

## SRUTHITHARANGAM SCHEME

**Sruthitharangam** is a state government scheme that provides health benefits for children with profound hearing loss. The scheme offers cashless assistance for *Cochlear Implantation Surgery, post-surgical rehabilitation therapies, maintenance of cochlear implant spares and accessories annually, and processor upgrades.*

These benefits are available through public and private sector hospitals empanelled under the scheme. Eligible candidates can submit applications free of cost through these hospitals. Applications are reviewed by a technical committee consisting of experts from the relevant field. Assistance is provided for approved applications through these hospitals.

The scheme is available to resident children or individuals within the specific age range who have profound hearing loss and belong to families other than income tax payees or dependents of central or state government employees.

Age-Specific Eligibility Criteria:

1. **Surgery:** *Preferably within 3 years of the beneficiary's age. However, special approval from the Technical Committee may extend eligibility up to 5 years. Cases of post-lingual profound hearing loss up to 12 years of age and profound hearing loss due to post-meningitis injury will also be considered, subject to the technical committee recommendations.*
2. **Processor Upgrade:** *Eligible up to 25 years of age.*
3. **Maintenance:** *Eligible up to 25 years of age. Support is provided every year with financial assistance of INR 50,000 per beneficiary per financial year, in coordination with the concerned Local Self-Government Institutions.*

The surgery and related expenses for a child in this category can be very expensive, which is unaffordable for many vulnerable and marginalized families across the state. The aim of the scheme is to protect these families from catastrophic expenditure because of this issue.

The scheme was initially launched by the government in 2012 under the Social Justice Department through the Kerala Social Security Mission. In 2023-24, the implementation responsibility was transferred to the Health and Family Welfare Department through the State Health Agency.