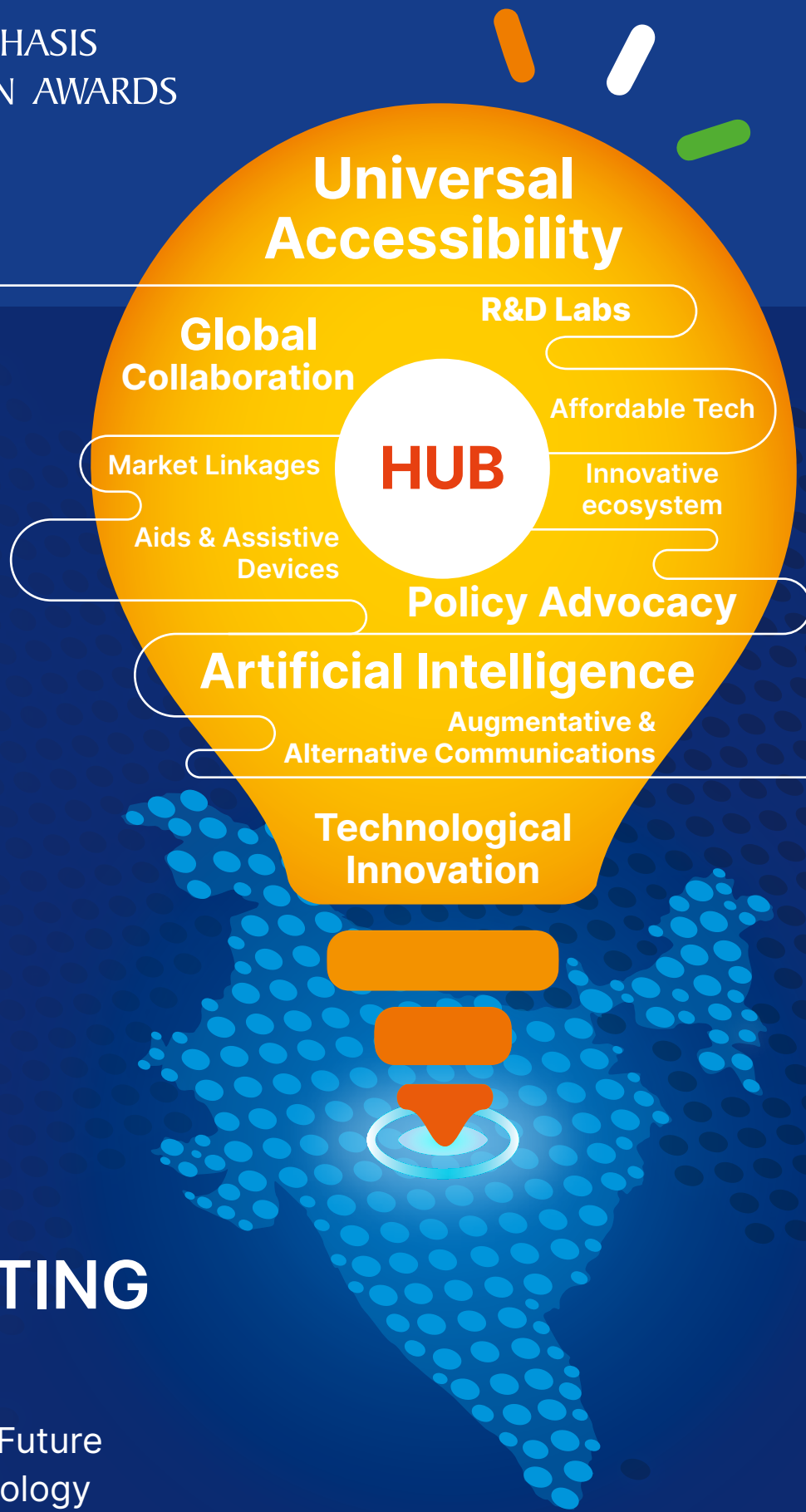




NCPEDP MPHASIS
UNIVERSAL DESIGN AWARDS
2024



MANIFESTING CHANGE

By Innovating the Future
of Assistive Technology

The **15th** NCPEDP Mphasis Universal Design Awards

FOREWORDS



Arman Ali

Executive Director

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

As we celebrate the 15th year of the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards, we are reminded of our incredible journey of innovation, perseverance, and transformative progress. Each year, we are observing an increase in the number of Universal Design Awards applications, reflecting greater diversity across all states of India. The aim is to create designs that are so naturally inclusive that no one feels they are made “especially” for them, removing any sense of privilege, discomfort or difference.

