



**Rehabilitation Council of India**  
A Statutory Body of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),  
Govt. of India



F. No. 1-1(6)CBID/2018/RCI

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

**Brief about “Virtual launch of Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) programme jointly developed by RCI & University of Melbourne, Australia.**

**Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon’ble Union Minister, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India** has virtually inaugurated Country’s first, 6-months face-to-face Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) programme jointly developed by RCI & University of Melbourne, Australia in pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Government of India and Government of Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 through virtual mode.



**Virtual Launch of Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) programme by the HMSJ&E, MoS, SJ&E, Secretary DEPwD & Chairperson, RCI**



During, the launch of the programme **Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, Smt. Anjali Bhawra, IAS, Secretary, DEPwD and Chairperson, RCI, His Excellency, Hon Barry O’Farrell, High Commissioner of Australia at New Delhi, His Excellency, Shri Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India to Australia at Canberra, Prof. Duncan Maskell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne, Dr. (Prof.) Nathan Grills, University of**

**Melbourne, Dr. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, Shri K.V.S Rao, Director, DEPwD, Dr. Subodh Kumar, Member Secretary, RCI, Director’s of National Institute(s) of DEPwD, General Council, Members of RCI, experts involved in CBID and other dignitaries were also present to grace the occasion.**



**Virtual Launch of Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) programme by the HMSJ&E, MoS, SJ&E, Secretary DEPwD & Chairperson, RCI delivering keynote address**

The Hon'ble Minister in his address appreciated the joint endeavours made by RCI and University of Melbourne, Australia to develop such a need based CBID Programme in a very short span of time. He further stated the programme aims to create pool of grass-root rehabilitation workers at community level, who will work alongside ASHA and Anganwadi workers to handle cross disability issues and facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) in among these workers to enhance their ability for successfully discharging their duties. These workers will be called Divyang Mitra (friends of PwDs). The

Rehabilitation Council of India intends to roll out the course initially on a pilot basis for two batches in seven National Institutes of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and seven to nine eminent non-government organisations having experience in CBR. The programme will be conducted in English, Hindi and seven other regional languages, namely Gujarati, Marathi, Odiya, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Garo. The first batch of about 600 students will commence from August, 2021. The programme would be conducted through both offline/ online mode taking into account, the prevailing COVID-19 scenario in the country. He wishes all the grand success to the programme.

All the stakeholders appreciated the initiative of the Council and conveyed their heartfelt thanks to the Secretary, DEPwD & Chairperson, RCI; Member Secretary, RCI for developing this programme under the bilateral MoU signed between Indian and Australian Government.

**(Dr. Subodh Kumar)**  
**Member Secretary**

\*\*\*\*\*