

NCPEDP - Javed Abidi Fellowship on Disability

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Baseline Report

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Universal Accessibility in Leisure, Recreational, and Cultural Spaces (Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach) and Mandatory Inclusion of Universal Design in Architecture Curriculum

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1 Executive Summary

"Everything that needs to be said has already been said. But since no one was listening, everything must be said again."

- André Gide

Accessibility is freedom and thus acts as a medium to access all other rights (right to life, right to health, right to education, right to movement, etc.). Thus, inaccessibility results in the deprivation of our fundamental rights and freedoms.

Accessibility is often regarded as merely a disability issue. This perception warrants the need for adding universality to accessibility discourse as universal accessibility forms the core and is aligned with the UUU trilogy of Usable, User-centric, and Universally Accessible. This implies that universal accessibility is for everyone, including children, pregnant women, old adults, and persons with disabilities.

Disability is mistakenly treated as a homogenous identity (in contrast, it's integral to intersectional diversity), and that sharply shapes the way we approach accessibility. It's not always universal or often gets equated with ramps or is mostly understood from the vantage point of the built environment (hard infrastructure) and so on. There lies the gap that needs to be filled and has to be sustainable.

That brings us to think about the present status of accessibility in India. To understand that, RTI Applications and multiple surveys were conducted to ascertain ground realities as well as awareness and sensitization among the diverse user groups (persons with disabilities, old adults, etc.) and practitioners (architects, students, and professors).

In an era where holistic health is paramount, nature-based leisure and recreational spaces offer a profound avenue for everyone to rejuvenate both physically and mentally. The accessible built environment plays a crucial role in improving our mental health for people with diverse user needs. Understanding Visakhapatnam as a Health Tourism destination that combines leisure activities and medical treatments in one place, catering to both visitors and travelers, underscores the significance of universal accessibility in leisure and recreational spaces, ensuring living with dignity and freedom for diverse visitor demographics.

For that purpose, field visits were carried out at Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India) as the primary place for study and Golden Blue Flag Beach, Puri (Odisha, India) as the secondary place for the comparative study. Accessibility assessment was done as per the criteria of the Blue Flag Beaches, and multiple detailed reports were drafted and shared. The concerned public authorities, showing a positive approach, took cognizance of the reports and provided point-by-point responses. They further engaged in making the site universally accessible and continue to do so in a collaborative effort to achieve the shared goal of universally accessible and safe public space for all.

The research-based advocacy panned out at four simultaneous levels - Local (Beach Management Committee); State (Tourism Department); National (Blue Flag India); and International (Blue Flag International) concerning various aspects of implementation and policy-formulation (including the revision of Blue Flag Beaches Criterion).

2 Contextual Background

The watershed moment in the Indian disability arena since the passing of the Persons with Disability Act, 1995, was the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. This legislation was enacted in accordance with the international principles enshrined under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006. One of the prime principles mentioned in this legal instrument, aimed at ensuring basic human rights and inherent dignity, is accessibility.

It is logical to base our law and policy-making on the idea of the veil of ignorance¹, which "enables an unbiased assessment of the justice of existing social and political institutions and of existing desires, preferences, and conceptions of the good" [1]. The disability community is not just the largest ignored minority but also one that anyone might have to join anytime, given the trajectory of life. Thus, even from a non-right-based model or perspective, our laws and policies must be all-inclusive, enshrining the principle of "Leave No One Behind" in letter and spirit.

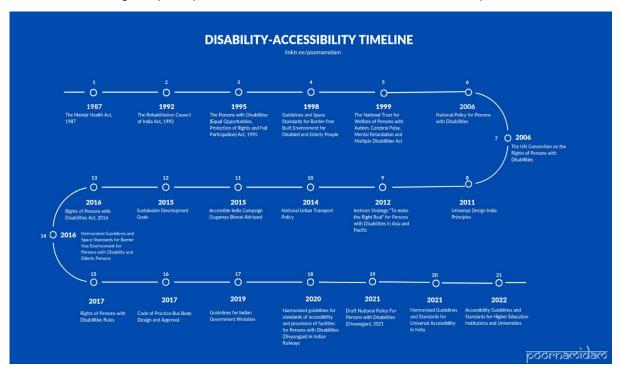


Fig.2.1 Disability - Accessibility related Laws and Policies Timeline

Image Description [Alt Text] - An image with a blue background with text in white, the title reads 'Disability and Accessibility Timeline' with a URL of Poornamidam linktree below it. Image represents the chronological timeline of disability and accessibility-related laws and policies as mentioned in the thread below. Read on to learn laws and policies from 1987 to 2022 provided in the timeline.

In the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders pledged to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals² (SDGs) by 2030, which include gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5), making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable (SDG 11), and explicitly recognizing gender equality and disability as essential cross-cutting issues. SDG 11 calls for 'universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities,' as well as paying special attention to their needs in providing safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems, along with participatory decision-making with a focus on vulnerable groups such as women and girls and people with disabilities. With a global trend toward urbanisation, cities are becoming a growing site for inequalities³. They find high levels of wealth and modern infrastructure coexist with pockets of severe deprivation, often side by side. This makes gaping and increasing levels of inequality all the more glaring within cities. The realisation of each of these goals identifies sustainable urbanisation as one of the key priorities for global development, and is inseparable from the building of safe and inclusive cities for women, girls, and persons with disabilities. These concepts are embodied in the principles of 'Leave No One Behind' and 'Planning from the Margins,' which reaffirm commitments to human rights, gender equality, and disability inclusion in the context of cities.

Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Indicator 11.7.1: Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

[UN-Habitat (2018). SDG Indicator 11.7.1 Training Module: Public Space. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi.]

Accessibility is Freedom

Accessibility is a right, and a precondition for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society (CRPD Article 3). Accessibility is an agency or medium that allows one to access and enjoy fundamental human rights and freedoms, like education, speech and expression, healthcare, movement, employment, etc., that are necessary for living a meaningful life with inherent dignity.

According to the CRPD article 9, 'accessibility' is referred to making buildings, software, products and services compliant with certain national and international standards to enable persons with disabilities and others to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life with dignity on an equal basis with others.⁴ Accessibility will not just benefit people with disabilities, but also other vulnerable communities, which is universal in nature, based on the principle of 'universal design'⁵. Universal Design (UD) involves designing and structuring an environment in such a way that it can be understood, accessed, and utilised to the maximum extent by all individuals, regardless of their age or abilities.

Shades of Disability

Disability is not a homogeneous identity⁶; it encompasses a wide spectrum of conditions, including the twenty-one recognized disabilities in India, as well as invisible disabilities, rare conditions, chronic illnesses, and other unacknowledged impairments. This diversity within disability underscores its integral role within the broader landscape of diversity, intersecting with other identities such as gender, age, and socio-economic status. Women, children, and elderly individuals with disabilities represent just a few intersections of this multifaceted reality.

Universal Accessibility⁷ anticipates that every individual, regardless of age, gender, ability, health condition, or socio-cultural diversity, enjoys equal opportunities to independently move, function, participate, and perform their chosen activities of daily living and other life pursuits with dignity and independence. This concept is realised through the elaboration of universal design principles and the identification of accessibility needs for persons with disabilities and others. It aims to broaden the vision of accessibility to a larger population group by developing accessible elements in both external and internal built environments. It empowers people with disabilities by helping in enhancing their capabilities⁸ and enables them to access greater opportunities and space to travel, work, play and much more.

Accessibility and reasonable accommodation are linked. Accessibility standards can be implemented progressively and with more permanent features, anticipating such and similar reasonable accommodation requests in the future. Reasonable accommodation can contribute to better accessibility and the more accessible and inclusive an entity is, the less reasonable accommodation will be required. Some instances of this can be from constructing a ramp as per standards to adding captions to a film or adding alt text and descriptions for visual content on digital platforms that ensures the principle of Leave No One Behind in various avenues of life. This approach also signifies freedom from artificial barriers, be they in the form of an inaccessible built environment or digital inaccessibility – barriers stemming from societal ableism.

Universal Accessibility in Public Spaces

"Public space in cities is a common good, meant to be open, inclusive and democratic, a fundamental human right for everybody."¹¹

The imperative for universal accessibility calls for public spaces that are accessible, available, affordable, appropriate and of good quality for all. Such public spaces benefit everyone and are a crucial medium for transformative change in cities that celebrate the realisation of inclusive and diverse, green and sustainable, safe and resilient, and healthy and vibrant communities. ¹² Universal accessibility in public spaces is also a critical link in everyday life's mobility chain and contributes significantly to improving safety, health and resilience, as also explained in the eight interconnected domains of urban life of the WHO age-friendly cities framework¹³. Inclusion and accessibility of public space are crucial to ensure the right to access basic urban resources and services to live independently and participate on an equal basis in all aspects of society¹⁴. The New Urban Agenda states that urban systems and physical forms of urban spaces ensure equitable aspects of urban development, ensuring quality of life and environmental safety for all.¹⁵

Accessibility is the first step towards inclusivity, where the lack of Universal Accessibility still remains a challenge for habitats and human settlements, further marginalizing vulnerable communities, including people with disabilities. There is no scope for a one-size-fits-all approach, and national policies and institutions play a crucial role.

Prevalence of Accessibility in National Initiatives

In recent years, India has seen the development of several national <u>laws and policies</u> aimed at shaping the built environment and services to enhance accessibility for everyone. Key documents like the National Building Code, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPwD Act), and a series of harmonised guidelines constitute a framework for ensuring an accessible built environment. These standards, serving advisory, informative, and voluntary purposes, play a crucial role in achieving universal access. They cover aspects from built-in accessibility to interconnectivity, aiming to integrate assistive technologies seamlessly. However, despite being user-friendly and prescriptive, a lack of awareness about these standards contributes to unintentional accessibility barriers in society.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD) 2016, is a landmark act which reinforces the idea that in adherence and responsiveness to an inclusive urban future, it is vital to progressively work towards accessible infrastructures in the built environment. Provisions under this act not only highlight their relevance but also make it mandatory for built environments to incorporate measures towards making them accessible.

Chapter VIII of the RPWD Act clearly highlights the idea of non-discrimination in built environments. A brief reiteration of Section 40 and 44 from the RPWD Act, 2016, is stated below to highlight the focus on accessibility through the Harmonized guidelines. It further orients towards the highlights of accessibility perspectives in the law. Besides that, it mentions the other relevant sections 41, 42, and 43:

Section 40	Accessibility: The Central Government shall, in consultation with the Chief Commissioner, formulate rules for persons with disabilities laying down the standards of accessibility for the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including appropriate technologies and systems, and other facilities and services provided to the public in urban and rural areas.
Section 41	Access to Transport
Section 42	Access to information and communication technology
Section 43	Consumer Goods
Section 44	Mandatory observance of accessibility norms: (1) No establishment shall be granted permission to build any structure if the building plan does not adhere to the rules formulated by the Central Government under section 40. (2) No establishment shall be issued a certificate of completion or allowed to take occupation of a building unless it has adhered to the rules formulated by the Central Government.

It is important for all the stakeholders involved in the development or management of built environments to be conscious of the mandates as issued by the RPWD Act and should render the creation of built environments in compliance with the same.

Urban Initiatives

Urban development initiatives in India¹⁶, represented by endeavours such as the Smart Cities Mission, Urban Rejuvenation Mission (AMRUT), Swachh Bharat Mission, and livelihood missions outlined by the Honourable Prime Minister, are centered on empowering citizens. These initiatives underscore the importance of sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions, aiming to improve infrastructure, quality of life, and environmental hygiene. Critical services including urban mobility, affordable housing, water and wastewater management, sanitation, solid waste management, and safety are being structured with a focus on universal access and inclusivity, supported by efforts to improve the investment climate, foster job creation, and encourage innovation. Central to these initiatives is the consideration of both immediate and future societal concerns in infrastructure and investment decision-making processes.

National Policy on Elderly

The National Policy for the Elderly, 2011 values "an age-integrated society" and intends to strengthen integration between generations, facilitate interaction between the old and the young, as well as strengthen bonds between different age groups. It believes in the development of a formal and informal social support system to strengthen the capacity of the family to take care of senior citizens, enabling them to continue living with their families. It also aims to incorporate the action points highlighted in the "Madrid Plan of Action and Barrier-Free Framework". The policy works towards creating an inclusive, barrier-free, and age-friendly society.

The policy brings the concerns of older persons, especially older women, into the national development debate with priority given to implementing mechanisms already set by governments and supported by civil society and senior citizens' associations. It also supports the promotion and establishment of senior citizens' associations, especially among women. Additionally, it focuses on promoting the concept of "Ageing in Place" through accessible housing, income security, home care services, old age pension, access to healthcare insurance schemes, and other programs and services to facilitate and sustain dignity in old age.