This award was initiated by visionary leader Late Shri. Javed Abidi, a pioneer in the disability movement, stands as a visionary endeavor. In a country like India, where barriers extend beyond the physical to social, economic, and cultural realms, Mr. Abidi’s dedication to accessibility has established a foundation for an inclusive infrastructure and policies, raising the bar for progress.

The evolution of the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards reflects the broader progression of universally accessible designs in India. Inequities stem from the unjust conditions experienced by persons with disabilities, such as stigma, discrimination, poverty, exclusion from education and employment, and obstacles within the system itself. Human-centered and participatory design principles ensure that our solutions are functional and deeply reflective of lived experiences of persons with disabilities.

We are also proud to share a far-sighted and visionary initiative: the establishment of an Assistive Technology (AT) Hub supported by Mphasis Foundation. NCPEDP will act as an incubator and a facilitator, nurturing innovation and addressing the challenges persons with disabilities face in accessing essential assistive devices. Through this initiative we aim to build an ecosystem for the AT sector to create a more affordable, inclusive and widely supportive environment.

We must also acknowledge the constant and reliable support of Mphasis, our partner for the past 15 years. Their persistent dedication has been instrumental in the success of the Universal Design Awards and in strengthening the campaign for disability rights.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the 15th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2024. Your innovative efforts and dedication are truly making a difference, helping to transform India into a global leader in assistive technology and inclusive design.



Deepa Nagraj

Senior Vice President & Head -ESG,
Sparkle Innovation Ecosystem, and Communications

Mphasis

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards, we proudly mark our enduring partnership with NCPEDP and our ongoing support for universal design. This milestone highlights our commitment to advancing a deeper understanding of accessibility and inclusive design across India.

Our collaboration with NCPEDP has centered on promoting inclusive design principles and showcasing their transformative benefits. Each year, we are inspired by the innovative and diverse solutions presented. These contributions not only advance a progressive perspective on disability but also play a crucial role in shaping a society where equity and opportunity are universally accessible.

Globally, the demand for assistive products is immense, with over 2.5 billion people needing everything from wheelchairs and hearing aids to advanced digital solutions like speech recognition software. As the global population ages and non-communicable diseases increase, this need is projected to rise to 3.5 billion by 2050. Our 15 year association with NCPEDP's Universal Design Awards highlights our belief that accessibility should be woven into the fabric of design, not treated as an afterthought.

By celebrating and recognizing exceptional achievements in universal design, the awards aim to inspire others to contribute to a more inclusive and accessible world. We believe that accessibility should be an intrinsic part of any project or initiative, enhancing functionality, usability, and equity.

As the partner behind these awards, Mphasis remains resolute in its mission to facilitate accessibility and initiate impactful progress. Together with NCPEDP, we envision a world where every individual, regardless of ability, can live with dignity and independence.

Congratulations to all the nominees and the 16 winners of the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2024. Your outstanding efforts are instrumental in positioning India as a global leader in assistive technology and inclusive design.



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 persons with disabilities in India at 70-100 million. Only a minuscule 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 persons 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 of the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards which are conferred under three categories: persons with disabilities, working professionals and companies/organisations who have created an impact in accessibility and Universal Design in any of the following areas - 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.

Across categories, the Awards will recognise innovative efforts that create an impact in the areas of accessibility and Universal Design. It is expected that, in over time the Awards have gained recognition and credibility and also encourage more and more people to work in the field of promoting Access and Universal Design. The Javed Abidi Public Policy Awards were instituted in 2018 to celebrate advocacy efforts to promote accessibility.



Persons With Disabilities

These Awards are given to persons with disabilities who have created an impact in accessibility and Universal Design through work done in policy framework, grass-root level implementation, design and development, access audits, or even the rights movement/advocacy.



