No. Z-11017/8/2026-ATD (54098)
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

5th Floor, Pt. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Rd.
New Delhi -110003
Date : 25.08.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Revision and Continuation of the Development of Accessible Learning Materials (DALM) Project, a component under the Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA Scheme), during the 16th Finance Commission Cycle.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject cited above and to state that the Competent Authority has approved the continuation of the Development of Accessible Learning Materials (DALM) Project, a component under the Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA Scheme), during the 16th Finance Commission Cycle, i.e. from 2026–27 to 2030–31. The scope of the revised DALM Project has been expanded to cover persons with hearing disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and other learning disabilities, in addition to visual disabilities. The Project has also been made more inclusive by covering accessible learning materials for higher education, professional courses, and group learning resources, with greater emphasis on digital learning resources in addition to Braille books.

2. A copy of the revised DALM Guidelines under the Central Sector framework is enclosed herewith for information and further dissemination. The revised Guidelines are also available on the website of the Department at www.depwd.gov.in.

3. It is requested that the Project may kindly be widely disseminated among various educational institutions, including Special Schools/Inclusive Schools, as well as the Education and Social Welfare Departments at the Central and State levels. Director, NIEPVD (Dehradun) may be contacted in case of any further

information for setting up of a production centre or availing Accessible Learning Materials under the project.

Encl.: As above

Sandeep Kumar
Digitally signed by Sandeep Kumar
Date: 2026.08.25 12:58:56 +05'30'

(Sandeep Kumar)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Telephone No.: 011-2436 9027
E-mail ID: sandeepkumar.rth@nic.in
adipsection-depwd@nic.in

To

1. Principal Secretaries/Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs.
2. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Kartavya Bhawan-2 , New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi.
4. Chief Adviser Cost, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, 22nd Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001.
5. Directors of all National Institutes under the Department.
6. All DS/Directors of the Department.

Copy to:

1. Under Secretary (DDRS) — with a request for dissemination the information to all DDRS-funded Schools/Organisations.

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister, SJ&E, Government of India.
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (BLV).
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary, DEPwD.
4. PPS to AS (MKN).
5. PPS to AS&FA, MoSJE.

GUIDELINES
ON
PROJECT ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSIBLE LEARNING MATERIALS

UNDER SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (SIPDA)

applicable w.e.f. 01.04.2026

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India

1. BACKGROUND

Education is fundamental to achieving full human potential. Further, providing universal access to quality education is essential for India's continued progress and leadership in economic growth, social justice, equality, scientific advancement, national integration and cultural preservation, as envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. Education plays a vital role in the life of every individual and holds equal importance for students with disabilities.

According to the Census 2011, there were about 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India, constituting 2.21% of the total population of the country. As per the latest UDID data (as on 08.07.2026), the total number of persons with benchmark disabilities (40% and above) holding UDID cards is 1,39,70,646.

Students with visual disabilities: Students with visual disabilities constitute an umbrella group comprising persons with blindness and low vision. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 recognizes low vision as a distinct category of disability. Students with blindness are largely dependent on Braille books and other accessible resources, whereas students with low vision are often able to utilize their residual vision through appropriately designed learning materials, assistive technologies and accessible educational resources. As per Government of India's latest Unique Disability ID (UDID) data (as on 08.07.2026), there are 13,63,361 Persons with Visual Impairment, out of which 4,95,553 are below the age of 35 years and would be considered as School/College going students.

Students with Speech and Hearing Disabilities: Students with speech and hearing disabilities often face barriers in accessing quality education due to the limited availability of accessible learning materials, including Indian Sign Language (ISL)-based and captioned educational content. As a result, their participation in mainstream education remains low and dropout rates are comparatively high. Development of accessible learning resources would improve learning outcomes, enhance retention, and promote greater participation of such students in higher education, including STEM disciplines, finance and other professional streams. As per Government of India's latest Unique Disability ID (UDID) data (as on 08.07.2026), there are 13,72,986 Persons with Speech and Hearing Disabilities, out of which 6,19,540 are below the age of 35 years and would be considered as School/College going students.

