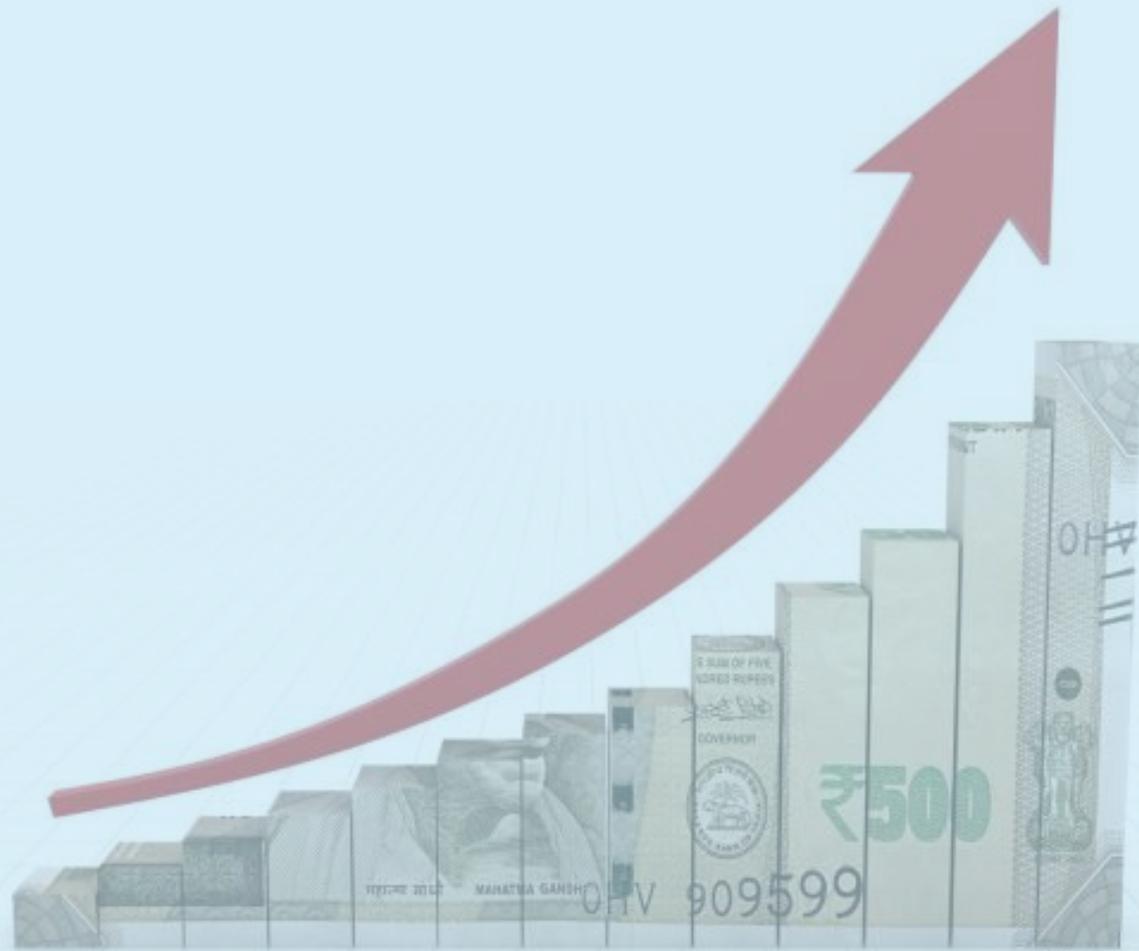


Response to Union Budget 2026-27

Commitments Vs Expectation & Promises



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Reflection from the Budget Speech – Budget Speech 2026-27 is one of the very few occasions where there is specific mention of persons with disabilities since the passage of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.



