



ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY CREATES A SASHAKT BHARAT



“

आज दिव्यन्जनों के लिए सुगम्यता और अवसर पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। हमारा प्रयास है कि देशका हर एक व्यक्ति सशक्त हो, एक समावेशी समाज का निर्माण हो, सम और मम के भाव से समाज में समरसता बढ़े और सब एक साथ मिलकर के आगे बढ़ें।

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Chapters

Introduction	4
1. Gaps in accessibility.....	5
2. Accessible India Campaign – Genesis	6
3. Sugamya Bharat - Creating a Sashakt Bharat.....	8
4. Coverage of the Accessible India Campaign - Key Features	9
5. Way Forward	12
6. Grounds Covered – Achievements under Accessible India Campaign...	13
7. Awareness Generation and Upscaling of the Campaign	20
8. Accessible India Campaign - Before and After	24
9. Testimonials	26
In News	28



INTRODUCTION

A truly inclusive society is one in which everyone can lead an independent, self-reliant and dignified life and contribute to the nation's overall development. However, Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) are not able to participate equally and independently in mainstream activities of the society.

Social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities exist in the form of inaccessible physical environments, lack of mobility and transportation, unavailability of assistive devices and technologies, non-adapted means of communication, gaps in service delivery, and discriminatory prejudice and stigma in society.

As per the Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India. Gender wise the disabled population comprises 56% (1.5 cr) men and 44% (1.18 cr) women. Many of them are excluded or cannot reach their full potential owing to inaccessible ecosystems, be that of the built-up environment, transportation sector or Information & Communication Technology ecosystems.

A need was therefore felt for removal of these barriers from the society for creating equality and offering persons with disabilities more independence, choice and control. This leads to the creation of universal access and harnessing an inclusive harmonious environment of growth for the nation as a whole.



GAPS IN ACCESSIBILITY

Prior to 2015, there was no focused attention given to issues related to accessibility. Despite the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) 2007 whereby India is committed to the development of barrier free environment for the betterment of persons with disabilities with accessibility as one of the key aspects demanding attention, neither was there a strong legislation in place for ensuring accessibility nor a dedicated campaign to help implement it on ground.

Need for Legislative Strengthening

The then Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act 1995, was a predominantly a welfare-oriented Act. Provisions related to accessibility were not comprehensive and could not be enforced as a right by persons with disabilities.

The Act of 1995 had provisions for limited accessibility features such as ramps, lifts with Braille and auditory signals and adaptable toilets in public buildings, hospitals, primary health centers and other medical care & rehabilitation institutions. Partial coverage of roads and transportation system was also envisaged. The Act neither provided for prescription of standards of accessibility nor any timeline for their compliance.

Need for a Focused Implementation Strategy

The scheme for the creation of Barrier Free environment under the umbrella Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) for which funds were being released since 1999 is a demand-based scheme. It is not one where the Central and State Governments had to necessarily take steps to enhance accessibility. No budget was allocated for overall accessibility in India across the built-up environment, the transportation sector or the Information & Communication Technology ecosystem for bringing in holistic accessibility for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Need for fixed timelines

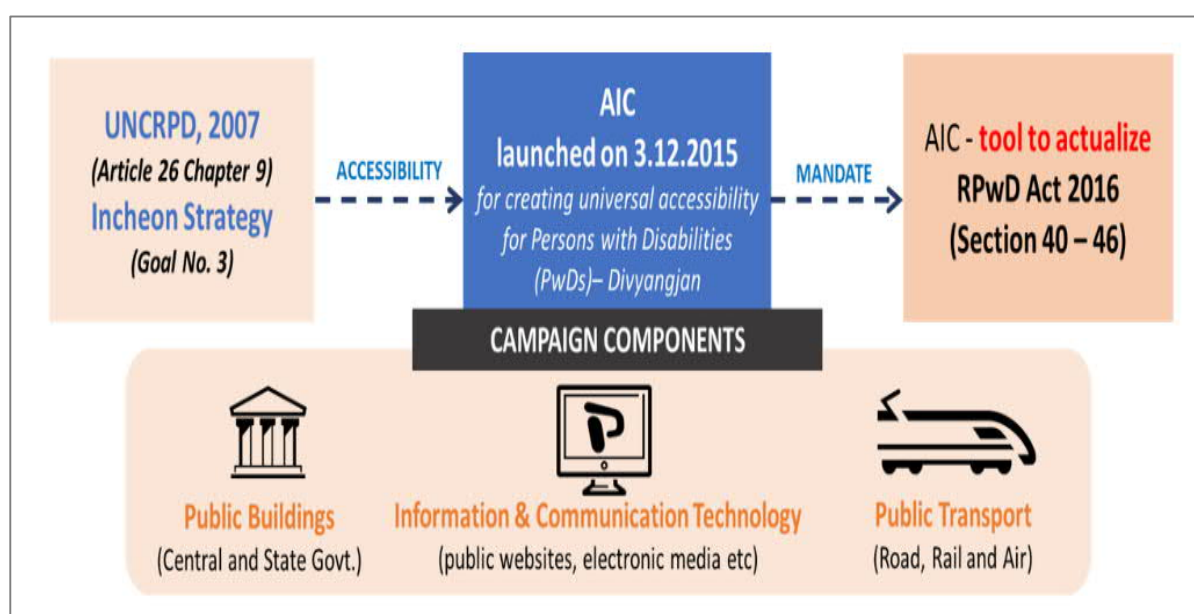
Previously there was no stress laid on bringing in timebound comprehensive accessibility across all sectors.

ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN - Genesis

Wanting to make a difference in the lives of Persons with Disabilities who were termed as '*Divyangjan*' by the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself, Accessible India Campaign was launched on World Disability Day on 3rd December 2015.

With the Government's resolve towards universal accessibility, the Accessible India Campaign was a call for a **mission-driven change**. The earnestness of the Government to work for accessibility related issues for the disability sector has been evident since 2014 for provisioning disabled friendliness across public places and facilities. From 2019, the Government has been working to take forward the vision of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan in order to ensure fully accessible public infrastructure, including airports, railways stations and public transport systems.

