

ACCEPT. EMBRACE. CELEBRATE.

ACCESS FOR ALL

The 8th NCPEDP Mphasis Universal Design Awards




NCPEDP MPHASIS
UNIVERSAL DESIGN AWARDS
2017





NCPEDP MPHASIS
UNIVERSAL DESIGN
AWARDS



The NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards logo stands for the spirit of Freedom and Celebration. The person with disability appears to be throwing her/his arms up in the air in celebration of the Awards and the hope they bring to so many. The dynamic oval form gives an illusion of constant motion suggesting that people can achieve whatever they want, regardless of the odds stacked against them. The orange colour further enhances this optimism of the new universal and inclusive world.

The NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards

Conservative estimates put the population of people with disabilities in India at 70-100 million. Only a miniscule percentage of this population can be seen in the mainstream. The core reason for this is the basic lack of access. Accessibility not only means access to physical spaces but also means access to information, technology, transport, services, aids and appliances, etc. Access, therefore, is an issue that cuts across disabilities and sectors and forms the very basis of empowerment of people with disabilities. A concept that is intrinsic to any kind of access is 'Universal Design', which means a design that is usable to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

With a view to spreading awareness of Universal Design and popularising the concept, these Awards will be conferred under three categories: persons with disabilities, working professionals and companies/organisations. Across categories, the Awards will recognise innovative efforts that create an impact in the area of accessibility and Universal Design. It is expected that, in time, the Awards will gain recognition and credibility as also encourage more and more people to work in the field of promoting access and Universal Design.

Access symbolises the true spirit of freedom as far as persons with disabilities are concerned. These Awards are therefore, being given away on August 14, the eve of our Independence Day. Never before has one Award meant so much to so many.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Awards in this category are given to people with disabilities who have created an impact in accessibility and Universal Design in any of the areas such as built environment, transport infrastructure, service provision, information and communication technology (ICT), universally designed consumer products, mobility & independent living aids, or assistive technology in their personal/professional capacity. The work that the person has done can be in policy framework, grass-root level implementation, design and development, access audits, or even the rights movement/advocacy.

WORKING PROFESSIONALS

Awards in this category are given to people who work for the cause of accessibility and Universal Design in any of the areas such as built environment, transport infrastructure, service provision, information and communication technology (ICT), universally designed consumer products, mobility & independent living aids, or assistive technology.

She/he may be an employee of an education institute/NGO/ corporate/government body that has taken up the cause, or may be a consultant or freelancer who has devoted her/his time for the cause. Her/his individual contribution to the cause is a major reason for the success achieved by the organisation/firm/ movement.

She/he may also be an individual who is involved in the cause independent of any organisational support and has achieved significant success in the core objective of gaining accessibility for people with disabilities.

COMPANIES/ORGANISATIONS

Awards in this category will be given to those companies or organisations who have taken up the cause of accessibility and Universal Design in any of the areas such as built environment, transport infrastructure, service provision, information and communication technology (ICT), universally designed consumer products, mobility & independent living aids, or assistive technology.

Companies/organisations that have implemented either/ all of these within their organisations, which has led to them recruiting or serving people with disabilities and providing them equal opportunities to participate to the best of their abilities.

These can be any type of an education institute/NGO/ corporate/government body – private sector, public sector, joint sector, SME or even proprietorship/partnership firms. The selection criteria will not only be for adopting accessibility policies, but also for implementing them at the workplace.

AWARD JURY 2017



Som Mittal

Former Chairman and President of NASSCOM, Som Mittal has held corporate leadership roles in the IT industry at companies such as Wipro, Digital, Compaq, and Hewlett-Packard. Prior to IT, he was in the engineering/auto industry. He has served as a member of the Prime Minister's Committee on National e-Governance and is on the Global Advisory Council of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance. He chaired the Advisory Council set up for developing the IT Vision for Indian Railways. He currently serves on several corporate boards, universities and NGOs.



