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F.No.19-6/2016-Desk-U

Govt. of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Department of Higher Education

CU Division

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated the 29/01/2016

To

The Secretary,  
University Grants Commission,  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
New Delhi-110002

Secretary's office

Secretary Sectt. 37902

Date 8/2/16

Sub: Accessible India Campaign (Sugumya Bharat Abhiyan), as a nationwide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of O.M. No.11-5/2015/SC/ST dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 alongwith enclosure D.O. letter No.4-19/2015-AIC dated 9.12.2015, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (EPwD) received from SC/ST Cell on the subject mentioned above.

2. It is requested that the comments/ views as well as Action Taken Report may be furnished to this Division at the earliest.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

P.B.

(P. Bhaktavatsalam)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Phone.23385935

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SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY/CONT  
Diary No./COMT. No. 37902  
Date 12/2/16

F. No. 11-5/2015-SC/ST  
 Government of India  
 Ministry of Human Resource Development  
 Department of Higher Education  
 Economic Administration Division  
 (SC/ST Cell)  
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Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
 Dated:- 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), as a nationwide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs-reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (EPwD)'s D.O. No. 4-19/2015-AIC dated 9.12.2015 regarding above mentioned subject, forwarding therewith a copy of minutes of meeting held on 18.11.2015 to discuss the decisions taken in the meeting chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 4.11.2015, and requested for implementation of the decisions taken in the meeting.

2. In view of above, it is requested to all Bureau Heads of D/o H.E. to arrange to provide the Action Taken Report of the implementations of decisions taken in the meeting held on 18.11.2015 at the earliest to enable the SC/ST Cell to compile the same before it is forwarded to D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Encl:- As above.

(Davinder Pal Singh)  
 Deputy Secretary (EAD)  
 Ph. No.- 011- 23381470

1	Addl. Secretary (TE)	1440/16
2	Joint Secretary (ICC)	1440(C1)/16
3	Joint Secretary (CU&L)	1440(C2)/16
4	Joint Secretary (TEL)	1440(C3)/16
5	Joint Secretary (HE)	1440(C4)/16
6	Joint Secretary (Admin)	1440(C5)/16
7	Joint Secretary & FA	1440(C6)/16
8	DDG(STAT, P&M)	1440(C7)/16

Copy to:- 1440(C8)/16

Economic Advisor, D/o School Education & Literacy to furnish the ATR on the decision pertains to D/o SE&L directly to D/o EPwD.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 For n.o. Sr  
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 USC (6) P  
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 Sol (L)

लव वर्मा  
सचिव  
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Secretary

24363055(O)/ 011-24369067(F)  
secretaryda-mseje@nic.in



भारत सरकार  
सांघाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय  
विकलांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग  
पांथवा तल, पर्यावरण भवन, सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स  
लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110 003  
Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003

181230  
21/12/15

D.O. No. 4-19/2015 - AIC

9<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

Dear Vinay Sheel,

I am extremely thankful to you for extending support to Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), which was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 on the occasion of International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Though the Hon'ble Prime Minister had planned to launch the campaign, due to exigencies of floods in Chennai, he had to leave for Chennai and Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley launched the campaign and also read the speech of Hon'ble Prime Minister. I am enclosing the full speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the occasion.

The Hon'ble PM, in his speech, underlined the importance of Accessible India Campaign in the following words:

*"This campaign in its true sense has the mission of changing the physical and virtual infrastructure of the country so as to make it more accessible and inclusive for the persons with disabilities (PwDs). This campaign will pave the way for equal rights and participation of brothers and sisters with disabilities in all community activities. Our disabled brothers and sisters will get empowered in true sense.*

The target to make built environment, transport system and information Communication Technology eco-system accessible on such a vast scale is extremely important and I invite all the Central Government Ministries and State Governments to actively come forward and participate in successful implementation of the campaign.

The purpose of writing this letter is to request synergistic implementation of this important campaign.

To start with, we have to work on the following targets immediately.

- (i) Conducting accessibility audit of all the international airports and converting them into fully accessible international airports (July, 2016).
- (ii) Ensuring that A1, A & B category railway stations in the country are converted into fully accessible railway stations (July, 2016).