Smart Cities Mission

The Smart city mission (SCM) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched in June 2015, aimed to transform 100 cities in a span of one five-year plan. The mission focuses on sustainable and inclusive development, with an idea to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act as a lighthouse to other aspiring cities. It caters to the core infrastructural elements and provisions - Efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing (especially for the poor), Robust IT connectivity and digitalization, Good governance (especially e-Governance and citizen participation), safety and security of citizens. Many innovative projects including Sensory park for persons with disabilities at Chandigarh, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Multi Sports Centre at Bhagalpur, Barrier free stadium at Varanasi; Smart roads at Belagavi, Kanpur, Jaipur and Nashik;

Smart pedestrianised Roads at Chennai etc have adopted the principles of universal design in their project formulation. The Smart City Mission anchors the idea of human centric approaches keeping in view the Indian diversity and technological progress. Cities with greater inclusion will pave the way for smarter futures and a more public friendly environment. The Indian urban cities and future requires to further intensify the accessibility perspectives in various stages of city scale implementation of infrastructure projects.

Accessible India Campaign

In line with the motto Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, the Government of India - through its Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) as the nodal agency - resolved to provide universal accessibility to ensure the inherent dignity of people with disabilities and realise its mandate [under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)¹⁷, Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Constitution of India]. It launched the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nationwide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on 3 December 2015 on International Day of Persons with Disabilities.¹⁸ The Accessible India campaign is inspired by UNCRPD and the Action Plan. Predominantly the Campaign has shaped the discourse of accessibility into wide ranging possibilities and inter sector responsibilities. The campaign drives the agenda into a holistic vision of accessibility as a norm in Indian living environments. Its targets have been derived from Goal 3 of the Incheon Strategy which endeavours to Make the Right Real.¹⁹

The Accessible India campaign has three important verticals, these being:

- 1. Build Environment Accessibility: This part has the objective of enhancing the proportion of accessible government buildings. It aims to eliminate obstacles and barriers to indoor and outdoor facilities including schools, universities, hospitals and workplaces along with all public spaces such as roads, parks and playgrounds, ensuring an accessible physical environment not only for people with disabilities but also other vulnerable communities including children and old adults.
- 2. **Transportation System Accessibility:** This part has the objective of enhancing the proportion of (1) accessible airports, (2) accessible railway stations, and (3) accessible public transport, to safeguard the fundamental right of people with disabilities of freedom to movement.
- 3. Information and Communication Technology Eco-System Accessibility: This part has the objective of enhancing (1) the proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites (legislature, government, courts and other public-authority websites) that meet internationally recognised accessibility standards, (2) the pool of sign language interpreters, and (3) the proportion of daily captioning and sign-language interpretation of public television news programmes.

The campaign is based on the principles of the social model of disability, which posits that disability is caused by the way society is organized, not by the person's limitations and impairments. A barrier-free environment aims to facilitate equal participation by PwDs in all activities and helps promote an independent and dignified way of life for them.

Tracking and Monitoring

For the purpose of monitoring the campaign, an MIS²⁰ portal was launched in September 2019. Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs upload data related to the implementation of the targets of the Accessible India Campaign on this portal.

In order to convert the campaign into a mass movement and for *Jan-Bhagidhari*, the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself directed the development of a Crowdsourcing App so that Divyangjan can raise issues of inaccessibility being faced by them anywhere in India. In line with that, the Sugamya Bharat App, a crowdsourcing mobile application, was launched on 2nd March 2021.

Budgetary Allocation

The Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) Scheme, initiated since January 28, 2016, aims to provide barrier-free environments for persons with disabilities across various settings such as schools, colleges, offices, and public buildings. Activities include installing ramps, rails, lifts, adapted toilets, braille signages, auditory signals, tactile flooring, and making pavement modifications for wheelchair users. Additionally, the scheme aims to enhance accessibility in transportation, built environments, and information and communication systems through the "Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)." The budgetary allocations²¹ for the consecutive years are as follows:

Secretariat Department: Women, Children, Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Secretariat **Head of Department:** Department for Welfare of Differently Abled, Transgender and Senior Citizens **Scheme Name:** Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995

S. No.	Year	Budget (in lakh)	Purpose	Annual Target
1	2021-22	1328.42	Construction of government buildings to create a barrier-free environment	38
2	2022-23	500.00	Creation of barrier-free environment in terms of RPWD Act - Public offices	21
3	2023-24	1000.00	Disabled-friendly Facilities at Government Offices (Lifts, Ramps, Braille Signage Boards, Tactile Flooring, Railing, Toilets)	45

Current status — India

As per the information received from Central Public Works Department²², retrofitting work of 1030 of 1108 Central Government buildings has been completed. Further, 1671 State/UT Government-owned buildings were audited for providing accessibility features in the most important government buildings in 48 cities. Of these 1671 buildings, proposals for 1484 buildings were received from States/UTs. Of these 1484 buildings, 1314 buildings were given funds. 609 of 1314 funded buildings have been made accessible.15

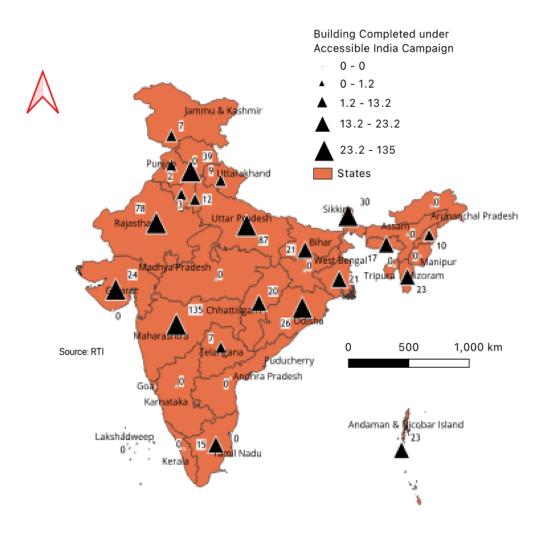


Fig.2.2 Status of Accessible India Campaign - India

Mental Health and Built Environment

There is a profound impact of the built environment on mental health²³, a factor often underestimated, where research has validated the intricate connection between accessible spaces and overall well-being, underscoring the significant influence on the quality of life. At any given moment, various individual, family, community, and structural factors may intersect to either support or hinder mental health. While many individuals exhibit resilience, those who experience adverse conditions such as poverty, violence, disability, and inequality are more susceptible to developing mental health issues²⁴. This underscores the critical importance of accessibility in leisure, recreational, and cultural spaces, which are essential for everyone's physical and mental well-being. It is astonishing how rarely this topic finds its place in discussions, even in conferences addressing disability concerns. Mental health is the leading cause of disability worldwide with increased number of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)²⁵.

Mental Health and Tourism

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on mental health globally, with individuals experiencing increased stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. As the world strives to recover from the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, it is essential to prioritize mental health interventions at the national level. Accessible and affordable mental health measures are crucial to support individuals who have been affected by the pandemic and to facilitate their recovery. Nature-based approaches offer a promising solution in this regard. Spending time in natural environments, such as parks, forests, and green spaces, has been shown to have significant mental health benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, and enhancing overall well-being. Nature-based interventions can be accessible to a wide range of individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, and can be implemented at a relatively low cost. Therefore, integrating nature-based approaches into mental health initiatives at the national level can provide an effective and sustainable means of supporting individuals' mental health during the pandemic recovery process and beyond.

Theoretical frameworks for mental health benefits from nature tourism include: tourism destinations and activities; tourist personalities and life histories; sensory and emotional components of tourist experiences; and intensity and duration of memories.²⁶

Social Tourism and Health Tourism

Social tourism, as defined by the International Social Tourism Organisation²⁷ (ISTO), encompasses the inclusion of individuals and groups facing economic, social, cultural, or health-related constraints in the tourism experience. It seeks to provide access to leisure and recreational activities for those unable to engage in traditional tourism due to limited means. By focusing on promoting equal opportunities, social tourism aims to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, can benefit from the positive aspects of travel and leisure, thereby addressing social inequalities and enhancing individual well-being through meaningful travel experiences. Concurrently, the growth of health, wellness, and medical tourism²⁸ underscores their increasing relevance in numerous destinations. Health tourism, specifically, is motivated by contributing to physical, mental, and/or spiritual health through medical and wellness-based activities. Given its emergence as a complex and rapidly changing segment, there is a need for destinations to better understand health tourism to leverage opportunities and address associated challenges.

Universal Accessibility in Leisure, Recreational, and Cultural Spaces

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees everyone the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable working hours and paid holidays. Similarly, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities emphasizes the importance of participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport for persons with disabilities. These rights are considered fundamental to the dignity and equal rights of all individuals, forming the basis for freedom, justice, and peace in society. The RPwD Act, 2016, also includes provisions for promoting welfare through cultural and sporting activities for persons with disabilities.

Article 24	Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitations of working hours and periodic holidays with pay."				
Article 24					
The	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities				
Article 30	"Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport" as part of the "inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world" of the persons with disabilities.				
The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016					
Chapter V deals with Social Security, Health, Rehabilitation and Recreation. Therein, Section 29 provides for "Culture and recreation."	"The appropriate Government and the local authorities shall take measures to promote and protect the rights of all persons with disabilities to have a cultural life and to participate in recreational activities equally with others which include, (a) facilities, support and sponsorships to artists and writers with a disability to pursue their interests and talents; (b) establishment of a disability history museum that chronicles and interprets the historical experiences of persons with disabilities; (c) making art accessible to persons with disabilities; (d) promoting recreation centres, and other associational activities; (e) facilitating participation in scouting, dancing, art classes, outdoor camps and adventure activities; (f) redesigning courses in cultural and arts subjects to enable participation and access for persons with disabilities; (g) developing technology, assistive devices and equipment to facilitate access and inclusion for persons with disabilities in recreational activities; and (h) ensuring that persons with hearing impairment can have access to television programmes with sign language interpretation or sub-titles." "(1) The appropriate Government shall take measures to ensure effective participation in sporting activities of persons with disabilities. (2) The sports authorities shall accord due recognition to the right of persons with disabilities in their schemes and programmes for the promotion and development of sporting talents. (3) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), the appropriate Government and the sports authorities shall take measures to, (a) restructure courses and programmes to ensure access, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all sporting activities for persons with disabilities; (c) develop technology to enhance potential, talent, capacity and ability in sporting activities of all persons with disabilities; (d) provide multi-sensory essentials and features in all sporting activities for heavenpre participation o				
Section 30	Sporting activities for the welfare of persons with disabilities.				

Despite the existence of both global and national legal frameworks supporting leisure, recreational, and cultural spaces and addressing accessibility in various areas like the built environment, transportation, mobility, and ICTs, among others, significant challenges that hinders their implementation. The following section delves into the issues and obstacles surrounding the effective enforcement of current laws and standards concerning accessibility.

Implementation of Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment

Under the RPWD Act, all existing public buildings, whether government or private, used or accessed by the public at large, are obliged to comply with the accessibility standards prescribed under the RPWD Rules in order to make their existing infrastructure and premises accessible to persons with disabilities. However, in this context, the government or local authorities could formulate and develop an action plan prioritising such buildings and public spaces providing essential services, such as primary healthcare centers, civil hospitals, schools, railway stations, and bus stops, while still striving towards progressive universal accessibility of urban spaces.

In the context of enforcing accessibility standards for the physical environment, the RPWD Act mandates that an establishment cannot be granted permission to build any structure if its building plan does not adhere to the accessibility standards set out under the RPWD Act, i.e., the Harmonized Guidelines. Moreover, the RPWD Act also stipulates that an establishment cannot be issued a certificate of completion or be allowed to occupy any building unless it has adhered to the above-mentioned standards. In this regard, it is relevant to note that the relevant municipal laws, i.e., municipal laws of the concerned state, along with the building bye-laws issued under each of these acts, set out the framework for obtaining building permits, completion certificates, and permission for the occupation of buildings. The respective bye-laws must also refer to accessibility standards required to be followed by such buildings.

Andhra Pradesh Building Rules

In the Model Building Bye Laws²⁹ - Andhra Pradesh Building Rules 2017, provisions are made to ensure that public and semi-public buildings are constructed to be disabled-friendly, accommodating the needs of differently-abled persons, the elderly, and children. These regulations align with the latest version of the National Building Code of India but not reflecting the existing series of Harmonised Guidelines and mandate compliance with specified rules under the supervision of qualified professionals including architects, structural engineers, and site engineers. Additionally, all public and semi-public buildings are required to provide facilities for physically handicapped persons. Failure to adhere to these regulations may result in legal action, including demolition of violations, as stipulated in the undertaking executed in terms of the A.P. Building Rules.

