Secretary, DoSEL, chairs interactive session with UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Ministry of Education highlights India's initiatives towards the implementation of the CRPD and promotion of inclusive and equitable education

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Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Union Ministry of Education, Shri T. K. Anil Kumar, chaired an interactive session with United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR), Ms. Heba Hagrass, on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi on November 17, 2026. The discussions provided an opportunity to share perspectives on the initiatives undertaken by the Government towards strengthening inclusive education and promoting equitable access to educational opportunities for children with special needs (CwSN).

The Department highlighted the initiatives taken towards the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) including key interventions under Samagra Shiksha to strengthen inclusive education through a holistic, life-cycle approach covering early identification, individualised support, accessibility, therapeutic interventions, skilling and provision of exam-related facilities by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).



The Department also highlighted PRASHAST, the disability screening checklist designed for early identification of 21 disabilities among school-going children aged 3 to 18 years. The revamped PRASHAST 2.0 mobile application, integrated with UDISE+, simplified the screening process, reducing the time required for initial screening by teachers from three days to 15 minutes. As of October 2026, over 6 crore children had been screened and more than 7.26 lakh schools had been onboarded on the PRASHAST portal, alongside sensitisation of over 79 lakh teachers.



Representatives from the United Nations, senior officials from the Ministries of Education and External Affairs attended the Session.



Ms. Heba Hagrass also visited Government Co-ed Senior Secondary School, at R. K. Puram, to review inclusive education interventions undertaken under Samagra Shiksha. She took stock of resource rooms with facilities and support mechanisms catering to CwSN students. She also interacted with parents of CwSN students to understand their experiences and perspectives on the support provided in schools.



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