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- (iii) Conducting accessibility audit of 50% of all government (both Central and State Governments) websites and converting them into fully accessible websites (March, 2017).
- (iv) Developing and adoption of national standards on captioning and sign-language interpretation in consultation with National media authorities (July, 2016).

It is requested that instructions may be issued to the concerned officials to take up implementation of the targets concerning them in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.

In addition, I also request implementation of the decisions taken in the meeting held on 18.11.2015 in my Department in compliance with the instructions given by Hon'ble Prime Minister (copy of minutes enclosed).

*With warm regards!*

Yours sincerely,

लव वर्मा

(Lov Verma)

Encl: as above.

**Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi,**  
Secretary,  
Department of Higher Education,  
Ministry of Human Resource Development,  
Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110001.

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Minutes of the Meeting held in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) on 18.11.2015 at 4.00 PM to discuss the decisions taken in the meeting chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 04.11.2015 at 11.00 AM regarding Accessible India Campaign.

The list of participants is attached as Annexure.

2. At the outset Secretary, DEPwD welcomed all the participants and informed all the concerned Ministries/Departments about the important initiative "Accessible India Campaign" to be launched on International Day of Disabled i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015. He further stated that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities made a presentation before Hon'ble Prime Minister on Accessible India Campaign wherein it was decided to take all the Ministries/Departments and State Governments on board in implementing this campaign. Secretary stated that various responsibilities have been devolved to different Departments and accordingly they have to take necessary steps and also provide for funding to achieve the results of Accessibility. Secretary, DEPwD, then requested Joint Secretary, DEPwD to begin the discussions on the record of discussions of the meeting held in PMO on 04/11/2015 on Accessible India Campaign.

3. Shri Mukesh Jain, Joint Secretary made a detailed power point presentation on the mandate, context, components & contours, synergy & outcomes of the campaign. After detailed discussions on each of the issues the following decisions/suggestions were taken:-

I An attempt may be made to make the Campaign a mass movement by involving the citizens in various ways and sensitizing the society towards the special needs of the disabled.

- To conduct science exhibitions, sensitization/awareness camps for children/students in schools & colleges with special focus on disability.  
(Action: - Deptt. of School Education & Literacy and  
Deptt. of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD)
- To conduct essay competitions, quiz competitions and poster & painting competitions in schools and colleges and all Higher Educational Institutions like IITs, IIMS etc. all over the country. In this regard instructions may be issued to State Governments also. Other competitions like developing innovative technology products for

accessibility may be organized in technical / Schools of  
Planning & Architecture etc.

(Action: - Deptt. of School Education, Literacy and  
Deptt. of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD)

- To conduct talk shows on the campaign in Radio & TV channels including Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha TVs.

(Action: - Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

- To include chapter on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in text books for Schools. Small booklets on accessibility may be prepared and distributed in schools.

(Action: - NCERT, Ministry of Human Resource Development)

- To modify guidelines of Ministry of I&B and DAVP to incorporate coverage of accessibility issues for Persons with Disabilities in all print and audio-visual publicity material of all Departments.

(Action: - DAVP, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

- To generate awareness on accessibility issues through street plays, drama, theatre etc. being organized through Ministry of I&B.

(Action: - Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

- To organize a function on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 (International Day of Persons with Disabilities) regarding accessibility in public places like schools, colleges, primary health centre's, hospitals, police stations, gram panchayat offices etc. by mobilizing NSS Volunteers and Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) under Department of Youth Affairs. There are around 36 lakh NSS volunteers (35,000 NSS units) and 3 lakh Nehru Yuva Kendra in the country as informed by Department of Youth Affairs.

(Action: - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)

- The publicity material prepared by DEPwD on Accessible India Campaign to be shared with M/O Youth Affairs which can be circulated among the District Centres of M/O Youth affairs.

(Action: - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)

- The publicity material may also be uploaded in the websites of DEPwD's Ministry of Youth Affairs for publicity among the masses.

(Action:- DEPwD/Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)

## II Encouraging innovative projects for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

- To encourage formation of "Accessibility Clubs" in colleges, higher education institutions like IITs, IIMS, engineering, medical colleges etc. and promote innovation in terms of products, design, technology etc. Instructions in this regard may be issued to the schools and higher educational institutes.

