

## **Central Government Launched a Six Months' CBID Program on Rehabilitation of Divyangjan**

Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment virtually launched a 6 months' Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on 19.05.2021 in the presence of Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, SJ&E, Mr. Barry O'Farrell, Australian High Commissioner at New Delhi, Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India to Australia at Canberra and Ms. Anjali Bhawra, Secretary (DEPWD) Government of India.

The program aims to create a pool of grass-root rehabilitation workers at community level who can work alongside ASHA and Anganwadi workers to handle cross disability issues and facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society. The program has been designed to provide competency based knowledge and skills among these workers to enhance their ability for successfully discharging their duties. These workers will be called 'Divyang Mitra' i.e. friends of persons with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Council of India intends to roll out the course initially on a pilot basis for two batches in 7 National Institutes of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and 7-9 voluntary organisations having experience in Community Based Rehabilitation programme. Initially the programme will be available in English, Hindi and 7 regional languages, namely, Gujarati, Marathi, Odiya, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Garo. The classes for the first batch of about 600 students are expected to commence by August, this year. Mode of training for this course would be both offline/online taking into account, the prevailing COVID scenario.

This CBID course has been co-designed by Rehabilitation Council of India and University of Melbourne as a joint initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Australia and the Government of India on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018 for cooperation in disability sector. Content and curriculum of the course has

been developed by an Expert Committee comprising experts drawn from India and Australia. The National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation under the Rehabilitation Council of India will conduct examinations and award certificates to pass-out candidates.

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