List of National Awardees for the year-2024

National Award for Individual Excellence 2024.

S.No.	Sarvshresth Divyangjan	1	
1		Shri Iytha Mallikarjuna	Shri Iytha Mallikarjuna having 88% locomotor disability has made significant strides in empowering persons with disabilities and promoting inclusive growth in India. Despite post-polio paralysis from age two, he excelled academically and founded impactful organizations like the Inclusive Divyangjan Entrepreneur Association (IDEA), which supports over 1,060 Divyang entrepreneurs and has facilitated jobs for more than 2,500 individuals. His efforts in disability rights and fair trade have earned awards, including the "Pillar of Civil Society" by the President of India, marking his dedication to social entrepreneurship and inclusivity. His journey is a testament to his resilience and vision, creating an inclusive society and inspiring others to pursue social entrepreneurship.
2		Shri Prateek Khandelwal	Shri Prateek Khandelwal has 75% locomotor disability. He is founder of 'Ramp My City' and a pioneering social entrepreneur who has transformed urban environments in India to be more accessible for persons with disabilities. His innovative work has empowered thousands and earned him prestigious National and International accolades.

3	Shri Amar Jain	Shri Amar Jain, a 100% visually impaired legal professional, has been a pioneering advocate for accessibility, policy reform, and financial inclusion for persons with disabilities in India. Through his relentless efforts, he has driven significant systemic changes that have empowered countless lives.
4	Shri Arpan Sharma	Shri Arpan Sharma, a para-athlete with 60% mental illness, has repeatedly overcome challenges to excel in sports, winning numerous medals at the state, national, and international levels in events like powerlifting, athletics, and boccea. His inspiring journey has not only brought him personal accolades but also served as a powerful symbol of resilience and achievement for the Divyangjan community. Arpan's dedication and unwavering spirit have made him a role model, inspiring others to pursue their dreams and break down societal barriers.
5	Ms. Chhonzin Angmo	Ms. Chhonzin Angmo is a 100 % visually impaired sportswoman. She has shattered boundaries and stereotypes through her remarkable achievements in a diverse range of sports, including mountaineering, cycling, swimming, football, and more. Despite her disability, she has scaled peaks like Mount Kanamo and Kang Yatze 2, set a world record for the largest team of people with disabilities to scale the Siachen Glacier, and won numerous medals at national and international competitions. Angmo's unwavering spirit and relentless determination have made her an inspiring role model, empowering others with disabilities to pursue their dreams and redefine the limits of what is possible.

6	Ms. Priyanka Deepak Dabade	Ms. Priyanka Deepak Dabade, a 100% hearing impaired artist, has defied societal barriers and pursued her passion for fashion, crafts, and art. Despite facing personal challenges, she has consistently participated in and excelled at prestigious competitions, including winning a silver medal at the International Abilympics 2023 in France. Priyanka's unwavering determination and commitment to empowering fellow persons with disabilities through skill development and mentorship have made her an inspiring role model. Her journey is a testament to the power of resilience, creativity, and the belief that disability is no obstacle to achieving one's dreams.
7 SHRESHTH DIVYANGJAN	Ms. Ananya Bijesh	Ms.Ananya Bijesh, an 18-year old artist with 80% Autism Spectrum Disorder from Thiruvananthapuram, has achieved remarkable milestones in music. Despite challenges, she has performed on prestigious stages, sung with renowned artists, and received accolades, including the Ujjwala Balyam Puraskaram and the Best Creative Child award in 2022 at the State level.
1 I	Shri Tinkesh	Shri Tinkesh Kaushik, a triple amputee with 90% locomotor disability, has defied all odds to become an adventure sports enthusiast and motivational speaker. He holds multiple records, including the first triple amputee to trek to Everest Base Camp. Through his foundation, he promotes inclusive fitness and supports persons with disabilities (PwDs) by providing mobility aids and mental health counseling.