(Action: - Ministry of Human Resource Development)

To focus on disability as a theme separate prizes may be awarded in the National Science Congress to be conducted by the Ministry of Science and Technology from this year itself. From next year onwards, special sessions devoted to the theme of accessibility may be included in the National Science Congress.

(Action: -Ministry of Science & Technology)

III An attempt may be made to arrange competitions for use of sign language for the disabled by the masses

- To organize competitions for use of sign language in schools and colleges. In this regard instructions may be issued by the Deptt. of Higher Education. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH) may formulate some sample competitions / quizzes to be used by Ministry of HRD.

(Action: - Ministry of Human Resource Development)

- The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Hearing Handicapped, (AYJNIHH) Mumbai, to organize regular competitions on Sign Language

(Action: - AYJNIHH, Mumbai)

IV To prepare innovative audio-visual material for Persons with Disabilities taking into consideration the daily needs of the disabled.

- To modify existing guidelines suitably so that certain percentage of publicity material may be prepared in Braille format for the benefit of the visually impaired.

(Action: - Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

V During film festivals, an attempt may be made for screening a special show for the disabled. Films may be prepared taking into special needs of visually impaired and hearing impaired people.

- To issue specific instructions in this regard that at least one film festival in a year should focus on disability/disabled people.

(Action: - Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of I&B)

- Ministry of I&B to initiate action for captioning, audio description etc. of films & documentaries and TV programmes on National Channels & other public channels for the benefit of Visually impaired and Hearing impaired persons.

Ministry of I&B to decide on use of 'Text to Speech' feature in the Television Set Top Boxes.

(Action: - Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

VI An attempt may be made to organize special seminars, workshops of all stakeholders related to construction of buildings, transport environment and ICT ecosystem, so as to make the new and existing infrastructure accessible to the disabled.

- Special seminars and workshops on the campaign would be organized in different regions/States of the country jointly with Ministries of Urban Development, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways & Ministry of DEITY etc.

(Action: - All concerned Ministries/Departments)

- To issue instructions to the Railway Zonal Offices to organize such seminars and workshops and inputs received from Railway Zonal Offices may be forwarded to the DEPwD.

(Action: - Ministry of Railways)

VII Time lines proposed for the campaign may be suitably revised so as to accomplish the objectives in a shorter period of time.

Built Environment Accessibility		
Target	Timelines	Revised Timeline (now proposed)
Access audit of at least 50 government buildings in 48 cities and make them fully accessible	July, 2016	July, 2016
Make 50% of government buildings in NCR and state capitals fully accessible	July, 2019	July, 2018
Access audit of 50% government buildings and make them accessible in 10 important towns/cities of states not covered in targets 1 and 2	July, 2022	July, 2019
Transport system accessibility		
Access audit of all international airports and make them accessible	July, 2016	July, 2016
Access audit of domestic airports and make them accessible	July, 2019	March, 2018
Make A1, A and B category stations fully accessible	July, 2016	July, 2016



Make 50% of Railway stations fully accessible	July, 2019	March, 2018
Make 10% of Government owned public transport fully accessible	July, 2019	March, 2018
<b>Knowledge and ICT Ecosystem accessibility</b>		
50% of Central and State Government websites meet accessibility standards	July, 2019	March, 2017
At least 50% of public documents meet accessibility standards	July, 2019	March, 2018
Train 200 additional sign language interpreters	July, 2019	March, 2018
Create and finalize standards for captioning and sign language interpretation	July, 2016	July, 2016
At least 25% of public TV programmes on government channels comply with set standards	July, 2019	March, 2018

(VIII) A proposal to earmark a small portion of the budget of all the Ministries of Government of India for making the public offices and websites accessible should be considered. The State Governments/UTs should be encouraged to do the same.

- Instructions to be issued by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF) to the Ministries/Departments to take necessary steps to earmark the required budget for making the public offices and websites accessible.

(Action: - Ministry of Finance)

(IX) The MPLAD & MLALAD funds could be utilized for this campaign.

- Guidelines be suitably revised and instructions be issued in this regard to all concerned for permitting utilization of the MPLAD funds for creating accessible features in public infrastructure, public transportation and ICT.

(Action: - Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

