

Union Minister of State Shri B.L. Verma Reviews Early Intervention, Academic and Rehabilitation Services at AYJNISHD(D), Mumbai

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The Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri B.L. Verma, visited the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) (AYJNISHD(D)), Mumbai, on Tuesday (17th February, 2026).

Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD(D), along with senior officials, welcomed the Union Minister Shri Verma and presented a comprehensive overview of the Institute's evolution, academic programmes, clinical services and outreach initiatives. Heads of Departments and faculty members briefed the Union Minister of State on their ongoing activities, specialized services and future plans. Detailed discussions were held on the role of various departments in empowering persons with speech, language and hearing disabilities and in extending community-based rehabilitation services.



During the visit, MoS Shri B.L. Verma toured key facilities, including the Cross Disability Early Intervention Centre, where he reviewed the range of therapeutic and rehabilitative services being provided. At the Cross Disability Early Identification and Intervention Centre (CDEIC), Dr. Suni Mathew explained the multidisciplinary therapies and interventions offered to children aged 0–6 years with diverse disabilities. She highlighted the significance of early identification, timely intervention and holistic rehabilitation to ensure optimal developmental outcomes for children and their families.



Shri B.L. Verma also visited the Institute's library and reviewed ongoing research initiatives. He interacted with resident students at the hostel and assessed the facilities available to them. The interaction with divyangjan students reflected the Institute's commitment to promoting higher education and self-reliance among persons with disabilities.

Union MoS Shri B.L. Verma appreciated the dedicated efforts of AYJNISHD (D) in delivering comprehensive academic, clinical and community-based services. He encouraged the Institute to further strengthen its outreach, research and capacity-building programmes, contributing to the Government's vision of building an inclusive and empowered society.

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