Demands considered

- ✓ Employment and Skill Development, a supply driven initiative. – long term commitment for 20000 people in the next 5 years, Financial Commitment – 200 crore for 2026-27
- ✓ Assistive devices and technology – business model commitment, Financial commitment of 100 crore under the new line item Divyang Sahar Yojana and an enhanced allocation to ADIP and enhanced investment to ALIMCO for 2026-27



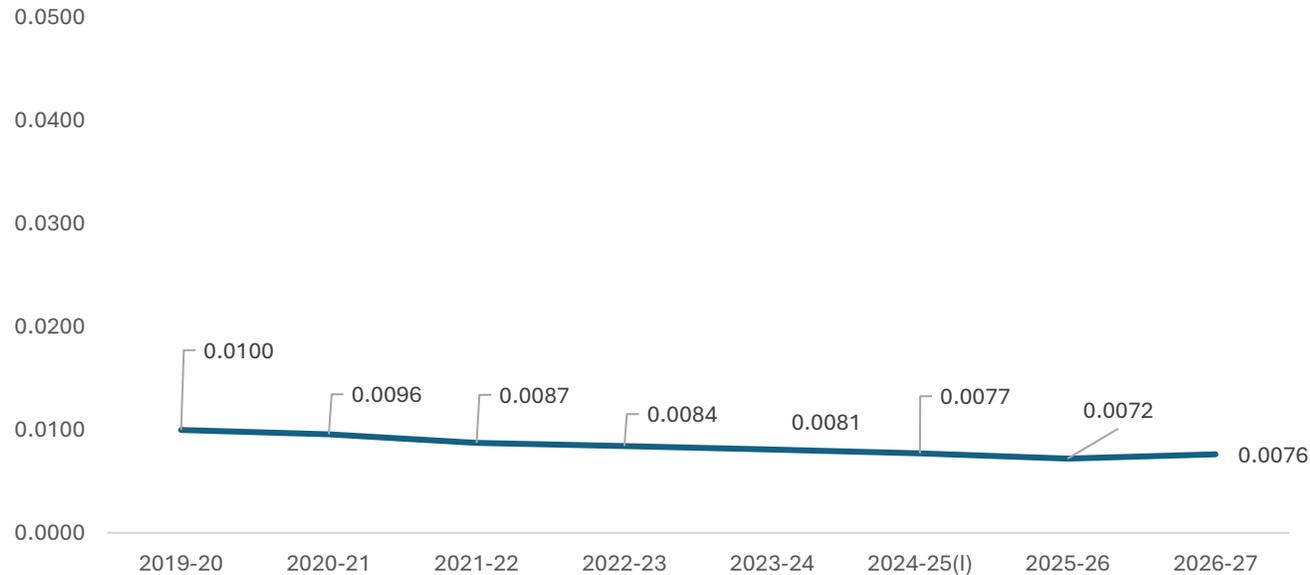
Demands neglected (few of the many more demands from persons with disabilities)

- ✗ Enhanced allocations to social protection specifically cash transfer programs related to persons with disabilities – allocation remains unchanged at Rs. 300 per person per month. The actual expenditure in 2024-25 however has decreased by nearly 46 crore compared to the budget estimates.
- ✗ Specific commitment towards women with disabilities departing a one-size fits all approach to services and support – Missing
- ✗ Investments to develop specific data on persons with disabilities including the barriers experienced and the support required by the diversity of persons with disabilities across sectors – Missing
- ✗ Investment in ensuring accessible environment and services – SIPDA one of the drivers for accessibility saw a considerable reduction in allocation in 2026-27.
- ✗ Social Audits, full & effective participation in all planning and implementation

Overview of the Specific allocations to persons with disabilities

The specific allocations to persons with disabilities remains constant at 0.007 during the last 3 years.