Various factors contribute to the delay in implementing accessibility measures for public buildings, including insufficient budget, the repercussions of Covid-19, and governmental apathy. Despite the allocation of a reasonable number of public buildings for accessibility upgrades, the slow progress

highlights significant obstacles encountered in retrofitting existing structures. Challenges stem from spatial constraints and architects' limited understanding of accessibility standards when working on new constructions. This further underscores the importance of architects embracing a design thinking approach to architecture, focusing on accessibility and inclusion to overcome these challenges effectively.

Design Thinking

The three main approaches or methodologies³⁰ that prioritise expanding access and inclusion are universal design, accessibility, and inclusive design.

Universal design is a method of designing—based on seven universal design principles—that works to make environments, services, and products usable by the highest number of people. The goal is to remove barriers for all without the need for adaptations making it a one size fits for all approach. Inclusive design extends solutions to all users who have a broad spectrum of intersectional needs, perspectives, and behaviors, rather than solely creating accommodations for specific disabilities. It focuses on a more holistic group of solutions and processes, taking into account identities, culture, and diverse perspectives in a design process of research and co-design. Accessibility is focused on ensuring that there are no barriers to serving someone, by creating accommodations that solve technical, design, physical, or cognitive barriers to engaging with a product or service.

Common considerations:

- Universal Design and Inclusive Design: Considers the needs of other marginalized groups.
- Inclusive Design and Accessibility: Considers the needs of disabled users.
- Universal Design and Accessibility: Follows guidelines and standards.



Fig.2.3 Infographic of Universal Accessibility vs Universal Design vs Inclusive Design vs Accessibility

The concept of Universal Design in the built environment in India³¹ was an ancient practice that prevailed for ages when the joint family system was an integral part of Indian tradition. Houses were designed considering the needs of the elderly, children, women, and persons with disabilities. It can be said that the concept was not directly expressed but well embedded in Indian houses. However, with technological innovations and the influence of western models, the approach to building design changed in India.

Accessibility in Architecture

As demographics shift and global populations age, India's census projections suggest a rising trend in ageing, disabilities, health limitations, and the changing demands of societal transformations. The imperative for inclusive design practices like Universal Design or Inclusive Design becomes increasingly evident. Yet, the integration of these principles into architecture programs remains inadequate. While some recognition exists regarding the importance of incorporating universal design principles and accessibility considerations into architectural education, many programs lack comprehensive coverage of these topics. Modules or courses focused on accessibility are often

elective rather than mandatory, and the depth of coverage varies. There remains a significant need for further integration and emphasis on Universal Design and Accessibility considerations within architectural education. Progress has been made in acknowledging the significance of creating environments that cater to diverse needs, but there is room for improvement in incorporating practical applications, case studies, and a comprehensive exploration of accessibility standards. This evolution is essential to ensure that practicing, budding, and future architects are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills to create universally accessible spaces that address the varying requirements of diverse user groups. A clear solution lies in cultivating awareness, professional sensitivity, and integrating the concept of accessibility for everyone into all aspects of the nation's development, including both rural and urban infrastructures. Embracing an intersectional and universal approach to accessibility becomes paramount in our pursuit of equity and justice, encouraging architects, planners, and designers to consider a wide range of diverse needs and abilities, including children, parents, seniors, people with injuries or illnesses, and those with disabilities.

In these lines, the Council of Architecture (CoA) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**³² with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India aims to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between the two entities and for active participation of the architecture fraternity towards inclusive development of the society, ensuring the principle of <u>'Leave No One Behind'</u>.

Some of the critical areas of mutual development include the preparation of a comprehensive manual for universal accessibility, training architects across the country for sensitization on universal accessibility, empowering architects to act as auditors for universal accessibility, and training modules in the architecture curriculum.

The objectives include promoting accessibility and inclusivity in architectural education and practice, ensuring compliance with disability-related laws and regulations, fostering research and development in accessible design, and enhancing awareness and capacity building among architects and stakeholders. Additionally, the MoU seeks to establish mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices to advance the cause of universal accessibility in the built environment.

Location of Intervention Visakhapatnam — The City of Destiny



Fig.2.4 Aerial View of Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam also known as Vizag, situated in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, stands out as the largest and most populous city nestled between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal coast. Renowned for its scenic beaches, sprawling hill ranges, and captivating caves and valleys, the district boasts numerous tourist attractions that offer glimpses into India's rich culture and heritage³³. As the second-largest city on India's east coast with 135 kilometres of coastline, trailing only Chennai, Visakhapatnam has garnered recognition as an industrial and commercial powerhouse, epitomising the region's economic vitality. Selected as one of Andhra Pradesh's four smart cities under the Smart Cities Mission, Visakhapatnam exemplifies a steadfast dedication to progressive urban development and sustainable growth. Under the Accessible India Campaign, only buildings in Visakhapatnam³⁴ were identified for making them accessible, as the district of Visakhapatnam was selected for the access audit in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The current accessibility status of Visakhapatnam district under Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is as under:

Buildings audited: 41

Cost estimates submitted by States/UTs: 40

Buildings funded: 38

Buildings made accessible: The State Government has reported that the work is still in

progress.16

On average, Vizag welcomes between 1.8 to 2.1 crore visitors annually, including a notable 50,000 to one lakh foreign visitors. This thriving city has earned a reputation as a prominent health tourism destination, offering not only top-notch medical treatments but also a blend of leisure activities, all within the same area. The Visakha Health City Belt, housing 45 percent of medical tourists, has emerged as a central hub for super-specialty hospitals. These visitors come for medical care and also relish the opportunity to explore a range of tourist destinations. Considering the surge in health tourism and the pivotal role of Visakhapatnam in this sector, the need to focus on the accessibility quotient of leisure and recreational spaces within the city becomes evident.

3 Field Visits

The exploration of the vital interplay of the universality of accessibility and the universal accessibility quotient in leisure, recreational, and cultural spaces involved conducting field visits at 2 beaches among the 12 beaches in India with a 'Blue Flag' certification³⁵ awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and recognizes beaches meeting 33 stringent criteria that encompass water quality, environmental education, environmental management, safety services, and accessibility, symbolising excellence.



Fig.3.1 Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach, Visakhapatnam Field Visit

Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India), chosen as the primary study location, and Golden Blue Flag Beach, Puri (Odisha, India), selected as the secondary site for comparative analysis. Thorough accessibility assessments were executed, aligning with the criteria of the Blue Flag Beaches, resulting in the creation of detailed reports that were extensively shared.

Notably, public authorities, demonstrating a positive stance, acknowledged the reports and offered detailed, point-by-point responses. Their commitment extended to actively working towards making these locations universally accessible. This collaborative effort is ongoing, with the shared objective of creating universally accessible and secure public spaces for everyone.



Location: Golden Blue Flag Beach, Puri, Odisha, India Fig.3.2 Golden Blue Flag Beach, Puri Field Visit

Timeline — Blue Flag Beaches

The research and evidence-based advocacy timeline for Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach spans from November 2021 to June 2023, depicting a comprehensive and dedicated effort to assess and improve accessibility in leisure and recreational spaces. The journey began with the selection of Rushikonda Beach as the location of intervention in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Preliminary visits in November 2021 laid the groundwork, followed by thorough documentation and secondary studies in December 2021 and January 2022. The main field visit took place on 6th February 2022, initiating the documentation process of findings. Subsequent field visits in March, April, and May 2022 further enriched the understanding, leading to the initiation of an RTI in April 2022. The information received was compiled into an Accessibility Factsheet in May 2022. Multiple field visits and peer reviews followed, culminating in the publication of the Rushikonda Field Report on July 6th, 2022. August witnessed local engagement and responses from APTDC, setting the stage for continuous media campaigns and advocacy efforts. The timeline progresses with interactions, republishing, and proposals submitted to government officials. Throughout 2022, engagements with APTDC and field visits continued, showcasing a sustained commitment to the cause. The timeline extends into 2023 with additional field reports, interstate comparative studies, and participation in Blue Flag International webinars to advocate for universal accessibility. The

comprehensive timeline reflects an ongoing dedication to the advocacy of universal accessibility in leisure, recreational, and cultural spaces.

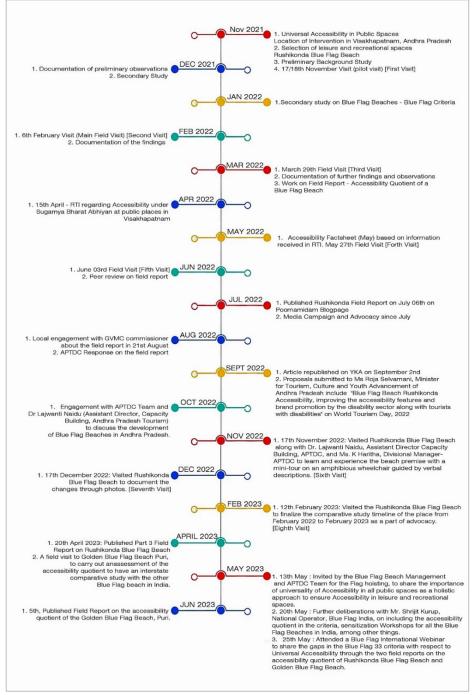


Fig.3.3 Blue Flag Beach Advocacy Timeline

The evidence-based research and advocacy unfolded across four simultaneous levels: Local (Beach Management Committee), State (Tourism Department), National (Blue Flag India), and International (Blue Flag International). This advocacy covered diverse aspects of implementation and policy formulation, including the revision of the Blue Flag Beaches Criterion.

4 Methodology and Limitations

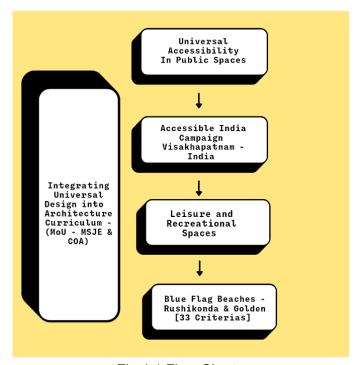


Fig.4.1 Flow Chart

A. Primary Research:

- 1. Quantitative Survey Inclusive Architecture (General, Architecture Students, and Architecture Faculty)
- 2. Qualitative Study Rushikonda and Golden Blue Flag Beach Field Visits and Reports

B. Secondary Research:

- 1. Study of laws, policies, guidelines, etc.
- 2. Blogging 4 Field Reports, 3 Factsheets
- 3. Evidence Collection RTIs, Budget, Reports, etc.

C. Advocacy

- 1. Social Media Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp groups, Facebook and LinkedIn
- 2. Cross-Disability Training and Sensitization Sessions
- 3. Engagement with Concerned Stakeholders
- 4. Representation and Policy Recommendations
- 5. Press Releases

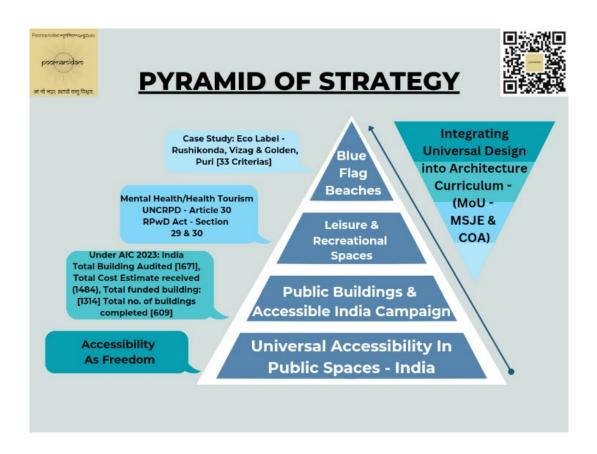


Fig.4.2 Pyramid of Strategy

Limitations

- 1. As the research is focused on the accessibility quotient of public spaces—leisure and recreational spaces, we have limited the study to the built environment vertical of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign).
- In approaching Universal Accessibility, the research focuses on the Blue Flag beaches, specifically the Rushikonda Blue Flag beach for the primary study and Golden Blue Flag beach for the comparative study. Additionally, the comparative study of the International Blue Flag sites was not included.
- 3. For the survey, a selected number of colleges were reached out to (about 15 colleges).

5 Objectives

- 1. To determine the status quo of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan (Accessible India Campaign).
- 2. To assess the accessibility quotient of Blue Flag Beaches.
- 3. To understand the impact of the built environment on mental health.

