

Record of Discussion from the 'Orientation Session' under Cycle 4 of the Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) for Heads/Representatives of Institutions from 56 identified Higher Education Institutions held on 07.08.2025 at 10:30 AM.

1. An online orientation session for Cycle 4 of the Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities (CBSLD) was organised by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Higher Education). Held on 7th August 2025, the session marked the launch of the fourth cycle of CBSLD, implemented under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP). The program aims to build the capacities of faculty and institutions in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The program is implemented in collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) and the ChangeInkk Foundation as the resource partner. It is designed to enhance institutional readiness and foster inclusive education practices for students with specific learning disabilities. The orientation session was convened for the heads of Identified Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to familiarise them with the program structure. The list of participants is provided in the Annexure.
2. Ms. Rina Sonouwal Kouli, Joint Secretary (Higher Education), welcomed all the participants and provided an overview of the program. She highlighted that the ongoing CBSLD Program aims to sensitise institutions about Specific Learning Disabilities, which are recognised as disability under the RPwD Act 2016. With growing numbers of students with such disabilities entering higher education, institutions must be sensitised towards the disability, understand the challenges they face and provide appropriate interventions. The orientation addressed the role of various institutional departments, such as the Admissions department, Office of Campus Life Affairs, Office of Academic Affairs, faculty and Examinations cell, IT department and Career and placement cell in supporting these students. She also shared that the program has completed three cycles, benefiting over 1300 faculty members from 86 HEIs across India.
3. Mr. Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Dept of Higher Education, emphasised that inclusion and equity is need for education. He noted the special focus on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) stems from a general lack of awareness about the condition. Institutions must identify the needs of students with SLDs and make appropriate provisions to support students with SLDs across teaching, assessment, and campus life. He stressed sensitisation should extend beyond faculty to include all campus stakeholders, including non-teaching and service staff, to foster a truly inclusive environment. Mr. Joshi highlighted that the ultimate goal of the CBSLD program is to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to nation-building. He appreciated the Department of Higher Education's efforts in implementing the program and encouraged institutions to share their experiences and challenges to strengthen inclusive practices.
4. Ms. Noopur Jhunjunwala, Trustee-ChangeInkk Foundation, presented an introduction of specific learning disabilities, bringing both professional and personal perspectives of students with SLD. She highlighted societal stigmas around learning disabilities, being taunted as “duffer,” masking the extraordinary potential of individuals with SLDs. Through powerful examples of global achievers such as Thomas Edison and Steve Jobs, Ms. Jhunjunwala illustrated the concept of “dyslexic thinking” as a unique cognitive strength rather than a deficit. Citing compelling data, she noted that

over 200 million Indians may have learning disabilities, yet fewer than 10 million are diagnosed, posing a lost economic opportunity. With projections suggesting that 30% of the future workforce may have learning disabilities by 2030, and inclusive practices would be capable of boosting national GDP by 1.2%. She urged institutions to rethink their admission, pedagogical, and support frameworks. The presentation emphasised the urgent need to implement the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act 2016, including the March 2024 guidelines for assessment and certification, and to normalise accommodations such as assistive technologies.

5. She stressed that emotional and functional challenges faced by students with SLDs, including low self-esteem, difficulties with planning and processing and high anxiety, are integral to their academic and campus experience. Emphasis was placed on not only academic inclusion but also emotional well-being, employability, and long-term success. The presentation concluded with a powerful reminder that institutions have the responsibility and potential to unlock the capabilities of the next generation of innovators and leaders by embracing neurodiversity as a strength. As global companies begin to actively recruit individuals with dyslexic thinking skills, Indian higher education must rise to the occasion to build an ecosystem of identification, support, and empowerment.
6. Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, NIEPA, in her remarks, noted that the data shared during the session underscores the urgency of addressing specific learning disabilities (SLDs) within the higher education landscape. She emphasised the importance of sustaining momentum to meaningfully integrate students with learning disabilities into the educational mainstream. Prof. Wanjari appreciated the Department of Higher Education for organising such an important and insightful program and reaffirmed NIEPA's commitment to advancing inclusive education.
7. Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman AICTE, expressed his appreciation for the focus on students with specific learning disabilities (SLDs) and underscored the critical importance of such programs, particularly within engineering education. He emphasised the need to provide equitable opportunities for all students and acknowledged that many students with SLDs are entering technical institutions. He affirmed AICTE's readiness to mobilise its vast institutional network to train and support students with learning disabilities, recognising them as valuable contributors to the nation's future.
8. Following the presentation, the representatives asked their queries about the program and implementation in their institution.
9. The session ended with a vote of thanks.