Specific allocations to persons with disabilities (Budget Estimates – BE) as a percentage to GDP



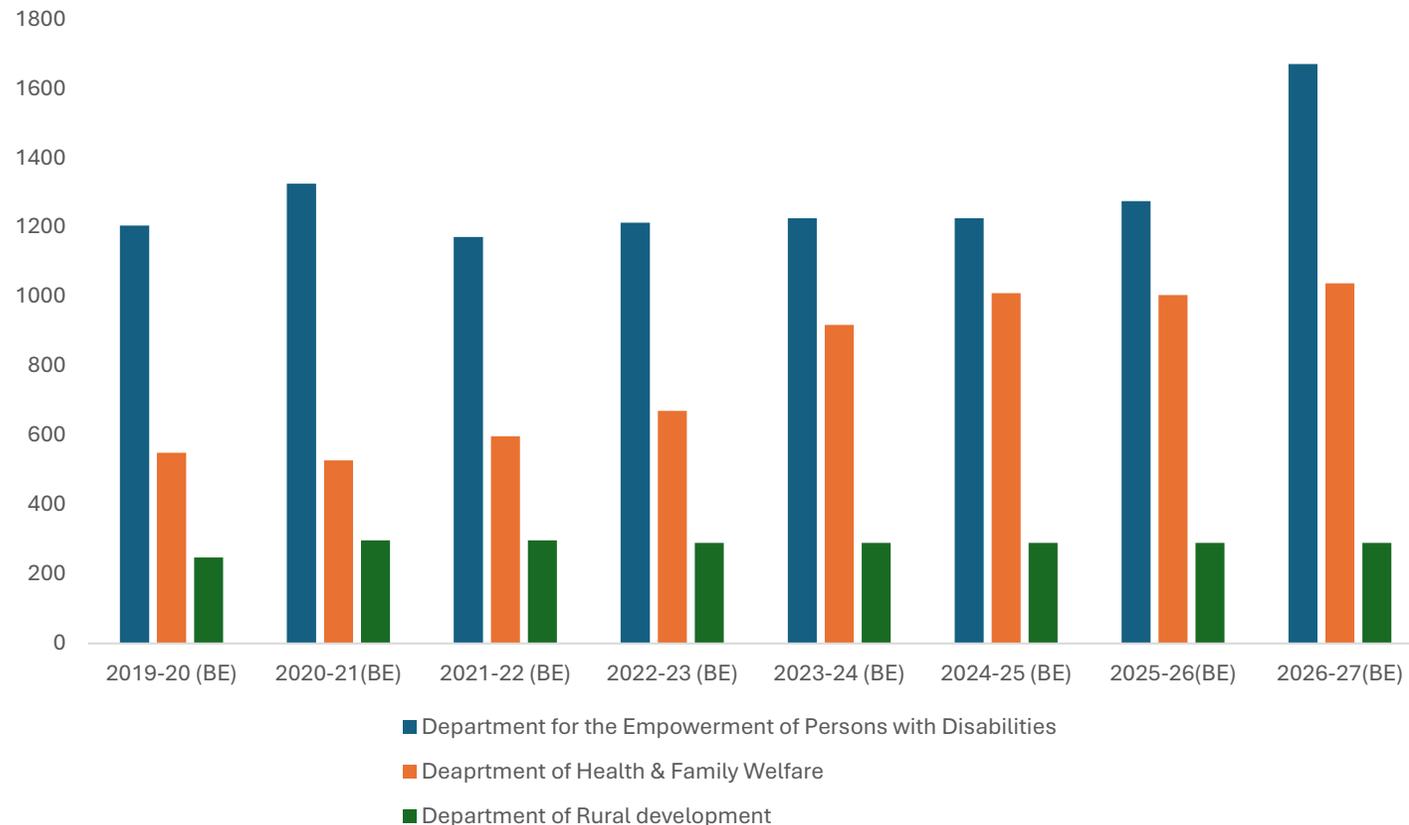
Specific allocations to persons with disabilities increases from 0.0072% of GDP to 0.0076% of GDP in the year 2026-27.

The total specific allocations include allocations for the department for the empowerment of persons with disabilities, allocations for mental health vide the Ministry of Health and the IGNDP from the Ministry of Rural Development.

