

Department For Persons With Disabilities Gets Nod

-TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The new department shall function under the directorate of social welfare, and thereafter it will independently function from the next financial year.

Panaji: The state cabinet on Wednesday approved the creation of a new department for persons with disabilities (PwDs) to implement various schemes currently run by the social welfare department.

The government had announced the formation of this department in the 2023-2024 budget speech.

The ministry of social justice and empowerment has also requested the state government to establish a separate department for welfare of divyangjan.

The social welfare department, through its 'Special Cell for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities', deals with matters related to persons with disabilities and also the implementation of various acts/rules to that effect.

The scope and ambit of matters pertaining to persons with disabilities has increased manifold, the cabinet said.

“In order to implement the Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the magnitude of work involved for its effective implementation, it would be prudent to establish a separate department for empowerment and inclusion

of persons with disabilities which will cater to all 21 notified Disabilities as per Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which are presently implemented by the social welfare department and also the scheme 'education for children with special needs' implemented by directorate of school education,” the cabinet said.

CM Pramod Sawant said that the department will function from the next financial year.

The state government has made a budget provision of Rs 100 crore for the new department.

To avoid inconvenience, the new department shall function under the directorate of social welfare, and thereafter it will independently function from the 2024-25 financial year.