Alka Mishra

Alka Mishra, Scientist F in the National Informatics Centre has over 28 years of experience in the Government of India for implementing nationwide e-Governance applications and development of frameworks and e-Governance best practices. Projects like the National Portal of India (india.gov.in), Open Government Data (<http://data.gov.in>) initiative of Government of India, and the Citizen Engagement Platform for good governance (<http://mygov.in>) are being handled by her. She has played a significant role in facilitating Government websites to become accessible.



Dr. Meenu Bhambhani

Dr. Meenu Bhambhani is the Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Mphasis Ltd. Her focus is on creating impact in the areas of Livelihood, Education and Inclusion. Under her leadership, Mphasis has launched several innovative community programmes and also won recognition at several forums. She has over 20 years of experience in the area of disability and social policy. A scholar of disability studies, she has worked with the World Bank and NCPEDP in the past.



Shefali Chaturvedi

Shefali Chaturvedi is the Executive Director of CII and the Secretary of India @75 Foundation. She has played a key role in driving the social development agenda of CII. As the first CEO of the CII Foundation, she was instrumental in setting the direction of the Foundation by placing CSR on the corporate boardrooms and enabling inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised groups including women and persons with disabilities in the industry.



Shrikant Sinha

Shrikant Sinha is the CEO of NASSCOM Foundation, the social arm of the IT-BPM industry body – NASSCOM. He has been championing the cause of collaborative CSR, wherein for a common cause corporates join hands, with government and non-government entities to solve social issues and create large scale impact. He also serves as a technology advisory group member for 'Girls in IT', and is a working group member on 'Technology Development for Indian Languages' programme of the Government of India.

CATEGORY A PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Aqil Chinoy

Being deaf, and upon returning to India after his graduation at Gallaudet University, Washington DC, USA, Aqil Chinoy utilized his potential on improving the standards of accessibility for the deaf, with the help of technology. He played different roles in several NGOs.

With National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Aqil developed the website (www.nadindia.org) which is a powerful tool of accessibility for the deaf since the information and even the navigation menu items, are portrayed in Indian Sign Language (ISL).

Furthermore, working with Mook Badhir Mandal (MBM), Aqil programmed the ISL Dictionary (www.indiandeaf.org) where the entered vocabulary word is translated into ISL video. The credit for ISL videos goes to MBM.

In 2015, he founded “inspiralive” to give opportunities to deaf professionals/freelancers.

Aqil was elected the Vice-President of NAD and unanimously nominated the Vice-Chairman of Yuva Association of the Deaf, in recognition for his contributions.

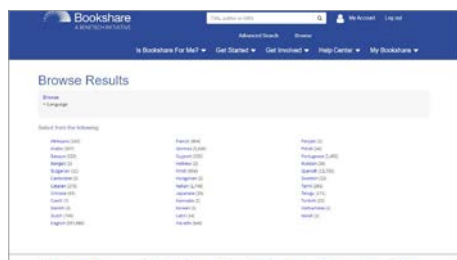


Dr. Homiyar Mobedji

Dr. Homiyar Mobedji is a disability expert and is currently the Country Representative for Benetech, a technology driven organization that believes in bringing about social change for the better. Homiyar heads the operations for Benetech in India, South-East Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

His job at Benetech requires him to work with publishers and conversion vendors to develop accessible content for Bookshare, a content sharing website. It is also incumbent upon him to train and consequently build capacity of the local team. Advocacy, policy, and government relations on behalf of people with print disabilities too fall under his purview.

To succeed in his job as Country Representative, it was necessary for him to master the use of Accessible Technology. Homiyar’s forte is his innate ability to understand the macro, be able to refine and present these concepts in layman’s terms communicating the complex and making it simple.





Suvarna Raj

Suvarna Raj was just two years old when polio struck both her legs affecting her mobility for a lifetime. A wheelchair user she has done B.Com, M.Com and B.Ed from Nagpur University and MSW from IGNOU.