Working Professionals

These Awards are given to working professionals who have created impact in accessibility and Universal Design. They could be employees of an educational institute/NGO/corporate/government body that has taken up the cause, or could be consultants or freelancers who have devoted their time for the cause. Their individual contribution to the cause should have been a major reason for the success achieved by the organisation/firm/movement. She/he/they 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 persons with disabilities.



Companies/Organisations

Awards in this category are given to Companies/organisations that have implemented either/all of these within their organisations, which has led to them recruiting or serving persons 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.



NCPEDP – Mphasis Javed Abidi Public Policy Award

A category instituted in 2018 in memory of the Late Mr. Javed Abidi, to recognise advocacy efforts to promote accessibility. This could be in the area of physical infrastructure, transport, ICT, products and services and will be awarded to one organisation and one individual doing exemplary work to create a level playing field for persons with disabilities to access the same opportunities and rights as all other citizens of India.

AWARD JURY 2024



Arvind Gupta Jury Chair

Former Head, MyGov.in;
Head & Co-Founder, Digital India Foundation

Arvind Gupta, a trustee at NCPEDP and the Co-founder and Head of Digital India Foundation, is an acclaimed innovation evangelist. With over three decades dedicated to advancing digital innovation, his expertise spans consumer internet, digital media, payment systems, analytics, and the data economy. Recognized on the Global FinTech Top 100 list, Gupta has been honoured with the Eisenhower Global Fellowship for Innovation in 2014 and the DataQuest Pathbreaker Award. He founded amplify.ai and ApnaPay, and has been a pioneer in implementing Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) throughout India. His educational background includes degrees from IIT-BHU and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Deepa Nagraj Jury Member

Senior Vice President & Head-ESG, Sparkle Innovation
Ecosystem, and Communications, Mphasis

Deepa is the Senior Vice President & Head of Sparkle Innovation Ecosystem and Communications at Mphasis, managing global relationships and ESG initiatives. With experience in strategic marketing, corporate strategy, and communications, she is also a connoisseur of art, a trained Kathak dancer, and a Tanjore painter. An avid traveller, Deepa participates in marathons and treks and has a diverse collection of antiques and curios from around the world.



Shilpi Kapoor Jury Member

CEO, Barrier Break

A serial entrepreneur with a passion for technology and disability, Shilpi leads a team of 270+ accessibility experts, 65% of whom have disabilities. She is the founder of BarrierBreak and 247 Accessible Documents that focus on digital accessibility. She has been recognised as one of the Top 15 Women Transforming India by Niti Aayog 2019 and as one of the Top 20 Most Powerful Women in Business for the year 2017 by Business Today magazine. An Ashoka Fellow and a recipient of "NCPEDP-Shell Helen Keller Award 2008", Shilpi has successfully built a sustainable business model in disability products and services.



Anil Prabhakar Jury Member

Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Prof. Anil Prabhakar, a faculty member at IIT Madras since 2002, has dedicated over 20 years to building AAC and assistive devices. He promotes inclusive education through the Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology. As founder-Director of Enability Foundation and co-founder of Yali Mobility, he works on translating assistive devices from lab to product and has been involved in key conferences on assistive technology.



Huma Masood Jury Member

Senior Gender and Education Specialist, UNESCO

Dr. Huma Masood, Senior Gender and Education Specialist at UNESCO New Delhi, focuses on SDG 4 and gender equality. She initiated the successful Spotlight project on menstrual health and contributes to G20 education initiatives. Dr. Masood holds a Ph.D. and an M.Phil. from Jawaharlal Nehru University and has developed significant reports on education for children with disabilities and mental health management.



Aravindan Madhava Murthy Jury Member

Chief Operating Officer, ANZ

Aravindan, Chief Operating Officer at ANZ Bengaluru, has over 20 years of experience leading business and technology transformations. He oversees asset and transition governance portfolios and multi-geography teams, fostering a strong organisational culture, innovation, and sustainable growth. Known for his action-oriented leadership, Aravindan advocates for Diversity & Inclusion and frequently speaks at various forums. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering, an Executive Diploma from UNSW, and a Business Leadership certification from Hays Group.