2	Ms. Kavitha	Kumari Kavitha, also known as Pammal Kavitha, has 80% locomotor disability and leads the Pammal Annai Theresa Handicapped Welfare Trust. She resumed her family's social work in 2019, assisting over 1,200 persons with disabilities across Chennai and nearby districts. Her Trust supports access to government welfare schemes, training programs, and healthcare services for the differently abled, significantly impacting their lives.
3	Shri Danish Mahajan	Shri Danish Mahajan, 100% visual impaired and a resilient advocate for persons with disabilities, transformed his life after losing his eyesight at the age of 14. Through initiatives like Radio Udaan, an online community radio station for visually impaired individuals, he has reached over 50,000 monthly listeners. His efforts include motivational speaking, counseling, and organizing talent competitions. Mahajan has received awards like the CavinKare Ability Award, showcasing his dedication to empowering the disabled community.
4	Ms. Himani Bundela	Ms. Himani Bundela, a visually impaired role model, overcame an accident and acquired 80% visual disability. Despite challenges, she pursued a teaching career at Kendriya Vidyalaya and earned recognition by winning ₹1 crore in Kaun Banega Crorepati (2021). She is involved in empowering children with special needs under Asha Project, fostering inclusive education. Her efforts, including counseling camps and resource centers, have benefited thousands and earned accolades, such as the Best Role Model Award from Uttar Pradesh's Divyangjan Empowerment Department in 2022.

5		Shri Ashutosh	Shri Ashutosh, a talented model and theatre artist, has demonstrated remarkable resilience and excellence in the fields of modeling and dramatics despite 100% hearing impairment. As Mr. India Plus 2021 titleholder and an achiever in various National Awards, he continues to inspire many by advocating for social equality and awareness.
6		Ms. Kanika Mukesh Agarwal	Ms. Kanika Mukesh Agarwal, 94 % hearing impaired, is an accomplished deaf educator. She has significantly impacted deaf education and accessibility in India. She has advocated for deaf empowerment and created inclusive teaching programs in Maharashtra, providing technical support for teaching deaf children. Her innovative work in bilingual deaf education, especially in underserved areas, has improved deaf children's academic performance, thereby enhancing their career prospects and self-identity. Her influence extends to promoting accessibility and awareness in various organizations.
7	RANVEER SINGH SAINI	Shri Ranveer Singh Saini	Shri Ranveer Singh Saini, an athlete with 50% intellectual disability, has transformed India's image in golf. Competing since the age of 12, he won his first gold at the Asia Pacific Masters. As India's first golf gold medalist at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, he continues to inspire with wins in 2019 and 2023. Recognized with numerous honors, including the Bhim Award and Khel Gaurav Puruskar, he remains an icon of perseverance.

8	Ms. Niti Rakesh Rathod	Ms. Niti Rakesh Rathod, having 50% intellectual disability, is a dedicated paraswimmer from Rajkot, Gujarat, and achieved remarkable success in swimming. Since 2012, she has won numerous medals at district, State, and National levels, including the Special Olympics and Para Olympics. Niti's story of resilience and passion for swimming continues to inspire many. She also coaches young children, nurturing their love for the sport, and serves as a role model for individuals with intellectual disability.
9	Shri Suresh Hanagavadi	Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi, a person with 70% Hemophilia, is a renowned professor in pathology and blood disorders. He has dedicated his life to improve hemophilia care. Despite personal challenges with hemophilia, he has led initiatives, including Karnataka's first hemophilia treatment center, advocacy for government support, and public awareness efforts. His contributions earned him National and International awards, significantly impacting blood disorder management in Karnataka.
10	Ms. Manjudarshini G	Ms. Manjudarshini G. is a person with 50% Thalassemia. She has excelled academically, securing 5th rank in her Master's and is now a Sub-Registrar in Karnataka Government. Beyond her career, she raises awareness about thalassemia and inspiring others with similar conditions. Her exemplary achievements make her a role model for others battling disabilities.

SHRESHTH DIVYANG BAL/BALIKA

1		Master Prathamesh Sinha	Master Prathamesh Sinha, aged 13 years, from Pune, is a motivational speaker and advocate for visually impaired children and cancer patients. Despite 100% blindness since infancy, he promotes Braille literacy through the ANNIE device, which he presented on <i>Shark Tank India</i> and to Prime Minister Narender Modi. Actively supporting cancer patients and empowering the visually impaired, Prathamesh's work in accessibility and resilience continues to inspire many.
2		Kumari Janvi	Kumari Janvi has 100% hearing impairment. She is a talented 13-year-old student from Hisar, Haryana, who has overcome profound hearing impairment to excel in diverse fields. She has won awards in essay writing, chess, painting, and drama at both National and State levels. Janvi's dedication to her craft and her academic excellence highlight her resilience and commitment. Her achievements showcase her multifaceted talents and are inspiring for individuals with hearing impairment.
	DIVYANGJANO KE SAS	SHAKTIKARAN KE LIYE KAR	YARATH SARVSHRESTHA VYAKTI
1		Shri Sanjay Kumar Sharma	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma has dedicated 34 years to rehabilitating mentally ill individuals across India, particularly in the Bundelkhand region. Through personal efforts and self-funding, he rescues and supports these individuals, often confined in inhumane conditions, by facilitating medical treatment and reintegrating them into society. Dr. Sharma also actively works to raise awareness about mental health and the dangers of substance abuse, striving to improve lives through empathy, education, and dedicated service.

