

Coverage Report

NCPEDP- Mphasis Universal Design Awards

October 03, 2023

Online

ANI

[14 Visionaries Honoured at the 14th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2023](#)

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Complementing the endeavour of NCPEDP and Mphasis towards building an inclusive and sustainable future for persons with disability through the institution of Universal Design Awards, the Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, during his video address, said, "As India advances towards becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2030, involving its entire 1.4 billion population is crucial for national development. In this journey from today's status as the fifth-largest economy, the participation of differently-abled individuals is equally vital in achieving our ultimate goal of success."

Arman Ali, the Executive Director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), articulated the mission behind these prestigious awards, stating, "In a world where one billion people need assistive products, but only one in ten have access, the Universal Design Awards 2023 remind us of our duty to bridge this gap. Access to assistive products is integral for inclusive development. Without them, people are often excluded, isolated, and locked into poverty. With this we advance India onto the global stage as a beacon of knowledge and expertise in accessibility." While giving away the Awards, Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Government of India complimented the awardees for doing incredible work in promoting the accessibility and supporting the role of assistive technology for creating a conducive ecosystem for persons with disability. Srikanth Karra, CHRO of Mphasis, commended the awardees, emphasizing, "The Universal Design Awards has achieved remarkable success in fulfilling its core mission, which is to celebrate innovators dedicated to advancing inclusive designs and deepening the understanding of accessibility and inclusive design principles. At Mphasis, we hold a steadfast belief that accessibility should serve as a foundational pillar in every project and endeavour. In partnership with NCPEDP, we are unwavering in our commitment to champion the cause of accessibility and lead the charge in fostering positive transformation to create a more inclusive and accessible world for all. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the recipients of the 14th Universal Design Awards throughout India, whose dedication to promoting inclusivity and accessibility within our society is truly extraordinary."

The awards are conferred in three categories: persons with disabilities, working professionals, and companies/organizations that have made an impact in accessibility and Universal Design in areas such as built environment, transport infrastructure, service provision, ICT, consumer products, mobility aids, assistive technology, and more, "The 14 awardees for this year's ceremony belong to eleven states across India, from Nagaland and Lakshadweep to Puducherry, underscoring the growing awareness and progress in the field of Universal Design and accessibility," added Ali. As the awards enter their 14th year, they serve as a beacon of hope for creating an inclusive world where barriers to accessibility cease to exist. Expressing pride at the way NCPEDP has gone ahead with the task of recognizing and celebrating individuals and institutions through this Award, Pradeep Gupta, Chairman of NCPEDP

Board said, “The future is full of possibilities for Assistive Technologies and recognitions such as these shall bolster innovations confidence and drive to create more devices for inclusivity and access.”

The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) is a cross-disability non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, promoting their employment, increasing public awareness, and ensuring easy and convenient access to public places, products, services, and technologies. Mphasis’ purpose is to be the “Driver in Driverless Car (/topic/driver-in-driverless-car)” for Global Enterprises (/topic/global-enterprises) by applying next-generation design, architecture, and engineering services, to deliver scalable and sustainable software and technology solutions. Customer centricity is foundational to Mphasis, and is reflected in the Mphasis’ Front2Back™ Transformation approach. Front2Back™ uses the exponential power of cloud and cognitive to provide hyper-personalized (C=X2C2TM=1) digital experience to clients and their end customers. Mphasis’ Service Transformation approach helps ‘shrink the core’ through the application of digital technologies across legacy environments within an enterprise, enabling businesses to stay ahead in a changing world. Mphasis’ core reference architectures and tools, speed and innovation with domain expertise and specialization, combined with an integrated sustainability and purpose-led approach across its operations and solutions are key to building strong relationships with marquee clients.

Business Standard

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While giving away the Awards, Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Government of India complimented the awardees for doing incredible work in promoting the accessibility and supporting the role of assistive technology for creating a conducive ecosystem for persons with disability.

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As the awards enter their 14th year, they serve as a beacon of hope for creating an inclusive world where barriers to accessibility cease to exist.

The Times of India

[Ncpedp: 14 visionaries across India honoured at the 14th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2023](#)

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Union minister for civil aviation and steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia, in a video address, complimented the endeavour of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) and emphasized the role of differently-abled family members in India's growth.

"As India advances towards becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2030, involving its entire 1.4 billion population is crucial for national development. In this journey from today's status as the fifth-largest economy, the participation of differently-abled individuals is equally vital in achieving our ultimate goal of success," he said.

Arman Ali, the executive director of NCPEDP, highlighted the mission behind these awards, and underlined the need to bridge the gap between the one billion people in need of assistive products and the one in ten who have access to them.

Rajesh Aggarwal, secretary, department of empowerment of persons with disabilities (DEPwD), lauded the awardees for their work in promoting accessibility and supporting the role of assistive technology to create a conducive ecosystem for persons with disabilities.

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The Indian Express

[Chandigarh scientist honoured for sound contributions towards making STEM accessible to hearing-impaired students](#)

A principal scientist at a research institute of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Chandigarh, Dr Alka Rao has been honoured with the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2023 for her contributions towards ensuring science education to the hearing impaired.

According to the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), Dr Rao of the CSIR Institute of Microbial Technology is dedicated to fostering inclusive STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education for individuals with disabilities, particularly the deaf community.

She leads the Indian Sign Language Enabled Virtual Laboratory (ISLEVL) – a project funded by the CSIR under the Jigyasa programme, creating digital educational resources for STEM subjects in accessible formats such as comics, games, infographics, and simulations.