The Accessible India Campaign drew inspiration from UNCRPD 2007 which views disability not in relation to a medical condition and degree of impairment but as an interaction of impairment and barriers that hinder effective participation in society. Accordingly, the Campaign envisages providing features of accessibility in the 3 verticals of built-up environment, transportation sector and Information & Communication Technology ecosystem, for creation of an universal barrier free environment.



Recognizing that the relevant provisions in the then Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act 1995 did not provide full legislative cover to the Campaign, the government enacted a more assertive rights-based legislation. The Rights for Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, came into force from April 2017 and Rules were made thereunder in June 2017.

The Act provided legislative cover to the Accessible India Campaign for the disability sector, as it mandated accessibility under Sections 40 - 46. Teeth was provided to this Right to accessibility by making non-compliance of the Act punishable by fines and imprisonment. Hence, accessibility came to be a right for the Divyangjan unlike previously, when it was being seen merely as a welfare measure.

The Rights for Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016 enacted by this Government thus gave impetus to provisioning accessibility and the Accessible India Campaign serves as an instrument for actualizing the aims of accessibility embedded in the Act.



SUGAMYA BHARAT – Creating a Sashakt Bharat

The stimuli for the launch of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) nationwide was to give substance to the rights of Divyangjan. The intent of the then newly elected Government in 2014 was clear and the motto of '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*' spurred up the spirits of the country towards unified progress.

The vision of the Accessible India Campaign is 'Accessible India, Empowered India' – *Sugamya Bharat, Sashakt Bharat*. This provided further impetus towards empowerment of persons with disabilities to participate equally.

Regarding the launch of the Campaign in December 2015, the Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned that it would improve both physical and virtual infrastructure, to make it more 'Divyang-friendly', be it schools, hospitals, government offices, bus terminals, ramps at railway stations, banks, accessible parking, lifts, braille script and much more. He also mentioned that innovation, technology, system and sensitivity is required to make the infrastructure accessible.

The aim of the Campaign was to formalize the process of creating a barrier free environment and providing disabled-friendly access in public facilities and places. The main objective was to mainstream accessibility so as to make it inherent in our culture and ethos since accessibility is necessary for everyone. Accessibility is not to be narrowly understood to be meant only for persons with disabilities. Rather, it is helpful for everyone at different stages of one's life - be it, childhood, old age, pregnancy, times of illness, infirmity, surgery etc.



COVERAGE OF THE ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

– Key Features

Accessibility across the three (3) verticals:

Built Up Environment

Under this component, the objective was to initially enhance the proportion of accessible government buildings by provision of features such as steps, ramps, double height handrails, tactile paths in corridors, wide entry gates, reserved parking and toilets, to name a few.

Focus was given to try and make the public infrastructure with maximum footfall accessible, like schools, hospitals, police stations, courts, tourist places etc.



TARGETS FOR BUILT UP ENVIRONMENT

Target 1.1: Conducting accessibility audit of 25-50 most important government buildings and converting them into fully accessible buildings in the selected 50 cities.

*Target 1.2 :*Converting 50% of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the State capitals into fully accessible buildings.

Target 1.3: Conducting audit of 50% of government buildings and converting them into fully accessible buildings in 10 most important cities / towns of all the States (other than those, which are already covered in Target 1.1 and 1.2 above).

TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

For this sector, the objectives were to enhance the proportion of accessible Airports, Railway Stations and Public Transport. The focus was on providing equal rights to travel and use of public as well as private modes of transportation. Airports, Railway Stations and Bus Terminals as well as



Carriers (Railway coaches and Buses) and related services such as ticket booking, enquiries, booking status, booking of special assistance, etc. are being developed to provide barrier free services.

TARGETS FOR TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

Airports:

Target 2.1: Conducting accessibility audit of all the international airports and converting them into fully accessible international airports.

Target 2.2: Conducting accessibility audit of all the domestic airports and converting them into fully accessible airports.

Railway Stations:

Target 3.1: Ensuring that A1,A & B categories of railway stations in the country are converted into fully accessible railway stations.

Target 3.2: Ensuring that 50% of railway stations in the country are converted into fully accessible railway stations.

Public Transport:

Target 4.1: Ensuring that 25% of Government owned public transport carriers in the country are converted into fully accessible carriers.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ECO-SYSTEM

Accessible India Campaign promotes accessibility in websites, public documents and media content on TV while also working towards training of sign language interpreters.

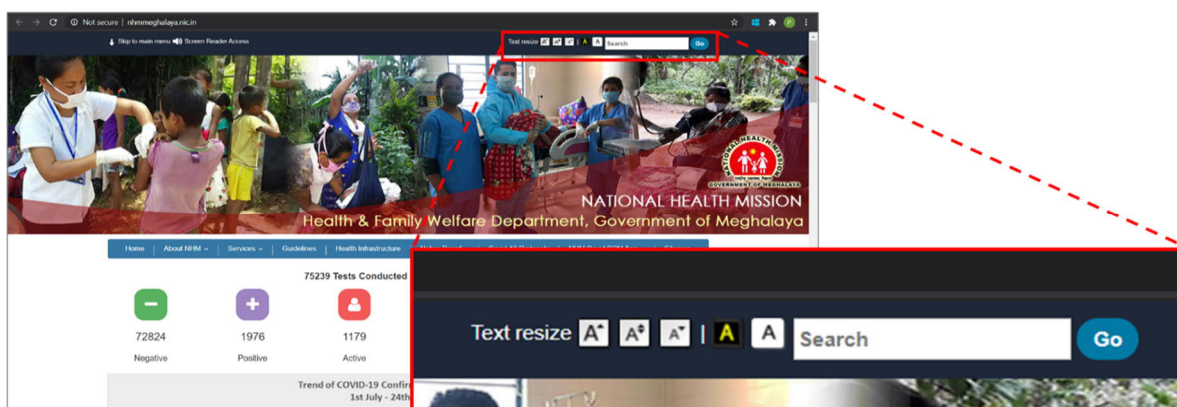
The key objectives are enhancing proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards, enhancing the pool of sign language interpreters and increasing the proportion of daily captioning and sign-language interpretation of public television news programmes.



Audio
description



Closed
captioning



TARGETS FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ECO-SYSTEM

Target 5.1: Conducting accessibility audit of 50% of all government (both Central and State Governments) websites and converting them into fully accessible websites.

Target 5.2: Ensuring that at least 50% of all public documents issued by the Central Government and the State Governments meet accessibility standards.

