

# List of National Awardees for the year-2025.

## I. National Award for Individual Excellence 2025.

S.No.	Sarvshresth Divyangjan		
1		<b>Ms. Aboli Vijay Jarit</b>	<p>Born with 80% locomotor disability, Ms. <b>Aboli Vijay Jarit</b> from Nagpur, Maharashtra, has emerged as an inspiring symbol of courage and self-belief. Despite physical challenges, she has made remarkable achievements as <b>India's first wheelchair model from Nagpur</b>, a <b>motivational speaker</b>, and a <b>happiness ambassador</b>. She has represented India in international documentaries such as <i>Truly Born Different</i> (London, 2022) and <i>Kurdistan National TV</i>, and participated in popular shows like <i>Indian Idol</i> and <i>Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs</i>. Aboli was a <b>Miss Wheelchair India finalist (2021)</b> and <b>winner of India's Divyang Glamour 2023</b>, and has been honored with the <b>Influencer Book of World Records (2025)</b> for her inspirational role. In recognition of her extraordinary achievements and spirit, she was <b>conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025 in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
2		<b>Ms. Megha Patangi</b>	<p>Ms. <b>Megha Patangi</b>, from Bengaluru, Karnataka, is a remarkable example of resilience, innovation, and leadership. With <b>100% vision disability</b>, she has turned challenges into opportunities to transform workplaces and communities through accessibility and inclusion. A qualified <b>Company Secretary and Senior Accessibility Specialist at Pegasystems</b>, Megha has revolutionized digital accessibility across six flagship global products used by millions. She leads company-wide initiatives that integrate empathy-driven design into technology, earning top corporate honors and national recognition for her impact. Beyond her corporate role, she has <b>trained and mentored over 200 visually impaired individuals</b>, enabling many to secure professional careers in top organizations. Her work bridges technology, empathy, and empowerment—creating a world where every digital experience is inclusive.</p> <p>In recognition of her outstanding achievements and contribution to digital accessibility and social empowerment, <b>Ms. Megha Patangi was conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

3		<b>Mrs. Bhagyashri Manohar Nadimetala-Kanna</b>	<p>Mrs. <b>Bhagyashri Manohar Nadimetala</b>, from Pune, Maharashtra, is a shining symbol of creativity, perseverance, and empowerment. Born with a hearing impairment, she transformed her challenges into a lifelong mission to uplift others through the power of art and vocational education. As an <b>Art and Vocational Skills Teacher at Suhrud Mandal</b>, she has trained and mentored over <b>500 students with disabilities</b>, nurturing their confidence and enabling them to lead self-reliant lives. A <b>Master in Fine Arts</b> and <b>internationally recognized artist</b>, she became the <b>first Indian deaf woman to represent India at the International Abilympics 2023 in France</b>. Her students have won medals at national and regional competitions under her guidance.</p> <p>Through her inclusive teaching, she proves that art is not only a form of expression but also a pathway to empowerment. In recognition of her outstanding achievements and service to inclusive education, <b>Mrs. Bhagyashri Manohar Nadimetala was conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
4		<b>Shri Basant Vikas Sahu</b>	<p>Shri <b>Basant Vikas Sahu</b>, from Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, is a shining example of courage, creativity, and determination. Despite living with <b>95% locomotor disability</b>, he has dedicated over <b>27 years</b> to art and social service. Turning his physical limitations into strength, he paints by tying the brush to his arm and creates breathtaking artworks that reflect the soul of India's tribal culture. Through his <b>Jeevan Rang Foundation</b>, he trains and mentors Divyang and tribal youth, guiding them towards self-reliance, dignity, and creative expression. His exhibitions have been displayed in <b>Rashtrapati Bhavan</b>, art galleries across India, and abroad.</p> <p>A true inspiration, Shri Sahu has transformed art into a movement of empowerment and hope. In recognition of his extraordinary artistic excellence and contribution to social inclusion, he was <b>conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

