File No. B-16007/3/2023-SIPDA (E - 29074)
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
5th Floor, Pt. DeendayalAntyodayaBhawan,
CGO Complex,Lodhi Road
New Delhi- 110003
Date: 06.11.2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- **List of Empanelled Access Auditors with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.**

The following Master Trainers/ Resource Persons have been trained by the Council of Architecture (COA) in collaboration with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on the subject of Built Environment and Accessibility. The Department has decided that the following Master trainers/ Resource Persons can work as access auditors, for the period of **05 years w.e.f from 06.11.2024**

S.No.	Name of the Trainer (Shri/ Ms. / Dr./ Ar.)	Address
1.	Kandipilli Mehar Kumar	School of Planning & Architecture Deemed to be University, Delhi mehar.kumar@spa.ac.in
2.	Shuvojit Sarkar	School of Planning & Architecture Deemed to be University, Delhi s.sarkar@spa.ac.in
3.	Robbin Dwivedi	School of Art & Architecture, Sushant University, Gurgaon architectrobbin@gmail.com
4.	Pooja Wadhwa	School of Art & Architecture, Sushant University, Gurgaon poojakumar@sushantuniversity.edu.in
5.	Smriti Mishra	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi,Jharkhand hodarchitecture@bitmesra.ac.in
6.	Dr. T S Sagar	School of Architecture Siddaganga Institute of Technology Campus, Tumkur sagarts@sit.ac.in

7.	Ar.Ajit Vasantlal Nirmal	Vivekanand Education Society College of Architecture, Mumbai ajit.nirmal@ves.ac.in
8.	Saurabh Purushottam Choudhary	Vivekanand Education Society College of Architecture, Mumbai saurabh.choudhary@ves.ac.in
9.	Shilpa Nagapurkar	MIT Art, Design and Technology University Pune School of Architecture, LoniKalbhor shilpa.nagapurkar@mituniversity.edu.in
10.	Hrishikesh Purandare	MIT Art, Design and Technology University PuneSchool of Architecture, LoniKalbhor hrishikesh.purandare@mituniversity.edu.in
11.	Sheetal Uday Harpale	MIT Art, Design and Technology University PuneSchool of Architecture, LoniKalbhor sheetal.harpale@gmail.com
12.	Ar. Maitreyee Mishra	Piloo-Mody College of Architecture Ajay-BinayInstitute of Technology, Odisha Maitreyee.mishra@pmca.ac.in
13.	Ar. Dibyasingh Jena	Piloo-Mody College of Architecture Ajay-BinayInstitute of Technology, Odisha Dibyasingh.jena@pmca.ac.in
14.	Prof. Antony Boity	Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Chandigarh antony.boity@chitkara.edu.in
15.	Pushpak Bhagwati	Aayojan School of Architecture, Jaipur pub@aayojan.edu.in
16.	Prof. Saurabh Kumar	National Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu saurabhk@nitt.edu
17.	Prof. Lakshya Satija	National Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu lakshyasatija@nitt.edu
18.	Prof. Shubhajit Sadhukhan	Indian Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand shubhajit@ar.iitr.ac.in
19.	Dr. Meeta Tandon	Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam Technical University FormerlyU.P.Technical University, Lucknow meeta2012@gmail.com
20.	Ar Rakesh Paijwar	Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam Technical University FormerlyU.P.Technical University, Lucknow rakesh.paijwar@aktu.ac.in
21.	Ar. Deepak Saxena	School of Architecture & Planning Apeejay Institute of Technology GREATER NOIDA dsadzn@gmail.com

22.	Prof. Harshal Panjabrao Ganorkar	IDEAS-Institute of Design Education & Architectural Studies, Nagpur ar.harshal626@gmail.com
23.	Prof. Ketan Suryakant Kimmatkar	I-DEAS-Institute of Design Education & Architectural Studies, Nagpur kkimmatkar@yahoo.com
24.	Sanchari Kar	Royal School of Architecture, Guwahati Sancharikar91@gmail.com
25.	Anay Anand	School of Architecture, Christ University, Bangalore anay.anand@christuniversity.in
26.	Santhoshkumar K.G	School of Architecture TKM College of Engineering,Kollam santhoshkumar@tkmce.ac.in
27.	Meena Girishkumar	School of Architecture TKM College of Engineering,Kollam meenagirishkumar@tkmce.ac.in
28.	Priya Arora	Aayojan School of Architecture, Jaipur pra@aayojan.edu.in
29.	Sankeerani Shrinivasan	School of Environment Architecture and Design [SEAD], Chennai ar.sankeerani@gmail.com
30.	Ms. Sujatha S	School of Environment Architecture and Design [SEAD], Chennai archisuchi@gmail.com
31.	D Arul	School of Environment Architecture and Design [SEAD], Chennai td.arul@yahoo.com
32.	Prabhat Rao	Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam Technical University FormerlyU.P.Technical University, Lucknow rao.prabhat@foaaktu.ac.in
33.	Milind Gujarkar	IDEAS-Institute of Design Education & Architectural Studies, Nagpur milindkg2@rediffmail.com
34.	Nilesh Vijay Gandhi	Vivekanand Education Society College ofArchitecture, Mumbai nilesh.g@metadesign.co.in
35.	Prof. Kiran Mahajani	Aayojan School of Architecture,ISI-4, RIICO Institutional Area,Sitapura, Goner Road,Jaipur - 302022, Rajasthan ksmahajani@gmail.com
36.	Prof. Jayashree Deshpande	COA Training and Research Centre,A4-B, Second Floor, Abhimanshree Society, Off Pashan Road, Behind Volkswagon Showroom, Pune, 411008, Maharashtra