Target 6.1: Training and developing 200 additional sign language interpreters.

Target 7.1: Developing and adoption of national standards on captioning and sign-language interpretation in consultation with National media authorities.

Target 7.2: Ensuring that 25% of all public television programmes aired by government channels meet these standards.

WAY FORWARD

Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, Section: 40

‘ 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. ‘

As a first step to accessibility, sector-wise accessibility standards are required to be prescribed and notified, after a due public consultation process. So far, accessibility standards in respect of public buildings, passenger buses and government websites including documents placed on websites have been notified. After notification of accessibility standards, the timeline for providing accessibility steps in.

For public buildings, a period of 5 years is allowed for providing accessibility. Only those buildings that are used or accessed by public at large are considered ‘Public Buildings’. Public buildings are to be made accessible by June 2022. For buses and websites, a period of 2 years was allowed for providing accessibility.

Prioritizing accessibility is necessary for developing a truly universally accessible India and to bring in a robust and efficient ecosystem.

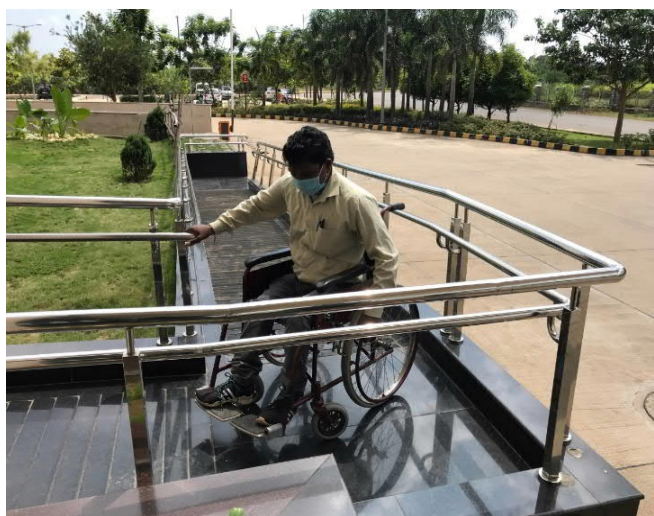
Accessible environments and services have to be provided in both urban and rural areas.



GROUPS COVERED – Achievements under Accessible India Campaign

Accessibility in Built Infrastructure

For ensuring accessibility across States/UTs, access audits of 1662 buildings completed. Overall, 1354 buildings, including 998 Central Government buildings and 356 buildings in States/UTs have been made accessible by providing accessibility features such as ramps, lifts, toilets, parking.



Streamlining the development of Accessible Public Spaces

For bringing accessibility in public spaces, the Government issued the *Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for creation of Barrier Free Environment for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons* in 2016. These have been notified as the standards for accessibility in buildings with RPwD Rules, 2017. This has helped ensuring that the standards are in place for all to follow.

Issuance of a Ready Reckoner of 10 Basic Features of Accessibility

In order to simplify and quantify essential minimum requirements of accessibility, an Easy Ready Reckoner has been developed, summarizing the requirements and specifications of 10 basic features of accessibility to be provided in buildings. This has been circulated among all Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs for guidance while bringing in features of accessibility in the built up environment.

AT A GLANCE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE 10 BASIC FEATURES OF ACCESSIBILITY

Features	Specifications
OUTDOOR FEATURES	
Accessible Route/ Pathway	900mm - 1800mm, anti-skid surface, tactile path, signage (directional and informational), well lit, unobstructed pathway.
Accessible Parking	5000mm X 3600 mm, within 30m of entrance, transfer bay, connected to accessible route, vertical and on floor signage.
Accessible Entrance to the Building	900 - 1800mm width, ramp with gradient 1:12 and double height handrail with proper grips rounded at the edges, anti-skid flooring, colour contrast, main door to be provided with minimum width of 1000 mm, signage prominently displayed.
INDOOR FEATURES	
Accessible Corridor	1500mm to 1800mm clear width, anti-skid surface, tactile path, well-lit, unobstructed by chairs/plants, doors should not open on to the corridor.
Accessible Reception	Low height counter (750-800mm) with 750-900mm width and leg space of 800mm height and 480 mm depth below the counter, information of accessible features, alternative media for communication - induction loop, braille, audio, etc.
Accessible Lifts/ Elevator	900 mm wide door with warning tiles at the entrance, 1500mm X 1500mm lift car size, braille buttons, auditory information and digital display, grab bars on three sides, alarm button, mirror on the rear wall.
Accessible Toilet	2000mm X 2200mm size, grab-bars around all sanitary fittings easy to be used by left and right handed users, 900mm door (double swing or outside opening), anti-skid floor, emergency button, latches (also middle, base), easy to operate handles and lever type taps with long neck, no <i>chaukhat</i> .
Accessible Staircase	Colour contrasting strips on the horizontal surface of the steps, double height rounded handrails (38mm to 45mm diameter) with proper grips rounded at the edges, warning tactile tiles at beginning and end, 50mm gap between wall and handrail for proper grip.
Accessible Drinking Water Facility	Low height counter (750-800mm), leg space below counter (300mm), ramps, no drains/ holes, double height fountain type taps that are easy to operate.
Signage	Directional and informational, high contrast, easy to understand, prominent locations, unobstructed, standardized and in alternative formats such as in braille, through audio output, tactile maps/boards, regional languages, etc, material of the signage should be anti-glare or preferably of matte finish, of durable quality.

Inclusion of accessibility in local byelaws and rules

The key requirement to ensure creation of accessible buildings is formulation of local byelaws with provisions of accessibility and enforcing them in all public and private buildings that need to be accessed largely by the public. Almost all States/UTs have already incorporated the Model Building Byelaws and Harmonized Guidelines in their local development rules. This will ensure accessibility since the process of giving building permits and completion certificates will be linked.

Department of Expenditure has revised the project appraisal format for new projects of the Government to include accessibility.

Instilling accessibility in social infrastructure of the society

To ensure barrier free access to education for PwDs in government and government aided schools, apart from inclusion of accessibility related content in syllabus of Standard I to XII and B.Ed and training of teachers/special educators, 8,33,703 out of 11,68,292 (71%) schools have been made barrier free for children with special needs with the provision of ramps, handrails and accessible toilets.

