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School Education Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai-9.

Letter No.10285/GL-1(1)/2019-6, dated 22.02.2021

From  
Thiru. Dheeraj kumar, I.A.S.,  
Principal Secretary to Government.

To  
The Director of School Education,  
Chennai-6. (w.e)  
The Director of Elementary Education,  
Chennai-6. (w.e)  
The Director of Matriculation School,  
Chennai-6. (w.e)  
The State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha,  
Chennai-6. (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: School Education – Review of Accessible India Campaign – The nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities – Action taken report - requested - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. From the Deputy Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy (IS-18), Government of India Letter F.No.4-1/2015/RMSA.II/IS-18, Dated: 22.04.2019.
2. Government Letter No. 10285/GL1(1)/19-3, School Education (GL1(1)) Department, dated 11.03.2020,29.09.2020
3. From the Director, Government of India, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy Letter F.No.1-16/2015-RMSA-II IS-18, Dated:.07.01.2021

In continuation of the Government letter second cited,I am directed to enclose a copy of the reference third cited and to request you to issue necessary instructions to the official under your control and to take appropriate action in this regard and to send your action taken Report to the Government.

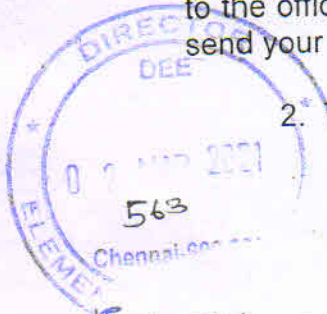
2. This may be treated as "Most Immediate."

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
22/02/2021

for Principal Secretary to Government.

பி.சி.03044/22/2021 பி.சி.2.3.2021



*[Handwritten notes and signatures in Tamil]*

✓ Prc.No. 10285/G.LI(1)/2019

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E.No1-16/2015RMSA-II IS-18(Part-II)  
-Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
IS-18 Section  
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Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

658  
11/1/2021

To,  
All State/UTs Education Secretaries  
Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)  
Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan (NVS)  
Director, Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA)  
Chairperson, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

Subject: Meeting of Committee of Secretaries to review of Accessible India Campaign and actionable points for Department of School Education and Literacy-reg.

Sir Madam,

This is in continuation of this Department's letter No. 14-25/2020-IS-18 dated 10.12.2020. As you may be aware a meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held on 27.11.2020 to review the Accessible India Campaign (AIC). Based on the meeting actionable points emerged in the meeting (copy of minutes are enclosed), to be undertaken by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L). One of the main point is preparing of customized guidelines and time bound plan for making all the educational buildings (Pre-Primary, Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Sr. Secondary Schools, Residential schools/Hostels, KGBVs, SCERT, DIETs, BIETs etc.) barrier free and construction of UNISEX toilets by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

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2. As a consequence of the CoS meeting, another meeting was held on 21.12.20 between DoSE&L and DEPwD. During the meeting the official from DEPwD, elaborated on the actionable points and informed that MoUD has prepared "Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for elderly and PwD, 2016" that speak about the details of structural and special requirements to be included while designing the building to accommodate the PwD. Since the guidelines only speak about the changes and retrofitting in the official buildings, the actionable points are provided sector wise for all the ministries/states and UTs. The ministries states and UTs, Autonomous bodies are required to customize the guidelines as per their specific requirements.

3. During the review DEPwD also advised that DoSE&L may consider 10 essential features and "Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Elderly and PwD, 2016" while designing educational buildings (pre- primary up-to primary schools, primary up to upper primary schools, upper primary up-to secondary schools and secondary up-to senior secondary schools, KGBVs, Residential Schools, hostels, SCERTs, DIETs, BIETs, SIETs, etc.) retrofitting old educational for structures. Essential features for educational buildings are attached at Annexure 1.

4. On the basis of the review of AIC held on 21<sup>st</sup> December with DEPwD, following actions have been finalized for DoSE&L.