- 4. To comprehend the need for usable, user-centric, and universally accessible leisure and recreational spaces.
- 5. To advocate for the mandatory inclusion of universal design and accessibility in the architecture curriculum.

6 Survey Finding and Results

The objective of this survey was multifaceted, aiming to shed light on several crucial aspects related to accessibility and inclusivity in the built environment. First and foremost, the survey sought to raise awareness among both users and designers regarding the importance of accessibility in the built environment and its impact on various communities. Additionally, the survey aimed to gauge the level of understanding among participants regarding infrastructural accessibility, particularly in the context of initiatives like the Accessible India campaign and existing accessibility standards in India. Furthermore, the survey aimed to assess participants' awareness of the diverse accessibility needs of persons with disabilities, highlighting the importance of considering these needs in design and planning processes. Lastly, the survey sought to explore the current state of inclusive architecture curriculum, aiming to understand the existing situation and identify areas for improvement in educating future architects about accessibility and inclusivity principles.

Sample

A sample of 165 respondents across India was selected using purposive sampling. Around half of the responses were received from focus groups. Nearly 80% of people were aware of the barrier-free concept in some way. More than half of the people had or knew someone with a disability. 80% of the people thought that a barrier-free environment was essential for all kinds of disabilities. The survey also revealed that 65% of the people did not know about the Accessible India campaign. 63% knew about the retrofitting concept through day-to-day observation. 65% of the people had basic knowledge of accessibility guidelines provided by the government while 65% did not know about harmonised guidelines. 75% thought Universal Design ought to be included in the Architecture curriculum. 70% of the focus groups thought that Universal Design principles must be used while designing.

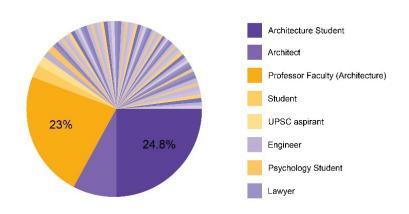
Research Tool

The research employed a self-constructed survey form. The survey was conducted at the national level to assess the understanding of the current scenario and awareness of accessibility, accessibility standards and government initiatives. The focus groups included people from architecture, civil and allied fields. Based on the responses received, the data was analysed for research purposes and suggestions for improvement in the existing system.

Analysis and Findings

Demographic features

Are you an Architecture student/Professor/Architect? (165 responses)



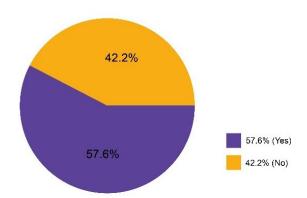
Participants' educational and professional background

More than half of the responses were received from focus groups, of which 55.7% (92 responses out of 165) of the participants belonged to the Architecture fraternity.

Most of them are practicing architects (38 respondents, 23%), followed by Architecture students (41 respondents, 24.8%), and Architecture professors and faculty (13 respondents, 7.9%). Participants from other disciplines such as public policy professionals, design professionals, planners, urban policy and governance professionals, engineers, lawyers, Indian Green Building Council and Energy Conservation Building Code practitioners, Ward Planning Secretary and Industrial Designer have also responded.

Disability-related findings

Do you have any family/friends/colleagues with disability? (165 responses)

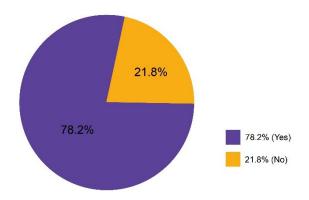


Participants connected to disability

Concerning the relation with the persons with disability, the majority of participants (97 respondents, 57.6%) reported having a family member, friend or colleague with a disability, whereas (70 respondents, 42.4%) did not.

Accessibility-related findings

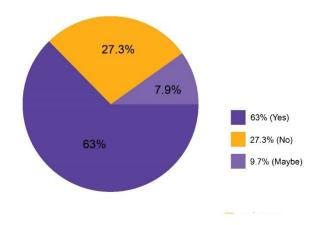
Are you aware of the concepts of Barrier-free Design and Universal Design? (165 responses)



Participants' awareness of barrier-free design/universal design

78.2% of the respondents (129) were aware of Barrier-free Design and Universal Design, while 21.8% (36) were not.

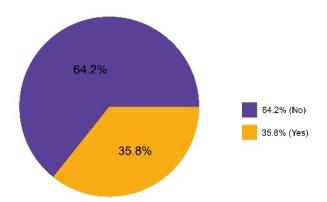
People with what type of disability require accessibility in their environment? (149 responses)



Understanding of accessibility requirements for disability

The majority of the respondents agreed that all persons with any form of disability require some form of accessibility in their built environment [All the above (116, 77.9%)]. However, some respondents thought this was only applicable to certain types of disabilities such as physical disability (13, 8.7%), visual impairment (6, 4%), locomotor disability and hearing impairment.

Are you aware of the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)? (165 responses)



Awareness of the Accessible India Campaign

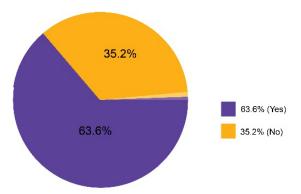
Awareness of the Accessible India Campaign was surprisingly and shockingly low. Despite being aware of accessibility needs, the majority of its practitioners were not aware of the campaign [No (106, 64.2%)].

Do you know what is retrofitting? (165 responses)

Awareness of retrofitting

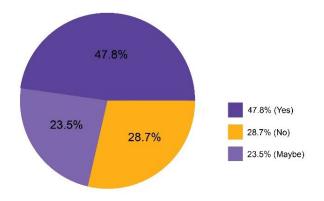
Regarding the concept of Retrofitting, the majority responded in the positive [Yes (104, 63%)] while a significant number responded in the negative [No (45, 27.3%)], and some were unsure about it [Maybe (16, 9.7%)].

Do you think retrofitting a building has the same scope of ensuring accessibility as an accessible design plan? (165 responses)



The understanding of the scope of accessible design vs retrofitting

The majority of the respondents seemed unaware of this conundrum [Maybe (65, 47.8%)] when we asked whether retrofitting a building had the same scope of ensuring accessibility as an accessible design plan, while a substantive minority were divided in their viewpoint regarding it [Yes (39, 28.7%) and No (32, 23.5%)].

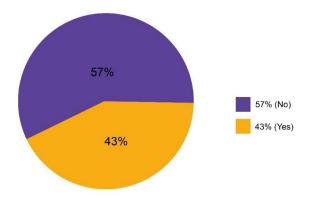


Are there any accessibility guidelines provided by the Government of India? (165 responses)

The awareness of Accessibility guidelines

The majority of the respondents were aware of the accessibility guidelines provided by the Government of India [Yes (105, 63.6%)] while a significant number of respondents were not [No (58, 35.2%)].

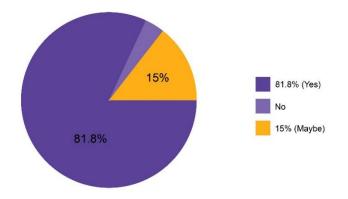
Are you aware of the "Harmonised Guidelines and Space for Barrier-Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People" provided by the Government? (165 responses)



The awareness of Harmonised Guidelines and Space for Barrier-Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People.

Regarding awareness of the Harmonised Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People, the difference between those aware and those not aware was relatively low [Yes (71, 43%) and No (94, 53%)].

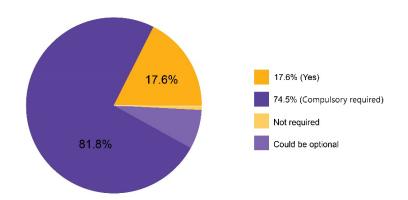
The Universal Design concept caters to all people regardless of age, gender and ability. Elderly people, young children, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and persons with temporary mobility limitations should be considered as users while designing. (165 responses)



The understanding of Universal Design

An overwhelming majority of the respondents [Yes (135, 81%)] favoured the idea that Universal Design caters to all people regardless of age, gender and ability, and elderly people, children, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and persons with a temporary mobility limitation should be considered while designing, with only a few disagreeing [No (6,3%)] and some not being sure about it [Maybe (24, 14.5%)].

According to you, how important is it to include the concept of accessible and universal design as a part of the Architecture course curriculum? (165 responses)



The importance of the inclusion of accessibility in the Architecture course curriculum

Over 90% of the respondents felt that it was important to include the concept of accessible and universal design as a part of the Architecture course curriculum [Compulsory (123, 74.5%) and Agreed (29, 17.6%)] while a few expressed doubts about it [Could be optional (12, 7.3%)].

On being asked where respondents placed themselves on a scale of 1 to 5 on inculcating universal design principles while designing, the responses were as follows: 1 (4 respondents, 2.4%), 2 (15 respondents, 9.1%), 3 (36 respondents, 22%), 4 (39 respondents, 23.8%), and 5 (70 respondents, 42.7%).

Ultimately, understanding that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mandates that all new public buildings built after the Act came into force (April 2017) must be made accessible, the respondents were asked about the structures that come under its purview. The respondents were of the view that it includes All the above (106 respondents, 64.6%), Government and Private buildings used for public purposes (18, 11%), and Government offices and buildings (11, 7.3%).

Nearly 80 % of people are aware of the barrier-free concept in some way. More than half of the people have or know someone with a disability. 80% of the people think that a barrier-free environment is essential for all kinds of disabilities. The survey also reveals that 65% of the people do not know about the Accessible India Campaign. 63% know the Retrofitting concept through day-

to-day observation. 65% of the people have basic knowledge of accessibility guidelines provided by the government, 65% do not know about harmonised guidelines, 75% think Universal Design must be a part of the Architecture curriculum and 70% of the focus groups think that Universal Design principles must be used while designing.

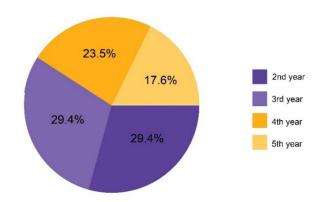
The major observations after analysing the responses received throughout this survey led to some undesired outcomes such as 65% of the focus groups being unaware of the initiatives and basic concepts of Accessible Design. Two-thirds of the responses of the focus groups showed interest in inculcating Universal Design. This extended the study to a second phase of the survey to target the Architecture academia that included faculty and students.

This second phase of the survey marks a significant stride towards gaining deeper insights into stakeholders' perspectives within the built environment, with a specific focus on accessibility in the realm of Architecture. Unlike previous macro-level studies, this survey dives into the finer details, aiming to uncover viewpoints and insights from the architecture fraternity concerning universal accessibility. The survey is thoughtfully divided into two sections, catering to both experienced Architecture academic personnel and aspiring architects/students. This approach aims to capture a comprehensive range of viewpoints and experiences related to accessibility in the field of Architecture. By doing so, we aim to illuminate the current state of accessibility awareness and practices within the Architecture community, ultimately fostering a better understanding of the path towards creating more inclusive built environments.

Second Phase – Analysis and Findings 2.1 Survey with Architecture Students

Academic Profile

Which year of B.Arch. programme are you currently in?



Year of B. Arch. Programme: Participants' academic year

Respondents include Architecture students from 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th years; 17.6% from 5th-year, 23.5% from 4th year, equal participation of 20.5% from 3rd and 2nd years and none from 1st year.

Reason for Choosing Architecture:

Students expressed interest in design, building, sketching and making spaces.

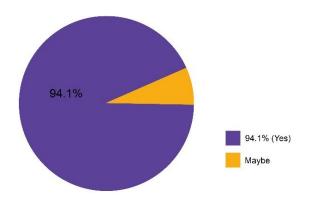
Some chose Architecture due to family background or a passion for environmental and human well-being.

Few students mentioned the desire to contribute to society and create better living spaces.

Conceptual understanding among the students: Knowledge of "Universal Design," "Barrier-Free Design," and "Accessibility"

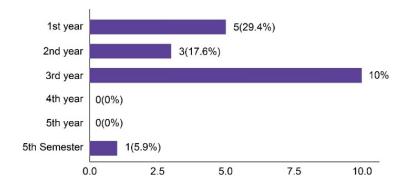
Knowledge of "Universal Design," "Barrier-Free Design," and "Accessibility"

Have you come across the terms "Universal Design" principles or "Barrier Free Design" or "Accessibility" in your curriculum? (Please mention any of these in the blank below)



Participants' awareness

Nearly 95% of students are familiar with the terms and 5% are unfamiliar.



29.4%, 17.6% and 58.8% participants were introduced to these concepts in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of their programme respectively.