Department of Higher Education is incorporating accessibility guidelines into the curriculum of engineering, architecture, polytechnic and other related professions. UGC has been sensitized to make higher educational institutions accessible

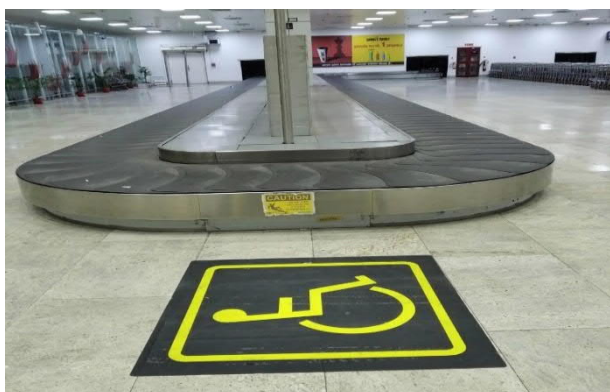


Ministry of Tourism is also actively adopting the mandates of the Campaign and is developing accessible tourist experiences under its various schemes such as PRASHAD, Adopt a Monument. With a view to enhance accessibility across different places of tourist interest, a case in point is the iconic Statue of Unity in Kevadia, one of the most inclusive tourist destinations of the country. The retrofitment of key monuments and tourist places on similar lines is being taken up.

Inclusive travel

709 A1, A and B category **railway stations** have been made accessible by providing ramps, toilets, signages, lifts, drinking water facilities and helpdesks and 603 have been provided with accessible inter-platform transfer and marking of edges of platforms. Further enhancement of accessibility provision of accessible ICT services such as ticket booking, special assistance booking and accessible coaches is also under process.

Accessibility in **air travel** is being ensured where in all 35 international and 55 out of 69 domestic airports have been provided with basic features of accessibility such as ramps, toilets, lifts, aerobridges, ambu-lifts, tactile paths, reserved parking, reserved seating, allocation of space for baggage collection, booking of assistive services, etc.



The Government is also in the process of bringing out fleets of **accessible buses** i.e. buses with ramps for wheelchair users, reserved parking placed for wheelchairs inside the bus, audio announcement and digital display of bus stops and routes, etc. Out of 1,47,152 selected government owned buses, 40,984 (27.85%) buses have been made partially accessible and 9032 (6.13%) buses made fully accessible with provision of ramps and wide doors for wheelchair users.



Accessible TV viewing

Accessible content on TV is also being enhanced in a phased manner. 15 private news channels are already telecasting partially accessible news bulletin and 190 news bulletins have been telecast with subtitling/ sign-language interpretation. More than 2486 scheduled programs/movies using subtitling have been telecasted by general entertainment channels.

Web-Accessibility

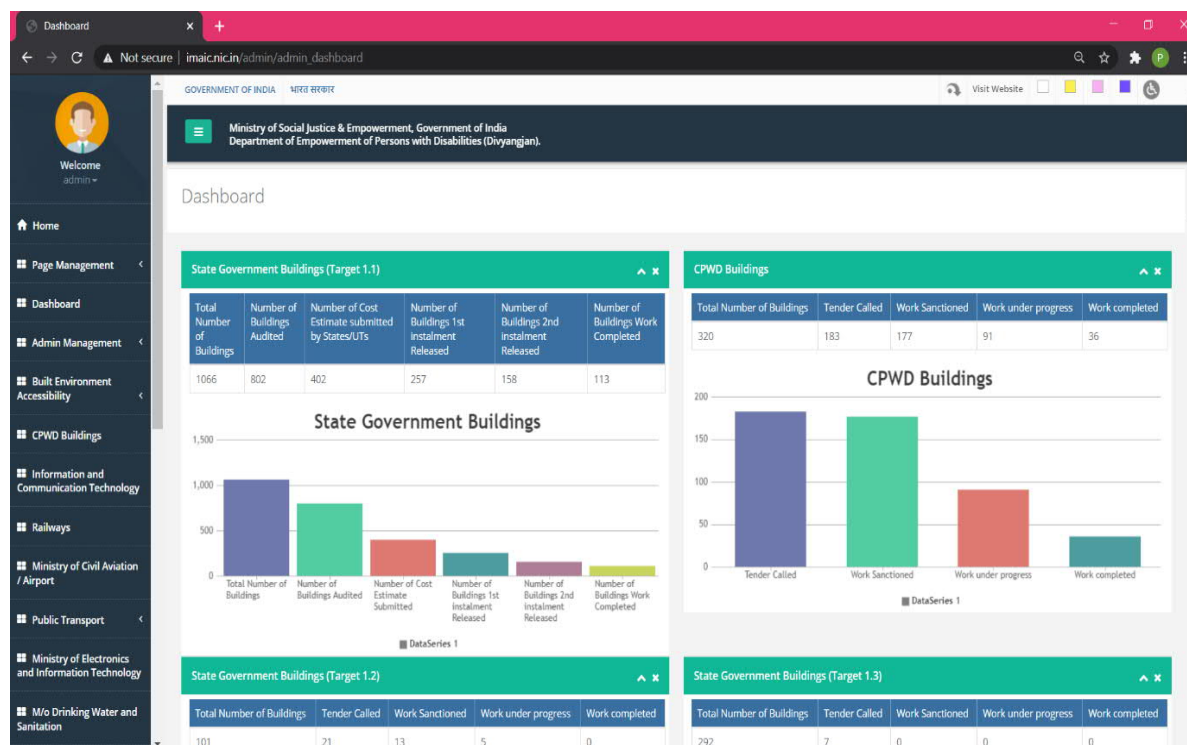
584 State Government websites and 95 Central Government websites have already been made accessible.

Continued outreach and engaging community

To further increase community engagement and generate awareness regarding the requirements of accessibility, initiatives taken include: engaging students of Architecture to conduct verification audits in retrofitted buildings; conducting Hackathons for development and commercialization of innovative accessible solutions/products and for collating ideas related to sanitation solutions etc; and coming up with simplistic illustrative handbooks for explaining concepts of accessibility and increasing sensitization to school children and professionals in the field.