- I. Formation of a committee chaired by Chairman CBSE, along with the Commissioner KVS, Commissioner NVS, Chairperson NIOS and SPDs of UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh as members who would work on customizing the guidelines. For this they may take support of NGOs, other appropriate bodies and organizations working in this domain.
  - II. To customize the space building features for schools at elementary, secondary and senior secondary level, KGBVs, residential schools, Hostels, SCERTs, DIETs, BITEs etc. The committee will also decide the features for making UNISEX toilets, along with financial implications for the same.
  - III. All the states, UTs and autonomous bodies would appoint depute a Nodal Officer who will be responsible to monitor the progress and submit the monthly progress report to Central Nodal Officer on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month.
  - IV. The Central Nodal Officer (Shri Ravi Katyal, Director (SS-I), DoSE&L, email : ravi.katyal@nic.in, Ph. No.23070837,M.No. 9873430171) would collect and collate the information, as received from all the states and UTs and submit the same on MIS portal of AIC, on 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month.
  - V. The committee/sub-committee formed by States/UTs and autonomous bodies may include persons/organizations from sectors such as Disability Resource Group's, Architecture, ICT, NGOs etc.
  - VI. After the guidelines are ready, the same should be sent to the Ministry of Education for approval of the Secretary (DoSE&L) and Hon'ble Education Minister. Once the guidelines are approved the same will be sent to the Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disability (CCPD) for further comments suggestions.
  - VII. After receipt of the comment/inputs from CCPD, MoE would go through the comments/suggestions received from the CCPD and may further modify the guidelines. The finalized guidelines will be sent to CCPD who would notify the same under RPwD Act, 2016.
5. In view of the points mentioned above States, UTs and Autonomous bodies are advised to develop a mechanism for regular monitoring and evaluation of AIC to ensure the effective output and implementation of AIC.
6. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Ravi Katyal)  
Director (SS-I)

Email: ravi.katyal@nic.in

**Essential features for educational buildings may include the following:**

1. Accessible Route Pathway- 900 mm- 1800 mm, anti skid surface, tactile path, signage (directional and informational), well lit, unobstructed pathway, from the entrance of the premises.
2. Accessible Parking- 5000 mm x 3600 mm, within 30 m of entrance, transfer bay, connected to accessible route, vertical and on floor signage.
3. Accessible Entrance to the building- 900 – 1800 mm, width, ramps with gradient 1: 12 and double height handrail with proper grips rounded at the edges, anti-skid flooring, color contrast, main door to be provided with minimum width of 1000 mm, signage prominently displayed.
4. Accessible corridor- 1500 mm to 1800 mm clear width, anti skid, tactile path, well lit, unobstructed by chairs/plants, doors should not open on to the corridor.
5. Accessible Reception- Low height counter (750-800mm) with 750-900mm width and leg space of 800mm height and 480 mm depth below the counter, information of accessible features, alternative media for communication – induction loop, braille, audio, etc.
6. Accessible Lifts/Elevator – 900 mm wide door with warning tiles at the entrance, 1500 mm x 1500mm lift car size, Braille buttons, auditory information and digital display, grab bars on three sides, alarm button, mirror on the rear wall.
7. Accessible Toilets- 2000mm x 2200mm size, grab bars around all sanitary fittings easy to be used by left and right hand users, 900mm door (double swing or outside opening), anti skid floor, emergency buttons, latches, easy to operate handles and lever type taps with long neck, no chaukhat.
8. Accessible staircase- Color contrasting strips on the horizontal surface of the steps, double height rounded handrails (38mm to 45 diameter) with proper grips rounded at the edges, warning tactile tiles at the beginning and the end, 50mm gap between wall and handrail for proper grip.
9. Accessible drinking water facility- Low height counter (750-800mm), leg space below counter (300mm), ramps, no drains holes, double height fountain type taps that are easy to operate.
10. Signage- directional and informational, high contrast, easy to understand, prominent locations, unobstructed, standardized and in alternative formats such as in Braille, through audio output, tactile maps/boards, regional vernacular languages etc, material of the signage should be anti-glare or preferably of matte finish, of durable quality.