5		<p><b>Lt. Col. Dwarakesh Chandrasekaran</b></p> <p>Lt. Col. <b>C. Dwarakesh</b>, from the Indian Army, is an extraordinary example of courage, resilience, and service. After losing his eyesight completely in a work-related accident, he made history by becoming the <b>first officer in the Indian Armed Forces to be retained in active service despite total blindness</b>. With unyielding determination, he continued to perform his duties using AI and assistive technology, working at par with his abled colleagues.</p> <p>He has excelled as a <b>National Paralympic Champion</b> in swimming and shooting, winning multiple gold medals and ranking <b>World No. 3</b> in the 10m Air Rifle event. A true adventurer, he scaled the <b>Siachen Glacier at 16,000 feet</b>, a world record endorsed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.</p> <p>His achievements in the Armed Forces, sports, and academics have inspired the nation. For his exceptional service, indomitable spirit, and leadership, <b>Lt. Col. Dwarakesh was conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
6		<p><b>Shri Rajesh Sharad Ketkar</b></p> <p>Shri <b>Rajesh Sharad Ketkar</b>, from Vadodara, Gujarat, is a visionary Deaf leader, educator, and social innovator who has transformed the landscape of Deaf empowerment in India. Born Deaf, he turned his challenges into a lifelong mission to promote accessibility, education, and leadership among persons with hearing impairment.</p> <p>As the <b>Project Director of Mook Badhir Mandal (MBM)</b>, he has pioneered <b>English and digital literacy through Indian Sign Language (ISL)</b>, empowering thousands of Deaf individuals to gain confidence and independence. He leads <b>India's largest Deaf-run news and learning platform</b>, reaching over <b>1.8 crore viewers</b>, bridging communication barriers and building pride in Deaf identity.</p> <p>Through education, digital media, and advocacy, he has inspired a new generation of Deaf leaders and changemakers. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to accessibility, inclusion, and empowerment, <b>Shri Rajesh Sharad Ketkar was conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

## SHRESHTH DIVYANGJAN

1		<p><b>Ms. Pooja Garg</b></p> <p>Kumari Pooja Garg, from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, is an inspiring para-athlete, cancer survivor, and world-record-holding adventure biker. After a spinal cord injury left her paraplegic, she rebuilt her life through sports and courage. She has represented India in international <b>para-canoeing championships</b> in Japan, Uzbekistan, and Thailand, winning <b>two bronze medals at the 2024 Asian Para Canoe Championships</b>.</p> <p>She made history as the <b>first paraplegic woman in the world to hoist the Indian flag at Nathula Pass (14,400 ft)</b> after a 4,500 km solo expedition — recognized by the <b>London Book of World Records</b> and the <b>Indian Army</b>. Founder of the <b>Triple C Cancer Counseling Centre</b>, she counsels cancer patients and motivates Divyangjan through outreach and mentorship. In recognition of her outstanding achievements in para-sports, adventure, and empowerment, <b>Kumari Pooja Garg was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
2		<p><b>Shri Nipun Kumar Malhotra</b></p> <p>Shri Nipun Kumar Malhotra, from New Delhi, is an eminent social entrepreneur, policy leader, and changemaker for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Born with <b>arthrogryposis</b>, a rare congenital disorder, he founded the <b>Nipman Foundation</b> to advance inclusion through health, accessibility, and advocacy.</p> <p>He launched <b>“Wheels for Life,”</b> a national crowdsourcing platform that has distributed over 1,900 wheelchairs across 25 states. His pioneering <b>“3 A’s Framework – Attitudes, Accessibility and Affordability”</b> has shaped public and private disability policies in India. Through his efforts, wheelchair-access filters were introduced on Zomato and accessible transport expanded via Delhi High Court interventions.</p> <p>A member of the <b>NHRC Core Group on Disability</b>, and Founder Chair of FICCI’s Working Group on Empowering PwDs, he has transformed corporate India’s approach to inclusion. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and service in advancing accessibility, rights, and empowerment, <b>Shri Nipun Kumar Malhotra was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

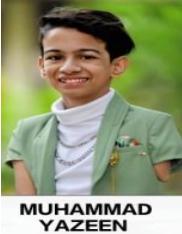
3		<p><b>Ms. Rakshitha Raju</b></p> <p>Kumari <b>Rakshitha Raju</b>, from Karnataka, is an outstanding para-athlete and a beacon of courage, perseverance, and excellence. Born with visual impairment, she has transformed every challenge into strength through her remarkable achievements in <b>para-athletics (T11 category)</b>.</p> <p>A <b>two-time gold medalist at the Asian Para Games</b> in Jakarta (2018) and Hangzhou (2023), and a proud <b>Paralympian representing India in Paris 2024</b>, she continues to make the nation proud with her dedication and discipline. She has also excelled at the <b>World Para Athletics Championship</b> and several national-level competitions, inspiring millions through her performance and determination.</p> <p>Her journey from a small village in Karnataka to the world stage stands as a testament to the power of hard work, faith, and resilience. In recognition of her extraordinary achievements in sports and her contribution to empowering para-athletes across the country, <b>Kumari Rakshitha Raju was conferred the National Award for Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category.</b></p>
4	 <small>YUDHAJEET DE</small>	<p><b>Shri Yudhajeet De</b></p> <p>Shri <b>Yudhajeet De</b>, from Hooghly, West Bengal, is a remarkable symbol of innovation, resilience, and inclusive excellence. Born with 100% visual impairment, he has transcended every limitation to become an <b>internationally rated chess player (FIDE rating 1810)</b>, a <b>pioneering chess coach</b>, and a <b>five-time national gold medalist in classical music</b>.</p> <p>Defying convention, he is the <b>only fully blind chess coach in India</b> who regularly trains sighted players—many of whom have won medals at state and national levels. In 2024, he created history by independently organizing an <b>open chess tournament exclusively for sighted players</b>, featuring 70 participants including 15 rated players—an extraordinary achievement that stands as a global benchmark for inclusion in sports.</p> <p>Through his artistry, leadership, and compassion, he continues to inspire a shift from sympathy to dignity for persons with disabilities. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to inclusive sports, education, and empowerment, <b>Shri Yudhajeet De was honored with the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category.</b></p>