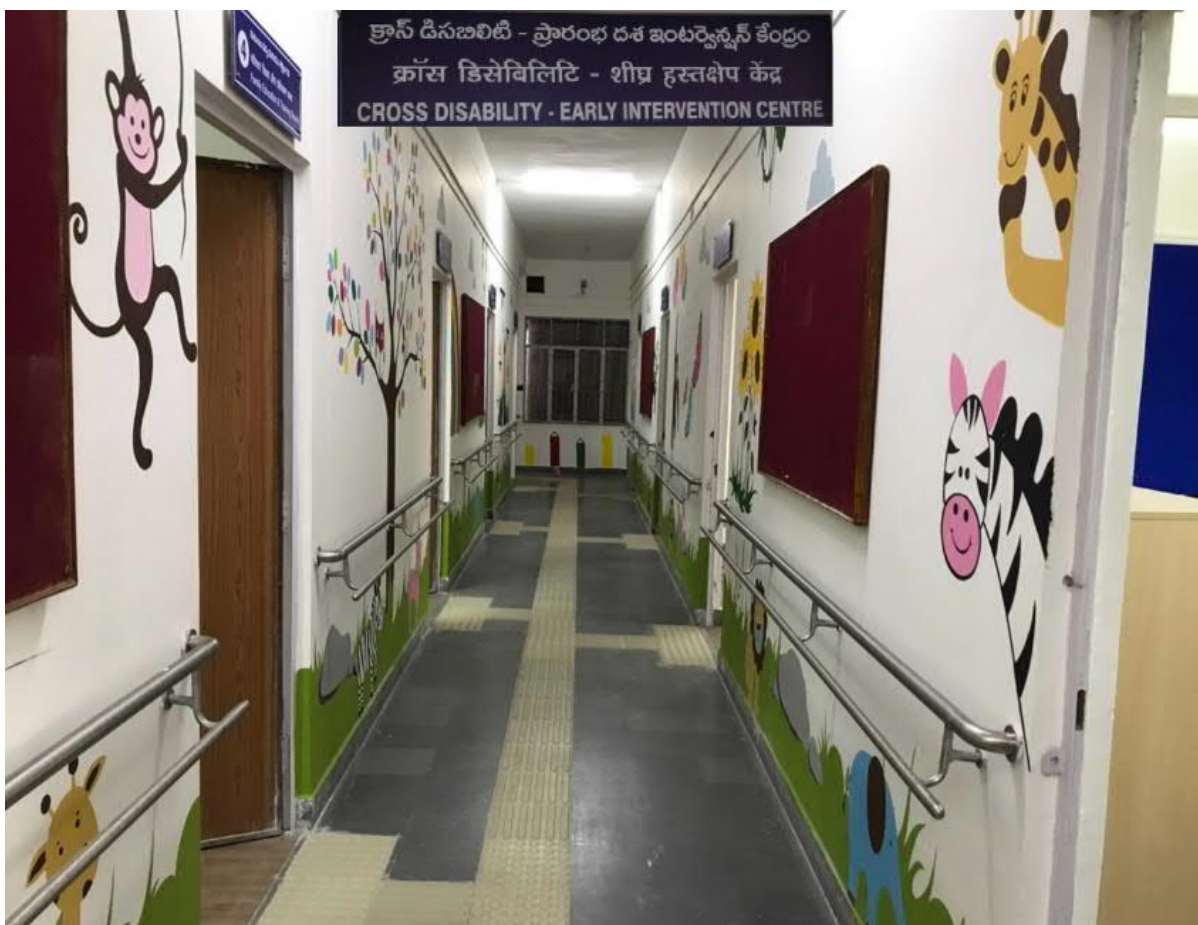
Monitoring of the Campaign

A MIS portal has been launched in September 2019. Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs upload data related to the implementation of the targets of the Accessible India Campaign.



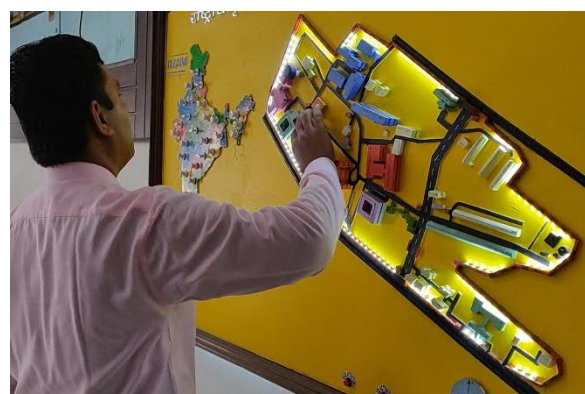
Accessibility in Early Intervention Centers

In view of the critical importance of the first six years of age for the overall growth and cognitive and physical development of every child, 14 Early Intervention Centers (EICs) with a cross-disability focus are being established as contiguous units for providing rehabilitative services for children with different types of disabilities. As a pilot, this initiative is being rolled out in 14 centers (seven National Institutes and seven Composite Regional Centers) across India.



These Centers will be equipped with accessible features like accessible parking, routes, ramps, accessible reception counters, accessible toilets and drinking water points, staircases and appropriate instructional and directional signage, among others.

Providing features of accessibility in the buildings would ensure a safe, convenient and comfortable experience, facilitating ease of movement of the parents accompanied by a child with disability to move around the entire facility for seeking the required rehabilitative therapies and interventions for different disabilities.



Accessible Tactile Map for ease of navigation for persons with visual disability

Accessible means of communication: Indian Sign Language

Standardization of Indian Sign Language is important to address the issues of the teaching/learning processes for persons with hearing impairment. Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center along with NCERT is converting NCERT textbooks and other educational material into Indian Sign Language digital format. In the first phase, textbooks of primary classes will be converted into Indian Sign Language. Furthermore to develop core resource material for Indian Sign Language, the 3rd third edition of the Indian Sign Language Dictionary with 10,000 words was launched on 17th February 2021.