# IT A GLANCE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE 10 BASIC FEATURES OF ACCESSIBILITY

Features	Specifications
<b>DOOR FEATURES</b>	
Accessible Route/ Pathway	900mm - 1800mm, anti-skid surface, tactile path, signage (directional and informational), well lit, unobstructed pathway.
Accessible Parking	5000mm X 3600 mm, within 30m of entrance, transfer bay, connected to accessible route, vertical and on floor signage.
Accessible Entrance to the Building	900 - 1800mm width, ramp with gradient 1:12 and double height handrail with proper grips rounded at the edges, anti-skid flooring, colour contrast, main door to be provided with minimum width of 1000 mm, signage prominently displayed.
<b>DOOR FEATURES</b>	
Accessible Corridor	1500mm to 1800mm clear width, anti-skid surface, tactile path, well-lit, unobstructed by chairs/plants, doors should not open on to the corridor.
Accessible Reception	Low height counter (750-800mm) with 750-900mm width and leg space of 800mm height and 480 mm depth below the counter, information of accessible features, alternative media for communication - induction loop, braille, audio, etc.
Accessible Lifts/ Elevator	900 mm wide door with warning tiles at the entrance, 1500mm X 1500mm lift car size, braille buttons, auditory information and digital display, grab bars on three sides, alarm button, mirror on the rear wall.
Accessible Toilet	2000mm X 2200mm size, grab-bars around all sanitary fittings easy to be used by left and right handed users, 900mm door (double swing or outside opening), anti-skid floor, emergency button, latches (also middle, base), easy to operate handles and lever type taps with long neck, no <i>chaukhat</i> .
Accessible Staircase	Colour contrasting strips on the horizontal surface of the steps, double height rounded handrails (38mm to 45mm diameter) with proper grips rounded at the edges, warning tactile tiles at beginning and end, 50mm gap between wall and handrail for proper grip.
Accessible Drinking Water Facility	Low height counter (750-800mm), leg space below counter (300mm), ramps, no drains/ holes, double height fountain type taps that are easy to operate.
	Directional and informational, high contrast, easy to understand, prominent locations, unobstructed, standardized and in alternative formats such as in braille, through audio output, tactile maps/boards, regional languages, etc, material of the signage should be anti-glare or preferably of matte finish, of durable quality.

(ii) All existing buildings, whether Government or private, that are used or accessed

शकुन्ताला डौले गामलिन, भा.प्र.से.  
सचिव  
Shakuntala Doley Gamlin, IAS  
Secretary



भारत सरकार  
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय  
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग  
Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

D.O. No. 4-34/2015-AIC (Vol. V)

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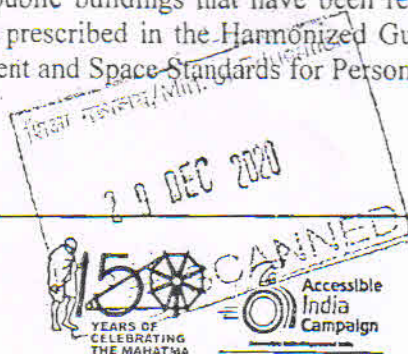
Dear Smt Anita Karwal,

21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

Consequent to the meetings of the Central Advisory Board on 26.11.2020, Committee of Secretaries on 27.11.2020 and other meetings, a set of recommendations/directions have emerged which are summarized herein under for the benefit of concerned Ministries/Departments:

- (i) Concerned Ministries/Departments which have so far not finalized accessibility standards in respect of sectors under their administrative control are expected to do so in consultation with the Chief Commissioner for PwDs and submit the same to this Department latest by June 2021 (list of such Ministries/Departments annexed). In this regard, the best global standards are required to be studied while firming up accessibility standards for their sector(s). If need be, outside experts could be roped in for this task. It needs to be reiterated here that accessibility means the provision of certain features to a facility or service which in combination greatly enhances their usability by persons with disabilities or reduced mobility, whether in an urban or a rural setting. Accordingly, accessibility standards cannot be vague and non-committal statements of intent but are required to be specific, purposeful, quantifiable, measurable and impact creating, catering to both urban and rural environments. As a period of only 2 years has been provided under the statute for provision of sector-wise accessibility standards after their notification in the gazette, the concerned Ministries/Departments may bear this aspect in mind while firming up accessibility standards for their sector(s). Therefore, it might be appropriate in the first instance to prescribe such accessibility standards that are considered essential. It is suggested that since accessibility standards for public buildings have already been notified and are available on this Department's website ([www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in)), other concerned Ministries/Departments may refer to these, wherever applicable, while firming up accessibility standards for their sectors.
- (ii) All existing buildings, whether Government or private, that are used or accessed by the public at large are required to be made accessible latest by June 2022. It appears that Government buildings with restricted access do not appear to be covered under the mandatory provisions of accessibility under the RPwD Act, 2016. Therefore, coverage of such buildings is discretionary;
- (iii) A list of all existing public buildings that have been retrofitted in terms of the accessibility standards prescribed in the Harmonized Guidelines for Creation of Barrier Free Environment and Space Standards for Persons with Disabilities and

