

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
(Established by an Act of Parliament, 1985)
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110068

GUIDELINES RELATING TO RESERVATION FOR PERSONS WITH BENCHMARK DISABILITIES (PwBD) IN Ph.D. ADMISSIONS, 2026 (in addition to the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines, 2022 and its amendments from time to time)

1. Short title, application and commencement

1.1 These Guidelines shall be called the *Indira Gandhi National Open University Guidelines relating to Reservation for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) in Ph.D. Admissions, 2026*.

1.2 These Guidelines shall apply to all Schools of Studies, Disciplines, Centres, Research Units and other academic units offering Ph.D. programmes in the University.

1.3 These Guidelines shall come into force from the date of their approval by the competent statutory authority of the University and shall apply to all Ph.D. admission cycles notified thereafter.

1.4 These Guidelines shall be read in conjunction with the provisions of the IGNOU Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University, the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

2.1 *Act* means the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

2.2 *PwBD* means a Person with Benchmark Disability as defined under Section 2(r) of the Act possessing not less than forty per cent disability, duly certified by a competent medical authority in the prescribed manner.

2.3 *Horizontal reservation* means reservation that operates across vertical categories and is adjusted within the respective vertical category of selection without altering the prescribed vertical reservation structure.

2.4 *Vertical categories* include the following categories of reservation recognized under applicable Government of India norms:

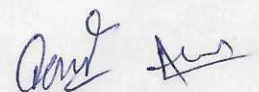
- Unreserved (UR)
- Scheduled Castes (SC)
- Scheduled Tribes (ST)
- Other Backward Classes – Non-Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL)

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- Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)

2.5 *200-Point roster* means the discipline-wise reservation roster maintained in accordance with the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines, 2022.

2.6 *100-Point PwBD monitoring roster* means the compliance monitoring mechanism adopted under these Guidelines to ensure proportional implementation of the statutory reservation requirement for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.

2.7 *Internal PwBD categories* include the disability groups specified in the Schedule of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, namely:

- a) Blindness or Low Vision
- b) Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- c) Locomotors Disability including Cerebral Palsy, leprosy cured dwarfism, acid attack victims, and muscular dystrophy
- d) Autism Spectrum Disorder / Intellectual Disability / Mental Illness / Specific Learning Disability
- e) Multiple Disabilities amongst the persons under clause a to d including deaf and blindness.

2.8 *Reasonable accommodation* shall have the meaning assigned to it under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

3. Reservation for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities

3.1 In accordance with Section 32 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, not less than five per cent of seats in higher educational institutions funded or recognized by the Government shall be reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.

3.2 The University shall implement the above statutory mandate in Ph.D. admissions through horizontal reservation across all vertical categories.

3.3 The implementation of PwBD reservation shall be carried out in a manner consistent with the academic standards prescribed under the UGC Ph.D. Regulations, 2022 and the relevant Ordinances and Guidelines of the University.

4. Reservation framework

4.1 The University shall provide five per cent horizontal reservation for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities in Ph.D. admissions (*"In accordance with Section 32 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Government of India instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and UGC Ph.D. Regulations, 2022 the University shall provide five per cent (5%) horizontal reservation for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) in Ph.D. admissions."*)

4.2 Such reservation shall operate across all vertical categories recognized under the reservation policy of the University.

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4.3 PwBD reservation shall not constitute a separate vertical category.

4.4 A PwBD candidate who qualifies for admission on the basis of merit in the open category without availing the benefit of reservation shall be treated as a candidate selected on *own merit* and shall not be counted against the seats reserved for PwBD candidates.

4.5 Selection under the reserved quota shall remain merit-based within the respective vertical categories after appropriate horizontal adjustment.

5. Reservation roster

5.1 Every School of Studies shall maintain a discipline-wise 200-point reservation roster register for Ph.D. admissions in accordance with the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines, 2022.

5.2 The roster shall operate sequentially and continuously across admission cycles.

5.3 Roster points once consumed shall not be reused until the roster cycle reaches two hundred points.

5.4 Upon completion of two hundred roster points, the roster shall recommence from Serial Number 1.

5.5 Illustration

Where a discipline has five vacant seats, roster points 1 to 5 shall be applied. If in the subsequent admission cycle six seats arise in the same discipline, roster points 6 to 11 shall be applied.