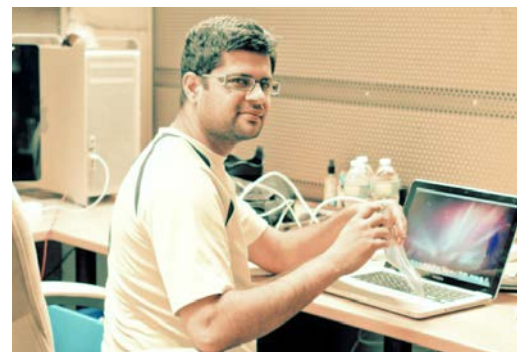
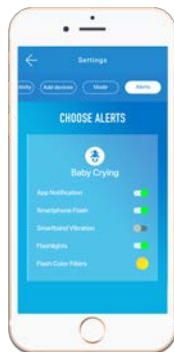
Suvarna is a passionate supporter of improved accessibility for persons with disabilities and has done a lot of advocacy to make public buildings and places accessible for all. Efforts range from filing of RTIs and cases in the offices of the Central and State Disability Commissioners. As an Access Auditor for the Accessible India Campaign, she has audited 139 buildings across the country on their accessibility and her report now awaits implementation.

She is also an international level Table Tennis player and Gold Medalist. She has received many awards including National Role Model Award by Hon'ble President of India and National Youth Award by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.



Vivek Mehta

Vivek Mehta is the Founder / CEO of DeafEasy, the first Artificial Intelligence for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Vivek was born deaf, and was brought up in Chandigarh and later moved to the US to pursue education, work and entrepreneurship. Vivek was on the team that won the first NYC Big Apps Competition 2010 with first prize and three awards given by then Mayor of New York. Vivek has always had great passion to improve the accessibility for the deaf, and has designed DeafEasy to help people with hearing disabilities become independent. The DeafEasy app listens for important sounds that matter to deaf people and alerts the user with a vibrating wrist band. Vivek has also launched products like the vibrating Wake Up Alarms and Wireless Flashlight Doorbells, for the first time in India.



CATEGORY B WORKING PROFESSIONAL



Hemang Mistry

Hemang Mistry is a young and enthusiastic Architect and Urban Designer. He has done his graduation from Sarvajanic College of Engineering and Technology (SCET), Surat in 2006 and post graduation from Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University, Ahmedabad in 2011. Along with practicing Architecture where he has won few National Architecture Design competitions, his major focus drives through developing public places with an orientation and focus on picking up key elements of Universal Design fundamentals and placing them in different scenarios of public spaces. Evolving a large scale scenario where accessibility can never be an issue for movement in the entire city for anyone that's the focus he is targeting and has started with an initiation in his design project on Environmental Rejuvenation of Tithal Seafront, Gujarat - India's first disabled friendly beach, where ramp is used as a key element for access.



Parikipandla Narahari

An IAS officer of the 2001 batch (Madhya Pradesh Cadre), Parikipandla Narahari is currently the District Magistrate and Collector of Indore. Under his leadership, the district administration of Indore implemented the Nirbadha Project with a goal of creating 100% accessible public spaces for persons with disabilities in 2015. From conducting several workshops for creating awareness and sensitizing various stakeholders and fellow citizens to conducting access audits of almost 2000 public buildings and getting them modified within a period of one year, Narahari and his team of 76 dedicated officers lead by nodal officer, Bharat Singh Gour have done exemplary work in creating a Barrier Free Indore. In addition to this, the officers also verify the accessible modification/construction and provide certification in the form of accessible signages. Narahari has received the National Award in 2016 for this project and also in 2014 for creating a barrier-free environment in Gwalior district.





Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur

Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur is the University Librarian, Jawaharlal University (JNU). A Fullbright Scholar (VT, USA), he has visited 17 countries, received several awards and is a member of many national and international professional bodies.

As the Head of the Central Library in JNU, Ramesh has worked hard to provide an inclusive environment to the staff and students with various disabilities. Over a period of 5 years, he was able to create a good and essential infrastructure. With a separate section named Helen Keller Unit, the university now has 24 computers, 20 scanners, 2 Braille printers and several other equipment to assist students with visual disabilities.

Ramesh also played a key role in getting a CSR grant from BHEL for purchase of an accessible bus for students with physical disabilities.

A member of the DAISY Forum of India, Ramesh is now helping a number of other universities in guiding them on how to set up inclusive library facilities for disabled students and staff.