The inclusive education component of Samagraha Shiksha Abhiyan is not disaggregated in the main budget documents.

Ministry-wise allocation to persons with disabilities (Based on the data available in the detailed demand for grants document)

Ministry-wise allocation across years - Unit in crore



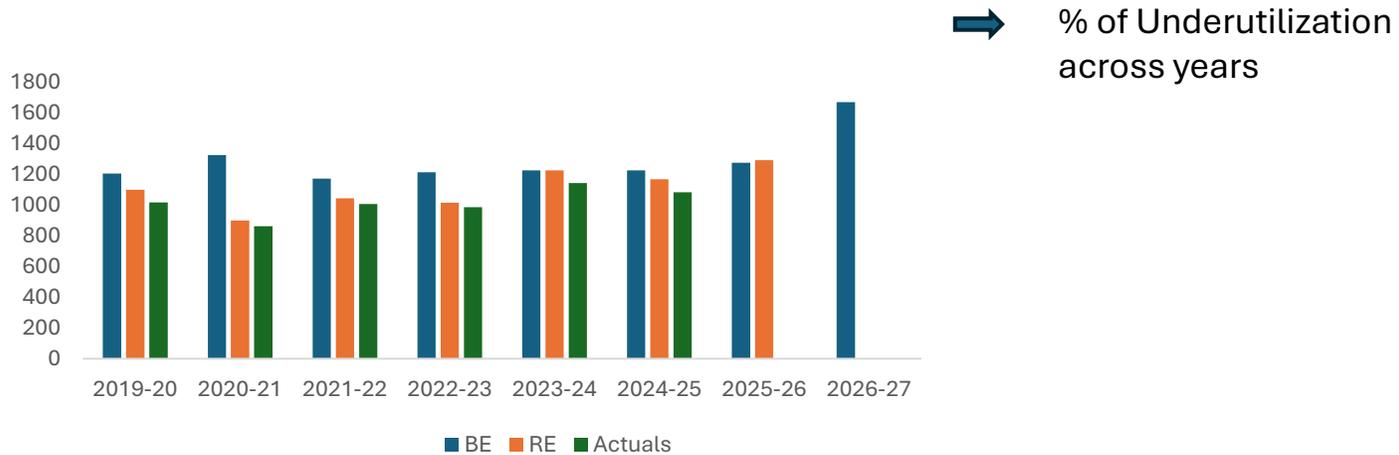
Many announcements in the budget speech—such as commitments to care services, focus on *yuva*, income support schemes like SHE-HELP comparable to farmers’ income support, hostels for women at the district level, health care, focus of inclusive community services, heritage culture, tourism, sports, education and infrastructure development—are relevant to persons with disabilities. However, there is no specific mention of how these programs will be responsive to their needs.

As we approach the 10th year since the adoption of the RPDA 2016, a comprehensive cross-sectoral agenda for persons with disabilities is still missing. Instead, all aspirations continue to be confined within a limited ₹300 crore allocation under a new line item of the MSJE (DEPwD), even as we strive to be part of *Viksit Bharat*.

Unbundling DEPwD

SIPDA's allocation is slashed by 75 crores in comparison to 2025-26 Revised Estimate may be due to its inherent underperformance.

Allocation for the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Unit Rs. in Crore)



2019-20 (16 %)

2020-21 (35)