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the Elderly and have been self-certified accordingly alongwith a list of self-certified accessible Websites and number the of buses made accessible and certified accordingly is required to be uploaded on the MIS portal of this Department for the Accessible India Campaign (www.imaic.nic.in) by the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month by the concerned Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. It, therefore, becomes imperative that the concerned Ministries/Departments and States/UTs should upload the requisite information latest by the given date on the said Portal, for which purpose a log-in Id and password have already been shared. In case of non-receipt of these, please inform immediately so that remedial action can be taken.

- (iv) There is a need to promote a spirit of healthy competition amongst smart cities under the Smart City Project by putting in place an evaluation and ranking mechanism which would cover among other things whether accessibility features have been incorporated in basic and essential infrastructure, facilities and services. Likewise, M/oHUA and D/o DWS should include accessibility in facilities and services as an evaluation criterion in their annual Swachhta rankings; and
- (v) This Department is required to furnish a monthly progress report in respect of the Accessible India Campaign covering the achievements of the concerned Ministries/Departments and States/UTs during the 30 day period. Accordingly, it is requested that the monthly progress report may be uploaded on the MIS Portal, details of which have been indicated in sub-paragraph (iii) above.

2. It is requested that action in respect of the issues outlined in paragraph No. 1 above may please be taken and this Department kept informed of the same. In respect of sub-paragraphs (iii) & (v) of paragraph 1 above, periodic reporting may please done, as requested.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Shakuntala D. Gamlin*  
(Shakuntala D. Gamlin)

Smt. Anita Karwal,  
Secretary,  
Department of School Education & Literacy,  
Ministry of Human Resource Development,  
124-C, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

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**List of accessibility standards notified and yet to be notified**

S.no.	Name of the Ministry/Department	Rules for Standards notified	Rules for Standards yet to be notified
1.	M/o Housing and Urban Affairs	Buildings (needs review)	Needs review; for instance accessible Indian type toilets, foot operated door locks, uniformity in area requirements between Harmonized Guidelines, NBC, MBBL etc.
2.	M.o Rural Development		Comprehensive accessibility standards for Rural Infrastructure including rural housing, community centres, terrain specific, etc.
3.	M/o Road Transport and Highways	Buses (needs review)	Comprehensive accessibility guidelines for road transport infrastructure including bus terminals/stops/depots, and services.
4.	M/o Electronics and Information Technology	Government websites and documents uploaded (needs review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement of accessible IT Hardware and Software.</li> <li>- Accessibility standards for privately owned websites.</li> <li>- Accessibility standards for mobile apps.</li> </ul>
5.	M/o Railways		Comprehensive accessibility standards of Railways including Railway stations, coaches, accessible toilets, online bookings, services, interplatform transfer, availability of trolleys, wheelchairs, accessible information of departure/arrival etc.
6.	M/o Civil Aviation		Comprehensive accessibility guidelines for infrastructure including airports, carriers and related services like accessible information of departure/arrival etc.
7.	D/o Telecom.		Telecom hardware like devices, handsets etc. and services.
8.	M/o Information and Broadcasting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility standards for TV viewing for persons with different disabilities including hearing and visually impaired</li> <li>- Accessibility standards for cinemas; including infrastructure and viewing experience</li> </ul>
9.	M/o Health and Family Welfare		Accessibility standards for hospitals, clinics, labs and related services.