DIVYANGATA KE KSHETRA MEIN KARYARAT SARVSHRESHTH PUNARVAS PESHEWAR (REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL)

1



Ms. Saroj Arya

Dr. Saroj Arya, a clinical psychologist, has made significant contributions to empowering persons with intellectual disability. She established and developed various services at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad, an apex institute for intellectual disability. With over 30 years of research experience, she created essential assessment tools like the NIEPID Indian Test of Intelligence and the Indian Scale for Autism Assessment. Her work in human resource development, research, and community outreach has greatly impacted rehabilitation services across India.

DIVYANGTA KE SASHAKTIKARAN KE KSHETRA MAIN SARVSHRESHTH ANUSANDHAN / NAVPRAVARTAN/UTPAD VIKAS

22



Ms. Dipti Prasad (Lokwani)

Mrs. Dipti Prasad is a visionary entrepreneur and accessibility advocate who founded Nobaflix and co-founded XL Cinema, enhancing entertainment for visually impaired individuals. Her platforms provide audio descriptions, making over 300 movies accessible. Nobaflix has grown rapidly, supported by partnerships with 40+ organizations. Recognized with numerous awards, including the Leaders Award and Cisco Special Jury Award, Dipti's work promotes inclusivity and has profoundly impacted the lives of visually impaired audiences.

II. National Award for Institutions Engaged in Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities- 2024.

S.No.	DIVYANGNO KE SASHAKTIKARAN HETU SARVESHRESTH SANSTHAN (PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, NGO		
1	Mitti Social Initiatives Foundation	Mitti Café operates in nearly 50 locations across India, including prestigious sites	
		like the Rashtrapati Bhawan and the Supreme Court of India. Mitti Café is the single	
		largest chain of cafés in the world to be run by persons with disabilities. With close	
		to 50 Cafes across India, Mitti has created over 6500 livelihoods. Warriors with	
		disabilities at Mitti Cafe have served 1.3crore meals through the cafés thereby	
		creating awareness about inclusion with every meal served, and provided over 60	
		lakh "Karuna Meals" to vulnerable communities. With National and Global	
		recognition, today, Mitti Café is a movement for dignity, empowerment, and	
		inclusion, aiming to transform lives of persons with disabilities.	
2	The Bombay St Xaviers College Society	The Bombay St. Xavier's College Society (XRCVC) has championed inclusive	
	Department XRCVC part of St Xaviers	education for students with disabilities, reaching over 54,000 individuals through its	
	College, Mumbai	programs. Since its foundation in 2003, XRCVC has become a national center for	
		assistive technology (AT), providing extensive resources and training. Its initiatives	
		have impacted policy changes in accessible education, STEM, and financial access	
		for persons with disabilities in India, earning several national awards.	
		AO KE LIYE SARVSHRESTH NIYOKTHA	
	(GOVT. ORGANIZATION/PSES/ AUTONOMOUS BODIES /PVT. SECTOR)		
1	Zomato Ltd.	Zomato's Project ZEAL, launched in 2022, provides dignified employment for over	
		600 persons with disabilities in India through accessible, tech-enabled delivery	
		roles. Operating in 50 cities, ZEAL enhances financial independence and mobility	
		for partners, fostering social inclusion and confidence. Zomato aims to expand to	
		1,000 differently-abled partners by year-end.	
2		Minda Corporation Limited, founded in 1985, and headquartered in Noida, Uttar	
	Minda Corporation Limited	Pradesh, is a leading automotive component manufacturer. Through its CSR	
		initiatives like the "Saksham" program, the company has empowered over 21,000	
		Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and provided employment to more than 1,000	
		PwDs. For its outstanding work, the notable awards received by the organisation	
		include the National CSR Award (2019) and CII ITC Sustainability Award (2023).	