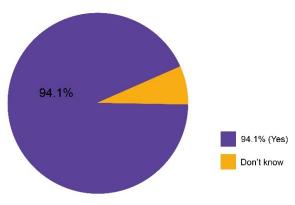
Understanding of "Barrier-Free Design" and "Universal Design":

"Barrier-free design" is seen as creating spaces without restrictions, allowing every individual to use them conveniently.

"Universal Design" is understood as designing spaces accessible and suitable for anyone, regardless of age or ability.

Perceptions:

Perception of Learning Universal Design for Professional Benefit Do you think Universal Design can benefit you in your professional career?

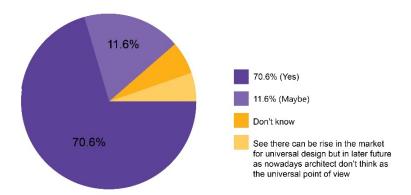


Participants perception

Nearly 95%, believe that learning Universal Design can benefit their professional careers while 5.9% of participants are unsure about the benefits.

They see it as a way to create better spaces and accommodate diverse users, including those with disabilities. The Market for Architects Specializing in Universal Design

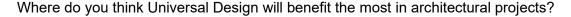
Do you think there is a market for Architect who can cater Universal design?

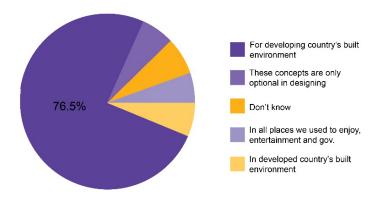


Participants' Perceptions of Commercial Value

70.6% of respondents agree that there is a market for architects who can cater to Universal Design principles, 17.6 % of participants are unsure about the market and 5% of the participants are not aware of the commercial value.

They acknowledge the importance of designing for built environments in developing countries. Areas where Universal Design Benefits Architectural Projects





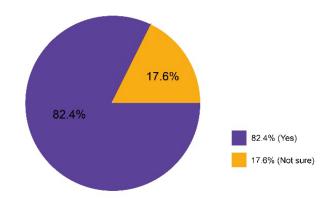
Participants' Perceptions of Benefits of Universal Design

Responses indicate that Universal Design is beneficial in various architectural projects, including public spaces, entertainment venues and government sectors.

The majority, 76.5% of participants expressed that Universal Design benefits a developing country's built environment, around 8% of participants expressed this will be beneficial in public places and recreational spaces, 5% of participants believe these concepts are only optional, 5% of participants are unsure, and 5% participants expressed this will be benefit a developed country's built environment.

Willingness to Understand Diverse Users and Their Requirements

Would you like to understand/learn about diverse users (clients) and their requirements in your work?



Participants' Willingness to Learn User's Requirements

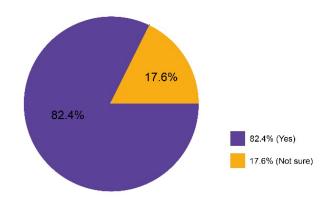
The majority of participants (82.4%) express interest in understanding diverse users and their needs, while 17.6 % of participants are unsure.

Design Features Supporting Barrier-Free Design:

No specific design features were shared in the responses.

Importance of Understanding Universal Design Concepts for Better Design:

Do you feel that there is a need to understand/learn these concepts in Architecture to Design better?



Participants understanding of the Importance of Design

94.1% of participants agree that understanding Universal Design concepts is essential for better architectural design, while 5.9% are unsure of the need.

Architect's Role in Society:

The architect's role is perceived as creating spaces that go beyond mere structures and contributing positively to society's well-being.

Overall, the responses demonstrate a significant awareness and interest in Universal Design principles among Architecture students. They recognise the importance of creating inclusive and accessible spaces that cater to the needs of all individuals. The majority believe that incorporating Universal Design principles can enhance their professional careers and contribute to the betterment of society's built environment.

2.2 Survey with Architecture Academic Personnel

Understanding of Accessibility:

Faculty members define Accessibility as the facility for individuals, including those with disabilities, to independently reach places without assistance. They emphasise that any person should be able to use buildings or landscapes with ease.

In response to the question about Accessibility in the context of Architecture, five architecture academic personnel provided their insights. The common approach emphasised that regardless of personal ability or disability, every individual should have easy access to a built structure or environment. They highlighted the importance of enabling anyone, regardless of their abilities, to use buildings or landscapes independently. The concept of Accessibility extends to facilitating independent access to places without assistance, ensuring that everyone, including persons with disabilities, and those with mobility issues, can use buildings and shelters with ease.

"Irrespective of the personal abilities or disabilities, anybody should be able to easily access a built structure or environment."

The responses from Architecture academic personnel regarding when they were introduced to Accessibility or became aware of it, vary. Some were introduced to it while designing access, while others became aware of it during their initial years of Architecture degree. One individual mentioned becoming aware of it during visits to the USA, where they observed the priority given to differently-abled people. In India, they recently became aware of it through regulations introduced in building bylaws, but they noted a lack of seriousness in implementing Accessibility measures. Another person mentioned becoming aware of Accessibility during their student life in Architecture. These experiences highlight the diverse paths through which Architecture academics encountered the concept of accessibility.

"I became aware of it during my visits to the USA. I got to observe the priority given to the differentlyabled people. In India, I became aware of it only recently through regulations introduced in building bylaws. But the seriousness wasn't present during my student life in Architecture."

Teaching and Integrating Universal Design Principles:

Not all faculty members have taught the concept or guided students in including Universal Design principles in their design assignments. A significant number of faculty who have taught it said Universal Design is often offered as an elective subject with varying credit scores. Faculty members stress the importance of integrating Universal Design in design studios and sensitising students to the needs of differently-abled individuals. They feel that it should be a fundamental requirement of design projects to come up with context-specific solutions.

Integration of Accessibility in Design Evaluations:

More than half of the faculty members review Accessibility in design evaluations, suggesting that it may not be consistently assessed in their curriculum.

Percentage of Content Teaching Universal Design:

According to the respondents, the percentage of overall content taught by the faculty related to Universal Design principles and barrier-free design varies across different ranges: 0-10%, 11-25%, and some even mentioned that the content touches 25-40%.

Projects with Universal Design Attributes:

Faculty members are aware of very few student projects that incorporate Universal Design attributes. This indicates a potential lack of emphasis on Accessibility in student designs.

Perceived Benefits of Universal Design:

Faculty members recognise Universal Design as a social issue that requires broader acceptance and recognition by society. Some faculty members see Universal Design as a formality unless

society genuinely embraces it. While some believe that Universal Design has potential benefits for design projects, others are unsure of its direct impact on students' careers.

Willingness to Teach/Learn About Universal Design:

Most of the faculty members expressed willingness to teach or learn about the importance of Universal Design and its benefits.

Designs/Design Features Supporting Accessibility:

Five architecture academic personnel provided insights into the inclusion of Accessibility features in their designs. The first respondent emphasised that it all depends on the context, listing designs like easy signage, integrated landscapes, and convenient entrances and exits. The second response highlighted specific features such as entry ramps, tactile pavings, curb drops, and handicapped toilets. Conversely, the third respondent expressed a lack of consideration for Universal Design in their projects, with the most provided being a begrudgingly-included ramp. The fourth respondent mentioned incorporating ramps, spacious room layouts for wheelchair turning and ample turning space in toilets.

Architecture academic personnel provided various responses regarding designs and design features that incorporate Accessibility. Some emphasised the significance of context, suggesting designs for handicapped individuals, easy signage, parking, entrances, integrated landscapes, easy exits and service entries. Specific accessible elements mentioned were entry ramps, tactile pavings, curb drops, and handicap toilets. However, one respondent expressed that in most projects, Universal Design is not adequately considered, with clients begrudgingly providing only the bare minimum, such as ramps and wheelchair turning spaces in rooms and toilets.

In response to our inquiry about designs incorporating Accessibility, the Architecture academic personnel provided diverse insights. One emphasised the significance of context, tailoring designs for handicapped individuals, easy signage, convenient parking and integrated landscapes. Another respondent highlighted essential features such as entry ramps, tactile pavings, curb drops and handicapped toilets. However, others expressed concerns, stating that in most projects, there is little consideration for Universal Design, with clients reluctantly providing only minimal accommodations such as ramps. Nonetheless, some projects do incorporate thoughtful elements like room space for wheelchair turning and spacious accessible toilets. These responses shed light on the varying levels of Accessibility integration in architectural designs.

"Honestly, no thought is given to Universal Design in any of the projects. The most that is provided is a ramp, that too, grudgingly by the client."

Faculty members shared design features such as ramps, tactile pavings, curb drops, handicap toilets and room space for wheelchair turning, that support accessibility.

Suggestions and Views on Universal Accessibility:

Responses from Architecture academic personnel showed a strong support for Universal Accessibility. One respondent highlighted that every design inherently incorporates universal accessibility, while another emphasised its importance, particularly in public domain architecture. A significant viewpoint mentioned is that social acceptability serves as the primary goal, and once achieved, the rest will naturally follow as Architecture reflects society's demands. The sensitivity of architects allows them to be agents of social change through their designs and actions. Furthermore, the emphasis is placed on making all accessibility elements independent of electrical dependency, including lifts, elevators and escalators, advocating for mechanical operation. Finally, there is a unanimous call for both public and private buildings to adopt Universal Design principles.

"As mentioned above, social acceptability is the first goal. The rest will follow. Architecture is only a reflection of society. What the society demands, Architecture provides. When there is a demand, the facility will naturally be provided."

Faculty members emphasised the importance of accessibility elements being independent of electrical dependency. They suggest integrating universal design in both public and private buildings.

Overall, the faculty responses highlight varying levels of awareness and integration of Universal Design principles in architectural education. While some faculty members acknowledged the importance of accessibility, others believed it needed greater emphasis in the curriculum and design projects. Many expressed a willingness to incorporate and promote Universal Design to create more inclusive spaces for all individuals, including those with disabilities.

Note: The second phase of the survey aimed to capture the perspectives of the architecture fraternity regarding universal design, accessibility, and inclusion. After distributing the Google form and inviting responses through social media platforms, emails, and personal messages, as well as sending multiple reminders, efforts were made to reach out to 15 colleges and professional bodies such as the Indian Institute of Architects Andhra Pradesh Chapter. Despite these efforts, only 17 students responded with their understanding, and 5 professors shared their experiences. It is noted that there was limited interest shown by the professors in participating in the survey.

7 Suggestions and Recommendations

- 1. Review, Revision, and Amendment to Blue Flag Beach Criteria.
- 2. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0 Campaign with the publicly available real-time tracker dashboard index with a larger target and greater budgetary provisions (like SDGs target tracker).
- 3. Initiation of the Universal Accessibility index for the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan's three verticals (built environment, transportation, ICT) national, state, and local levels, similar to the Swachh Bharat Mission, and annual recognition for best practices.
- 4. Make the Management Information System (MIS) portal for the Accessible India Campaign public to ensure transparency of data and accountability of public authorities.
- 5. Revamping Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan's Mobile App.
- 6. Democratisation of Accessibility Auditing and mandatory publication of Audit/Assessment Report over databases for public accountability and scrutiny.
- 7. Certification/Tags for Universal Accessibility for public buildings, ICT, transport, etc., just like green building tags.
- 8. Geographic Information System (GIS)-based disaggregated data of universally accessible and safe public spaces.
- 9. Establishment of a Centre for Excellence for Research and Development concerning Universal Design and Accessibility.
- 10. Strict implementation and mandatory inclusion of Universal Design and Accessibility in architecture curriculum in accordance with the MoU between DEPwD and CoA.
- 11. Manuals, handbooks, etc., following the mandate of the MoU between the Council of Architecture (CoA) and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE)
- 12. Publication of Quarterly International Journal on Universal Design and Accessibility by the Council of Architecture.
- 13. Harmonisation of architecture, environmental, and other legal and policy provisions to ensure universal accessibility both in letter and in spirit.
- 14. Provision for Accessibility Auditors within Council of Architecture regulations, similar to regulations for architects and other professionals, to ensure standardisation and professionalism.

- 15. Organising Ideathons and International Exhibitions by the Government on Universal Accessibility just like Art Gallery and Science Exhibitions.
- 16. Awards for Best Practices, Path-breaking work, and any other relevant contributions towards achieving Universal Design and Accessibility.
- 17. Decadal Review and Legislative Impact Assessment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and its related Policies and Guidelines.
- 18. Annual Review Meeting by the concerned departments on Disability Laws, Policies, and Guidelines at Local, State and National Level Committees.
- 19. Organise regular training and sensitization programs for industry players on the benefits and importance of universal accessibility to encourage adoption and implementation.
- 20. Actively involve diverse stakeholders, including women, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and others, throughout the entire process from user-needs discovery to assessment to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness.