10.	M/o Education	-	Comprehensive accessibility standards related to infrastructure, pedagogy and curricula for educational institutions including schools, colleges and universities.
11.	M/o Shipping	-	Accessibility standards for ports, infrastructure, carriers and services.
12.	M/o Jal Shakti	-	To prepare accessibility standards for unisex toilets including community toilets (both Indian and western type), accessible taps for drinking water etc.
13.	D/o Consumer Affairs	-	Accessibility standards for universally designed consumer products and accessories
14.	M/o Culture	-	Accessibility standards for monuments, theatres, auditoriums etc.
15.	M/o Tourism	-	Accessibility standards related to infrastructure and services for tourism and hospitality industry
16.	M/o Home Affairs	-	Accessibility standards for infrastructure like police stations and provide accessible services like registration of complaints, FIR etc.
17.	D/o Justice	-	Accessibility standards for courts and related services
18.	D/o Financial Services	-	Accessibility standards for infrastructure and services for banking, currency, ATMs etc.
19.	D/o Sports	-	Accessibility standards for Sports Centres including stadia, training centres, gyms etc.



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Smt. Anita Karwal,  
Secretary,  
Department of School Education &  
Literacy,  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
124-C, Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110001.  
D.O No.4-34/2015-AIC(Vol.V)



F.No. 14-25/2020-IS-18  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of School Education & Literacy

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Date: 10/12/2020

Education Secretaries of All States and UTs  
Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)  
Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)  
Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)  
Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)  
Director, Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA)  
Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

Sub: Actions to be taken by States and UTs and Autonomous Bodies and Accessible India Campaign (AIC)

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is regarding Accessible India Campaign (AIC) a flagship programme under the Department of PwD. During the Hon'ble PMs review of the programme held on 31.7.2019 various issues under the programme were reviewed. The programme was also deliberated upon in the committee of Secretaries meeting held on 14.10.2019, 12.2.2020 and 27.11.2020 and certain recommendations made for concerned Ministry/Department including Department of DoSEL. Keeping in view these recommendations the following activities/actions are to be taken by all States, UTs and Autonomous Bodies.

- i. To provide the compiled information on the status of the implementation of the campaign to the National Nodal Officer, Shri Ravi Katyal, Deputy Secretary, S.S.I Bureau on monthly basis by 1<sup>st</sup> of every month so that the information is compiled and uploaded on the MIS portal of AIC.
- ii. Redressal of complaints uploading in respect shortfall in accessibility on the crowd sourcing app 'Sugamaya Bharat App'. The action taken in this regard also needs to be uploaded on the said app.
- iii. Implementation and progress of accessibility standards related to infrastructure, pedagogy and curriculum.
- iv. Implementation and progress of making the websites of State Education Department, SCERT, DIETS, etc. accessible for CWSN.

All States, UTs and Autonomous Bodies need to appoint a Nodal Officer for taking action on the above points and liaise with the National Nodal Officer, whenever required for smooth action on the above points.

Yours sincerely,

(Ravi Katyal)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

SECRET  
Copy No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 16

No. 701/1/2/2018 - CA. V  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR  
CABINET SECRETARIAT/MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA  
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

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New Delhi, dated 01<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

Subject: Review of 'Accessible India Campaign' (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan).

Please find enclosed herewith, a copy of the minutes of the meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) held at 6.30 PM on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 in the Committee Room of Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, on the above subject. Action taken on the recommendations may kindly be uploaded on e-Samiksha Portal.

Encl: Doc. No. (C.A.V): 46/2020



*(Signature)*  
(P. Gupta)  
Director  
Tele No: 23015342

To

1. Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
2. Chairman, Railway Board
3. Secretary, M/o Civil Aviation
4. Secretary, M/o Road Transport & Highways
5. Secretary, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs
6. Secretary, D/o School Education & Literacy
7. Secretary, D/o Higher Education
8. Secretary, M/o Electronics & Information Technology
9. Secretary, D/o Health and Family Welfare
10. Secretary, M/o Panchayati Raj
11. Secretary, M/o Information & Broadcasting

Copy also forwarded to

1. Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
2. Principal Advisor to Prime Minister

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No.701/1/2/2018- CA.V  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR  
CABINET SECRETARIAT/MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA  
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