Students with Intellectual Disabilities: Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Delay and any other Learning Disabilities as per RPwD Act, 2016, are often deprived of even basic educational opportunities due to the non-availability of appropriate and accessible learning materials suited to their cognitive needs. This contributes to low enrolment, poor learning outcomes and high dropout rates. Development of simplified, easy-to-read and learner-friendly educational resources would facilitate greater participation and

retention in the education system, improve foundational learning, and support their inclusion in vocational, skill-development and other educational pathways. As per Government of India's latest Unique Disability ID (UDID) data (as on 08.07.2026), there are 22,31,135 Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, out of which 15,44,035 are below the age of 35 years and would be considered as School/College going students.

Most organizations and special schools catering to students with disabilities are striving to provide educational content in accessible formats to enable access to textbooks, learning resources and other instructional materials. However, significant gaps continue to exist in the availability of accessible learning materials across disability categories and educational levels.

The mandate of the Constitution of India is to ensure equality, freedom, justice and dignity for all individuals, thereby promoting an inclusive society, particularly for disadvantaged groups. Article 16 of the Constitution guarantees equality of opportunity and reinforces the principles of non-discrimination and inclusion.

The Central Government enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which serves as the principal legislation relating to the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Section 31(1) of Chapter VI (Free Education for Children with Benchmark Disabilities), inter alia, provides every child with benchmark disability between the ages of 6 and 18 years the right to free education in a neighbourhood school or a special school of his choice. Section 31(2) further provides that the appropriate Government and local authorities shall ensure that every child with benchmark disability has access to free education in an appropriate environment until attaining the age of 18 years.

Further, Sections 17(f) and 17(g) of Chapter III (Education) provide for the promotion of augmentative and alternative means of communication, including Braille, and for the provision of books, learning materials and appropriate assistive devices to students with benchmark disabilities free of cost up to the age of 18 years.

In pursuance of these objectives, the Central Sector Scheme of "Support for Establishment/Modernization/Capacity Augmentation of Braille Presses" was launched in 2014-15 to provide Braille materials and literature to school-going students with visual disabilities. With the growing importance of digital and alternative accessible formats, and with a view to extending support to learners with other categories of disabilities, the Government subsequently expanded the scope of the initiative and continued it as the "Development of Accessible Learning Materials (DALM)" Project.

The principle of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) emphasises providing multiple means of representation so that learners with diverse needs can access educational content in appropriate formats. Accordingly, learning materials and textbooks should be made available in a variety of accessible formats, including Braille, DAISY Talking Books, E-Pub and other digital formats,

large-print materials, Indian Sign Language-based content, captioned educational resources and other accessible formats as required.

Despite the existing legal and policy framework, a significant number of learners with disabilities continue to face barriers in accessing quality education due to the limited availability of accessible learning materials. NEP 2020 advocates inclusive and equitable education through Universal Design for Learning and emphasises the need for accessible educational resources for all learners. Therefore, it is essential to expand the availability of accessible learning materials across all educational levels, from foundational education to higher education, while ensuring timely and equitable access to curriculum content in multiple formats.

The Development of Accessible Learning Materials (DALM) Project aims to ensure equitable access to education for students with disabilities by providing curriculum content in multiple accessible formats. Aligned with the RPwD Act, 2016 and NEP 2020, the Project seeks to bridge accessibility gaps across educational levels and disability categories. By promoting accessible learning resources based on the principles of Universal Design for Learning, DALM is expected to enhance participation, improve learning outcomes, strengthen retention, and uphold the rights, dignity and equal opportunities of learners with disabilities.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The following are the major objectives of the Project:

i. To develop facilitating ecosystems for the production of accessible learning materials in different regions of the country.

ii. To provide financial support as Recurring Grant-in-Aid to approved and functional implementing agencies for providing free-of-cost accessible learning materials to students with disabilities.

iii. To provide financial support as Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid for establishment of production centres and for capacity augmentation/modernization of existing production centres involved in the development of accessible learning materials. This may include:

    a. New Braille Presses and capacity augmentation/modernization of existing Braille Presses.

    b. Capacity augmentation/modernization of existing Talking Book Studios.

    c. New Digital Book Production Centres and capacity augmentation /modernization of existing Digital Book Production Centres.