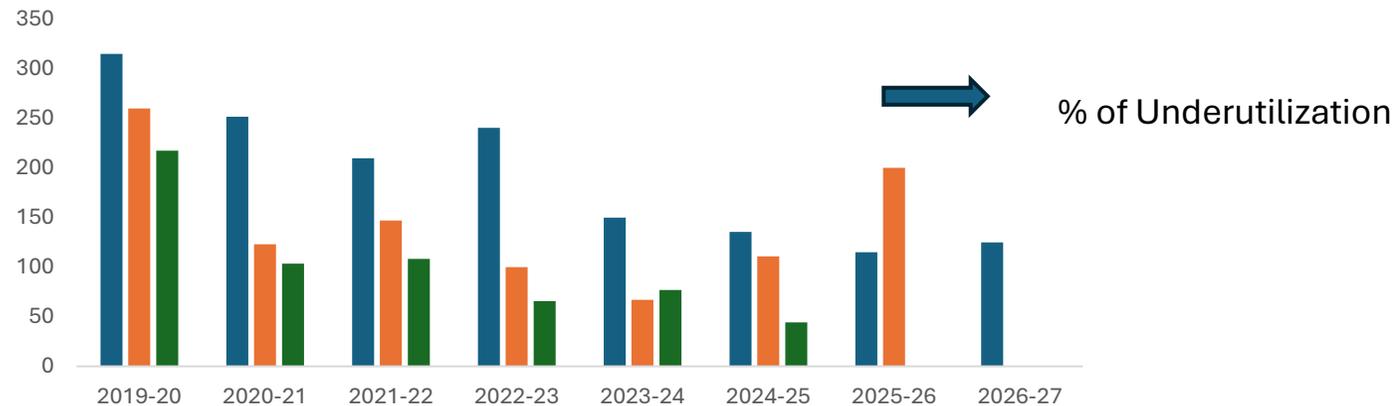
2021-22 (14.4)

2022-23(18.7)

2023-24 (7)

2024-25(11.5)

Analysis of the allocation for SIPDA - unit in crore



2019-20 (31%)

2020-21 (59 %)

2021-22 (48.3%)

2022-23(73%)

2023-24 (49%)

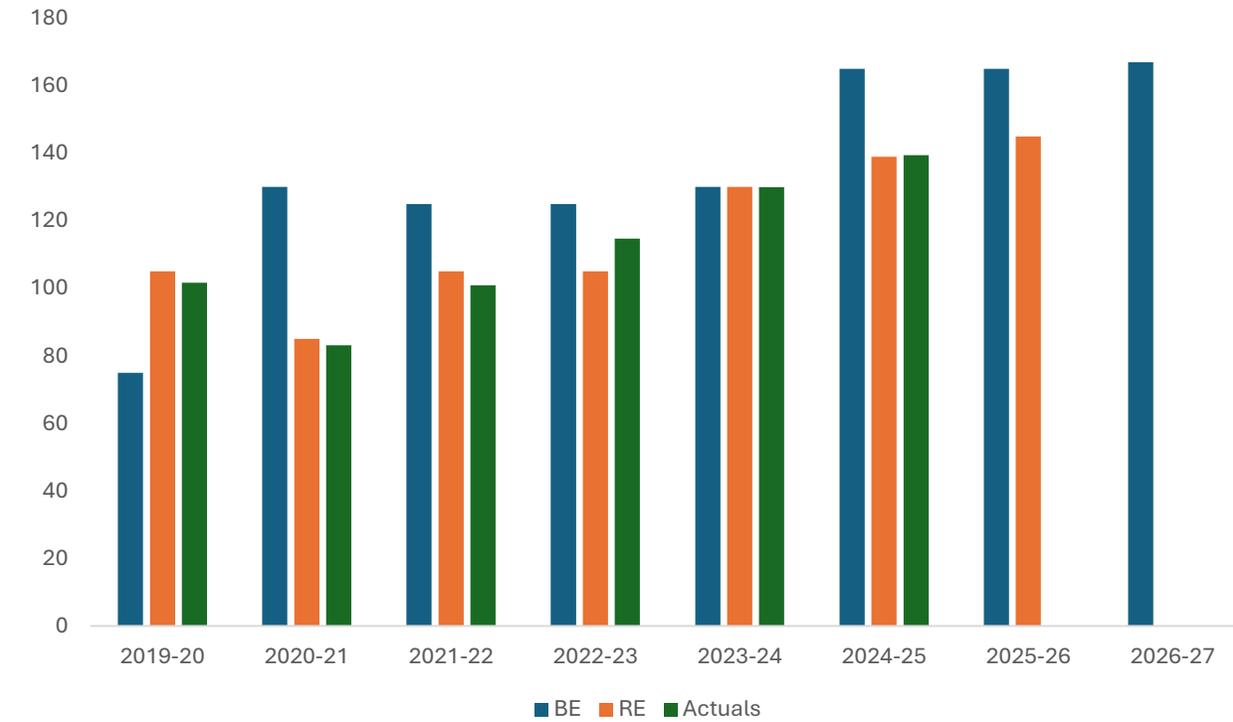
2024-25 (67.4%)