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Encl: Doc. No. (C.A.V): 46/2020

Venue : Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat  
Date of Meeting : 27.11.2020  
Time of Meeting : 06.30 PM

PRESENT

1. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary
2. Dr. V.P. Joy, Secretary (C), Cabinet Secretariat
3. Ms. Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
4. Ms. Kavita Singh, Director, Cabinet Secretariat

Through Video Conference

1. Ms. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
2. Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, D/o School Education & Literacy
3. Shri A.P. Sawhney, Secretary, M/o Electronics and Information Technology
4. Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs
5. Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, M/o Civil Aviation
6. Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, M/o Information & Broadcasting
7. Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, D/o Higher Education
8. Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, D/o Health & Family Welfare
9. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, M/o Panchayati Raj
10. Shri Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, M/o Road Transport & Highways
11. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Member (Infra), Railway Board
12. Ms. Neeta Verma, DG, NIC
13. Ms. L.S Changsan, Joint Secretary, D/o School Education & Literacy
14. Ms. Tarika Roy, Joint Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

**Subject: Review of 'Accessible India Campaign' (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan).**

A meeting of the Committee of Secretaries was held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, on 27th November, 2020 at 6.30 pm through Video Conferencing, on the aforementioned subject. (List of participants annexed)

Secretary, D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) initiated the discussion by giving a brief overview of the progress made under the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan) which was launched on 03.12.2015 for creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Built Up Environment, Transport and Information & Communication Technology (ICT). Specific targets and timelines have been set up for various

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Ministries/Departments involved. As a first step towards ensuring accessibility, the Central Government is required to lay down accessibility standards with respect to its sector(s) (section 40 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act read with Rule 15 of the Rules framed thereunder). So far, accessibility standards for public buildings, buses, websites (government only) and accessible documents to be placed on the websites have been notified. Thereafter, the action taken on the recommendations of the CoS meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2019 was discussed.

3 Secretary, MoHUA informed that all States except Sikkim have adopted the Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons 2016. These have been incorporated in their Building Byelaws, and all new buildings now adhere to accessibility standards. 1100 identified Central Government buildings have been retrofitted and approval from 18 Ministries is awaited for retrofitting of some of their buildings. CPWD Training Institute is imparting training for implementation of Harmonised guidelines and conducting accessibility audit of buildings. Secretary, DEPwD stated that Department of Expenditure has also revised the project appraisal format for new projects to include provision of accessibility features. All the Central Departments/Ministries and all the States have been requested to incorporate accessibility features in their public buildings. Further, Central Government buildings have to be retrofitted by the Departments/Ministries concerned while Central funding support had been provided for retrofitting of the identified buildings of State Governments. So far 275 (out of identified 1662 buildings) have been made accessible by 7 States. Regular meetings, video conferences and written correspondence with stakeholder Ministries and all the States to accelerate Accessible India Campaign (AIC) activities, are being conducted.

4 Secretary, MoRTH informed that an advisory has been issued to all State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) for compliance with accessibility requirements and Bus Body Code (2017) has been made mandatory for ensuring accessibility in city buses. 9,032 (6.13%) State Transport Undertaking buses have been made fully accessible and 40,984 (27.85%) such buses made accessible, without wheelchair accessibility. 3,217 (92.22%) bus stations in 24 States/UTs have also been made partially accessible. He informed that the Registration rules have been amended to enable PwDs to get driving license and concessions such as discount on toll fee. Secretary, DEPwD suggested that since low floor buses were not suitable for rural roads, some other features such as foldable ramps may be considered.

5 Secretary, MoCA apprised that 35 international and 55 domestic airports have been provided with accessibility features including ramps, accessible toilets, helpdesks and lifts with braille and auditory information systems. 42 airports have been provided with aerobridges and ambu-lifts were being procured for 20 single floor level airports.