Role Model Persons with Disabilities

These Awards are given to persons with disabilities who have created an impact in accessibility and Universal Design through work done in policy framework, grass-root level implementation, design and development, access audits, or even the rights movement/ advocacy.

Awardees

- Dr. Aditya Sanjay Lohiya
- Swarnalatha J
- Minal Singhvi
- Anand Kishore Malakar

Jury Appreciation

- Ar. Kavya Poornima Balajepalli
- Adv. Abhishek Kumar



Role Model Persons with Disabilities



Dr. Aditya Sanjay Lohiya Akola, Maharashtra

Dr. Aditya Lohiya, MBBS, MD, a pioneering medical professional with cerebral palsy, has significantly improved accessibility and accommodations for students with disabilities at Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) and beyond. He successfully implemented the compensatory time rule of 20 minutes per hour, advocated for ground floor and hometown examination centres, and ensured comprehensive online information for students. Aditya's national impact includes a landmark case against AIIMS INICET for examination accommodations. He has visited various medical colleges to understand and address the challenges faced by students with disabilities, providing guidance on obtaining compensatory time and disability certificates. Recognized for his advocacy efforts, Aditya was an invited speaker for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by AMSA India and received appreciation from the Rotary Club of Akola Central. He has been awarded the State Level Ratan Shree Award by the Cerebral Palsy Association of India in 2024. His work has led to reforms and improved accessibility in educational institutions.



Swarnalatha J Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Swarnalatha J, an inspiring leader living with multiple sclerosis, is the founder and managing trustee of the Swarga Foundation, which has impacted over millions of lives and earned more than 40 awards. Her initiatives include making 41 police establishments accessible with wheelchairs, ramps, and contact numbers of sign language interpreters and special educators; transforming 10 government schools to be wheelchair-friendly with ramps and accessible toilets; and making Coimbatore railway station wheelchair accessible with elevators and accessible toilets. She also launched Sarathi, India's first travel solution for wheelchair users and senior citizens, with vans equipped with ramps, toilets, and other amenities, and established the Sowkhya Pain Rehabilitation Centre, providing free rehabilitation to over 1000 patients monthly. Swarnalatha's efforts have led to the successful implementation of accessibility features across various public infrastructures, and her Iceberg series of talks has sensitized millions about inclusive practices. She has delivered five TEDx talks and received the prestigious Sarvashreshth Divyangjan Award from the President of India.





Minal Singhvi Hyderabad, Telangana

Ms. Minal Singhvi, President of Udaan Welfare Society and director of Radio Udaan, has been actively supporting the community since 2014. She organizes events like picnics, game shows, and theatre for persons with disabilities and hosts enlightening radio shows including "Reasoning Classes" and "TechCity." As President of the Telangana Paralympics Association, she furthers sports for disabled athletes through seminars and workshops. Ms. Singhvi has been instrumental in five national conventions of Radio Udaan and spearheaded a 2023 workshop on smart devices for the visually challenged. She also organized Udaan Idol and Udaan Idol Little Champs, music talent hunts that provide a platform for showcasing musical talents, and a matrimonial meet in 2018 aimed at fostering relationships within the disabled community. A strong advocate for technology use among the blind, she has created 200 tutorials and taught computer skills to approximately 500 individuals, significantly enhancing their employment opportunities. Her program 'TechCity' not only educates but also empowers, transforming lives of persons with disabilities from dependency to independence.



