male	Prof. (Dr.) Ajit Kumar Gorakhanath Patil, 2, Shanta Ashish, Vile Parle (West) Mumbai-400 056.
		Female	Dr. Yasmin Sultana, C-6, Above Nagina, Noor Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025.
5.	Mental Retardation / Mental Illness / Autism	Male	No application was received.
		Female	Ms. Rini Das, 3/27, Vivek Nagar, Jadavpur, Kolkata-70075, P. O.-Santoshpur, West Bengal.
Additional awards given on account of non-receipt of applications in the sub-categories 2 and 5 above.			
6.	Locomotor Disability	Female	Ms. Darshita Babubhai Shah, 252, Manekbaug Society, Gate No.11, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad- 380015, Gujarat.
7.	Hearing Impairment (Female)	Female	Ms. Vanitha Balasubramanian, B-404 Suryakiran, Sector-V, Plot : 12 & 13, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai- 400070.
V	Awards for Best Applied Research/ Innovation/ Product Development Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities		
No.	Sub-category	Awardee	
1.	Best Applied Research/ Technological Innovation Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities.	Shri Jyotiranjan Sahoo, Qtr. No-2RB-17, Delta "C" Colony Unit-8, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.	

2.	Development of new Cost-effective product for manufacture Aimed at Improving the life of Persons with Disabilities.	Shri R. S. Hiremath, 1234, 22A, Main, 11A, Cross, Sector-1, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102.
		S/Shri K. Ramesh & P. Sammaiah, Rehabilitation Center NIMH, Manovikas Nagar, Secunderabad
VI.	Award for the Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrier-Free Environment for the Persons with Disabilities	
No.	Sub-category	Awardee
1.	Government Department/ Offices/ PSUs / Autonomous Bodies	-----
2.	Local Bodies	-----
3.	Private Sector/NGOs	Jointly to Howrah South Point, Social Welfare & Community Development Centre, 15 P M Basti, 3 rd Bye Lane, Post Office-Shidpur, Howrah- 7111402. & Arushi Society, 1, Shivaji Nagar, Near M.P.E.P. Office, Bhopal, M.P.
VII.	Award for the Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service	Cuttack, Odisha.

VII I.	Best StateChannelizing Agency of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation.	Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd., Kacheri Road, Shillong, EastKhasi Hills District, Meghalaya - 793001	
IX	Award for the Outstanding Creative Persons Adult with Disabilities	Male	Sh. Ved Prakash Verma, Punjab, D-233, III Floor, Wellington Estate, P.O. Dhakoli, Zirakpur, DistrictMohali, Punjab.
		Female	Ms. BabliGambhir, 20, Pratap Nagar, Piploda Road,Jaora (RTM), M.P.
X	Award for the Best Creative Child with Disabilities	Boy	Master TuhinDey, Village - Chandipur, P.O. RaksnaJungle (Malancha), District - PaschimMedinapur - 721301
		Girl	Ms. AishnaVashishth, 3004, Sector 40-D, Chandigarh.
XI	Best Braille Press	Indian Association for the Blind, Sundarajanperry, Alagrkoil, Main Road, Arumbanoor, Post, Madurai, Tamilnadu - 625104	
XII	Best Accessible Website		
No	Sub-category	Awardee	
1.	Govt.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi	
2.	PSU/LB	National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation, Red Cross Bhavan, Sector-12, Faridabad, Haryana - 121007	

3.	Pvt. Sector	WIPRO Ltd., Doddakannelli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore - 560035	
XIII	Best State in promoting empowerment of persons with disabilities	Tamil Nadu	
XIV	Best sports person with disability	Male	Shri J. Ranjith Kumar, No.16, Meenachillam, Lurdhu Nagar, K. Pudhur, Madurai – 625007, Tamilnadu Tamil Nadu, 4 th Street,
		Female	Ms. Soma Kundu, Milanpally, Government Housing Quarter No.M/1, S.F. Road, P.O. Siliguri Bazar, District- Darjeeling, West Bengal- 734005