Siddhant Chetan Shah

Siddhant Shah, founder of Access For ALL, is a heritage architect and Access Management Consultant who specializes in bridging the gap between Cultural Heritage and Disability. Shah finished his MA in Heritage Management and as an access consultant has pushed the boundaries of physical, intellectual and social access at the City Palace Jaipur, National Museum and other sites of cultural significance. Shah consults national and international organizations on CSR project development, universal design for exhibitions, strategic planning, fund-raising, staff sensitization, capacity building, access audits, education and outreach programmes, social media marketing and communication, for cultural organizations. He has created braille tactile books for Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum and State Bank of Pakistan Museum. Siddhant conceptualized India's first art-interpretative project for visually impaired people, called 'Abhas, a Tactile Experience' for Delhi Art Gallery (DAG) Modern. The major concern he faces is lack of awareness, sensitization and funding crunch to create products and services for people with disabilities.



CATEGORY C COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS



GingerMind Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

GingerMind Technologies is a young social startup which aims to mainstream people with vision impairment by empowering them with latest technology. Eye-D (acronym for Eye Devices) is their product line which makes smartphone a more useful device for visually impaired persons.

Eye-D Android app helps a blind person in travel, identification of objects and read text in many languages. Within 8 months of public launch in August, 2016, it became #1 app (most reviewed app with rating 4.5/5) on playstore for visually impaired people. Currently, it is helping 7000+ blind people in 153 countries. Eye-D has been given grants from organizations like Microsoft, Citrix, Intel and is counted among Top 100 startups of 2017 worldwide by TiE Silicon Valley.

Eye-D keypad (patent pending) is a device that can help millions of visually impaired people to switch to smartphones from age-old buttoned phones. It is scheduled to launch in 2017 with PPP support.

It was founded by Gaurav Mittal (IIT-BHU-2010 and Ex-Citrix) and Vaibhav Asthana (VIT-2009 and Ex-Tesco). Currently, a 4-member core team works out of Bangalore office with support from a number of volunteers and non-profits. GingerMind has also launched a #SupportEyeD campaign (www.support-eye-d.com) to bring more awareness about problems of visually impaired persons amongst sighted masses, drive policy change in corporate CSR and garner support for project Eye-D.

GingerMind dreams of a world where accessibility is an inherent element of design and where opportunities like employment are equally available to all sections of society.



Hear2Read[®]

Hear2Read

Hear2Read Text To Speech (TTS) software opens the doors of digital empowerment to people with blindness, low vision or dyslexia, who wish to read text written in Indian languages.

The Hear2Read team has developed an open source framework, portable across Android, UNIX and Windows systems, for building TTS software for Indic languages. To date this framework has been used to release TTS Apps for Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu in Android Play Store. These complement Hindi and Bengali TTS provided by Google.

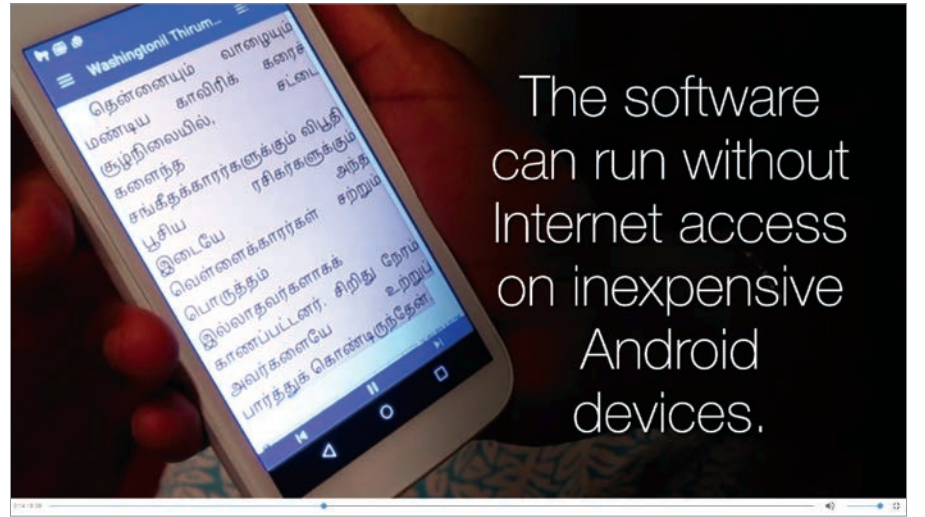
Hear2Read Apps use the Android OS Framework for third party TTS engines and run as a service in the background allowing users to read e-books, websites, emails, Word documents, text or HTML files, SMS texts, Facebook postings and WhatsApp messages, using the Android Talkback accessibility feature. This greatly helps increase independence and mobility for visually impaired people. For example, users can read by listening as the Android device speaks restaurant menus or train and bus schedules posted on websites.