5		<p><b>Mrs. Deepali Sharma</b></p> <p>Smt. <b>Deepali Sharma</b>, from Jaipur, Rajasthan, is an accomplished hearing-impaired artist who has turned her challenges into strength through her exceptional creativity and dedication. A <b>Silver Medalist in Master of Visual Arts</b> and <b>Ph.D. scholar</b>, she has showcased her work at prestigious exhibitions in <b>India and abroad</b>, including <b>New York, Singapore, Dubai, and Greece</b>.</p> <p>Her painting series <b>“Captivity”</b> and <b>“Clown”</b> beautifully blend realism and surrealism, depicting the emotional and social dimensions of human life. She has received several honors, including the <b>State Art Award (Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi, 2024)</b> and the <b>Sabal Award (Tata Foundation, 2023)</b>.</p> <p>Through her inclusive workshops, she inspires hearing-impaired youth to explore art as a path to self-reliance and dignity. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to art and empowerment, <b>Smt. Deepali Sharma was presented the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
6		<p><b>Shri Ferdinand Lyngdoh Marshillong</b></p> <p>Shri <b>Ferdinand Lyngdoh Marshillong</b>, from Meghalaya, is a distinguished disability rights advocate, educator, and social entrepreneur dedicated to the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Despite complete hearing impairment, he has devoted over 18 years to advancing inclusion, accessibility, and dignity for the Deaf community in the Northeast.</p> <p>As <b>Chairman of the Federation of Persons with Disabilities, Meghalaya</b>, he has championed accessible public transport, inclusive education, and employment for persons with disabilities. His pioneering work includes the <b>Meghalaya Sign Bank app</b>, <b>training election officials in Indian Sign Language</b>, and establishing <b>EKANBHA Company</b>, which provides jobs to persons with disabilities.</p> <p>A global awardee of the <b>D-30 Disability Impact List</b>, he has become a voice for equality and empowerment. In recognition of his exceptional service and leadership in advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, <b>Shri Ferdinand Lyngdoh Marshillong was honored with the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

7		<p><b>Ms. Gayatri Gupta</b></p> <p>Kumari <b>Gayatri Gupta</b>, from Bengaluru, Karnataka, is an exceptional photographer, acrylic artist, and self-advocate living with Down syndrome. Overcoming intellectual and social barriers, she has turned her creativity into a movement for inclusion through the medium of art.</p> <p>Her photographs have been displayed at prestigious venues including the <b>National Museum, Salar Jung Museum, and Bangalore International Airport</b>, where two of her works are on permanent display. She has earned global acclaim — winning the <b>Global Ability Photography Challenge (2023)</b> and receiving special recognition from <b>Christie's, London</b> and the <b>Hyundai Art for Hope Grant (2024)</b>.</p> <p>Through her “<b>Mindless Art</b>” corporate workshops and digital outreach, she promotes understanding of neurodiversity and inspires thousands. In recognition of her outstanding artistic achievements and her role in redefining inclusion through art, <b>Kumari Gayatri Gupta was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
8	 <small>SHREYAS KIRAN N S</small>	<p><b>Shri Shreyas Kiran NS</b></p> <p>Master <b>N. S. Shreyas Kiran</b>, from Thrissur, Kerala, is an exceptionally talented young artist who has excelled in <b>Carnatic vocal music and sculpture painting</b> despite being on the autism spectrum. A <b>graduate in Carnatic music</b>, he has performed over <b>100 stage programmes</b> and holds <b>world records</b> for singing <b>24 Carnatic kritis continuously for 1 hour and 47 minutes</b>, earning recognition from the <b>International and Worldwide Books of Records</b>.</p> <p>His paintings have been exhibited at <b>state art galleries in Bengaluru and Hyderabad</b>, and his artwork is sold through his online platform <i>Spectrum Spots</i>. A creative soul, he also holds a <b>Diploma in Food Production</b> and continues to inspire many with his passion for learning and expression. In recognition of his extraordinary achievements in art and culture, <b>Master N. S. Shreyas Kiran was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