6 Member (Infrastructure) Railway Board, intimated that accessibility standards have been prepared and sent to DEPwD for notification. 709 major railway stations have been provided with accessibility features including ramps, walkways from

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reserved parking, signage, drinking water facilities, accessible toilets, "May I help You" Booths, and lifts. Of these, 603 stations have also been provided with engraved platform edge and trolley paths. A budget of Rs. 585 cr has been approved for implementing a comprehensive plan for barrier free access and movement at all railway stations. Cabinet Secretary suggested that a mechanism be developed for sharing information regarding these services and facilities with citizens and obtaining their feedback. Member Board stated that the 'RailMadad' app shall be suitably modified. Secretary DEPwD informed that an audit of railway stations was conducted by the School of Planning and Architecture and the report has been shared with the Ministry.

7. Secretary MEITY informed that there are 5198 Central Government and 7067 State/UT websites/web applications hosted on NIC. 95 (95%) of the identified websites of Ministries/Departments and 616 district websites have been made accessible. 583 (72.6%) of the identified websites of States/UTs have been made accessible by ERNET, of which 424 have been made live. The guidelines for procurement of accessible IT hardware and software are being prepared by CDAC. 12 agencies have been empanelled with NISCI for providing services for audit and implementation of accessibility features and NIC officers are also being trained for the same. He further informed that ERNET has created a lab for audit of websites and their content and NIC is developing an online self-service tool to allow departments/ organisation to audit their websites and content on a regular basis. He stated that the accessibility standards have also been shared with commercial organisations/ bodies such as NASCCOM and they have been urged to follow the same. Secretary, DEPwD informed that challenge rounds have been organised in association with Microsoft/ NASCCOM and Department of Science & Technology for development of apps/tools for use by PwDs. Cabinet Secretary directed Secretary DEPwD to review the progress of each Ministry along with Secretary, MEITY and give an impetus to this work.

8. Secretary, School Education and Literacy informed that around 71% Government and Government aided schools have been provided with ramps with handrails and accessible toilets and 100% progress shall be achieved by January, 2022. To encourage inclusive education, funding is provided to students for assistive devices, transportation and escort. Inclusive text books and audio and digi content has been created and shared with the States. MoU has been signed with the Indian Sign Language Institute and an ISL dictionary is being created which will be adapted in regional languages by the States. 21 lakh elementary teachers (50%) have been trained for imparting inclusive education and training modules for secondary and higher secondary teachers were being prepared. Awareness camps were also being held for sensitisation of teachers as well as parents.

9. Secretary, Higher Education stated that guidelines for barrier free physical infrastructure were being implemented. He also informed that AICTE was working on creating accessible content for professional courses.

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10. Secretary Health and Family Welfare informed that 13 out of 23 hospitals under their control have been made accessible. The Indian Public Health Standards are under revision for inclusion of accessibility features and shall be issued shortly.

11. Secretary, MoIB informed that currently in addition to Doordarshan, 15 private news channels are telecasting partially accessible news bulletins. So far, 190 news bulletins have been telecast with subtitling/sign-language interoperation and 9 general entertainment channels have telecast 2486 scheduled programs/movies using subtitling.

12. Secretary, DEPwD also briefed about the other initiatives taken by the Department including preparation of ready reckoner of specifications of 10 key accessibility features, launch of MIS portal, development of models for accessible infrastructure and collaboration and outreach initiatives. The Department has also developed the "Sugamya Bharat APP" for Jan Bhagidari as per the directions of the Prime Minister. It is currently at User Acceptance Testing (UAT) stage and is expected to be launched in December 2020.

13. After detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Progress of implementation under the Accessible India Campaign should be regularly monitored by DEPwD and all Ministries/Departments concerned to ensure that the targets are met in a time bound manner. Secretary, DEPwD to also coordinate with State Governments to monitor the progress of the programme.
- ii. Ministries/Departments to firm up sector-wise accessibility standards in consultation with Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and submit to DEPwD by June 2021. The best global standards should be studied while preparing the standards. DEPwD to notify Rules containing sector-wise accessibility standards at the earliest after receipt of proposals from Ministries /Departments concerned.
- iii. DEPwD may organise webinars/conferences with Ministries/ Departments to sensitise stakeholders. Key findings of these conferences may be placed in public domain.
- iv. Ministries/Departments to develop a mechanism for sharing information regarding facilities and services for PwDs and obtaining feedback on their quality and efficacy.

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