The Baseline Report marks the beginning of the journey towards a world with universal access, creating a foundation for fellowship work. It is not a concluding document but rather a starting point for research, advocacy, and campaign endeavours — aligned with UUU trilogy - Usable, User-centric, and Universally Accessible.

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Page 41 — 33) Occupancy Certificate (i) The sanctioning authority shall ensure that all public and semipublic buildings are constructed disable friendly and provide facilities for Differently abled persons, Elderly and Children as per the Rules there under and also as per the latest version of National Building Code of India while issuing occupancy certificate.

Page 257 — 20. All Public and Semi Public buildings shall provide facilities to physically handicapped persons; 27. As per the undertaking executed in terms of A.P. Building Rules, (a) The construction shall be done by the owner, only in accordance with sanctioned Plan under the strict supervision of the Architect, Structural Engineer and site engineer failing which the violations are liable for demolition besides legal action.

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Field Reports:

Field Visit Report on Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach, Visakhapatnam, India

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A)

S.No.	State	Cities	No. of Buildings Audited for accessibility	No. of Cost Estimates Received	No. of Buildings funded	No of buildings completed (As reported by States/UTs)	
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	25	25	25		
2	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	41	40	38		
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	24	24	23		
4	Assam	Guawahati	25	24	24		
5	Bihar	Patna	28	26	21	21	
6	Chattisgarh	Raipur	58	52	47	20	
7	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	44	43	43	39	
8	Delhi	Delhi (NCT)	23	18	18	12	
9	Goa	Panaji	31	31	30		
		Ahmedabad	16	15	15		
10	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	27	24	24	24	
	Otijarat	Surat	6	6	6		
		Vadodra	3	3	1		
		Previous Adjustment					
11	Haryana	Faridabad	47	47	32	- 3	
		Gurgaon	42	42	32	,	
12	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	22	21	11		
		Srinagar	25	7	7	7	
13	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar/Jammu (New- 34 audited)		30	25		
14	Jharkhand	Ranchi	50	34	14		
15	Karnataka	Bengaluru	50	49	47		
16	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	51	28	28		
17	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	57	24			
7.44		Bhopal	50	50	42		
18	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	50	50	47		
	Maharashtra	Mumbai	53	46			
		Nagpur	51	48			
19		Nashik	26	25	142	135	
		Pune	50	40			
20	Manipur	Imphal	50	28	28		
21	Meghalaya	Shillong	24	24	24	17	
22	Mizoram	Aizawl	33	33	33	23	
23	Nagaland	Kohima	29	29	29	10	
24	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar	50	50	40	26	
25	Puducherry	Puducherry	30	29	29		
26	Punjab	Ludhiana	21	20	20	2	
27	Rajasthan	Jaipur	87	88	88	78	
28	Sikkim	Gangtok	36	35	35	30	
29		Chennai	25	25	17	3	
	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	24	16	13	12	
30	Telangana	Hyderabad	19	18	16	7	
31	Tripura	Agartala	14	14	14		
32	Uttrakhand	Dehradun	26	26	16	9	
24	- manualini	Agra	39	39	39		
		Jhansi	9	9	9	1	
		Kanpur	20	20	20	1	
33	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	22	22	21	87	
			12			1	
		Varanasi		12 12 39 36		+	
2.4	Wast Bassal	NOIDA Kolkata	39			21	
34 Total	West Bengal	Kolkata	37	36	33	609	
Total	Dades and Marris		1621	1484	1314	009	
1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Sillvassa	50				

Fig.9.1 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

B)

Se No	StateTT	Cities	E	Name of the Completed Buildings
Sr No	State/UT Andaman and Nicobar Isla	Cities Port Blair	5.no	Name of the Completed Buildings Secretariat
2	Andaman and Nicobar Isla	Port Biair	2	Directrate of Social Welfare
3	1		3	High Court Building
4	1		4	District and Session Court
5	1		5	Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
6	1		6	Office of the Director General of Police
7	1		7	Office of the Chief Engineer, Andaman Public work Department
8			8	Office of the Chief Engineer, Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour wor
9			9	Port Management Board Building
10			10	Office of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman
11			11	Office of the Supiterintending Engineer, Electricity Department
12			12	Directorate of Education Building
13			13	Directorate of Health Service Building
14			14	Directorate of Agriculture Building
15			15	Directorate of Aniamal Husbanddry and Veteinary Services Buildi
16			16	Directorate of Fisheries Building
17			17	Directorate of Transport Building
18			18	Office fitge Labour Commissioner and DET Building
19			19	Directorate of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Building
20			20	Tribal Welfare Building
21			21	Directorate of Industries Building
22			22	Directorate of Information and Publicity Building (Balika Bhawan
23			23	Directorate of Touism Building
24	Bihar	Patna	1	Government Women's Polytechnic, Patna.
25			2	Government Polytechnic, Patna.
26			3	New Govt. Polytechnic, Patna, Bihar.
27			4	Patna Science College, Patna.
28			5	Vanijaya Mahavidyalay, Patna.
30	ł		7	College of Commerce. P. V. Duroillo, College, Lohia Magne.
31	1		8	R. K. Dwanka College, Lohia Nagar. Shri Arvind Mahila College, Patna.
32	1		9	J.D. Women's College.
33	1		10	Magadh Mahila College, Patna.
34	1		11	B.D. College.
35	1		12	Deaf & Dumb School, Gayghat, Patna.
36	1		13	Rajkiya Netrahin Hight School, Kadam Kuan, Patna.
37	1		14	Chanakya National Law University, Patna.
38	i I		15	Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna.
39	1 1		16	Patna Women's College, Patna.
40	1 1		17	Girl's Hight School Gardanibagh.
41	1		18	Patna Hight School (+2), Gardanibagh
42	1		19	M.H.S. College, Rajapur, Mainpura.
43	1		20	B.N. Collegiate School, Dariapur.
44	1		21	Bihar Veterinary College, Patna.
45	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1	Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Sector-43
46			2	District Court, Sector-43
47			3	Consumer Forum Building, Sector -19, Chandigarh
48			4	Police Station Sector-19
49			- 5	Police Station Sector-26
50			6	Police Station Sector-3
51			7	Police Station Sector-17
52			8	Police Station Sector-11
53			9	Police Station Sector-24
54			10	Police Station Sector-36
55			11	Police Station Sector-34
56			12	Police Station Sector-31
57			13	Police Station Sector-39
58			14	Police Station Industrial Phase 1
59			15	Police Station Mani Majra
60			16	Sampark Centre Sector-21
61			17	Sampark Centre Sector-17
62			18	Sampark Centre Sector-20
63			19	Sampark Centre Sector-23
64			20	Sampark Centre Sector-7
65			21	Sampark Centre Sector-10
	1		22	Sampark Centre Sector-43
66] !			
67			23	Sampark Centre Sector-35 Sampark Centre Sector-26

Fig.9.2 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

69	T I		25	Sampark Centre Sector-18
70			26	Sampark Centre Khuda Jassu
71			27	Aasha Kiran Building Sector-46. Chandigath
72			28	Beant Singh Memorial, Sector-42. Chandigarh
73			29	Central State Library, Sector-17, Chandigath
74			30	Additional Town Hall Building , Sector -17, Chandigarh
75			31	Estate Office, Sactor-17, Chandigath
76			32	Multi Specialty Hospital, Sector-16, Emargency Block , Chandiga
77			33	Multi Specialty Hospital, OPD Building ,Sector-16,Chandigarh
78			34	Multi Specialty Hospital, ward Buildings, Sector-16, Chandigarh
79			35	Gvt. Hospital, Sector-45, Chandigath
80			36	Ayurvedic Homepathic Dispensary, Chandigarh
81			37	Civil Hospital, Sector-22, Chandigarh
82			38	Rock Garden Arbitration Centre, Sector - 17
	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	1	Mayaram Surjan School, Chobay Klom.
85	mannsgara	Kaipur	2	Pt. Ravi Sankar Universty Amanak.
86			3	Chattisgarh College, Baran Bazar.
87			4	Krish Universty, Zora (Indira Gandhi Agriculture University)
88			5	Collectorate Bhawan
89			6	Zilla Panchayat Bhawan,Gadi Chok
90			7	Police Adichak Karalay, Gadi Chok (Superitendent of Police)
				Karalay Sabagnay Sanukt Sanchalak (Kosh, Layk and Panchin).
91			8	Gadi Chok.
92			9	Hindu Hight School Barana Bazar
93			10	Chattigard Alap sankyak Aayoge D.K. Purana Bhawan (Minority
77			10	Comm.)
94			11	Ram Dyal Tiwari School Aamapara
95			12	Nivedita Kanya School Ramsagar Para
96			13	Govt. Degree Girls College Kalliewari
97			14	Govt. Girls College Devendra Nagar
98			15	District Panchyst Office Building
99 100			16	Nagar Paleka Zon-7, Jai Stamb Chok. (Nagar Nigam)
100			17	Naveen Saraswati Kanya Higher Secondary School Purine Basti District Court Building, Gride Chok
102			18	Saskiya Vedaly , Nalgar Chok (J,N, Pandey Higher Secondary
103	-		20	School) B.P. Pujari School, Rajtalab.
103			20	Jansaprak Vibag Motiyabag.
105	Delhi	Delhi	1	Office of the Divisional Commissioner
106	Demi	Demi	2	Directore of Health Service, F-17, Karkardooma
107			3	Aruna Asaf Ali Govt. Hospital
108			4	Govind Ballabh Pant Hospital (G b p h) Jawahar Lal Nahru Ma
109			5	Guru Nanak Eye Center, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg
110			6	Maulana Azad Medical College, J.L.N. Mar
111			7	Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (G.T.B.H.) Shahdara
112			8	Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital, Kokiwala Bagh, Ashok Vihar, Phi
112				IV
113			9	Lal Bhadur Shastri Hospital (L.B.S.) ,Khichri Pur
114			10	Dr. N.C. Joshi Hospital, Karol Bagh
115			11	Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Tahirpur
116			12	Sanjay Ghandh Memorial Hospital, Mangol Puri
117	Gujarat	Surat	1	Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Athvalines.
118			2	J.D.A. Office Building, Athyalines.
119			3	Informatio Office, Chok Bazaar.
120			4	ITI College Campus, Majura Gate.
121			5	Diet Building, Bhestan. Primary School No. 1 Sector 20
123			7	Primary School No. 2 Sector 20
124			8	Children's University Sector 20
125			9	Ghandhi School, Sector 21
126			10	Primary School, Sector 21
127			11	Library Sector 21
128			12	Primary School, Sector 31
129			13	Adarsh Nivashi School
130			14	Sardabhawan Block no 1 to 7
			15	Sardarbhawan Block no 8 to 14
131		Gandhinagar		Nirman Bhawan Sector 10
131	l l	0.00	16	THE HARD DISSON TO
			17	Birsa Munda Bhavan, Sector 10