Hear2Read Apps have universal appeal beyond the blind population, for example, for people who have not learned to read or who are learning a new language.

Work is in progress to make it available for Windows PC users. This will allow the blind population to use workplace software, including Microsoft Office.

The UNIX version of the Hear2Read TTS software can be deployed by Indic language websites to speak text on web pages.

All Hear2Read Apps are free and do not display ads or ask for in-app purchases.



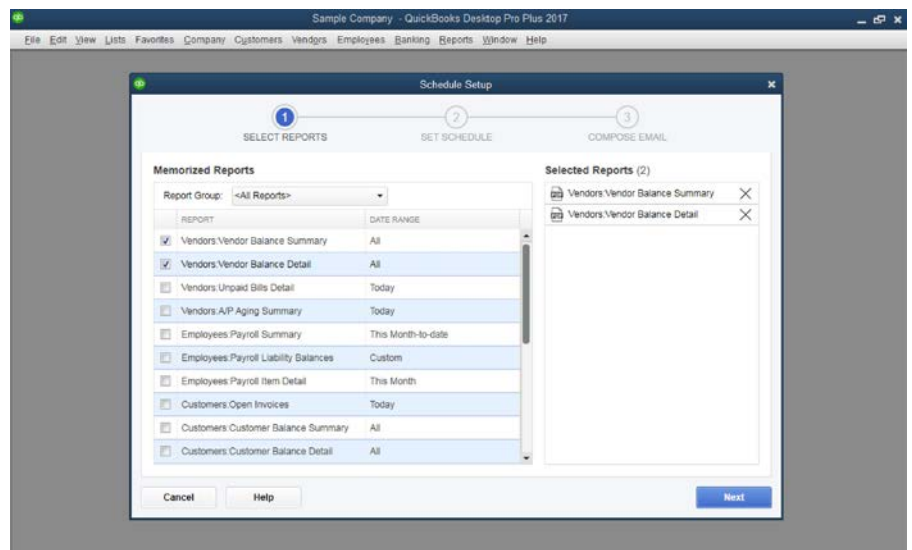


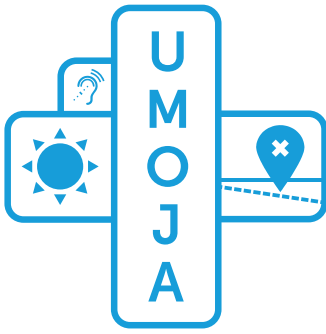
Intuit

Intuit India has been focused on building accessible software products for its customers and has achieved excellent accessibility benchmarks. QuickBooks Desktop, with a customer base of 3.5 million, is a product used by small businesses and accountants to run their company and manage books. The team is continuously working towards enabling accessibility in all the new features developed in the product. The Experience Design Team applies accessibility and universal design principles during the design phase of the product development, thereby making it inclusive ground up. Intuit is also working closely with a not-for-profit accessibility evaluations & testing organization named My Blind Spot, based in New York, USA.

The Experience Design Team at Intuit trains people with disabilities to use computers and smartphones which in turn will help them gain knowledge to design accessible products. In addition, Intuit's Special Needs and Abilities Network conducts frequent accessibility awareness programmes like Bangalore Accessibility Week, Disability Sensitisation Session for Leadership and Tactile Library Building.

