

**Statement by
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Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

**12th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Rights of Persons with
Disabilities
“Ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities in a changing world through the
implementation of the CRPD”**

June 11, 2019

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and convey full support of the Indian delegation in their work.
2. The Constitution of India guarantees freedom, justice and equality of all individuals including persons with disabilities.
3. India just recently concluded the most historic inclusive General Election wherein a wide a range of facilities were provided to make the polling stations more inclusive and accessible to ensure that all can exercise their right to vote. These included obstacle-free access to voting compartment, accessible toilets, separate entry and exit, braille ballot guide, braille embossed electronic voting machines and voter slips, wheelchairs as well as free local public transport facility and priority entry to polling stations.

Mr. President,

4. India's commitment to CRPD has been codified in a comprehensive Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
5. Our Prime Minister has demonstrated strong personal commitment and leadership in removing social stigma associated with disability by coining and using the term '*Divyangjan*' to address the persons with disabilities, which means persons with divine qualities.
6. The Prime Minister launched the Accessible India Campaign for achieving universal accessibility through creation of barrier-free environment in built-in infrastructure, transportation system and ICT eco-system. This supplements other measures such as the Standards of Accessibility for built-in environment, passenger transport systems and websites, developing dictionaries in sign language, building adequate capacity of trained sign language interpreters.
7. Important measures mandated under the law include reservation in Government jobs, in higher educational institutions and in poverty alleviation schemes as well as allotment of land for housing and setting up of business at concessional credit facility for persons with disabilities, further giving weightage to disabled women.

8. Scholarships are provided at various levels including in leading engineering, technical, management and medical colleges in India and overseas.

9. Improving mobility of persons with disabilities has been a continuous endeavour. The Government is implementing schemes for providing contemporary modern aids and assistive devices to persons with disabilities. The Government also supports Cochlear Implant Surgery for children with hearing disability.

Mr. President,

10. Comprehensive rehabilitation service through an early intervention programme for children with disabilities in the age group of 0-6 years is underway. National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation and a Centre for Disability Sports are also being established to address issues pertaining to psychosocial disabilities and for promotion of sports amongst disabled sportspersons.

11. The Government has undertaken implementation of Unique Disability ID project for creation of a national database and ensures issue of a unique disability ID card to every person with disability.

Mr. President,

12. India remains firmly committed to providing a universal enabling environment for persons with disabilities to fulfill their rights equally with others and realize their full potential and in creating a fully inclusive country where all enjoy equal rights.

I thank you Mr. President.