Anand Kishore Malakar Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh

Anand Malakar, visually impaired, has championed disability rights in rural Madhya Pradesh for 16 years. After joining the National Disabled Forum of India in 2006, he established its Madhya Pradesh branch, expanding it to 48 blocks across 16 districts and connecting with 15,000 disabled individuals. As a vital member of the Madhya Pradesh Viklang Manch Sangathan, Anand facilitated access to medical certificates, railway concessions, pensions, bus passes, Antyodaya Anna Yojana cards, and scholarships. His role as a master trainer in the 2011 census helped increase disabled inclusion. Anand organized two introduction conferences and 10 marriage conferences, supporting over 70 inter-caste marriages, and led initiatives to form committees addressing disability issues, resulting in five major state-level meetings with over 5,000 participants. His advocacy secured a 50% bus fare discount and five reserved seats for disabled passengers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he arranged essential supplies and medical support for individuals with hemophilia and thalassemia. In 2022-23, he led the Divyang Swabhiman Yatra, culminating in a discussion of a 16-point agenda with the Chief Minister on May 13, 2023. Anand's efforts have earned him honors including the Divyang Seva Samman by Viklang Social Culture Organization, Burhanpur in 2020, and recognitions from Action Aid and PDSS Khandwa.



JURY APPRECIATION



Ar. Kavya Poornima Balajepalli Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Kavya, who lives with Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH) resulting in late blindness, is a graduate architect from the University of Mumbai, registered with the Council of Architecture, and currently pursuing the NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellowship on Disability. Her work focuses on universal accessibility in public spaces and integrating universal design in architecture curricula. She has presented her research at forums like G20 India, Global Disability Summit Youth, and UN India. Kavya founded 'Poornamidam,' an initiative exploring Architecture, Environment, and Disability, and 'IIH Warriors India,' a support group for individuals with IIH. She curated campaigns such as 'We All Belong' and 'It's Our Beach Too,' and published reports on Blue Flag Beaches and the Accessible India Campaign. Her article on "Climate Resilient and Accessible Architecture" was featured at Harvard Law School's Digital Symposium. Kavya contributed to policy briefs on "Gender and Disability Inclusion in Urban Development" and co-drafted the 'Charter of Demands: Call to Action for Disability Justice' petition. She continues to empower persons with disabilities, advocating for a more equitable and accessible world.



JURY APPRECIATION



Adv. Abhishek Kumar Ranchi, Jharkhand

Advocate Abhishek Kumar, a National Law University Delhi graduate and Bar Council of Delhi registrant, founded 'The Sangyan' to address climate change's impact on persons with disability. An NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellow, he collaborated with UN India, UNICEF NYHQ, UN Women India, G20, and other international bodies. Abhishek represented India at the 18th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation in Tanzania and the G20 Brazil Youth Pre-Summit 2024. His contributions to disability advocacy include inputs to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment N° 26 and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' General Comment on persons with disabilities in Risky Situations. He co-drafted the 'Charter of Demands: Call to Action for Disability Justice' and the "Ink For Inclusion" Campaign, and authored "A Call for Disability-Inclusive Climate Action in India and Globally" with the Disability-Inclusive Climate Collaboration (India). He co-authored an article on accessible architecture for Harvard Law School's symposium and penned "We need a Disability-led Climate Action" for UNICEF's Voices of Youth. Abhishek's work extends to access audits, publishing on law, environment, and disability, and was honored on Diversability's 5th Annual 2024 D-30 Disability Impact List for his advocacy efforts.





Role Model Working Professionals

These Awards are given to working professionals who have created impact in accessibility and Universal Design. They could be employees of an educational institute/NGO/corporate/government body that has taken up the cause, or could be consultants or freelancers who have devoted their time for the cause. Their individual contribution to the cause should have been a major reason for the success achieved by the organisation/firm/movement. He/she/they 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 persons with disabilities.

Awardees

- Mohamed Yasir. N
- Sunil Kumar Jain
- Hasin Vaidya

Jury Appreciation

- Dr. Sagar Bhalerao



Role Model Working Professionals



Mohamed Yasir. N Kasaragod, Kerala

Mohamed Yasir N, a dedicated social worker with a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) specializing in Medical and Psychiatry, is the Manager of Akkara Foundation. He oversees operations at the Akkara Foundation Centre for Child Development (AFCCD) in Kasaragod, Kerala, serving 1,650 special needs children through services like physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavior therapy, special education, and music and art training. Yasir leads community programs, including awareness campaigns, advocacy efforts, disability surveys, and the establishment of satellite centers for rural disability management, impacting approximately 37,000 individuals. He also mentors various government and NGO initiatives across Kerala and contributes as an online tutor for MSc Psychology students at IGNOU University. His work has earned him several awards, including the Best Institution Working for persons with disabilities by the Social Justice Department of Kerala in 2021, the Cherkalam Abdullah Memorial Ajwa Foundation Salute Award in 2021, and the Hameed Ali Shamnad Memorial Award by Sharjah KMCC - Kasaragod Dist. Committee in 2022. Yasir continues to advocate for the rights and well-being of differently-abled individuals, striving for a more inclusive society.



