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Department of Empowerment of Persons with
Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

CONFERENCE ON **AI-POWERED** ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DIVYANGJAN EMPOWERMENT

'Accelerating *Viksit Bharat* through Inclusive Innovation'

29th May 2026

PHD House, New Delhi



BACKGROUND

In today's rapidly advancing world, technology is a powerful tool for breaking barriers and fostering inclusivity. **Assistive Technology (AT)** stands at the forefront of this transformation, enabling persons with disabilities (PwDs), elderly individuals, and those with long-term health conditions to lead more independent and empowered lives. **Increasingly, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is amplifying the impact of assistive technologies**—powering innovations such as real-time speech-to-text conversion, intelligent prosthetics, computer vision for navigation, and personalized learning tools for individuals with cognitive and sensory impairments. By enhancing mobility, communication, education, and employment opportunities, AI-enabled AT is accelerating social and economic inclusion.

At the national level, there is a growing recognition of technology as a key enabler of inclusive development. In line with this vision, the Government is adopting a transformative approach towards disability inclusion—moving beyond welfare to active partnership in nation-building. This approach is guided by the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas, with a focus on expanding accessibility, opportunities, and participation for persons with disabilities. The proposed Divyang Sahara Yojana is a key step in this direction, aiming to strengthen the manufacturing, innovation, and distribution ecosystem for assistive technologies, ensure timely access to quality devices, and position India as a global hub for affordable AT solutions.

A systems-level transformation is being envisaged under this framework. Pradhan Mantri Divyasha-Vayoshri Kendras (PMDVKs) are proposed to be expanded into comprehensive Assistive Technology Service Hubs, offering end-to-end services including assessment, customization, fabrication, and maintenance. Complementing this, Assistive Technology Marts are envisioned as user-centric spaces where beneficiaries can see, try, and select devices suited to their individual needs with professional guidance. There is also a strong push to strengthen domestic manufacturing and research.

Despite these advancements, accessibility to AT in India remains a critical challenge due to factors such as affordability constraints, limited awareness, and gaps in last-mile delivery. Globally, nearly 90 percent of persons with disabilities lack access to appropriate assistive technologies, underscoring the scale of the issue. In India, while the need is vast, access remains limited—highlighting the urgency for scalable and sustainable solutions.

Experts have highlighted a four-pillar framework—Aspiration, Availability, Affordability, and Awareness—as essential to expanding the reach of assistive technologies. This approach emphasizes collaboration among government, startups, academia, and investors, while recognizing that innovation is increasingly emerging from Tier-3 and Tier-4 cities. It also underscores that the distribution of assistive devices must be complemented by accessible infrastructure such as ramps, signage, and barrier-free public spaces to ensure meaningful inclusion.

Additionally, there is growing recognition that affordable and locally relevant innovations can significantly enhance the economic participation of persons with disabilities. Key recommendations include leveraging CSR and philanthropic support, strengthening tax incentives and data systems, and empowering beneficiaries to make informed choices about assistive devices based on their individual needs.

As India moves towards its vision of Viksit Bharat, an inclusive and technologically empowered nation by 2047, ensuring equal access to advanced assistive technologies is crucial. The integration of AI into assistive technologies further adds transformative potential.

With an estimated 100–200 million PwDs in India and only a small fraction having access to necessary assistive technologies, the need for a multi-stakeholder, technology-driven approach has never been more urgent. Insights from policy discussions have further emphasised the importance of collaborations for technology transfer, research and development, AI integration, and the expansion of service delivery ecosystems as key pillars for advancing the assistive technology landscape.

With this backdrop, PHDCCI is bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, assistive technology experts, startups, and innovators to explore pathways for strengthening India's assistive technology ecosystem. The seminar will focus on improving accessibility, affordability, and innovation—particularly through AI-driven solutions—while fostering collaboration across sectors. It will also serve as a platform to align policy, technology, and industry efforts with national priorities, ultimately contributing to an inclusive, innovation-driven growth trajectory.

Aligned with the broader vision of inclusive development and economic empowerment, this seminar aims to catalyse actionable solutions and partnerships that will position India as a global leader in AI-enabled assistive technology, ensuring that every individual can live with dignity, independence, and equal opportunity.



DELEGATE PROFILE

- ♦ Government policymakers and regulators
- ♦ Assistive Devices Designers & Manufacturers
- ♦ Healthcare professionals (Occupational therapists, Speech & Language therapists, Audiologists, Optometrists, etc.)
- ♦ Software/IT Companies dealing with Assistive Technology
- ♦ Academia & research institutions
- ♦ Startups & investors in the AT sector
- ♦ Industry leaders & manufacturers of assistive devices
- ♦ AT startups and innovators
- ♦ PSUs, Banks, and Financial Institutions
- ♦ Diversity & Inclusion and HR Leaders
- ♦ CSR Heads
- ♦ Users of assistive technology and their caregivers
- ♦ Disability rights activist
- ♦ NGOs & advocacy groups working in disability inclusion
- ♦ Media Representatives
- ♦ Prosthetists & Orthotists

OBJECTIVE

- ♦ Foster multi-stakeholder dialogue to strengthen India's assistive technology ecosystem.
- ♦ Support implementation of the Divyang Sahara Yojana across manufacturing, innovation, and access.
- ♦ Promote India as a global hub for affordable and high-quality assistive technology.
- ♦ Leverage AI to drive scalable, inclusive, and user-centric assistive solutions.
- ♦ Strengthen service delivery through Assistive Technology Service Hubs and AT Marts.
- ♦ Advance the four pillars—Aspiration, Availability, Affordability, and Awareness—for wider AT adoption.
- ♦ Enable partnerships and financing through CSR, philanthropy, and private sector engagement.
- ♦ Develop an action-oriented roadmap aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

WHY ATTEND?

- **Influence Policy & Strategy:**
Engage with key decision-makers to shape the future of assistive technology in India
- **Discover Market Opportunities:**
Explore investment and business prospects in a rapidly growing sector.
- **Showcase Innovations:**
Present cutting-edge assistive technologies to industry leaders and stakeholders.
- **Forge Strategic Partnerships:**
Connect with policymakers, corporates, startups, and researchers for collaborations.
- **Stay Ahead of Trends:**
Gain insights into emerging technologies, policy frameworks, and global best practices.
- **Drive Social Impact:**
Contribute to a more inclusive and accessible India, aligning with the Viksit Bharat vision.



About Us

PHDCCI has been working as a catalyst for the promotion of Indian industry, trade and entrepreneurship for the past 121 years. It is a forward looking, proactive and dynamic PAN-India apex organization. As a partner in progress with industry and government, PHDCCI works at the grass roots level with strong national and international linkages for propelling progress, harmony and integrated development of the Indian economy.

PHDCCI, acting as the “Voice of Industry & Trade” reaching out to more than 1,50,000 large, medium and small industries, has forged ahead leveraging its legacy with the industry knowledge across multiple sectors to take Indian Economy to the next level.

At the global level, we have been working with the Embassies and High Commissions in India and overseas to bring in the International Best Practices and Business Opportunities.

**REGISTRATION IS
MANDATORY**



**SCAN FOR
REGISTRATION**



For Partnership / Stall Opportunities, please contact:

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