List of Participants at Orientation Session under Cycle 4 of Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities held on 07.08.2025

A. List of Attendees

Affiliation Details		Names of Attendees
Ministry of Education and NIEPA, Resource Persons		1. Mr. Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Higher Education, MoE 2. Prof. T G Sitharam Chairman AICTE 3. Ms. Rina Sonowal Kouli, Joint Secretary, D/o Higher Education, MoE 4. Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, NIEPA 5. Mr. Manish R. Joshi, Secretary, UGC 6. Mr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director, D/o Higher Education, MoE 7. Ms. Noopur Jhunjhunwala, Trustee, ChangeInkk Foundation 8. Ms. Aparajita Singh, ChangeInkk Foundation 9. Ms. Vandana Sharma, Senior Consultant MMTTP, MoE 10. Ms. Akansha Yadav, Consultant MMTTP, MoE 11. Prof. Amit Gautam, Deputy Director MMTTC-NIEPA
S.No	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
1	Assam University	1. Prof R Balakrishnan
2	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow	2. Prof. Raj Kumar Mittal, VC
3	Central University of Karnataka	3. Dr. Basavaraj Kubbakadi 4. Dr. Charan Kumar K 5. Prof. G R Angadi 6. Mr. P V J Sravan 7. Dr. Kagale Madhuri Raghunath 8. Prof. Pramod Kumar 9. Dr. Paramesh S P 10. Dr. Alok Kumar Gaurav 11. Dr. P. Raja Lingam 12. CUK
4	Central University of Kerala	13. Dr.M.Bhagiyalakshmi 14. K M Govindaraju 15. Jilly John 16. Dr. S. Anbazhagi
5	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar	17. Director

S.No	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
6	Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering & Technology, Malda	18. Dr. Koushik Paul
7	Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal	19. Prof Shri Prakash Singh, VC 20. MMTTC 21. Dr. Rahul K. Singh 22. Dr. Pritam Singh Negi 23. Dr. Somesh Thapliyal 24. Dr. Kavita Bhatt
8	IIIT Bhopal	25. Dr. Sunil Kumar 26. IIIT Bhopal
9	IIIT Nagpur	27. Dr Aatish Darvanurkar
10	IIIT Raichur	28. Dr. Ramesh K. Jallu
11	IIIT Ranchi	29. Dr. Noopur 30. IIIT Ranchi
12	IIIT Senapati	31. IIIT Senapati
13	IIIT Tiruchirappalli	32. Dr. Anoop Jacob Thomas 33. Dr. G. Devasena 34. Dr Sanjith S L 35. Dr.Pawan Kumar Singh.Director 36. Chairmerson Admissions
14	IIM Bodh Gava	37. IIM Bodh Gava
15	IIM Mumbai	38. IIM Mumbai
16	IIM Raipur	39. Ghanshyam Sohoni 40. Banhideepa Deshamukhya 41. Anil Ponal 42. Yogesh Kumar Sinha 43. Prof. Mohit Goswami 44. Suyash Shrivastava 45. Pranshi Parsai 46. Rabin K Jana
17	IIM Ranchi	47. IIM Ranchi
18	IIM Sirmaur	48. Director 49. Dr. Atul Kumar Agrawal 50. Dr. Parijat Lanke 51. Dr. Ram Kumar Dhurkari 52. Ashok Pathak
19	IIM Tiruchirappalli	53. Rishikesan Parthipan
20	IIM Vishakhapatnam	54. Prof. Kaveri Krishnan 55. Prof. Deepika Gupta

S No	Name of Institute	Name of Participant
21	IISER Bhopal	56. IISER Bhopal
22	IIT Indore	57. Director
23	Indira Gandhi National Open University	58. Prof. Uma Kanjilal, VC 59. Prof. Amitav Mishra
24	National Institute of Technology Agartala	60. Prof Babu Bhattacharva
25	National Institute of Technology Hamirpur	61. Director
26	National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra	62. Prof. Saraswati Setia
27	NITTTR Bhopal	63. NITTTR Bhopal
28	School of Planning and Architecture Delhi	64. SPA Delhi
29	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University	65. Prof Murlimanohar Pathak (VC)
30	Tezpur University	66. Prof. R. R. Hoque
31	The English and Foreign Languages University	67. Prof.N.Nagaraju, Vice Chancellor 68. Dr.A.Nagaraju
32	Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	69. NIT Nagpur
33	Unidentified	70. admission committee 71. AV 72. Dr Gururaj 73. Madhushree Debnath 74. Raju Mallik 75. Saiswarup 76. Supriya P 77. Prof. Rajeev Srivastava

List of Identified Institutes Absent at Orientation Session under Cycle 4 of Capacity Building on Specific Learning Disabilities held on 07.08.2025

S.No.	Name of Absent Institute
1	Banaras Hindu University
2	Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh
3	Central University of Gujarat
4	Central University of Jharkhand
5	Central University of Punjab
6	IIIT Allahabad
7	IIIT Guwahati
8	IIIT Kottayam
9	IIIT Lucknow
10	IIIT Sonepat
11	IIIT Sri City Chittoor
12	IIM Amritsar
13	IIM Indore
14	IIM Shillong
15	Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology Shibpur
16	Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak
17	Mahatma Gandhi Central University
18	Maulana Azad National Urdu University
19	Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad
20	National Institute of Technology Manipur
21	National Institute of Technology Uttarakhand
22	National Sanskrit University
23	NITTTR Kolkata