Mr. Sunil Kumar Jain Bengaluru, Karnataka

Sunil Kumar Jain is the founder and chief enabler of Astha, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting full participation and contribution of persons with disabilities. A Chartered Accountant with 15 years of experience, he launched the Indian Wheelchair Tennis Tour (IWTT) in 2016 to promote wheelchair tennis in India, hosting 11 AITA-ranked tournaments and increasing the number of players. He designed innovative training programs and workshops, including "Life is a Score Board," and advocated for accessible sports facilities, making tennis courts in Karnataka accessible. Sunil integrated wheelchair tennis into the Tennis Premier League and co-authored research on India's Paralympic movement. He also managed para-swimmer Vishwas K S and initiated grassroots programs like "The First Serve." His efforts have earned him numerous awards, including the Karmaveer Chakra, recognition as one of the first India Inclusion Fellows, and accolades for mentoring and guiding para-athletes and students. His current focus is on establishing a fully accessible wheelchair tennis training facility for children with disabilities.





Hasin Vaidya Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Director of H Vision India Private Limited. He invented a wallet for blind and visually impaired individuals that identifies currency notes and verifies their authenticity through audio output in Hindi and English, addressing limitations of existing smartphone applications. Hasin's work earned him the i-Innovate Challenge by the Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub and HDFC Bank, a 20 lakh rupee grant from the Government of Gujarat, and a 10 lakh rupee grant under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). He received the Guardian Angel Award by Vishalwin Foundation and the Indian Achievers Award by the Indian Achievers Forum. His product is subsidised by VOSAP, providing a 60% subsidy for blind and visually impaired individuals with an annual income below 3,00,000 rupees.



JURY APPRECIATION



Dr. Sagar Bhalerao Thane, Maharashtra

Dr. Sagar Bhalerao is an Assistant Professor and head of the 'Media for Democracy' initiative at the University of Mumbai's Department of Communication and Journalism. He completed his postgraduate diploma in Disability Communication from Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mumbai, in 2015. Dr. Bhalerao trains media professionals and students to use inclusive language for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and create accessible content, raising awareness about Universal Design through special lectures, sessions, and workshops. He has authored several research papers in the field, conducted accessibility audits of local trains and public parks in Mumbai, and submitted recommendations to improve accessibility. His efforts promote inclusivity and ensure the voices of persons with disabilities are represented in the media.





Role Model Companies or Organisations

Awards in this category are presented to companies or organizations that have championed Accessibility and Universal Design in areas such as the built environment, transport infrastructure, service provision, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), universally designed consumer products, mobility & independent living aids, or assistive technology. These entities, which could range from educational institutes, NGOs, corporates, to government bodies—whether in the private, public, joint sector, SMEs, or proprietorship/partnership firms—have implemented practices that recruit or serve persons with disabilities, providing them equal opportunities to participate to the best of their abilities. Recognizing and encouraging their efforts serves as a role model for society, helping to propagate the cause more broadly. The selection criteria focus not only on adopting accessibility policies but also on their implementation at the workplace.

Awardees

- Akumen Artificial Intelligence Pvt. Ltd.
- Dextroware Devices Pvt. Ltd.
- Museum of Art & Photography
- Orkids Foundation

Jury Appreciation

- National Association for the Blind, Delhi



Role Model Companies or Organisations

Akumen Artificial Intelligence Pvt. Ltd. Imphal East, Manipur



Akumen Artificial Intelligence, headquartered in Imphal, India, is renowned for its development of innovative and affordable assistive technologies aimed at enhancing the lives of the visually impaired. Founded by Thiyam Akuvan, the company leverages his avionics engineering expertise to create devices like INSIGHTS, a wearable AI-powered tool that supports text reading, object detection, and more, using a user-friendly interface compliant with Universal Design principles. Akumen AI collaborates extensively with various NGOs across India to refine these devices, ensuring they are accessible to even rural populations. The company's significant contributions have been recognized at national levels, including interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Startup Mahakumbh, and accolades such as the NITI AAYOG ANIC Grand Challenge and the Entrepreneurship World Cup Eastern Regional India.