Fig.9.3 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

135	5	T	19	M.S. Building, Sector 11
136			20	Court Building, Sector 11
137	7		21	Vishram Gruh, Sector 21
138	3		22	Old Sachivalay (Dr. Jivraj Maheta Bhawan) Block No. 1 to 20
139				Sector 10/B
140			23	Staff Training college, Sector 17 Vigilance Office, Sector 10
141		+	1	Electricity Department Office, Kadipur, Gumgram
142		Gargaon	2	Government School, Near Civil Hospital, Gurugram
143		- Cargoon	3	Civil Hospital, Sector 10, Gurugram
144	J&K	Srinagar	1	
144				Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu (Amar Niwas) (Srinaga
145			2	Deputy Commissioner (All) 22 districts (Amar Niwas) (Srinagar)
146	_		3	Director CAPD Kashmir/CAPD Jammu (Srinagar)
147			5	Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir/Jammu (Srinagar) Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir/Jammu (Srinagar)
149			6	Public Service Commission Sgr/Jammu (Srinagar)
150		Mumbai	7	Madre Meharban Social Welfare Miskeen Bagh (Srinagar)
151			1	Bandhkam Bhavan
152			2	Bazar Gate Police Station
153	3		3	Karwar Street Police Statisson
154	1		4	Yellow Gate Police Station
155	5		- 5	Annex Building I, at Police Commissioner Office Compound
156			6	Annex Building II, Police Commissioner office Compound
157	_		7	Police Commissioner Bhrimmmhai Main Building
158			8	Town Hall, Shahid Bhagatsingh Road
159			9	Civil Defence, Dhobli tatao
160			10	Old Custom House, Shahid Bhagatsingh Road. College Act, Hazarimal Somani Marg
162			12	Compound, Esna Hutment, Mahapalika Marg
163			13	CPM Cout Main, Mahapalika Marg
164			14	Small Causes Court (Old), Dhobhi Talao
165			15	Small Causes Court (Old), Dhobhi Talao
166	5		16	New Printing Press, Netaji Subhash Road, Charni Road
167	7		17	Old Printing Press, Netaji Subhash Road, Chami Road
168	8		18	Taraporwal Aquarium, Netaji Sushash Road, Chami Road
169			19	P.M Court Girgaum, Sardar Vallabhai Patel Road
170			20	Regional Transport Office at Worls, Sir Pockhanwala Road
171			21	Poddar College, Annie Bezant Road, Worli
172	-		22	Poddar Hospital, Annie Bazant Road Worli Charrity Commissioner Compound at Worli. Annine Bezant Roa
173	3		23	Worh
171				I.T.I. for Girls at Technical High School compound Prabhadevi
174	·		24	Daddar
175			25	Main Building at Sir J.J. School of Art Compound, Mumbai, D.N.
				Road
176			26	Kama Hospital Main Bldg. Mahapalika Marg
177			27	Kama Hospital Main Bldg. Mahapalika Marg Kama Hospital Main Bldg. Mahapalika Marg
179			29	Gokuldas Teipal Hospital, Lokmanaya tilak Marg
180			30	Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital, Lokmanaya tilak Marg
181			31	Gokuldas Teipal Hospital, Lokmanaya tilak Marg
182	2		32	Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital, Lokmanaya tilak Marg
183	3		33	Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital, Lokmanaya tilak Marg
184	4		34	Old Boys Student Hostel at J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla
185			35	Pathology Building at J.J. Hospital Compound Byculla
186	_		36	Psychology Lab & School at J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla
187			37	J.J. Hospital Main Building, Byculla, Mumbai
188			38	Ellappa Balaram Bldg at J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla Sir David Sasoon Building at J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla
190			40	C.J. Opthalmic Hospital Hldg at J.J. Hospital Comound.
191			41	Sir J.D. Govt. Eye Bank at J.J. Hospital Comound
192			42	Sharda Building at J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla
193			43	E.S.I.S. Hospital Compound Worli Main Bldg, Ganpat Jadhav M.
194	+		44	O.P.D. Building, J.J. Hospital, Mumbai
195			45	Parking and Surrounding Area, J.J. Hospital Building
196			46	Post Graduate Lab Building, J.J. Hospital Building
197		Pune	47	Vbagiya Aniket Karyalay, Pune.
198			48	Central Building, Pone.
199	_		49	Samaj Kalayan Anktaly , Pune.
200) [1	50	Apng Klyan Auktaly, Pune.
201		1	51	Police Auktaly, Pune Tacha Police Tany (Sobtcya Yadi Nusar)

Fig.9.4 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

E)

			103 p. 1 p.
202	1	52	Gila Ruganaly, Pune
203		53	Gala Schmyaly.
204		54	Mhela Baal Vikas Aauktaly.Pune Saskiy Vishramgra Pune.
206		56	Naven Saskiy Vishramgra, Pune.
207		57	Kosagar karaly, Pune.
208		58	Baal Sudargra Pune
209		59	Raj Bhavan Pune
210		60	B.J.Madical Colleg.Pune.
211		61	Yaravda Madvarti Karagra
212		62	Sivaginagr Police Mukalay.
213		63	Docter Baba Sahab Ambadkr Sansodn and Prishken Parbodne
214		64	Mahrast raj Sakchi Prisad, kumtakar rasta 2 Emarat.
215	3	65	HE.VE. Asya.P. Vishramgra (VVIP Circuit House)
216	1	66	Krishi Bhavan Sivajinagar
217		67	Mulacay Anurakshan Gra Yayrvada.
218		68	Uro Ruganla, Aod. (Chest Hospital)
219		69	Mahrast raj Patypustak Nirmit and Abashkra Sansodan Mandl Pune Balbharti.
220		70	Maharast Raj Presikca Mandal.
221		71	Uapankt Vasay Sikchan.
222		72	Sakr Sankul
223		73	Uapsancalk Savay Gan karalay, Yavrada.
224		74	Sant Gnabai Muh Cha Vastigra.
225		75	Mahrast Raj Sati Mhamandal Sanapti Bapat Road, Pune.
226		76	Andogit Karalay Yarvad.
227		77	Bhacari Gra, Yarvad.
228		78	Aaukt,Pashusavrdan.
229	1	79	Aadivashi Vastigra Coryagav Park
230	,	80	RTO, Pune
231		81	BARTI, Pone
232	Nagpur	82	Zilaadhikari Karyalya, Akashvani Chownk, Nagpur
233	1	83 84	Zila Parishad, Nagpur
235		85	Ma. Uchh Nyayalya, Kandpeeth, Nagpur Pradeshik Parivahan Adhikari Karyalya, Nagpur (RTO)
236		86	Tahsil Karlya, Nagpur
237	9	87	Police Ayuki Karyalya, Nagpur
238	3	88	Ravibhawan, Nagpur
239		89	Madhyatvarti Sanghralya, Nagpur
240		90	Shaskiya Madhyawati Karyalya. Nagpur (Central jail)
241		91	Upsanchalak Public Health Karyalaya, Nagpur
242		92	Shaskiya Udyogic Prikshan Sanstha, Nagpur
243		93	Shaskiya Sant Chokha Mela Mula che Vastigrah, Nagpur
244		94	Magasvagiye Mula che shaskiya bastigrah Raj Nagar, Nagpur
245		95	Priyadar shini Muli che bastigrah Civil Line, Nagpur
246		96	Shaharbassthanak Morbhawan, Nagour
247		97	Deshpandey Sabha grah, Nagpur
3300	3		Adhishthata rev Indira Gandhi Vadkiya mahavidyalaya av
248		98	Ruganalya, Nagpur
249		99	Adhisthata Shaskiya Medical college av Rugnalya, Nagpur
250		100	Vidhyan Bhawan, Nagpur
251		101	Sadar Prabhag Karyalya Mahanagarpalika, Nagpur (Mangalwari
	8		zone 10)
252		102	Nagpur Vidyapeeth mukhya imarat Nagpur
253		103	Shaskiya chitrakala mahavidyalya, Nagpur
254		104	Ann Dhany vitran adhikari karyalya, Civil Lines, Nagpur
255		105	Nagpur Mahanagarpalika Zonal karyalya, Satranjipura, Nagpur
256		106	Dak vibhagiya karyalya, Shakarnagar, Nagpur
	1		
257		107	Vaidhyamk nyay sahayak pryog shala, Rahate colony, Nagpur
258		108	Maharashtra State Road Transport Corpn, Nagpur
259		109	Maharashtra Naveen Pradhikaran, Nagpur
		110	Main Building, Institute of Science, Nagpur
260			
260 261	Nashik	111	Zila Parishad, Nasik
260 261 262	Nashik	112	Zila Rognalya, Nasik
260 261 262 263	Nashik	112 113	Zıla Rııgınalya, Nasik Sarvjanik bandlıkam vibhag, Nasik
260 261 262 263 264	Nashik	112 113 114	Zıla Rıgınalya, Nasik Sarvjanik bandlıkam vibhag, Nasik Vibhagiya ayıkt karyalya, Nasik
260 261 262 263 264 265	Nashik	112 113 114 115	Zıla Rıgınalya, Nasik Sarvjanik bandlıkam vibhag, Nasik Vibhagiya ayukt karyalya, Nasik Samajit Nyay Bhawan, Nasik
260 261 262 263 264 265 266	Nashik	112 113 114 115 116	Zula Rugnalya, Nasik Sarvjanik bandhkam vibhag, Nasik Vibhagiya ayukt karyalya, Nasik Samajit Nyay Bhawan, Nasik Shaskiya Mulanche Vastigrah Nasdi pul, Nasik
260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267	Nashik	112 113 114 115 116 117	Zula Rugnalya, Nasik Sarvjanik bandhkam vibhag, Nasik Vibhagiya ayukt karyalya, Nasik Samajit Nyay Bhawan, Nasik Shaskiya Mulanche Vastigrah Nasdi pul, Nasik Shaskiya nirikshan grah, Nasik
260 261 262 263 264 265 266	Nashik	112 113 114 115 116	Zula Rugnalya, Nasik Sarvjanik bandhkam vibhag, Nasik Vibhagiya ayukt karyalya, Nasik Samajit Nyay Bhawan, Nasik Shaskiya Mulanche Vastigrah Nasdi pul, Nasik

Fig.9.5 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

F)

270	1	I	120	Shaskiya Udyogik Parshikshan Sanstha, Nasik
271	1		120	Tahsil karyalya, Nasik
272	1		122	Nasikroad Police Station, Nasik
273	1		123	Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra mukt vidyapeeth, Nasik
274	1		124	Sanarbhia Rugnalya shalimar chownk, Nasik
275	1		125	Mahamar g Basthanak, Nasik
276	1		126	Thakkar Basthanak. Nasik
277	1		127	Zila Krida Sankul, Nasik
278	1		128	Shaskiya vishram grah, Nasik
279	1		129	Adivasi mulanche vastigrah, Nasik
280	1		130	Muliche Bal Sudhar grah, Nasik
281			131	Zila Niyajan adhikari karyalya, Nasik
282			132	Duyyam Nibandhak karyalya, Nasik
283]		133	Phadke Smarak, Nasik
284			134	R.T.O., karyalya, Nasik
285			135	BITCO Hospital Nasik.
286	Meghalaya	Shillong	1	The high Court of Meghalaya Building, Shillong.
287		*****	2	Main Secretariat Building, Shillong
288			3	Meghalaya Yojana Bhawan
289			4	Govt. Boy's Higher Secndary School, Shillong
290			5	Additional Secretariat Builduing , Shillong
291	1		6	Pine Mount School, Shillong
292	1		7	D.I.E.T. Sohra
293	1		8	Circuit House, Mawkyrwat
294	1		9	D.C. Office Nongstoin
295	1		10	Circuit House, Nongstoin
296	-		11	District Social Welfare office, West Khasi
297	4		12	S.D.O.(C) Office, Marrang.
298			13	Administrative Building of basic Training Centre at Rongkho
200	-			(Basic Training Center, Tura)
299 300	4		14	Workshop Build no. 11, of IT.I AT Tura.
	-		15	Ganesh Das Hospital
301 302	-		16	Tura Civil Hospital
303	Mizoram	Aizawl	1	Jawoi Civil Hospital Chief Minister's Secretairat
304	Mizoram	Alzawi	2	Director of Art and Culture
305	1		3	Director of Land Revenue and Settlement
306	1		4	District Land Revenue & Settlement
307	1		5	Commissionerate of Excise and Narcotics
308	1		6	Office of Superitendent of Police
309	1		7	Directorate of Taxation
310	1		8	Aizawl Police Station
311			9	Panchhunga University College - Administrative Building
312	1		10	Panchhunga University College - Boys Hostel
313	1		11	Panchhunga University College - Girls Hostel (3 blocks)
314	1		12	Office of the Medical Superitendent, Aizawl Civil Hspital
315	1		13	Science Centre , Berawflang
316	1		14	Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Power & Elec. Dept
317	1		15	Directorate of Higher & Technical Education
318	1		16	Directorate of Transport Department
319	1		17	Tourist Lodge, Chaltlang
320	1		18	Hawla Indoor Stadium
321	1		19	Govt. Higher Secondary School, Aizawl (4 Blocks)
322]		20	Institute of Advanced Studies in Education
323			21	Civil Hospital, Aizawl - Main Building
324			22	Civil Hospital, Aizawl - OPD Building
325	Nagaland	Kohima	1	Deputy Commissioner's Office
326			2	Commissions Building (Under Constuction)
327]		3	Accountant General. Nagaland
328			4	New Super Market
329]		5	Kohima Local Ground
330]		6	Head Post Office
			7	Kohima Science College
331]		8	Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering
332			9	Directrate of Higher and Technical Education
332 333			10	Civil Hospital (Naga Hospital)
332 333 334			1	Odisha Secretariat
332 333 334 335	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar		Rajeev Bhawan
332 333 334 335 336	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar	2	
332 333 334 335	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar	3	Nirman Soudha
332 333 334 335 336 337	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar	3	Nirman Soudha BDA Building (Bhuwaneshwar Development Authority, Aka
332 333 334 335 336 337 338	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar	3	Nirman Soudha BDA Building (Bhuwaneshwar Development Authority, Aka Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg)
332 333 334 335 336 337	Odisha	Bhuwaneshwar	3	Nirman Soudha BDA Building (Bhuwaneshwar Development Authority, Aka