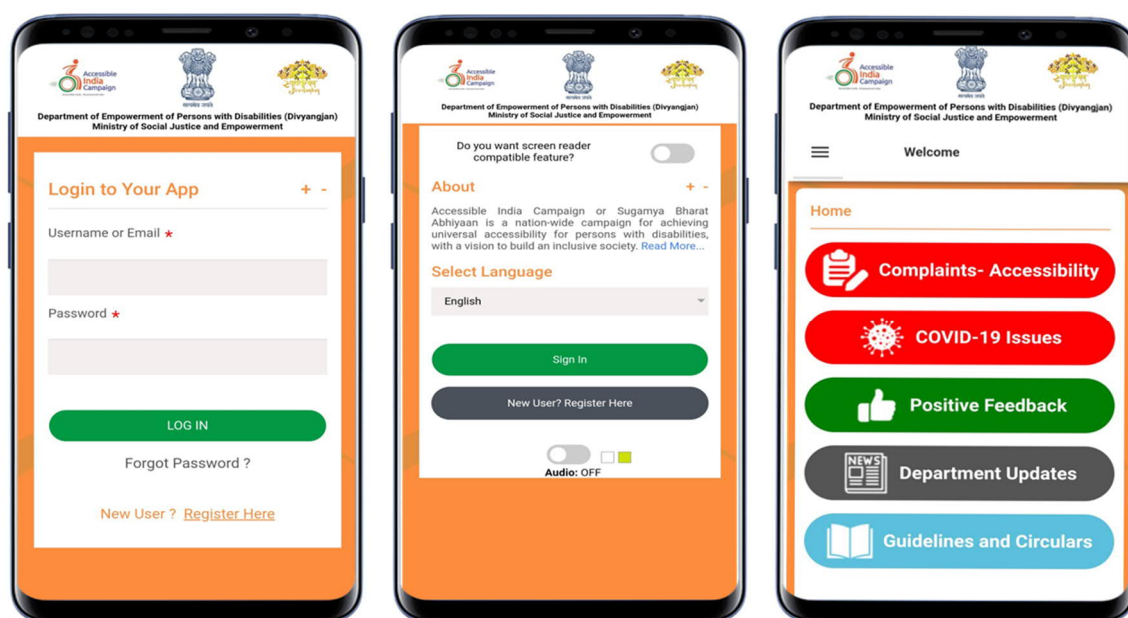
Public awareness of the commitment of the Government towards creating a barrier free environment for persons with hearing disabilities was promoted through participation in the Republic Day Parade 2021, when the tableaux of ISLRTC on the theme *Bharatiya Sanketik Bhasha – Ek Rashtra, Ek Sanketik Bhasha* was showcased at Rajpath.



AWARENESS GENERATION AND UPSCALING OF THE CAMPAIGN

Given the diversity and spread of the nation, bringing about any physical, digital and attitudinal transformation is a mammoth task. This requires strategic integration of accessibility laws and rules for standardization of development processes as well as for generating awareness and accountability among the public at large.

Launch of SUGAMYA BHARAT APP



It was the ideation of our Hon'ble Prime Minister that a Crowdsourcing App be developed to mobilize *Jan-Bhagidhari* in gaining access to the on-ground issues related to inaccessibility being faced by the Divyangjan as well as other vulnerable members of our society, be it the elderly, children, pregnant women, those temporarily disabled etc.

In line with that vision the Sugamya Bharat App a crowdsourcing mobile application was launched on 2nd March 2021.

The user friendly and accessible features of the Sugamya Bharat App make it useable by 'Anyone-Anywhere-Anytime' to raise issues related to accessibility across any of the 3 verticals of the Accessible India Campaign.

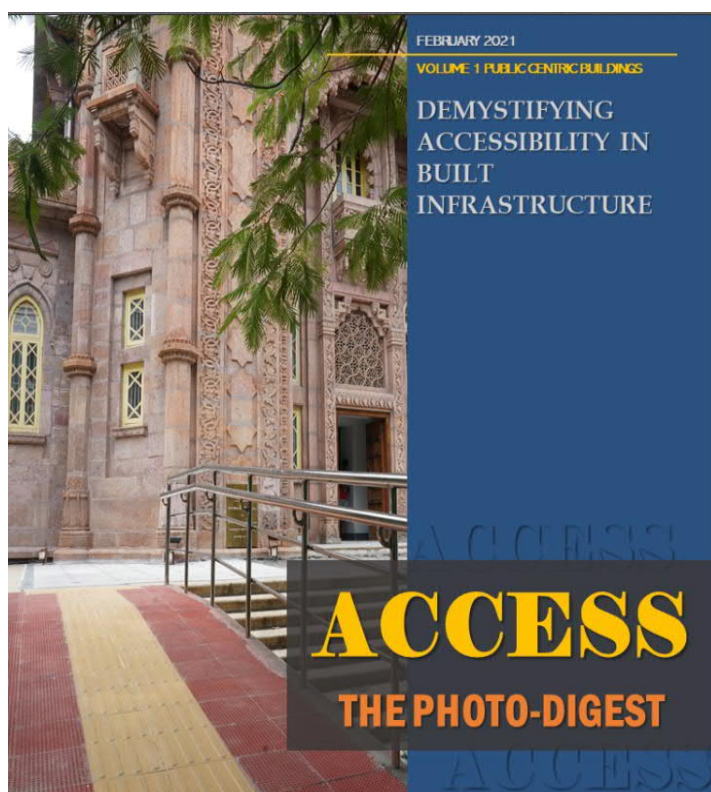
To deal with the redressal of complaints lodged on the App, all relevant stakeholders of all Ministries/Departments of the Central Government as well as State and District Government level have been brought on-board. These Nodal Officers have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that necessary action is taken on the complaints registered on the App. The objective is to ensure that the reported public place or service is made accessible within stipulated timelines.

The **user-friendly features** of the App include easy registration, accessible dropdown menus, options for 10 languages, geotagging of photographs and location, demonstration videos in Hindi and English, pop-up feature for descriptions/information of features of accessibility and complainant being kept informed of status through alerts.

Efforts have been made to make this an **accessible App** for use by persons with different disabilities. The App has features of text to speech, colour contrasting options and compatibility with both Android/iOS accessibility modes.

ACCESS – The Photo Digest

For sensitization and awareness generation as well as to bridge the gaps in the understanding of the concept of accessibility, a series of illustrative guidebooks titled **ACCESS - The Photo-Digest** are being compiled. These booklets will help not only the professionals, government officials, officials/architects/ engineers of various executing and implementing agencies but also the common people to demand for accessibility in their surroundings.



These booklets provide simple graphical explanation of the subject of accessibility in public buildings through sketches and photographs for each of the 10 basic features of accessibility. These have been represented through design principles, graphical representation of specifications, good and bad practices and examples of on-ground execution collected from 21 States/UTs across India.