Dextroware Devices Pvt. Ltd. Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Dextroware Devices, founded by Pravin Kumar and incubated at IIT-M Research Park, focuses on developing assistive technologies for persons with disabilities. Their flagship product, MOUSEWARE, is a patented, head-wearable device that enables hands-free control of computers and smartphones through simple head movements and voice commands. Users can direct the cursor by rotating their heads and perform mouse clicks using assistive switches. This device also incorporates a powerful speech-to-text engine that supports Indian-English and various regional Indian languages, catering to a diverse user base across India. Priced at Rs. 20,000, MOUSEWARE stands as the only head-tracking technology in India offering hands-free mouse control and has garnered prestigious recognitions including the James Dyson Award 2023, the Prosus-SICA challenge 2022, and a MeitY Scale-up grant. Committed to empowering economically disadvantaged individuals with upper-limb disabilities, Dextroware aims to enhance access to technology and opportunities in education and employment through comprehensive CSR projects. These initiatives involve collaborations with NGOs, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers to identify and train beneficiaries in using MOUSEWARE and basic computer skills, thereby fostering greater independence and inclusion.





Museum of Art & Photography Bengaluru, Karnataka

The Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru exemplifies accessibility and inclusion in the arts, integrating universal design features such as ramps, reserved parking, all-gender accessible toilets, accessible lifts, and staircases. The museum is equipped with induction loops, manual wheelchairs, evacuation chairs, and even a quiet room for those requiring a calming environment. MAP's gallery spaces are thoughtfully designed for ease of navigation, featuring optimal height adjustments, adjustable lighting, and tactile artworks for sensory exploration. Committed to comprehensive accessibility, MAP provides Indian Sign Language (ISL) support, audio guides, and detailed artwork descriptions through digital platforms like Bloomberg Connects. MAP also fosters an inclusive atmosphere through its annual accessibility conference, specialized art workshops for children with disabilities, and a targeted internship program for persons with disabilities, underscoring its mission to make art accessible to all.





Orkids Foundation New Delhi

Orkids Foundation, led by Geet Oberoi, is a central organization in India dedicated to addressing Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). Since SLD's official recognition by the Indian government in 2016, Orkids has been at the forefront of advocacy and intervention, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) guidelines. The foundation developed the FIRST SCREEN APP, a free, innovative application designed to screen children for SLD, providing early diagnosis and intervention tools for parents and educators. Initially available in Hindi and English, plans are underway to expand the app to include 10 Indian regional languages, aiming to enhance accessibility and facilitate early interventions for mainstreaming children with SLD. In addition to its digital initiatives, Orkids operates 24 centers across India, impacting over 50,000 students. The foundation is also involved in extensive teacher training, conducts research, and publishes findings on learning disabilities tailored to the Indian context. Through collaborations with state governments and various stakeholders, Orkids continues to strengthen its efforts in special education and learning disabilities in India, making significant contributions to the field.



JURY APPRECIATION



National Association for the Blind, Delhi

The National Association for the Blind (NAB) Delhi, a leader in empowering persons with disabilities in India, has launched several key initiatives. SHRAVAN, introduced in January 2024, is an IVR-based audiobook library that provides access to books, news, and information via phone calls, benefiting over 25,000 visually impaired individuals and senior citizens nationwide. The ADITI AI Chatbot, honored in the UNFPA's 2023 Global AccessAbility Innovation Challenge, delivers essential sexual and reproductive health information through WhatsApp and IVR, customised for regional languages. NAB is also revamping the Sugamya Bharat App in collaboration with the government, centralising access to disability-related schemes, scholarships, job opportunities, and grievance redressal. Furthermore, NAB chairs Sugamya Pustakalaya, India's national online library of accessible books, offering materials in eBook, audio, and Braille formats. Their Beyond Eyes Assistive Technology Experience & Training Centre, unique in North India, showcases advanced technological solutions for the blind, low vision, and deaf-blind, providing demonstrations, trials, and training for persons with disabilities, their employers, and educators. NAB's support extends to converting government publications into accessible formats, distributing COVID vaccines and rations to over 10,000 persons with disabilities, and operating North India's only Old Age Home for the Blind.