9		<b>Kumari Sheeba Koilpichai</b>	<p>Kumari <b>Sheeba Koilpichai</b>, from Bengaluru, Karnataka, is a gifted artist and teacher who has transformed her multiple disabilities into a life of creativity and inspiration. A master of <b>Warli art</b>, she has created over <b>3,000 paintings</b>, celebrated for their beauty, precision, and vibrant storytelling.</p> <p>Having trained at the <b>Spastics Society of Karnataka</b>, she now works there as an <b>Art Teacher</b>, inspiring students through her skill and patience. Her paintings adorn the <b>Rashtrapati Bhavan, Raj Bhavan (Karnataka)</b>, and prestigious collections across India and abroad. She has received the <b>Governor's Award, India Foundation for the Arts Award</b>, and <b>Ablympics India Award</b> for her exceptional talent.</p> <p>With her art gracing walls worldwide and her spirit touching countless hearts, Sheeba stands as a beacon of ability, creativity, and independence. In recognition of her extraordinary artistic excellence, <b>Kumari Sheeba Koilpichai was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>
10		<b>Shri Miranda DonBosco Tomkinson</b>	<p>Shri <b>Miranda DonBosco Tomkinson</b>, from Tamil Nadu, is an extraordinary DeafBlind educator, researcher, and advocate who has turned personal adversity into a lifelong mission for inclusion and empowerment. A <b>Lecturer at the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)</b>, he teaches and mentors future special educators using <b>tactile Braille communication and assistive technology</b>.</p> <p>He created history by becoming the <b>first DeafBlind person in India to clear the UGC-NET examination</b>, following a landmark Madras High Court judgment that mandated Braille-based question papers for visually impaired candidates—revolutionizing exam accessibility across India.</p> <p>Through his teaching, writing, and advocacy, he continues to transform perceptions of DeafBlindness and inspire change at every level of society. In recognition of his exceptional achievements in inclusive education, advocacy, and disability rights, <b>Shri Miranda DonBosco Tomkinson was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyangjan category</b>.</p>

## SHRESHTH DIVYANG BAL/BALIKA

<sup>1</sup>	 <p><b>MUHAMMAD YAZEEN</b></p>	<p><b>Master Muhammad Yazeen</b></p> <p>Master <b>Muhammad Yazeen</b>, from Alappuzha, Kerala, is a young prodigy who has transformed his physical challenges into extraordinary talent and joy. Living with 80% locomotor disability, he has mastered the <b>keyboard, acting, singing, and drawing</b>, becoming a symbol of inspiration for all.</p> <p>At just 13 years of age, he has received numerous recognitions including the <b>A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Balaprathibha Puraskar</b>, the <b>Ujwala Balyam Puraskar</b> from the Government of Kerala, and the <b>SAMAM 2025 Award</b> from the State Folklore Academy. He also holds a record in the <b>India Book of Records</b> for blindfolded keyboard playing and was crowned <b>Asianet Shining Star (Season 2) Winner</b>.</p> <p>Admired by renowned personalities including <b>Padma Shri Mammootty</b>, he continues to charm audiences with his music and positivity. In recognition of his exceptional artistic brilliance and courage, <b>Master Muhammad Yazeen was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyang Bal category</b>.</p>
<sup>2</sup>		<p><b>Kumari Dhriti Pranay Ranka</b></p> <p>Kumari <b>Dhriti Ranka</b>, a 13-year-old artist from Pune, Maharashtra, is a shining symbol of creativity, courage, and inclusion. Born with <b>Down Syndrome and a heart condition</b>, she paints her world with colour, compassion, and confidence.</p> <p>A founding artist at <b>Tickle Your Art</b>, Dhriti has transformed her imagination into art-based products that promote inclusive design and livelihood for neurodiverse artists. Her artwork was showcased at a <b>month-long global exhibition at H&amp;M, Berlin (2024)</b>, and she proudly represented India at the <b>Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation Conference, Malaysia</b>.</p> <p>Featured on <b>Shark Tank India (2025)</b> and the <b>India Inclusion Summit</b>, she inspires thousands with her art, humour, and advocacy for acceptance. In recognition of her extraordinary artistic talent, entrepreneurial spirit, and contribution to inclusion, <b>Kumari Dhriti Ranka was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, in the Shreshth Divyang Balika category</b>.</p>