The first volume of the series on Public Centric Buildings has been launched as a complement to the Sugamya Bharat App on 2nd March 2021. The electronic version of this handbook has been made available for easy downloads, including on the Sugamya Bharat App.

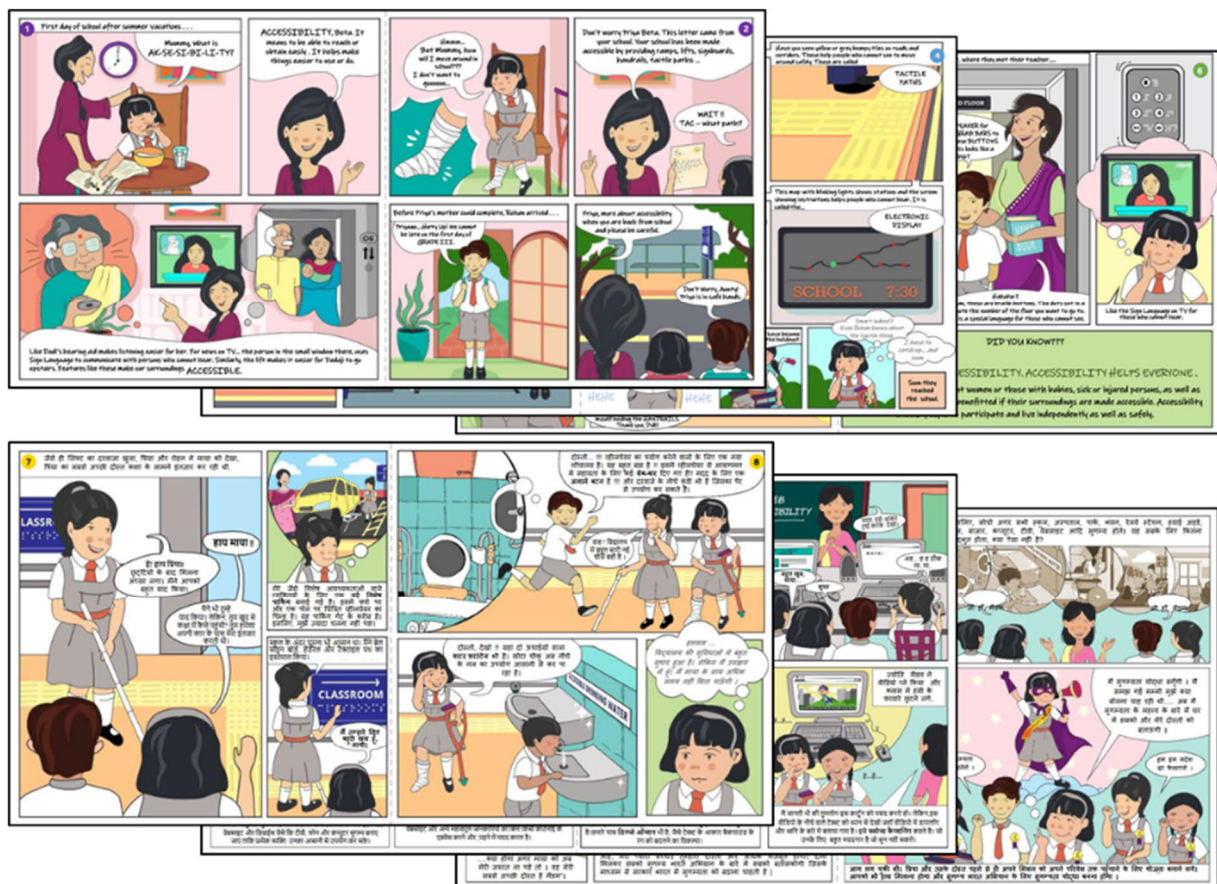


E – Comic and Activity Book – PRIYA: THE ACCESSIBILITY WARRIOR.

An accessible and interactive E-Comic-cum-Activity Book on Accessibility for school going students has been prepared for ingraining the concept and significance of accessibility in children right from their formative years itself as a move towards inclusive education.

This e-book, presently in Hindi and English, has been conceptualized in 2 parts. The comic strip depicts the story of an young girl on her path to realize the importance of accessibility in her surrounding and pledging to become an Accessibility Warrior. The second part has 9 interactive activities designed as games to enhance sensitization of features of accessibility.

The book is an interactive E-Book with QR Code-based audio output and interactive games adequately provided with all accessibility features, such as – Text-to-Speech, colour contrast, font size, sign language interpretation etc. and a flip book with interactive games inlaid.



ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN – Before and After

Sl. No.	Aspects of Change	Before	After
1.	Legislation	The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act 1995, predominantly a welfare-oriented Act, had provisions for limited accessibility features.	The Rights for Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which came into force from April 2017 is an assertive Rights based Act. Clear mandates of accessibility have been laid down in the Act along with specific timelines. The Act provides full coverage to all public centric buildings and services to be made accessible as per the Rules.
2.	Timelines	Previously no time bound implementation process was laid out for creation of barrier-free environment.	Under the Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, timelines have been set for public buildings as a period of 5 years from the date of notification of rules and for services as 2 years. Compliance has also been ensured in the Act since non-compliance of its provisions are punishable by fines and imprisonment.
3.	Implementation Strategy	Implementation and funding for creating accessible buildings was done through the Barrier Free environment under the umbrella Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) which is a demand-based scheme. It did not have a provision for universal coverage for accessibility.	Accessible India Campaign on the other hand, is a strategized scheme being implemented across 3 identified components namely the Built-Up Environment, the Transportation Sector and the Information & Communication Technology ecosystem. The Campaign is to be implemented by all Central Ministries/Department and State/UT Governments.
4.	Design Process for public spaces and buildings	Access audits were not pre-requisites for developing designs of buildings. Accessibility was not mandatory for obtaining building permits and completion certificates.	Access Audit has been established as a pre-condition for assessing the design requirements. The RPwD Act 2016 mandates accessibility for obtaining permits.