    d. New Large Print Production Centres and capacity augmentation /modernization of existing Large Print Production Centres.

e. And to provide accessible learning disability appropriate learning materials for student PwDs across different disabilities

3. SCOPE FOR ACCESSIBLE LEARNING MATERIAL

For the purpose of this Project, Accessible Learning Materials shall mean textbooks, reference books, syllabi, workbooks, and other learning materials prescribed by the Central or State Boards of School Education (including NIOS and other Open Schooling Boards), Statutory Professional Councils, or Universities, in appropriate accessible formats, including but not limited to the following:

S. No.	Disability	Accessible Formats
1	Visual impairment	a) Braille b) E-Pub c) Large Print (for Low Vision only) d) Human Narrated DAISY Talking Book e) Tactile Map/Images. f) 3-D Models for concept development. g) Any other such contemporary formats that enhance the educational outcomes of students, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
2	Hearing Impairment and Speech disabilities	a) Indian Sign Language Multimedia Videos b)ISL Narrated Education Content/School Textbooks. Any other such contemporary formats that enhance the educational outcomes of students, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). c) Standardized curriculum based accessible learning material developed by National Institutes/ Other competent Government Organizations. d) Any other such contemporary formats that will

S. No.	Disability	Accessible Formats
		enhance learning outcome.
3	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Delay and any other Learning Disabilities as per RPwD Act, 2016.	a) Standardized curriculum based accessible learning material developed by National Institutes/ Other competent Government Organizations. b) Augmentative and Alternative Communication based Education Content c) Audio-Visual Education Material. d) Easy-to-Read (E2R) Materials, simplified textbooks, visual schedules, accessibility-based instructional multisensory material e) Interactive Speech and Communication Learning Content f) Any other such contemporary formats that will enhance learning outcome.

4. COMMITTEES UNDER THE PROJECT

4.1 Screening Committee:

i. The Screening Committee shall act as a guiding and executive committee for implementation of the Project and shall meet at least twice in a year. The Committee shall have the following composition:

1.	An officer of rank Joint Secretary or above dealing with this project at DEPwD	Chairperson
2.	Deputy Secretary/Director, DEPwD handling this Project.	Member Secretary
3.	Director, NIEPVD (as a Nodal Agency)	Member
4.	Deputy Secretary/Director (IFD), DEPwD	Member

5	Representative from Office of Advisor (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance	Member
6	Representative nominated by the Nodal Agency dealing with the Project	Member
7	Members of Core Group for respective disability category	Member

4.1.1 Functions of the Screening Committee:

The Screening Committee shall be responsible for the following:

i. To consider proposals for empanelment of implementing agencies under the Project.

ii. To consider proposals for Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid under the Project.

iii. To consider proposals for Recurring Grant-in-Aid under the Project.

iv. To review the actions taken by the Nodal Agency and issue necessary directions for implementation of the Project.

v. To review and finalize reimbursement rates for development of accessible learning materials under the Recurring Grant-in-Aid component.

vi. To develop and review the monitoring mechanism for the Project.

vii. To approve reimbursement of administrative expenses of the Nodal Agency.

viii. To take any other decision necessary for achieving the objectives of the Project.

4.2 Core Group:

There shall be separate Core Groups for different disability categories as follows:

4.2.1 Core Group for Visual Disability

i. Director, NIEPVD – Group Head
ii. One expert working in the domain – Member
iii. Representative from prominent NGOs/innovators/technologists in the field – Special Invitee

4.2.2 Core Group for Speech and Hearing Disabilities

i. **Director, AYJNISHD, Mumbai and Director ISLRTC - Co Heads**
ii. One expert working in the domain – Member

iii. Representative from prominent NGOs/innovators/technologists in the field – Special Invitee
iv. One Member from the Nodal Agency.

4.2.3 Core Group for Intellectual Disability

i. Director, NIEPID, Secunderabad and Director SEHORE– Co-Group Heads
ii. One expert working in the domain – Member
iii. Representative from prominent NGOs/innovators/technologists in the field – Special Invitee.
iv. One Member from the Nodal Agency.