## DIVYANGJANO KE SASHAKTIKARAN KE LIYE KARYARATH SARVSHRESTHA VYAKTI

<p>1</p> 	<p><b>Shri Rajeev Bhatt</b></p>	<p>Shri <b>Rajeev Bhatt</b>, from New Delhi, is a nationally respected expert on learning disabilities and a visionary leader in inclusive education. With <b>over three decades of dedicated service</b>, he has transformed the learning environment for children with <b>Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD, and other developmental challenges</b> through innovation, compassion, and individualized support.</p> <p>As Founder and Director of the Adhyayan Inclusive Learning Centre, he has pioneered holistic, child-centred pedagogical methods integrating Yoga, therapy, and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to nurture not only academic but emotional, and social growth also.</p> <p>As an eminent author of the groundbreaking books <i>Decoding Autism</i> and <i>Decoding Dyslexia</i>, he has provided resources widely used by educators and parents across India.</p> <p>Under his leadership, many CWSN learners have earned <b>national recognition</b>, reflecting his belief that every child can thrive when given understanding and opportunity.</p> <p>For his outstanding contributions to <b>inclusive education, advocacy, and empowerment of children with disabilities</b>, Shri Rajeev Bhatt was conferred with <b>the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, under the Sarvshreshth Vyakti category</b>.</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p><b>Smt. Devangi Parag Dalal</b></p>	<p>Smt. <b>Devangi Parag Dalal</b>, from Mumbai, Maharashtra, is an eminent audiologist, author, and social reformer who has dedicated over <b>three decades</b> to the empowerment of children with hearing impairment. As <b>Founder of JOSH Foundation</b> and <b>Director of Hearing Hearts</b>, she has transformed the lives of more than <b>2,000 children</b> by providing free digital hearing aids, therapy, and inclusive education.</p> <p>Recipient of the <b>Humanitarian Award (American Academy of Audiology, 2012)</b>, she is the <b>first Indian</b> to be recognized internationally for pioneering pediatric audiology and early intervention models. Her initiatives like <i>The Change is Hear</i> and <i>Kuch Suna Aapne</i> have raised national awareness on hearing health. Her compassionate leadership bridges science and service, turning silence into sound for thousands.</p>

		<p>In recognition of her lifelong commitment to inclusion, advocacy, and empowerment, <b>Smt. Devangi Parag Dalal was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, under the Sarvshreshth Vyakti category.</b></p>
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## **DIVYANGATA KE KSHETRA MEIN KARYARAT SARVSHRESHTH PUNARVAS PESHEWAR (REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL)**

1	 <p><b>Dr. Shruti More Bhardwaj</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Shruti More</b>, from Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, is an exceptional occupational therapist and social innovator transforming rehabilitation in India's mountain regions. As the <b>Founder and Executive Director of Samphia Foundation</b>, she is the <b>only practicing occupational therapist in Himachal Pradesh</b>, delivering life-changing therapy to children with developmental disabilities in remote tribal villages.</p> <p>Her pioneering initiative, "<b>Therapy on Wheels</b>," brings early intervention and caregiver training to over <b>450 children</b> and <b>1,600 families</b> across Kullu and Chamba. She also helped establish the <b>District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC)</b> at Kullu under the <b>Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)</b>, integrating OT into the public health system.</p> <p>Her work bridges science, compassion, and cultural sensitivity — empowering children, families, and communities to embrace inclusion.</p> <p>In recognition of her pioneering contribution to rural rehabilitation and inclusive childhoods, <b>Dr. Shruti More was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, as Sarvshreshth Punarvas Peshewar.</b></p>
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## **DIVYANGTA KE SASHAKTIKARAN KE KSHETRA MAIN SARVSHRESHTH ANUSANDHAN / NAVPRAVARTAN/UTPAD VIKAS**

1	 <p><b>Shri Prateek Madhav</b></p>	<p><b>Shri Prateek Madhav</b>, from Bengaluru, Karnataka, is a visionary leader and social innovator who has transformed the landscape of disability inclusion through technology. As <b>Co-founder and CEO of the AssisTech Foundation (ATF)</b>, he established <b>India's first assistive technology ecosystem</b>, driving innovation, research, and product development for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Under his leadership, ATF has nurtured <b>500+ startups</b>, developed <b>120 assistive products</b>, created <b>50 patents</b>, and positively impacted <b>over one million lives</b>. His</p>
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		<p>initiatives such as “<b>Adidvara</b>”—India’s first digital inclusion platform—and “<b>illuminATe</b>”, a collaboration to scale market access for disability-tech startups, stand as national models of innovation.</p> <p>A member of the <b>NITI Aayog Steering Committee</b> for India’s National Assistive Technology Framework, he continues to shape inclusive policy and entrepreneurship. In recognition of his groundbreaking innovations in assistive technology and empowerment, <b>Shri Prateek Madhav was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, under the Sarvshreshth Navpravartan category.</b></p>
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## II. National Award for Institutions Engaged in Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities- 2025.

DIVYANGNO KE SASHAKTIKARAN HETU SARVESHRESTH SANSTHAN (PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, NGO	
1	<p><b>Jai Vakeel Foundation and Research Centre</b></p> <p>Established in <b>1944</b>, the <b>Jai Vakeel Foundation and Research Centre</b>, Mumbai, is India’s oldest and largest institution dedicated to the empowerment of persons with <b>Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</b>. Guided by a vision of inclusion, it provides <b>comprehensive rehabilitation services</b> through education, therapy, healthcare, and vocational training to <b>over 750 children and adults annually</b> across its <b>Mumbai, Deolali, and Talegaon campuses</b>, while its <b>“Disha Abhiyan”</b> has reached <b>18,000+ children</b> across Maharashtra.</p> <p>Developed in collaboration with <b>NIEPID</b>, Disha Abhiyan has evolved into a <b>national model</b> for multisensory learning and inclusive curriculum. The Foundation’s integrated approach — combining clinical care, special education, family support, and skill development — continues to transform lives and communities.</p> <p>In recognition of its outstanding contribution in providing <b>comprehensive rehabilitation services</b> and promoting inclusion for over eight decades, the <b>Jai Vakeel Foundation and Research Centre was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, as the Sarvshreshth Sansthan</b> providing comprehensive rehabilitation services.</p>

2	<b>Army Welfare Education Society</b>	<p>Established in <b>1983</b>, the <b>Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)</b> is a pioneering national institution dedicated to inclusive education across its <b>140 Army Public Schools and 32 Asha Schools</b> in India. Aligning with the <b>RPwD Act 2016, NEP 2020, and CBSE guidelines</b>, AWES ensures that children with special needs receive equitable learning opportunities within mainstream settings.</p> <p>Over <b>1,690 CwSN</b> are enrolled across its schools, supported by <b>135 special educators and 115 counsellors</b>. Through initiatives like <b>Project Inclusion, Disha Abhiyan</b>, and collaborations with <b>ISLRTC and NIEPVD</b>, AWES has institutionalized Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), accessible infrastructure, digital learning tools, and teacher training programs benefiting thousands.</p> <p>By integrating policy, pedagogy, and practice, AWES has established a sustainable model of inclusive education across the nation. In recognition of its exceptional contribution to <b>inclusive and equitable education for children with disabilities</b>, the <b>Army Welfare Education Society was conferred the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025</b>, as the <b>Sarvshreshth Sansthan</b> for providing inclusive education.</p>
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#### **DIVYANGAO KE LIYE SARVSHRESTH NIYOKTHA (GOVT. ORGANIZATION/PSES/ AUTONOMOUS BODIES /PVT. SECTOR)**

1	<b>Vindhya e-Infomedia Private Limited</b>	<p>Founded in <b>2006</b> and headquartered in <b>Bengaluru, Karnataka</b>, <b>Vindhya e-Infomedia Pvt. Ltd.</b> is a pioneering social enterprise that seamlessly blends business excellence with inclusion. Over the past 19 years, Vindhya has provided <b>employment to more than 7,000 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)</b> across <b>24 Indian states</b>, covering nine categories of disabilities.</p> <p>With <b>five inclusive centers</b> in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Navi Mumbai, Krishnagiri, and Nagpur, Vindhya ensures accessible physical and digital infrastructure, subsidized food and accommodation, and a supportive ecosystem that promotes professional growth. Through initiatives such as <b>Vin-Aspire Leadership Academy, VIN-CARE, and Hands of Inclusion</b>, it has trained over <b>3,000 PWD youth annually</b>, achieving <b>70% employee retention</b> and promoting over <b>150 PWDs</b> into leadership roles every year.</p> <p>For its exemplary record in <b>creating sustainable, large-scale employment and inclusion for persons with disabilities</b>, <b>Vindhya e-Infomedia Pvt. Ltd.</b> was conferred the <b>National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025</b>, as the <b>Sarvshreshth Niyokta for Divyangjan</b>.</p>
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## DIVYANGJANO KE LIYE SARVSHRESTH PLACEMENT AGENCY (EXCLUDING GOVT./ STATE GOVT./LOCAL BODIES)

<sup>1</sup> <b>Saarathee CRM Pvt. Ltd.</b>	<p>Founded in 2018 and headquartered in <b>Gurugram, Haryana</b>, <b>Saarathee CRM Pvt. Ltd.</b> is a pioneering social enterprise that integrates employment, technology, and advocacy to promote disability inclusion across India. Over the past seven years, Saarathee has <b>directly employed more than 500 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)</b> and <b>facilitated sustainable placements for over 3,000 PwDs</b> across 15 states through job fairs, virtual hiring platforms, and skilling programs.</p> <p>Its workforce—comprising over <b>90% PwDs</b>—works in diverse roles including customer service, recruitment, and sales through its inclusive BPO operations. Saarathee's <b>Inclusion Transformation Platform (ITP)</b> supports <b>50+ organizations</b> in embedding inclusive hiring and workplace practices, while its sensitization programs have reached <b>10,000+ corporate employees</b> nationwide.</p> <p>By blending innovation, empathy, and impact, Saarathee has become a national model for inclusive employment.</p> <p>In recognition of its outstanding contribution to disability-inclusive hiring, <b>Saarathee CRM Pvt. Ltd.</b> was conferred the <b>National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025</b>, as the <b>Sarvshreshth Placement Agency for persons with Disabilities</b>.</p>
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## SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN KE KARYANVAYAN / BADHAMUKTA BHATAVARAN KE SRIJAN MEIN SARVSHRESTH RAJYA / UT / ZILA

<sup>1</sup> <b>Lunglei District, Mizoram</b>	<p>With a legacy of over five decades in public service, <b>Lunglei District Administration, Mizoram</b>, has emerged as a national model of accessibility and inclusion under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner. Through its flagship <b>Project LEAP (Lunglei's Empowerment for Access and Equity for All Persons)</b>, the district has created a <b>comprehensive barrier-free ecosystem</b> for persons with disabilities. The initiative conducted <b>Mizoram's first inter-departmental house-to-house disability survey</b>, <b>identifying over 1,400 beneficiaries</b>, followed by health camps benefiting <b>1,091 PwDs</b> and a record <b>distribution of assistive aids to 740 persons worth ₹52 lakh in a single day</b>. Access audits of government buildings, the <b>Purple Fair</b>, and accessible polling stations further strengthened inclusion efforts.</p> <p>In recognition of its outstanding achievements in implementing the <b>Accessible India Campaign</b> and creating a <b>barrier-free, inclusive district</b>, <b>Lunglei District, Mizoram</b>, was conferred the <b>National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025</b>, as the <b>Sarvshreshth Zila</b>.</p>
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**SARVSHRESTH SUGAMYA YATAYAT KE SADAHAN / SOOCHANA EVEM SANCHAR PRODYOGIKI  
(GOVT./PRIVATE ORGANIZATION)**

1	<p><b>BarrierBreak Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</b></p> <p>Founded in 2004, <b>BarrierBreak Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</b>, Mumbai, is India's foremost digital accessibility enterprise and a global pioneer in creating inclusive technology solutions. For over two decades, the company has empowered organizations across <b>education, government, healthcare, retail, and finance</b> sectors to make their digital platforms accessible to persons with disabilities in alignment with global standards like <b>WCAG, ADA, and Section 508</b>.</p> <p>BarrierBreak has tested and remediated <b>thousands of websites and mobile applications</b>, trained <b>over 10,000 professionals</b>, and introduced innovative products such as <b>A11yInspect</b> and <b>A11yNow</b>, revolutionizing accessibility management. It also led national accessibility initiatives, contributing to the <b>National Policy on Electronic Accessibility, GIGW Guidelines</b>, and the <b>Harmonized Accessibility Standards</b>.</p> <p>An employer of persons with disabilities, it practices inclusion by example and impact. For its pioneering efforts in advancing <b>digital accessibility and inclusive technology</b>, <b>BarrierBreak Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</b> was honoured with the <b>National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025</b>, for excellence in Accessible Information Technology.</p>
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**DIVYANGJANO KE ADHIKAR ADHINIYAM /UDID EVEM DIVYANG SASHAKTIKARAN KI ANYA YOJANAON KE  
KARYANVAYAN MEIN SARVSHRESTH RAJYA /UT/ZILA**