Sl. No.	Aspects of Change	Before	After
5.	Standards of Accessibility	The availability of standards for accessibility was limited to the building sector with the existing National Building Codes, Bus Body Design Code and Accessibility of websites guided by Guidelines for Indian Government Websites.	Ministries/ Departments across sectors working on key public services such as railways, civil aviation, road transport & highways, information & broadcasting, tourism, health, school, shipping, law, financial services, industry & commerce etc. are formulating accessibility standards in their respective sectors.
6.	Community to drive accessibility	Accessibility has been a widely studied and advocated subject, but the community at large was not involved in driving a change in this sector.	Acknowledging the need for engaging the public to raise awareness towards the importance of accessibility the outreach, initiatives have been centered around involving students of architecture and design to conduct verification audits, organizing hackathons to elicit innovative ideas. For taking the Campaign to the public a pan-India crowdsourcing mobile application, Sugamya Bharat App has been launched. This App will collate grievances of users related to usage of various public spaces, buildings, websites and services. The App goes beyond just creating a data bank of the issues being faced. It also provides for resolution of these issues through direct accountability of the owner department/agencies. This will raise general awareness about importance of accessibility and provisioning for it.

TESTIMONIALS

“

Like everyone knows about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, people should also know about Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. This will be actualized through successful implementation of the Sugamya Bharat App... Extending accessibility to Persons with Disabilities by making schools accessible, providing toilets with accessibility, accessible workplaces, accessible transport, accessible ICT will fulfill their dream of participating in mainstream activities. Another way of looking at it is that economic expansion, as per Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of making India a trillion dollar economy can be achieved through accessibility.

“

Accessibility is a life-line for People with Disabilities ... It is important that we have a Sugamya Bharat App where PwDs, their families and carers can ask for accessible environment. For Us, Accessible India is Empowered India.

“

This App would bring in revolutionary changes and serve as an effective weapon for actualizing the provisions of the RPwD Act 2016.

SUGAMYA BHARAT APP



Shri Pranav Desai
Founder, Voice of Specially Abled People



Dr. Smt. Anjlee Agarwal
Co-Founder, Samarthyam



Shri Santosh Kumar Rungta
Genl Secretary, National Federation of Blinds

“*Sir, we celebrated the Accessible India Campaign in my school.... Addressed 2000 children in my school on the issue of disability and how we can spread awareness and help differently abled people. The students' response was fantastic, and we enjoyed in the school. The Students were inspired and motivated to help the disabled people in the society. I think it was a great initiative.*

Shri Dilip Chauhan

School Teacher from Ahmedabad Gujarat

“*The launch of this campaign itself is path breaking as political parties and governments in the country have neglected the disabled...this is what makes it wonderful to see the government launch an 'Accessible India Campaign', dedicated to this forgotten community of the country.*

Shri Nipun Malhotra

Founder & CEO, NIPMAN FOUNDATION



IN NEWS:

Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan



IN NEWS:

Sugamya Bharat App

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launches 'Sugamya Bharat' App and handbook 'Access - The Photo Digest'

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the 'Sugamya Bharat' App and a handbook titled 'Access - The Photo Digest' through a video conference in New Delhi today. The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.



Mr. Gehlot said that the Prime Minister envisioned a mobile application wherein the issues related to accessibility being faced by Divyangjan and the crowdsourced response. It will

Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launches "Sugamya Bharat App" and Handbook "Access - the Photo Digest"



New Delhi, Focus News, Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App" and a handbook entitled "Access - the Photo Digest" on Tuesday.

App is made accessible for ease use for persons with disabilities, it has features such as a

'Sugamya Bharat App' launched to ease accessibility issues faced by differently abled in buildings, transport system

The app will enable people with disabilities and even the elderly to register accessibility-related issues on the app. They can also report accessibility-related issues through the app.

Union minister Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App", a crowd-sourcing mobile application, and a handbook entitled "Access - The Photo Digest" on Tuesday to enhance accessibility.

The app will enable people with disabilities and even the elderly to register accessibility-related issues on the app. They can also report accessibility-related issues through the app.

App to help disabled in accessibility battle



Times View: As per the 2011 census, about 2.7 crore or 2.2% of India lives with disability. Official estimates suggest the number could be much higher. Yet many buildings, both government as well as private, are inaccessible to them. A crowd-sourced mobile app can help mitigate the situation. It will act as a tool to spread information on the subject to the concerned officials. Hopefully, it will also lead to disabled-friendly renovation and

resolution and closure of their complaints. In a bid to make the process inclusive, officials said that the app has been equipped with sign language interpretation demonstration, registration and uploading complaints with photographs. Other features enabling persons with disabilities include font size adjustment, color contrast option, text to speech and an integrated reader in Hindi and English. The app will be available in 10 regional languages, Hindi, English, Tamil, Odia, Telugu, Gujarati, Malayalam.

आज जारी होगा सुगम्य भारत ऐप

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्री थावर चंद गहलोत मंगलवार को वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस से 'सुगम्य भारत ऐप' तथा एक पुस्तिका 'एक्सेस-द फोटो डायजैस्ट' का लोकार्पण करेंगे।

केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को कहा कि यह ऐप और पुस्तिका शक्तिीकरण विभाग ने सुगम्य भारत ऐप तैयार की है सरल मोबाइल इंटरफेस प्रक्रिया में तैयार किया गया है।

The Economic Times

'Sugamya Bharat App' launched to ease accessibility issues faced by differently abled in buildings, transport system

Mar 02, 2021

Union minister Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App", a crowd-sourcing mobile application, and a handbook entitled "Access - The Photo Digest" on Tuesday to enhance accessibility.

Outlook

"Sugamya Bharat App" launched to ease accessibility issues faced by differently abled in buildings, transport system

02 MARCH 2021

New Delhi:

Union minister Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App", a crowd-sourcing mobile application, and a handbook entitled "Access - The Photo Digest" on Tuesday to enhance accessibility.

Mar 2, 2021



Thaawarchand Gehlot Virtually Launches "Sugamya Bharat App" and Handbook "Access - The Photo Digest"

New Delhi: Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot

Hindi.thevocalnews.com

SUGAMYA BHARAT APP: दिव्यांगजनों के लिए आया ऐप

03/03/2021

भारत सरकार दिव्यांग जनों को सभी क्षेत्र में भागीदारी बढ़ाने के नई योजनाएं और कार्यशालाओं का आयोजन करते रहती है। इसी कड़ी में आज केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्री थावरचंद

DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA