

Inclusivity through Design: Mphasis collaborates with AVAS to advocate for Universal Design, enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities



~ 'Universal Design and Accessibility Walk for Arcause 4.0' led by Gita Balakrishnan, champions the cause of Universal Design, promoting inclusive environments for all

Chennai, 8 January 2024

[Mphasis](#) (F1 Foundation) in collaboration with [AVAS](#) today announced the launch of 'Universal Design and Accessibility Walk for Arcause 4.0'. The 320-kilometer walk from Chennai to Bengaluru aims to raise awareness about creating inclusive environments for individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. The 'Universal Design and Accessibility Walk for Arcause 4.0' is the fourth edition in a series of explorative journeys of learning and exchanges on foot by Gita, an architect, following successful campaigns in 2022 and 2023.

The primary objective of this walk is to raise awareness about Universal Design and its transformative impact on fostering environments that are accessible and inclusive for everyone. The walk aims to highlight the importance of architectural social responsibility, engaging communities, and inspiring positive change along the route. Jayashree Muralidharan, IAS, Secretary for the Department of Welfare for the Differently Abled in Chennai, was present at the flag-off ceremony held at the Museum.

This initiative is supported by the Council of Architecture, India, the Indian Institute of Architects, the Indian Institute of Interior Designers, Vidya Sagar and National Association for Students of Architecture.

Speaking on the launch of the initiative, **Gita Balakrishnan, Trustee, AVAS and Ethos Foundation said**, "As architects, we have a profound responsibility to shape environments that embrace everyone, regardless of their abilities. The Universal Design and Accessibility Walk for Arcause is not just a journey on foot; it's a stride towards creating a world where inclusivity is embedded in every structure and space. I am grateful for this association between Mphasis and AVAS, and together, we envision a future where architecture catalyzes positive social change."

"We are honored to collaborate with Project Udit 2023-24 and acknowledge the significant influence of universal design in fostering accessibility for all. Through this collaboration, our goal at Mphasis is to actively contribute, educate, and raise awareness about its impact on the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), emphasizing the crucial importance of accessibility. Together, we hope to build a more inclusive future where everyone, irrespective of background or abilities, can thrive in a thoughtfully designed world," said **Ayaskant Sarangi, CHRO, Mphasis**.

The initiative underlines the importance of Architectural Social Responsibility, a cause close to Gita's heart. Gita, carrying presentations and flash cards, will engage with local communities along the route, fostering meaningful interactions and spontaneous exchanges.

Other partners of this initiative include Nippon Paint, TVS Ronin, Samarthyam, Wheeling Happiness, SPA Bhopal, and BVDU, Pune.

About Mphasis

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About AVAS

AVAS is engaged in addressing the issues and the cause of improving the living conditions - physical, economic and social - of the urban poor and ensuring them a dignified existence.

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