1	<p><b>Education Department, Delhi Govt.</b></p> <p>The <b>Education Department</b>, Government of NCT of Delhi, under <b>Samagra Shiksha</b>, has set a national benchmark in implementing the <b>Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016</b> through inclusive, equitable, and quality education for <b>over 27,500 children with disabilities (CwDs)</b> across its schools.</p> <p>A network of <b>2,321 Special Educators</b>, including <b>98 with disabilities</b>, supports learners through individualized education plans, resource rooms, and <b>14 functional District Resource Centres</b>, offering therapy and counselling. All government schools are <b>100% accessible</b>, equipped with ramps and modified toilets, ensuring barrier-free learning environments.</p> <p>Innovations such as the <b>Functional Curriculum, Home-Based Education for 1,400 CwDs</b>, and integration of <b>UDID</b> with educational databases reflect Delhi's holistic and data-driven approach. For its outstanding commitment to inclusive education, accessibility, and rights-based implementation</p>
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		of disability schemes, the <b>Education Department, Government of NCT of Delhi</b> was recognized with the <b>National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, as the Sarvshreshth Rajya.</b>
<sup>2</sup>	<b>Rajkot District, Gujarat</b>	<p>Under the leadership of the <b>District Collector, Rajkot</b>, the district administration has emerged as a model of inclusive governance by effectively implementing disability empowerment schemes in line with the <b>Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016</b>. In the past two years, Rajkot organized <b>block-wise ALIMCO assessment and distribution camps</b>, benefiting <b>2,494 persons with disabilities</b> through the provision of <b>4,314 assistive devices</b> worth <b>₹3.43 crore</b>.</p> <p>The district has issued <b>1,711 new UDID cards</b>, <b>1,151 Niramaya health insurance policies</b>, and <b>135 guardianship certificates</b> under the <b>National Trust Act, 1999</b>. Initiatives such as accessible polling, home-based education, and infrastructure development across <b>960 schools</b> have ensured a barrier-free environment.</p> <p>For its exceptional achievements in promoting accessibility, inclusion, and rehabilitation through effective implementation of disability welfare schemes, <b>Rajkot District, Gujarat</b>, was recognized with the <b>National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, as the Sarvshreshth Zila</b>.</p>

### **DIVYANGJANO KE ADHIKAR ADHINIYAM, 2016 KE APNE RAJYA MEIN KARYANVAYAN MEIN SARVSHRESTH RAJYA AAYUKTA DIVAYNGJAN**

<sup>1</sup>	<b>Office of the State Commissioner PwD, Odisha</b>	<p>The <b>Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Odisha</b>, under the leadership of <b>Smt. Bratati Harichandan</b>, has emerged as a model of proactive governance and advocacy in implementing the <b>Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016</b>.</p> <p>The office organized <b>district-level awareness workshops in Nayagarh, Keonjhar, and Rayagada</b>, reaching <b>over 400 officials and numerous NGOs</b>, conducted <b>capacity-building programs for 29 Grievance Redressal Officers</b>, and held quarterly reviews with <b>District Social Security Officers</b> on accessibility and inclusion. It resolved <b>19,577 housing grievances</b> under PMAY and Antyodaya Gruha Yojana and ensured accessibility audits across major institutions including <b>Utkal University and SCB Medical College</b>.</p> <p>Through its sustained advocacy, grievance redressal, and capacity building, it has strengthened disability governance in Odisha.</p>
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		For its exemplary leadership and effective implementation of the RPwD Act, <b>the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Odisha, was recognized with the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025.</b>
<b>PUNARVAS PESHEWARO KE VIKAS MEIN SANLAGN SARVSHRESTH SANGATHAN</b>		
1	<b>Pramila Katiyar Special Education Institute, Pukhrayan, Kanpur Dehat Uttar Pradesh</b>	<p>Established in <b>2010</b> in <b>Pukhrayan, Kanpur Dehat (Uttar Pradesh)</b>, the <b>Pramila Katiyar Special Education Institute</b> has become a leading centre for training rehabilitation professionals and empowering persons with disabilities in rural India. Recognized by the <b>Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)</b> and registered under the <b>RPwD Act, 2016</b>, the institute <b>offers Diploma in Special Education (Hearing Impairment and Intellectual &amp; Developmental Disability)</b> programs and has successfully trained <b>over 500</b> special educators.</p> <p>Through its <b>District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme</b>, it provides free physiotherapy, speech and audiology services, vocational training, and outreach across <b>25 villages</b>, benefiting <b>thousands of PwDs</b>. Its innovative community-based rehabilitation initiatives have strengthened inclusive education and professional excellence in special education.</p> <p>For its remarkable contribution to building a skilled rehabilitation workforce and advancing inclusive development, <b>Pramila Katiyar Special Education Institute was bestowed the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025, as the Sarvshreshth Sangathan in Development of Rehabilitation Professionals.</b></p>