In July 2016, Intuit conducted a workplace accessibility audit with Social Equity Advisory Services to keep up with their commitment of building a truly inclusive workplace. The company implemented accessibility improvements in 36 areas that include ramps and rails, talking elevators, automatic doors, accessible parking and washrooms. Intuit is committed to promoting the employment of disabled people based on their capabilities and skills. Towards this, the company has launched the Intuit Ability Programme, a 6 months internship for disabled individuals and presently, 3 interns are working in the HR Team.





UMOJA Travels

UMOJA is India's first and largest online travel portal built specifically to enable great, accessible travel for persons with disabilities. We believe accessibility begins with reliable information. By providing detailed and dependable accessibility related information, UMOJA enables disabled people to make travel arrangements with ease and confidence.

To gather reliable access information at scale, UMOJA has developed a first of its kind, technology-enabled method of self-assessment, to change how access auditing is done globally. Using our self-explanatory app, any hotel can conduct a thorough and accurate self-assessment of the entire property in under 90 minutes, complete with measurements, photographs, and geo positioning. Our app has been tested and implemented in over 160 hotels across two continents, providing the information needed for disabled persons to travel with confidence.

UMOJA also improves accessibility outside the hotel environment by working with local transport providers and restaurants, and have created accessibility guides to popular destinations in India (including Goa, Golden Triangle, Kerala and Mahabaleshwar Hillstations), as well as in the UK with Lonely Planet. UMOJA has signed an MOU with one of India's biggest retail store to make their stores accessible.

UMOJA has also launched The UMOJA #BeachFest 2017, an initiative that made part of Candolim beach in Goa wheelchair accessible for the very first time. The initiative included a temporary ramp leading to the edge of the shore as well as a floating wheelchair, enabling many to access the beach and sea for the first time.





National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)

NCPEDP is a non-profit voluntary organisation, registered in 1996, working as an interface between Government, Industry, International Agencies and Voluntary Sector towards empowerment of persons with disabilities. In the past 21 years, NCPEDP has established itself as a leading cross-disability organisation. NCPEDP pioneered the concept of cross-disability in India, and formed the National Disability Network (NDN) in 1999 which has members from every State and Union Territory across the country. Since inception, NCPEDP has successfully advocated several policy changes that have positively impacted lives of people with disabilities working across to encourage employment of disabled people, increase public awareness on the issue of disability, empower disabled people with knowledge, information and opportunities and ensure easy and convenient access to all public places, products, services and technologies. NCPEDP works on six core principles, also called the six pillars of the organization, namely: 1) Education; 2) Employment; 3) Accessibility; 4) Legislation/ Policy; 5) Awareness/Communication; and 6) Youth. Understanding that accessibility is the key challenge to empowerment of persons with disabilities, NCPEDP instituted The NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards in 2010.

www.ncpedp.org



Mphasis

Mphasis enables customers to reimagine their digital future by applying a unique formula of integrated cloud and cognitive technology. Mphasis X2C²_{TM} formula for success, (shift anything to cloud and power everything with cognitive), drives five dimensions of business value with an integrated consumer-centric Front to Back Digital Transformation, enabling Business Operations and Technology Transformation. Mphasis applies advancements in cognitive and cloud to traditional application and infrastructure services to bring much needed efficiency and cost effectiveness. Mphasis' core reference architectures and tools, combined with domain expertise and hyper specialization are the foundation for building strong relationships with marquee customers.

www.mphasis.com



Theme

Thumb impressions are a true graphic representation of the uniqueness of each individual. No two persons can have the same thumbprint. This year's NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards brochure uses the metaphor of a tree growing leaves made of thumbprints. The nurturing tree stands for the world, which embraces people of diverse capabilities from different walks of life. The diversity is represented by the thumbprints and further emphasized by a variety of colours. At one level, the tree displays the dichotomy between inclusivity and individuality; while at another, it effectively shows the cohesive social structure that connects the individuals into ONE inclusive world.

The thumb impression is today, by far the most popular mode of access for most biometric devices that play a significant role in making our lives more comfortable, paving the way to Universal Design and "Access for All".

National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)

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