 ${\it Fig. 9.6 \ Status \ of \ Accessible \ India \ Campaign -- \ India \ Factsheet}$

C	341	1	1	-	Information and PR Building
G)				7	-
	342			8	State Museum Building
	343			9	Rabindra Mandap
	344			10	Jayadev Bhawan
	345			11	BMC - Office Building
	346			12	Bhubaneshwar Municipal Hospital
	347			13	Red Cross Building and Conference Hall
	348			14	Rama Devi University
	349			15	Rajdhani College
	350			16	Maharshi College
	351			17	State Guest House
	352			18	Heads of Department Building
	353			19	Odhish Legislative Assembly Building (OLA Building)
	354			20	State Library (HKM Library)
	355			21	Commissionrate of Police, BBSR
	356			22	State Social Welfare Board
	357	1		23	Chief Minister Grievance Cell
	358	1		24	BJB Autonomus College
	359	1		25	Capital Hospital
	360	1		26	Indira Gandhi Park, (Biju Pattnaik Park)
	361	Punjab	Ludhiana	1	Working Women Hosel P.A.U. Ludhiana
		,	Lumana		
	362			2	Govt Institute for Blind, Jamalpur Chandgath, Ludhiana Road
	363	Rajasthan		1	Karyalya Nagar Nigam Jaipur, Lal Kothi Jaipur
	364			2	Vit Bhawan, Ambedkar Circle, Jaipur (Vitta Bhawan)
	365			3	Kar Bhawan, Ambedkar Circle, Jaipur
	366	1		4	Krishi Pant Bhawan, C-Skim, Jaipur
		1			Sachivalya, C-Skim Jaipur (Mukhya Bhawan - Main Building of
	367			5	Rajasthan Secretariate)
					Khadh avam Civil Aapurli Bhawan - Food and Supply Building, Raj
	368			6	Sectt., Jaipur
	369	1		7	Mantralaya Bhawan
	370			8	Grah Vibhag Bhawan
	371			9	
					Suchna avm Jan Sampark Vibhag
	372			10	Lokayut Bhawan
	373			11	Rajasthan Pariyahan Vibhag, Sahkar Marg, Jaipur
	374			12	Police Mukhyalya Bhawan, Lal Kothi, Jaipur
	375			13	Swaytath Shashan Bhawan, Civil Lines Fatak Ke Pass, Jaipur
	376			14	Mini Sachivalaya, Bani Park, Jaipur
	377			15	Session Court, Bani Park, Jaipur + District Court
	378			16	Mahila Adhikarita Vibhag, Jhalana, Jaipur
	379			17	Sahkaar Bhawan, 22 Godam, Jaipur (Nehru Sahkar Bhawan)
	380			18	Karyalaya Sinchai Vibhag, J.L.N. Marg, Jaipur (Water Resources
	200			10	Dept (Irrigation), JLN Marg, Jaipur
	381			19	Police Thane, Nagar Nigam Paridhi (Ashok Nagar)
	382			20	Police thane, Vidhayakpuri
	383			21	Police thane, Azmer
	384			22	Police thane, Sodala
	385			23	Police thane, Shyam Nagar
	386	1		24	Police thane, Vaishali Nagar
	387	1		25	Police Thane - Mahesh Nagar.
	388	1		26	Police thane - Sanganeir
	389	1		27	Plice thane-Malviya Nagar
	390			28	Police thane-Vidhyadhar Nagar
	391			29	Plice thane-Manak Choc
	392			30	Police thane-Mansarovar
	393			31	Karyalaya Mahila Adhikarita Vibhag, Nehru Place, Jaipur
	393			32	Collector Bhawan, Bani Park Jaipur
	394			32	Jon Kryalaya Vidhijya Kar Vibhag, Jhalana, Jaipur (Commercial
	395			33	
					Taxation Department)
	***				Harishchandra Mathur Lok Prasasan Sansthan, J.L.N. Marg Parisar
	396			34	(Nehru Bhawan, Visranti, Officers Rest House) Jaipur -HCM- RIPA
					OTS, Jaipur
	397			35	Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sansthan, J.L.N. Marg, Jaipur
	398			36	Housing Board-Mukhya Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur
	399			37	Van Bhawan, Jhalana Sansthanik Chetre, Jaipur
	400			38	Rajya Pathya Pustak Mandal, Jhalana Jaipur
	401			39	Rajasthan University (Mukhya Mahavidhyalya)
	402			40	Rajasthan University - Maharani College
	403			41	Rajasthan University - Maharaja College
	404			42	Rajasthan University - Commerce College
	405			43	Rajasthan University - Hindi Vibhag
	406	1		44	Rajasthan University - Pustkalaya Bhawan
		4			

Fig.9.7 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

Fig. 9.8 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

I) Government Museum, 85 Pantheon Road, EGMORE, Chennai-473 3 600008 District Collector Office, 57, State Bank Road, Near State Post Coimbatore 474 4 Office, Gopalapuram, Coimbatore-641018 Coimbatore Backward & Minoritied Welfare Office .State Bank 475 Road, Collectorate, Gopalapuram, Coimbatore-641020 Coimbatore RTO Office, 5/658 Karamadai Road, Near RTO Maligai 6 store RS Puram (State Transport Corporation LTD) Government College of Technology, Thadagam Road, Combatore-477 7 641013 Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Office, Near Canara Bank, 478 8 Trichy Road, Coimbatore-641018 Agriculture Office, 350, Palaghot Main Road, Near CSI Chruch. 479 9 Madukkarai, Coimbatore-641105 Sub Register Office, 197 Periyanaicken Palayam, Near 480 10 Mahalakshmi Temple , Kasthurinaiken Palayam, Coimbatore-641041 Coimbratore Block Development Office, 99, Palakkad Road, Near 11 Village Office, Madukkarai, Combatore-641105 Commercial Tax Office, Commerciat Taxes Building, Dr 482 Balasundaram Road, Coimbatore Central, Coimbatore-641018 Cimbatore Employment Office, Kavundam Palayam, Near Petrol 483 Bunk, Mettupalayam Road-641043 Coimbatore Primary Health Centre, PDANUR Main Rad, Near Amman Nagar, Podanur-641023 485 Central Bus Station, Gandpuram, Combratore 486 Matsya Bhawna, Masab Tank, Shanti Nagar Telangana Hyderbad 487 Police Station, Neredmet, Near Tehsil Office 488 Divisional Forest office, Attapur VG 489 Forest Office Building, Uppal 490 Tehsi Office-Neredmet Road Pollution Control Board 491 6 Office of the Commissioner and Director of Muncipal 492 Administrative Building 493 Uttarakhand Secretariat Main Building Dehradun 494 Vishwakarma Building 495 Chief Secretary Building 496 Tehsil Bhawan 497 District Coun 498 Uttarakhand Information Commission 499 Treasury, Dehradun 500 Distict Jail Director Rajaji National Park 501 9 Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Karyalaya - Jilla Vidhalaya Nirikshak, Agra (DIOS - Inspector of Uttar Pradesh 502 Luchnow, Varanasi and Schools) 503 Noida 2 Karyalaya - Varist Police Aadhikshak, Agra 504 Karyalaya - Jilla Basic Shiksha Aadhikari, Aagra (DBEO) 3 505 Dr. Bhim Ambedkar I.A.P.G.S.Coaching Centre, Khandari, Aagra 506 Nagar Aayukat, Nagar nigam, Agra Mahaparbandhak Jila Udyog Kendra ,Aagra 507 Pardhanacharya Polytecnic College ,Agra 508 509 Jilla Seva Yojan karyalaya, Sai ka Takiya, Aagra 510 Adhishasahi Abhiyanta Loknirman Vibag , Agra 511 10 Agra Vikas Paradhikaran Jaipur House ,Agra 512 11 Adhishasahi Abhiyanta Garamin Abhiyantaran Vibag , Aagra Rajkiye Chamda Udyog , Nunihai, Agra 513 12 514 Collectorate, Agra 13 515 Uppar mukha Aadhikari Jila Panchayat Aagra (CODP) 14 516 15 Jilla Udhan Aadhikari, Aagra (DHO - District Horticulture Officer) Sanyukat Nideshak, Paryatan , Agra (Director General, Tourism) 517 16 Upnideshak Kish Mandi Simiti Sikandra , Aagra (DDAMC -518 Agriculture Marketing) 519 18 Mukha Abhiyanta Nagar Nigam Agra 520 19 Mukha Abhiyanta Utter Pardesh Power Coorporation , Agra Adhishasashi Abhmanta Nalkup Khand Aagra -- (EXECUTIVE 521 20 ENGINEER, TubeWEll Section) 522 21 Mukha Chiktsha Adhikari, Hhuwai ki Bagichi, Agra. Parbhari, homeopethic Chikatsakadhikari, Agra 523 Karyalaya Sanyukat Vikas Aayukat Jhansi Mandal, Jhansi 524 23 24 Sachai Vibhag, Jhansa 25 Zila Panchyat, Jhansi 526

Fig. 9.9 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet



Fig.9.10 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

K)

593	5 Madhusudan Mancha, Gariahat Road, Dhakuria, Kolkata-31
594	6 Lake Thana, 18, Gariahat Rod South, Dhakuria, Kolkata-68
595	7 Regional Institute of Printing Technology, Jadavpur University, Jadavpur Kolkata-32
596	8 Kalighat Police Station, Kalighat, Kolkata
597	9 Gariahat Fire Station, Gariahat, Kolkata
598	10 Lake Gardens R.O.B. Buildings, Lake Gardens, Kolkata
599	11 Technician Studio-1, Tollygunge, Kolkata
600	12 Radha Film Studio Complex, Tollygunge, Kolkata
601	13 Tollygunge Police Housing, Tollygunge, Kolkata
602	14 I.T.I. Tollyguange, Tollyguange, Kolkata
603	15 Lake-II, Food & Supply Office, Lake Gardens, Kolkata
604	16 Tollygunge Police Housing Estate, Tollygunge, Kolkata
605	17 Tollygaunge Wire Line
606	18 Administrative building of SDO Buildings at Salt Lake, Salt Lake, Kolkata
607	Animal Resource Development at I B Block, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata (Prani Sampad Bhawan)
608	20 Directorate of Social Welfare, Juvenile Court Buildings, Salt Lake Kolkata
609	21 P S C Building

Fig.9.11 Status of Accessible India Campaign — India Factsheet

11. Memorium of Understanding between Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) and Council of Architecture (CoA) https://coa.gov.in/images/image-001.pdf>

Press Releases

- 12. Press Release: Study Finds Accessibility Still Not Mainstreamed Among Practitioners, Govt Takes New Initiatives https://medium.com/@poornamidam/press-release-accessibility-still-not-mainstreamed-despite-seven-years-of-government-efforts-dafff08812df>
- 13. Press Release: Rushikonda Unlocking Andhra's Untapped Tourism Potential https://medium.com/@poornamidam/press-release-rushikonda-unlocking-andhras-untapped-tourism-potential-d9b8ba0c8b33>

About Kavya Poornima Balajepalli

Ar. Kavya Poornima Balajepalli is researching and advocating for Universal Accessibility in Public Spaces. She is a graduate architect from the University of Mumbai and registered as an Architect with the Council of Architecture. Currently, she is pursuing the NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellowship on Disability, focusing on data-driven and evidence-based research and advocacy for Universal Accessibility in Leisure and Recreational Spaces (Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach) and Mandatory Inclusion of Universal Design in Architecture Curriculum.

Kavya has presented her work at various local, national and international forums, including C20 India, Global Disability Summit Youth, IIT Roorkee, NILERD, NIUA, UN India, Jindal Global Business Schools and Symbiosis Law School, to highlight various issues about universal accessibility and related themes. She has campaigned for Invisible Disabilities and Sustainable Solutions Towards Inclusion.

She is empanelled as a Committee Member in the District Level Committee on Disability in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Kavya is the ideator, founder and curator of Poornamidam, an online initiative that explores various themes at the intersection of Architecture, Environment and Disability. She lives with Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH), a rare neurological condition that resulted in late blindness. She is also the founder and curator of IIH Warriors India, an online support group to bring together individuals with IIH.

She has co-authored an article on <u>Climate Resilient and Accessible Architecture</u> for the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and contributed to the UN India-NIUA's policy brief on <u>Gender and Disability Inclusion in Urban Development</u>. She has also published field reports on Blue Flag Beaches and factsheets on the Accessible India Campaign.

Connect with her to learn more about her initiatives — Poornamidam and IIH Warriors India