NCPEDP's trustee major general Ian Cardozo (retired) and secretary of central government's department of empowerment of persons with disabilities Rajesh Aggarwal presented the award to Dr Rao in New Delhi on Thursday.

According to NCPEDP, the award is a tribute to honour those individuals who have been doing exemplary work in the field of promoting accessibility and universal design to ensure a life of equality and dignity for people with disabilities.

The trust was founded by Javed Abidi, regarded as the pioneer of the cross-disability movement in India, in 1996.

To offer higher education in science, technology and engineering to hearing-impaired students, a team led by Dr Alka Rao in 2022 had planned to prepare content that will help the students excel in areas that were out of their reach earlier.

The scientists planned to provide STEM vocabulary and content on a website in the form of images and logos for science, technology and engineering students.

According to the officials, the initiative is among the top 162 global innovations from 62 countries shortlisted through a peer review process under ZeroCall 24, a global initiative led by UNICEF.

Rajesh Aggarwal stated that projects like ISLEVL are the need of the hour while pointing out that access to STEM subjects is the biggest challenge in education of people with disabilities.

In April this year, an astronomy lab came up in Haryana's Karnal to enable deaf students to learn about sun, moon and stars apart from simple to complex concepts of space.

Referring to the recent census, the officials maintain that the country has over 60 lakh hearing impaired people and over 600 schools dedicated to the community. They also referred to a 2021 report of the World Health Organization to point out that the global population of hearing-impaired people is increasing.

The Hindu

[Innovators recognised at the design awards](#)

We have a responsibility to understand how society can be more accessible and work towards it, says J. Gunasekaran, founder of Sittruli Trust. Mr. Gunasekaran is one of the awardees from Tamil Nadu who was recently recognised as a part of the 14th NCPEDP (National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People) Mphasis Universal Design Awards.

The award celebrates individuals and organisations that work towards a world of inclusivity and champion accessibility for all. The awards are presented in three categories: persons with disabilities, working professionals, and companies or organisations.

Recognising the need to have more para-sports and related facilities, Mr. Gunasekaran introduced wheelchair basketball in Coimbatore district and has since gone on to organise State-level tournaments as well as facilitate such events in other cities. “We have begun wheelchair basketball training in Erode district as well last week. The Sittruli Foundation aims to create dedicated sports academies for para-sports,” he adds.

Focused on dental innovations, SocioDent, a start-up based in Chennai, has also been recognised as an organisation working towards addressing barriers that persons with disabilities face. Steward Gracian, founder and dentist, said that their assistive oral care device comprises an inclusively designed mouthpiece and a portable external unit. “This aims to provide better oral care and hygiene for persons with disabilities who are unable to use the upper limbs, as well as the elderly,” he explained.

The Museum of Possibilities and Museum Cafe, an initiative of the Department for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Vidya Sagar, and the Foundation for Vocational Training, have been honoured with special recognition from the jury. The museum was set up to be envisioned as a resource centre for assistive technology, which would act as a bridge between innovators and users.

This year, there are a total of 14 awardees, including those from Tamil Nadu, who have been recognised.

“These incredible innovators and changemakers are on a mission to make India a more accessible and inclusive place for all. Over the past 13 editions of these awards, we have witnessed an array of incredibly inspiring individuals and organisations who have scripted a new path for persons with disabilities through their innovations and persistent efforts,” said Arman Ali, Executive Director of NCPEDP.

Outlook

[NCPEDP-Mphasis Awards Conferred On Disability Innovators](#)

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Complementing the endeavour towards building an inclusive and sustainable future for persons with disability through the institution of Universal Design Awards, the Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said, "As India advances towards becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2030, involving its entire 1.4 billion population is crucial for national development. In this journey from today's status as the fifth-largest economy, the participation of differently-abled individuals is equally vital in achieving our ultimate goal of success."

While giving away the awards, Rajesh Aggarwal, secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), government of India complimented the awardees for doing incredible work in promoting the accessibility and supporting the role of assistive technology for creating a conducive ecosystem for persons with disability.

"The 14 awardees for this year's ceremony belong to eleven states across India, from Nagaland and Lakshadweep to Puducherry, underscoring the growing awareness and progress in the field of Universal Design and accessibility", said Arman Ali, the executive director of the NCPEDP.

Articulating the mission behind these prestigious awards, Ali stated, "In a world where one billion people need assistive products, but only one in 10 have access, the Universal Design Awards 2023 remind us of our duty to bridge this gap. Access to assistive products is integral for inclusive development. Without them, people are often excluded, isolated, and locked into poverty. With this we advance India onto the global stage as a beacon of knowledge and expertise in accessibility."

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MSN

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Print

The Sunday Statesman

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Date	Publication/ Portal	Headline
September 29, 2023	ANI	14 Visionaries Honoured at the 14th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2023
September 30, 2023	Business Standard	14 Visionaries Honoured at the 14th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2023
September 30, 2023	The Times of India	Ncpedp: 14 visionaries across India honoured at the 14th NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Awards 2023
September 30, 2023	The Indian Express	Chandigarh scientist honoured for sound contributions towards making STEM accessible to hearing-impaired students
September 30, 2023	The Hindu	Innovators recognised at the design awards
September 30, 2023	Outlook	NCPEDP-Mphasis Awards Conferred On Disability Innovators
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