4.2.4 Functions of the Core Group

The Core Group shall:

i. Advise the Screening Committee regarding inclusion of new accessible formats in physical or digital form.

ii. Recommend the cost mechanism/rates payable to implementing agencies for development of accessible learning materials in such formats.

iii. Assist the Nodal Agency in scrutinizing proposals received from implementing agencies relating to the respective disability category.

iv. Assist the Nodal Agency in inspection and evaluation of implementing agencies relating to the respective disability category.

v. Perform any other task assigned by the Screening Committee.

vi. Prescribed Formats for assessment, Progress, monitoring need to be suggested by Core Group to Screening Committee for consideration.

5. NODAL AGENCY

For this Project, the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun, shall be the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Project. The Institute shall be responsible for scrutinizing proposals, obtaining reports from implementing agencies, evaluating their performance, and preparing agenda notes for consideration of proposals by the Competent Authority/Body.

5.1 The Nodal Agency shall perform the following functions:

i. Issue advertisements and notify through its website for inviting proposals relating to development of accessible learning materials for students with disabilities.

ii. Receive applications from organizations seeking empanelment as implementing agencies, along with the financial implications of the proposal, in the prescribed application format and scrutinize the same with reference to the eligibility criteria.

iii. Constitute inspection teams, with the approval of the Competent Authority of the Nodal Agency, for assessment and physical verification of organizations/institutions applying under the Project in the prescribed assessment format.

iv. Submit inspection reports to DEPwD for information and further necessary action.

v. Examine applications and recommend eligible proposals for consideration of the Screening Committee. The Nodal Agency shall ensure that all requisite documents are duly verified before submission to DEPwD/Screening Committee.

vi. Constitute inspection committees, with the approval of the Competent Authority, for post-installation inspection of implementing agencies/grantee organizations in the prescribed assessment format along with supporting documents.

vii. Obtain inspection reports from the inspection committees and forward the same, along with the requisite documents, to DEPwD for consideration and necessary action.

viii. Receive requests from implementing agencies for Recurring Grant-in-Aid and place the same before the Screening Committee for consideration after completing the prescribed verification process.

ix. Obtain periodic progress reports from implementing agencies in the prescribed reporting format, maintain records thereof, and place the same before the Screening Committee for appropriate action.

x. Prepare and submit consolidated performance reports of implementing agencies to the Screening Committee/DEPwD on the basis of progress reports received from implementing agencies.

xi. Organize periodic training programmes/workshops for machine operators, record keepers, accountants and other personnel of implementing agencies to promote productivity, compliance with Government rules and procedures, and transparency in implementation of the Project.

xii. Undertake measures for popularization of the Project among stakeholders, including State Governments, District Administrations, Educational Institutions and NGOs, for improving availability and distribution of accessible learning materials.

xiii. Facilitate convergence with other relevant programmes and schemes, wherever feasible.

xiv. Undertake mentorship programmes for organizations/institutions across the country to promote development of born-accessible learning materials.

6. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

i. For the purpose of this Project, implementing agencies shall mean those organizations that are directly involved in the development and production of Accessible Learning Materials under the DALM Project and receive Grant-in-Aid for recurring and/or non-recurring expenditure.

ii. Eligible organizations may apply for empanelment as implementing agencies for production of one or more formats of accessible learning materials. Any organization seeking empanelment under the Project shall fulfil the essential criteria specified in Para 6.1 and the additional criteria specified in Para 6.2.

6.1 Essential Criteria/Eligibility Conditions for Implementing Agencies

i. National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) under DEPwD, ALIMCO, National Trust, States/UTs, or their agencies working in the field shall be eligible to apply under the Project.
Or,
The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) must be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), or any corresponding Act of the State/Union Territory, or the Trust must be registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.
Or,
Section 8 Companies that is not-for –profit companies as per Companies Act, 2013

ii. The organization must be registered either under the erstwhile Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 or the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

iii. The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)/ Trust/ Section 8 Companies must be registered on the NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog and possess a valid Unique ID.

6.2 Additional Criteria

S.No.	Formats	Conditions
1.	Braille Press	a) There should be no high-speed computerized Braille Press in the concerned State/UT. However, this condition may be relaxed in the case of large States/UTs. b) A minimum exclusive built-up area of 1,500 sq. ft. should be available for establishment of the Braille Press, along with an additional built-up area of at least 400 sq. ft. for exclusive storage of Braille paper and Braille books.
2.	E-Pub/Digital Book Production	a) There should be no E-Pub/Digital Book Production Centre/implementing agency already established under the

S.No.	Formats	Conditions
		Project in the concerned State/UT. However, this condition may be relaxed in the case of large States/UTs. b) A minimum exclusive built-up area of 500 sq. ft. should be available for establishment of the E-Pub/Digital Book Production Centre.
3.	Human-Narrated Talking Book Production	a) The organization should have Human-Narrated Talking Book Production facilities. b) There should be no other implementing agency already established under the Project in the concerned State/UT. c) A minimum exclusive built-up area of 1,000 sq. ft. should be available for establishment of the Human-Narrated Talking Book Production Centre.
4.	Large Print Book Production	a) There should be no Large Print Book Production Centre/implementing agency already established under the Project in the concerned State/UT. However, this condition may be relaxed in the case of large States/UTs. b) A minimum exclusive built-up area of 1,000 sq. ft. should be available for establishment of the Large Print Book Production Centre.
5.	Indian sign language (ISL) Materials or any other such learning materials.	a) The organization should have expertise in Indian Sign Language translation, deaf education, accessible multimedia production, captioning and video editing. b) The organization should preferably employ certified Deaf ISL signers, ISL interpreters, Deaf video editors and multimedia accessibility professionals. c) There should preferably be no other ISL Accessible Learning Production Centre already established under SIPDA in the concerned State/UT. However, this condition may be relaxed in the case of large States/UTs. d) A minimum exclusive built-up area of 1,000 sq. ft. should be available for ISL recording and editing studios, along with additional space for equipment storage, editing and validation activities.
6.	Learning materials for Intellectual disabilities	a) The organization should have expertise in developing accessible learning materials for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. b) There should preferably be no other such accessible learning production Centre already established under SIPDA in the concerned State/UT. However, this condition may be relaxed in

S.No.	Formats	Conditions
		the case of large States/UTs.

Note: The prescribed criteria may be relaxed for Government bodies/agencies. However, in the case of applications from voluntary organizations, the applicant organization must have been registered for at least three years and should have been continuously implementing educational programmes for persons with disabilities during this period. The organization shall also maintain a proper system of audited accounts. The Core Group shall suggest format specific criteria for implementing agencies to the screening committee for any change in above stated addition criteria.

7. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

i. The implementing agencies shall submit periodic progress reports to the Nodal Agency in the prescribed reporting format and maintain records thereof.

ii. The implementing agencies shall submit claims for reimbursement towards production of accessible learning materials duly approved under the Recurring Grant-in-Aid component of the Project.

iii. All reimbursement proposals shall be accompanied by a declaration stating that no payment has been claimed or application submitted for the same activity under any other Central Government Scheme, State Government Scheme, CSR initiative or any other funding source.

iv. In case no accessible learning material is produced during any reporting period, as may be prescribed by the Screening Committee, the implementing agency shall submit a 'NIL' report to the Nodal Agency for the relevant period.

v. The implementing agencies shall maintain records of orders received from schools, colleges, educational institutions and organizations working for students with disabilities, along with details of students benefitted under the Project.

vi. The implementing agencies shall maintain records of dispatch and acknowledgement of receipt of accessible learning materials by schools, colleges, institutions, organizations and beneficiaries.

vii. The implementing agencies shall maintain separate books of accounts for the Project and upload details of beneficiaries served during the year on the website of the implementing agency.

viii. The implementing agency will ensure GFR and corresponding government rules, norms and standard practices for procurement under non-recurring Grant. The implementing agencies shall maintain records of bills, vouchers, audited accounts and Utilization

Certificates relating to the Project and furnish the same to the Nodal Agency at the end of each financial year or as and when required.

ix. The implementing agencies shall undertake measures to popularize the Project in their mapped States/UTs among stakeholders, educational institutions and Education Departments.

8. PENALTY FOR DELAYS

Based on past trends relating to demand for Accessible Learning Materials (including Braille Books), implementing agencies shall anticipate demand and maintain adequate stock so that the materials are available to students at the beginning of the academic session. It is desired that the implementing agencies shall ensure that the materials (including Braille Books) are supplied to schools, colleges and institutions within 15 days from the date of receipt of the order.
In cases of delay, the following penalty shall be applicable:

S. No.	Delay in supplying of materials	Penalty on the Implementing Agencies for delays
1	Material received by Schools/Colleges/Institutions after one calendar month from the date of receipt of the order	10% of total cost
2	Material received by Schools/Colleges/Institutions after two to three calendar months from the date of receipt of the order	25% of total cost
3	Material received by Schools/Colleges/Institutions after four to six calendar months from the date of receipt of the order	50% of total cost
4	Material received by Schools/Colleges/Institutions after more than six calendar months from the date of receipt of the order	100% of total cost

8.1 Adherence to Penalty Provisions

It shall be the responsibility of the Nodal Agency to ensure adherence to the above penalty provisions by the implementing agencies and to process reimbursement proposals accordingly.

9. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR BENEFICIARIES

i. An Indian citizen of any age.

ii. Holding a UDID card issued by the Ministry or enrollment number of UDID card alongwith Disability Certificate (or Development Delay Certificate) with atleast 40% disability.

iii. Holding a valid Aadhaar Number/Aadhaar enrollment number.

iv. Have not received same learning material in the same academic year under DALM Project.

9.1 Individual Beneficiaries

Individual students with benchmark disabilities (having a valid UDID Number) enrolled from the foundational level to higher education, including professional courses, shall be eligible for receiving Accessible Learning Materials under this Project through Implementing Agencies.

i. Textbooks including, but not limited to, computer books, workbooks, music books, sample papers and story books from foundational level to higher education for students with benchmark disabilities in appropriate accessible formats.

ii. Tactile maps/images (up to 25 pages per student per academic year) for students with visual impairment, including home-schooled, foundational level to higher education.

iii. Braille calendars may be provided once a year (during December or January) to children/persons with visual impairment from Class V onwards.

iv. Sign Language educational materials and interactive learning content may be provided to children with hearing impairment from the foundational level to higher education, including home-schooling. Digital formats shall be promoted for college students and students pursuing professional courses.

v. Multisensory accessible learning materials or adaptive learning materials may be provided to children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from the foundational level to the secondary level of schooling.

vi. Digital formats shall be promoted for students pursuing higher secondary education, higher education and professional courses across all disability categories.

vii. Competitive examination resources, award-winning books and best-selling books may be developed on demand, preferably in digital formats. Physical formats may be provided as community resources.

9.2 Institutional Beneficiaries

Special Schools, Inclusive Schools, District Inclusive Education Cells and Early Intervention Centres shall also be eligible to receive the following accessible materials for development of resource centres:

i. Set of tactile maps/images (where at least five students with visual impairment are enrolled).

ii. Set of ISL materials (where at least five students with hearing impairment are enrolled).

iii. Set of learning materials for students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (where at least five such students are enrolled).

iv. 3-D models for concept clarification.

v. Any other such materials as may be deemed appropriate by the Screening Committee.

vi. Group Items across disabilities.

Note: Accessible books in digital formats for teachers with disabilities teaching in recognised schools/institutions may also be covered under the Project.

10. CAPACITY BUILDING

i. Capacity building of different stakeholders shall form part of the Project to strengthen the availability of accessible learning materials for students with disabilities across age groups and regions of the country.

ii. The Nodal Agency shall organize capacity-building programmes in co-ordination with the respective National Institutes for the following:

a) Technicians/Braille Press Operators;
b) Braille Press Managers/Administrators;
c) Development of E-Pub and digital books;
d) Data management and metadata entry; and
e) Talking books, narration techniques, and other emerging issues.
f) Procurement Process/GFR
g) Any other capacity building programme approved by Screening Committee from time to time.

iii. Training of officials of the Nodal Agency for the creation, operation, and maintenance of an online portal regarding the availability of accessible learning materials in various formats.

11. NON-RECURRING & RECURRING GRANT-IN-AID

11.1 Release of Non-Recurring Grant

i. The non-recurring cost of implementation of the Project shall be released in two equal instalments, i.e., 50% of the approved cost as the first instalment in accordance with GFR provisions and the remaining 50% as the second instalment after a need-based assessment. The assessment criteria shall be fixed by the Screening Committee.

ii. On the basis of the post-installation assessment report, the Nodal Agency shall submit proposals for release of the second instalment in respect of eligible Implementing Agencies for consideration by the Screening Committee.

iii. Non-recurring grant may also be released towards major maintenance of facilities established under the Project. Such proposals shall be placed before the Screening Committee after assessment and recommendation by the Nodal Agency.

iv. Non-recurring grant may also be released to the Nodal Agency for creation of an online monitoring portal, subject to approval of the Screening Committee.

v. The Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid (GIA) shall be released to the organization by the Nodal Agency after approval of the Project and sanction of the grant by the Screening Committee, subject to the following upper limits:

Sl. No.	**Item**	**Upper limits**
1.	Braille Press	Establishment / Modernization / Capacity Augmentation: Up to 2 Crores
2.	Large Print Press	Establishment / Modernization: Up to 70 Lakhs
3.	Talking Book Studio (Human Narrated)	Upgradation/Modernization: Up to 10 Lakhs
4.	E-Pub Production Unit	Establishment / Modernization / Capacity Augmentation: Up to 6 Lakhs
5.	ISL Material Production Unit	Upgradation/Modernization: Up to 23 Lakhs
6.	Interactive Accessible Material Production Unit	Upgradation/Modernization: Up to 10 Lakhs

vi. Items required for developing production centre for Braille pages, large-print material, tactile material, E-Pub content, talking books, 3-D models, sign language educational content, and other accessible learning materials shall be approved by the Screening Committee in consultation with the Adviser (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The required items and any change in upper limits rates for all such formats shall be recommended by the respective Core Groups based on cost analysis and prevailing market trends. Additional furniture, fixtures, and civil or electrical works shall not be considered as part of the project proposal.

11.2 Release of Recurring Grant

i. Under the Project, recurring financial assistance shall be provided to approved and functional Implementing Agencies to enable them to provide accessible learning materials free of cost to students with disabilities, subject to approval of the Screening Committee.
ii. Implementing Agencies operated by State Governments, UT Administrations, NGOs, or other eligible organizations that have been sanctioned non-recurring grants under the Project, are functional, and are regularly submitting/uploading prescribed progress reports to the Nodal Agency shall be eligible for recurring Grant-in-Aid.
iii. Administrative expenditure incurred by the Nodal Agency, up to 5% of the total Grant-in-Aid released during the financial year, may be reimbursed under the Project as a recurring grant.
iv. Expenditure incurred on capacity-building programmes organized by the Nodal Agency may also be reimbursed under the Administrative Head of the Project.

11.2.1 Rates for Recurring Cost Incurred under the Scheme:

Rates for Braille pages, large-print material, tactile material, E-Pub content, talking books, 3-D models, sign language educational content, and other accessible learning materials are dynamic in nature. Accordingly, such rates shall be approved by the Screening Committee in consultation with the Adviser (Cost), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The rates for all such formats shall be recommended by the respective Core Groups based on cost analysis and prevailing market trends.

12. MONITORING MECHANISM

i. **Compliance with GFR, 2017 (as amended) and other relevant provisions:-** Procurement shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of GFR, 2017, as amended from time to time. The Nodal Agency and the Implementing Agencies shall maintain an asset inventory and ensure that there is no duplication of assets.
ii. **Monitoring and Verification of Assets Created:-** Pre-installation and post-installation inspections shall be conducted for monitoring and verification of assets created under the Project.
iii. **Quality of Service Delivery and Beneficiary Identification:-** Implementing Agencies shall submit online monthly reports to the Nodal Agency. The Nodal Agency shall compile beneficiary details and submit quarterly reports to DEPwD.
iv. **Monitoring of Outcomes:-** To monitor the performance of the Project, the Nodal Agency shall undertake periodic reviews to ascertain whether progress against identified indicators is on the desired trajectory. If progress is not found to be satisfactory during the course of the financial year, the Nodal Agency shall submit a detailed report identifying bottlenecks and suggesting remedial measures for consideration of the Screening Committee and DEPwD.

v. **Physical Verification**

a) The Nodal Agency/Central Project Monitoring Unit (CPMU) of DEPwD/ Officials of the Department may conduct physical verification of at least 25% of organizations supported under the Scheme. The organizations for verification shall be selected through random selection process to ensure objectivity, transparency, and adequate geographical representation.
b) The Scheme shall provide for periodic third-party social audits by independent agencies to
c) assess transparency, efficiency, quality of service delivery, beneficiary coverage, and adherence to Scheme norms by Implementing Agencies/organizations.
d) Beneficiary satisfaction surveys shall be conducted periodically through tele-calling or
e) physical interaction as applicable. The objective of the survey shall be to assess the quality, utility, accessibility, timeliness, and appropriateness of services provided under the Scheme.

13. GENERAL CONDITIONS

i. The Implementing Agencies shall be open to inspection by an officer deputed by DEPwD/Nodal Agency at any time without prior notice.
ii. The Implementing Agencies shall submit/upload the prescribed progress report to the Nodal Agency on or before the 5th day of every month.
iii. Implementing Agencies shall ensure that equipment procured under the Project achieves the prescribed machine life and optimum productivity.
iv. The Implementing Agencies shall utilize the full capacity of the machine/equipment/resources, which shall be monitored by the Nodal Agency.
v. The organization shall utilize the Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid within three months from the date of receipt of the grant from the Nodal Agency. The utilization period may be extended by a further three months with the approval of the Nodal Agency. In case of failure to utilize the grant, the organization shall refund the grant along with applicable interest.
vi. The Implementing Agencies shall submit the Utilization Certificate of the Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid along with details of expenditure.

The Implementing Agencies shall not involve in duplication of beneficiaries served under DALM project with any other such projects. In any case, if duplicate beneficiaries are found under DALM with any other such project for the same purpose, strict penal action will be taken against the Implementing Agencies.

vii. The Nodal Agency and Implementing Agencies shall comply with the provisions of the Copyright Act, as amended from time to time.
viii. Accessible learning materials should, to the extent feasible, be developed in a manner that enables their use by students with other disabilities and print disabilities.
ix. Non-Governmental Organizations shall forward their proposals through the concerned State Government.

x. Existing Implementing Agencies under the "Project on Financial Support for Development of Accessible Learning Materials" shall be deemed to have been merged under this Project.

xi. The Nodal Agency, in consultation with DEPwD, may transfer infrastructure, machinery, equipment, or other resources created under the Project to another Implementing Agency or to the Nodal Agency.

xii. Implementing Agencies found violating the provisions of the Project or failing to comply with the prescribed norms and guidelines may be blacklisted and appropriate action may be taken against them.

xiii. DEPwD/Nodal Agency may issue accessibility guidelines or Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) from time to time to ensure quality, consistency, and uniformity in the development of accessible learning materials.

xiv. For quality management of digital content, the Nodal Agency may adopt any quality assurance and quality-checking mechanism approved by the Screening Committee. Implementing Agencies shall comply with all such quality assurance measures.

xv. In case of any dispute or ambiguity regarding interpretation of these guidelines, the decision of DEPwD shall be final.

14. PRESCRIBED FORMATS:

Prescribed application formats mean the formats and proformas duly approved by the Screening Committee of the Project for:

i. Applying for empanelment as an implementing agency under the Project for Non-Recurring Grant-in-Aid.

ii. Applying for empanelment as an implementing agency under the Project for Recurring Grant-in-Aid.

iii. Submission of periodical reports (monthly reports/online dynamic data entry and reports) for obtaining information relating to beneficiaries under Recurring Grant-in-Aid.

iv. Evaluation formats (including pre-installation and post-installation inspection formats) for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

15. CHANGE IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROJECT:

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India may, at its discretion, make necessary changes in the provisions of the DALM Project, as and when felt necessary, with the approval of Secretary, DEPwD in consultation with Financial Adviser concerned.

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