Network Partner:



SERVE THE BLIND
TAMSU MA JYOTIRGAMAYA
www.nabdelhi.in

Created by:



access
ABLE

Accessibility innovation challenge
winner



ADITI AI
AI powered Chatbot

Easy access to SRHR
(Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights information)
for PwDs through
WhatsApp & Phone call

अदिती AI को फ़ोन करें या चैट करें और यौन,
प्रजनन और अधिकारों के बारे में जानने

0:22 / 1:12



NCPEDP – Mphasis Javed Abidi Public Policy Award

A category instituted in 2018 in memory of the Late Mr. Javed Abidi, to recognise advocacy efforts to promote accessibility. This could be in the area of physical infrastructure, transport, ICT, products and services and will be awarded to one organisation and one individual doing exemplary work to create a level playing field for persons with disabilities to access the same opportunities and rights as all other citizens of India.

Awardee

- Ms. Radhika Alkazi





Ms. Radhika Alkazi New Delhi

Radhika Mullick Alkazi, founder and Managing Trustee of ASTHA, has dedicated over 31 years to advocating for the rights of children and persons with disabilities. After earning a post-graduate diploma in Basic Developmental Therapy from Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI) and a Master's in Mass Communication Research from the University of Leicester, UK, she transitioned from journalism to focus on children with disabilities. ASTHA emphasizes early identification of disabilities in slum settings, family-centric education, and close collaboration with mothers, communities, and government systems. Radhika's work includes extensive research and authoring reports on the status of children with disabilities in India, contributing significantly to drafting the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act of 2016. Internationally, she has served as a trainer for Perkins International in Vietnam and Bhutan, participated in the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children in Sri Lanka, and authored an Alternative Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Additionally, Radhika is a theatre director and actor, creating plays for children with disabilities and continuing to guide ASTHA with a focus on law, policy, and the status of children with disabilities.





A Trip down the Memory Lane...

**Celebrating a Decade and a Half
of Universal Design**





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 28 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 persons 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: Education, Employment, Accessibility, Legislation/ Policy, Awareness/ Communication, 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 (BSE: 526299; NSE: MPHASIS) applies next-generation technology to help enterprises transform businesses globally. Customer centricity is foundational to Mphasis and is reflected in the Mphasis' Front2Back™ Transformation approach. Front2Back™ uses the exponential power of cloud and cognitive to provide hyper-personalized ($C=X2C^2_{TM}=1$) digital experience to clients and their end customers. Mphasis' Service Transformation approach helps 'shrink the core' through the application of digital technologies across legacy environments within an enterprise, enabling businesses to stay ahead in a changing world. Mphasis' core reference architectures and tools, speed and innovation with domain expertise and specialization are key to building strong relationships with marquee clients. To know more visit

www.mphasis.com

Theme

India as an Assistive Technology Hub

The cover design for the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards brochure uses a vibrant and symbolic lightbulb graphic to illustrate the transformative power of assistive technology in India. This lightbulb serves as a metaphor for bright ideas and innovation, highlighting key areas like Artificial Intelligence, Policy Advocacy, and Universal Accessibility, all interconnected within a central hub. The design portrays India not just as a participant but as a leader in the field, aiming to foster global collaboration and technological innovation. Each segment of the lightbulb aligns with a specific theme, reflecting a comprehensive ecosystem that supports and empowers persons with disabilities. The tagline "Manifesting Change" powerfully encapsulates the vision of propelling India forward by innovating the future of assistive technology.



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

E - 150, East of Kailash, New Delhi 110 065.

Phone: +91-11-26221276 / 26221277 Helpline No.: 9958955744

E-mail: secretariat@ncpedp.org

@ncpedp_india X @ncpedp_india f @NCPEDP in @ncpedp