DIV	DIVYANGJANO KE LIYE SARVSHRESTH PLACEMENT AGENCY (EXCLUDING GOVT./ STATE GOVT./LOCAL BODIES)				
1	ATYPICAL Platform Private Limited	Atypical Advantage, India's pioneering platform, empowers over 20,000 persons with disabilities (PwDs) by facilitating job placements and artistic opportunities. In its three-year journey, it has secured 508 full-time job offers for PwDs with renowned companies like Amazon and Nestle. The platform's commitment to diversity is further evidenced by training programs and collaborations with over 250 global brands. It was honored with the National Startup Award 2023 in the Social Impact category.			
		KARYANVAYAN / BADHAMUKTA BHATAVARAN KE SRIJAN MEIN			
		SARVSHRESTH RAJYA / UT/ ZILA			
1	Salumbar District, Rajasthan	The Salumbar district administration in Rajasthan, under the Accessible India Campaign, has successfully transformed over 1,000 government buildings to be accessible for persons with disabilities. The Efforts included installing ramps, lifts, and conducting house-to-house surveys to identify specially-abled individuals. The campaign has ensured over 5,900 disability certificates and 4,400 UDID cards also.			
		It's collaborative efforts with NGOs and multiple Departments ensured better			
	accessibility and awareness for the disabled community. SARVSHRESTH SUGAMYA YATAYAT KE SADAHAN / SOOCHANA EVEM SANCHAR PRODYOGIKI (GOVT./PRIVATE ORGANIZATION)				
1	Star Sports	Star Sports has been a trailblazer in inclusive sports broadcasting, introducing live sign language commentary and descriptive audio, during IPL 2024 and ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. This initiative, benefiting 80 million fans with disabilities, redefined accessibility standards. Their partnership with India Signing Hands set a precedent, ensuring everyone can experience the thrill of cricket equally. With a commitment to innovation and inclusivity, Star Sports exemplifies how sports can unite and empower communities.			

DIV	DIVYANGJANO KE ADHIKAR ADHINIYAM /UDID EVEM DIVYANG SASHAKTIKARAN KI ANYA YOJANAON KE KARYANVAYAN MEIN SARVSHRESTH RAJYA /UT/ZILA			
1	Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh	Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh has been a pioneer in inclusive education, providing free schooling to 73,815 Children with Special Needs (CwSN) across 26 districts. Their innovative initiatives include the Inclusive Digital Fest and Mass Inclusive Yoga Events, recognized internationally in the Wonder Book of Records. By distributing aids, introducing accessible STEM education, and ensuring no child is left out through the Zero Rejection Policy, the organization embodies a commitment to equitable and inclusive education.		
2	Dungarpur District, Rajasthan	The District Administration of Dungarpur, Rajasthan, has implemented the "No One Left Behind" campaign, benefiting over 8,692 PwDs with pensions, 5,100 UDID cards , and 217 Self-Help Groups supporting 1,057 PwDs. Under MGNREGA , 7,232 PwDs generated 2.5 lakh man-days in 2023-24, earning ₹4.6 crores in wages. Their efforts in inclusion and empowerment of PwDs have set a benchmark in welfare initiatives and accessibility, transforming lives and ensuring dignity and economic independence.		
		ADHINIYAM, 2016 KE APNE RAJYA MEIN KARYANVAYAN MEIN SHRESTH RAJYA AAYUKTA DIVAYNGJAN		
1	State Commissioner for Persons with Disability, Gujarat	The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Gujarat, played an important role in the effective implementation of the RPwD Act in Gujarat, by taking <i>suomoto</i> effective steps. In his dynamic leadership, the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities ,Gujarat, handled 506 cases in 2023-24, organized mobile courts in various districts and promoted self-employment and awareness programs. Through employment fairs, workshops, and enforcing accessibility in infrastructure, the office has demonstrated a strong commitment to justice and empowerment for persons with disabilities in the State.		

	PUNARVAS PESHEWARO KE VIKAS MEIN SANLAGN SARVSHRESTH SANGATHAN			
1	All India Institute of Speech and Hearing	The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore, established in 1965,		
	Mysore	is a premier institution for the advancement of speech, language, and hearing sciences. Over the last decade, AIISH has trained over 2,783 students, provided clinical services to over 6,65,194 individuals, and screened 2,40,607 newborns. It is a National leader in research, clinical care, and public awareness for communication disorders, recognized as a Centre of Excellence by the Government of India.		