Unbundling DEPwD

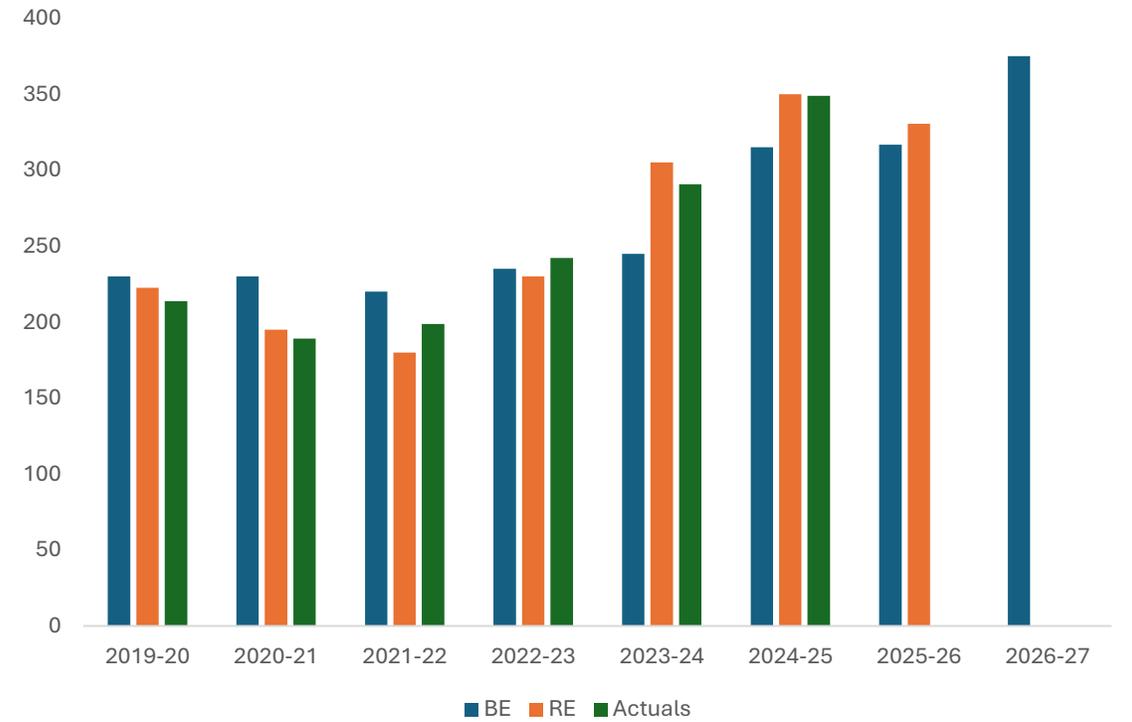
ADIP has a considerable increase in allocation.

DDRS is increased only by 2 crore.

Allocation to DDRS - Unit is Crore



Allocation to ADIP Scheme by DEPwD Unit Rs in crore



Conclusion – Something is not always better than nothing!!!

Implementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016—designed to respect, protect, and promote the rights of all persons with disabilities—may require a comprehensive system overhaul, reforms to existing structures, and a paradigm shift in how services, social protection, and community support are conceived. It also calls for recognition of disability issues across all sectors, moving decisively away from a one-size-fits-all approach.

The 2026–27 commitments and budget allocations fall short of being responsive, in light of the mandates set by national and international laws and policies