2. The empanelment is subject to the following terms and conditions:-

I. Scope of Work:

The Empanelled Access Auditors in the built-up environment with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) shall have the responsibility to assess and evaluate the accessibility of infrastructure and facilities for persons with disabilities. The scope of work for empanelled access auditors includes:

i. The empanelment is valid for a period of 05 years (five years) w.e.f 06.11.2024

ii. Accessibility audits of built environment, including public buildings, transportation systems, educational institutions, recreational facilities etc. to ensure compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines notified under Rule 15 of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Rules.

iii. Documenting and reporting on the status of accessibility features in various built environments.

iv. Providing detailed reports highlighting areas of non-compliance and suggesting corrective measures

v. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of recommended measures to ensure that they are effectively incorporated and continue to meet accessibility standards.

vi. Staying updated on changes in accessibility standards and regulations through continuous professional development.

It is important for empanelled access auditors to work closely with the DEPwD and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to the creation of more inclusive and accessible environment for PwDs.

II. Discretion of the authority

DEPwD, in its sole discretion and without incurring any obligation or liability, reserves the right at any time to cancel the empanelment of the organization as access auditor if the work and information submitted found unsatisfactory.

III. Obligation of the empanelled agencies

a. The work undertaken by the empanelled access auditors based on the empanelment with Govt. of India, must share in a form of accessibility report on quarterly basis with this Department via email: **aic-depwd@gov.in**, failing which empanelment may be cancelled.

b. The empanelled access auditor's team must comprise persons with disabilities (UDID card holder with 40% or more than 40% benchmark disability) such as, wheelchair user, visually impaired, speech and hearing impaired etc. while conducting the access audit. This is for the purpose of evaluating the existing situation of the built environment with the PwDs point of view and their ease of access at different locations of the building/premise. This would also help to record their deliberations including key suggestions, highlighting the key challenges and missing accessibility features (if any)

vi. Staying updated on changes in accessibility standards and regulations through continuous professional development.

It is important for empanelled access auditors to work closely with the DEPwD and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to the creation of more inclusive and accessible environment for PwDs.

II Discretion of the authority

DEPwD, in its sole discretion and without incurring any obligation or liability, reserves the right at any time to cancel the empanelment of the organization as access auditor if the work and information submitted found unsatisfactory.

III Obligation of the empanelled accessibility auditors

a. The work undertaken by the empanelled access auditors based on the empanelment with Govt. of India, must share in a form of accessibility report on quarterly basis with this Department via email: **aic-depwd@gov.in.**

b. The empanelled access auditor's team must comprise of persons with disabilities (UDID card holder with 40% or more than 40% benchmark disability) such as, wheelchair user, visually impaired, speech and hearing impaired etc. while conducting the access audit. This is for the purpose of evaluating the existing situation of the built environment with the PwDs point of view and their ease of access at different locations of the building/premise. This would also help to record their deliberations including key suggestions, highlighting the key challenges and missing accessibility features (if any) which may enhance their experience while accessing the built environment. Such PwDs may not necessarily be a full-time part of the empanelled access auditors' firm/agency/NGO/Trust/Society etc. but may be outsourced for the purpose of conducting access audit in the built environment.

c. The accessibility audit must be undertaken considering the latest accessibility guidelines/standards notified in the Rule 15 of Right of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 as amended from time to time by the Govt. of India.

IV Miscellaneous provision

a. For the purpose of evaluation, DEPwD at its discretion may conduct random accessibility checks based on the report submitted by the access auditors without any prior information to the empanelled access auditor.

b. Particulars and documents submitted by your organization for empanelment as Access Auditor, if found to be false at any stage will amount to delisting and blacklisted from the empanelled Access Auditors.

c. In case during the period of access audit, it is found that access auditor empanelled is incompetent and is not carrying out the access audit according to laid down accessibility

norms notified under Rule 15 of the RPwD (Amendment) Rules, this will lead to delisting of such access auditor from the list of empanelled access auditor.

d. No assistance shall be provided from DEPwD to facilitate the coordination between the State Government/UT Governments/ or any other agency and the access auditors.

e. The Department will not provide any financial assistance for the accessibility audit task assigned to the empanelled agencies by other public/ private bodies (including the State/ UT Governments)

f. This empanelment will not provide any right for claiming any work. Any accessibility auditor including State Government/UT Government or other stakeholder are free to follow the procedures, as applicable for them, to select the empanelled access auditor.

3. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

(Ram CharanMeena)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Email: rcmeena.79@gov.in
Tel. 011-24360316

राम चरण मीना / Ram Charan Meena
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
D/o Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

To:-

All the Empanelled Access Auditors mentioned above.

Copy to, for information and necessary action:

1. The Secretaries of all Ministries/ Departments, Government of India
2. The Chief Secretaries of all States/ UT Governments
3. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, DEPwD
4. PS to JS (RS), DEPwD
5. PPS to DDG, DEPwD
6. NIC for uploading on DEPwD website
7. US (Media Cell) for uploading on social media platform