6. PwBD compliance mechanism

6.1 Within a 200-point roster cycle, the reservation requirement for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities shall be calculated as follows:

Five per cent of 200 equal ten seats.

6.2 Accordingly, a minimum of ten PwBD admissions shall be ensured within every completed 200-point roster cycle.

6.3 Since Ph.D. admissions are generally conducted with limited seat availability across multiple admission cycles, the University shall maintain a 100-point PwBD monitoring roster to ensure proportional compliance with the statutory reservation requirement.

6.4 Under the 100-point monitoring framework:

Five per cent of 100 equal five seats.

Thus, at least five PwBD admissions shall be expected within every 100 admissions.

6.4.4 *Am* *program* *Jh* *Card*

6.5 The 100-point monitoring roster shall function only as a compliance mechanism and shall not replace or alter the statutory 200-point roster maintained under the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines.

The 100-Point PwBD Monitoring Roster, applicable horizontally across all social categories (UR, SC, ST, OBC, and EWS) as prescribed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, is provided at Annexure-I of these Guidelines.

7. Rotation of disability categories

7.1 Within the overall PwBD reservation, representation shall be ensured across internal disability categories to the extent practicable.

7.2 The internal rotation shall broadly follow the sequence of disability categories specified under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

7.3 Where suitable candidates are not available under a specific disability category within the horizontal reservation framework for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD), the reserved seat may be interchanged among the different PwBD categories.

8. Transfer of seats in case of non-availability of PwBD candidates

8.1 Where suitable PwBD candidates are not available within internal disability categories, interchange among PwBD categories may be permitted.

8.2 If no eligible PwBD candidate is available, the seat shall revert to the respective vertical category in accordance with the applicable roster.

8.3 Such seats shall not be treated as backlog unless otherwise mandated by statutory amendment or Government notification.

9. Reasonable accommodation and facilities

PwBD candidates shall be provided reasonable accommodation in the admission process including, but not limited to:

- provision of scribes where applicable
- compensatory time during examinations or assessments
- assistive devices and accessible learning technologies
- accessible infrastructure and examination facilities
- digital accessibility support

10. Record maintenance and compliance

Each School of Studies and the Research Unit shall maintain appropriate records relating to the implementation of PwBD reservation, including the discipline-wise 200-point roster register and the PwBD monitoring records, for purposes of compliance verification and audit.

Sanjay Kumar *Dr. Anil Kumar* *Dr. Anil Kumar* *Dr. Anil Kumar* *Dr. Anil Kumar*

11. Interpretation

If any question arises regarding the interpretation or implementation of these Guidelines, the matter shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor whose decision shall be final and binding, subject to applicable statutory provisions.

12. Repeal and saving

12.1 Any earlier instructions or administrative orders inconsistent with these Guidelines shall stand superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

12.2 Actions taken prior to the commencement of these Guidelines shall remain valid provided they are consistent with the provisions of the applicable statutory framework.

Grant Key John James John Paul

ANNEXURE I

Roster Point	PwBD Category
1	Blindness / Low Vision
2-20	Not Reserved for PwBD
21	Deaf / Hard of Hearing
22-40	Not Reserved for PwBD
41	Locomotor Disability (including Cerebral Palsy, Leprosy Cured, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims, Muscular Dystrophy)
42-60	Not Reserved for PwBD
61	Autism Spectrum Disorder / Intellectual Disability / Mental Illness / Specific Learning Disability
62-80	Not Reserved for PwBD
81	Multiple Disabilities (amongst the person under clause a to d including Deaf-Blindness)
82-100	Not Reserved for PwBD



(Virender Kumar)



(Anand Gupta)



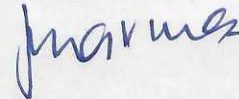
(S. K. Prasad)



(Satish Gaikwad)



(Akshay Kumar)



(Jaideep Sharma)