



THE BRIEFCASE



ISSUE #12

PGCL
NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

The Briefcase returns this month with an edition focused on Disability rights and Awareness in India. Turning attention to the ways access, dignity, and inclusion are shaped in everyday life.

Disability rights are often discussed through isolated moments such as court decisions, awareness days, or acts of accommodation but lived reality unfolds in classrooms, workplaces, streets, digital spaces, and homes. This edition asks us to look closely at those environments and consider who they are built for, who they exclude, and what inclusion truly demands.

We explore how laws and policies in India recognize disability on paper, and how that recognition translates or fails to translate into meaningful participation. From education and employment to public infrastructure and online platforms, our writers examine the quiet gaps between intention and impact, compliance and access, visibility and voice.

This issue also reflects on how disability is spoken about: the language we use, the assumptions we make, and the narratives that continue to centre charity over rights. Moving beyond inspiration and tokenism, the edition focuses on disability as a question of justice, autonomy, and equal belonging.

At its core, this Briefcase is about everyday experiences. It is about what it means to move through a world that was not designed with everyone in mind, and what responsibility institutions, communities, and systems carry in changing that reality.

Let's step into this issue with care and attention because access is not optional, and dignity should never be negotiable

The Editorial Board x

In this newsletter you can expect:

THE BINDER

- Tracing the Legislative History of Disability Rights in India
- From Promise to Paper: Are Disability Reservations in Education and Employment Truly Enforced?

THE GAVEL

- Kabir Paharia v. National Medical Commission
- Pragma Prasun & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.

THE COMMENTARY

- Crip Camp (2020)- Documentary
- Crafting Memories

THE BLACK & THE WHITE

- A National Blind Spot: How India Forgets Its Paralympic Champions Between Tournaments
- Access Is Not Accessibility: The Dangerous Confusion Undermining Disability Rights

THE WIG & THE WIT

- The Accessibility Audit

THE CAUSELIST

- Mark your Calendars - An exclusive preview of upcoming months' events

THE POST-ITS

- Your monthly dose of 'Did you know?'

THE BINDER



Your essential collection of the latest legal updates, neatly organised for a quick reference.

Tracing the Legislative History of Disability Rights in India

For decades, disability in India was addressed not as a matter of rights, but of sympathy. The law viewed persons with disabilities through a charitable and medical lens. Considered as objects of care rather than holders of rights. The evolution of disability rights legislation in India tells the story of a gradual but decisive shift from welfare-driven schemes to constitutional recognition, dignity, and inclusion.

Early Legislative Silence and the Welfare Model:

In the years following Independence, the Indian legal framework largely ignored disability as a rights issue. The Constitution of India did not explicitly mention disability, and early policies treated it as a social welfare concern rather than a question of equality. Persons with disabilities were addressed through fragmented schemes focusing on rehabilitation, pensions, or institutional care, reinforcing dependence rather than autonomy. There was little acknowledgment that social barriers rather than impairments themselves excluded disabled persons from education, employment, and public life.

The First Statutory Turning Point: The Equal Opportunities Act, 1995

A significant shift occurred with the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. Influenced by the UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983–1992), this was India's first comprehensive legislation addressing disability.

The Act recognized seven categories of disabilities and introduced key measures such as reservation in employment and education, non-discrimination, and accessibility in public spaces. While progressive for its time, the 1995 Act remained limited in scope. It treated equality as accommodation rather than entitlement and failed to recognize disabled persons as autonomous rights-holders. Enforcement mechanisms were weak, and compliance largely aspirational.

Judicial Expansion and Constitutional Grounding

In the absence of robust legislative protection, the judiciary began playing a crucial role in advancing disability rights. Courts increasingly interpreted Articles 14, 15, and 21 to include persons with disabilities within the guarantee of equality and dignity. Judicial pronouncements recognized that exclusion based on disability undermines substantive equality and the right to live with dignity. This constitutional grounding laid the foundation for a rights-based approach, reframing disability not as personal tragedy but as a matter of social justice.

UNCRPD and the Paradigm Shift

India's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007 marked a decisive normative shift. The Convention rejected the medical model of disability and embraced the social and human rights model, obligating States to remove systemic barriers and ensure full participation. This international commitment necessitated domestic legal reform, making the 1995 framework obsolete in both philosophy and scope.



Credits: OHCHR

THE BINDER



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Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) represents the most transformative moment in India's disability rights journey. Expanding recognized disabilities from seven to twenty-one, the Act explicitly adopts the language of rights, dignity, autonomy, and inclusion. The legislation strengthens anti-discrimination protections, enhances reservation quotas, mandates accessibility across physical and digital infrastructure, and introduces penalties for non-compliance. Importantly, it recognizes persons with disabilities as decision-makers in their own lives, aligning Indian law with constitutional values and international obligations.

Yet, implementation remains uneven. Structural barriers, lack of awareness, and administrative inertia continue to dilute the Act's transformative promise, particularly for persons with disabilities in rural and marginalized communities. Legislative progress alone cannot dismantle entrenched social attitudes. Despite a robust statutory framework, disability continues to be stigmatized, especially where access to education, English literacy, and digital skills is limited. The gap between law and lived reality reveals that awareness is as critical as legislation.

The legislative history of disability rights in India reflects a slow but meaningful transition. The law has moved forward; society must now catch up. Because rights on paper mean little unless they are felt in classrooms, workplaces, and everyday life. And disability justice, like all constitutional promises, is only as strong as its implementation.

In the end, inclusion is not about making space, it is about recognizing that the space always belonged to everyone.

Ms. Ishwari Salunke
Student, 4th Year

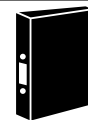


Credits: DRR



Credits: OHCHR

THE BINDER



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From Promise to Paper: Are Disability Reservations in Education and Employment Truly Enforced?

We often discuss and debate about the rights and equality for all. In India, we can witness plethora of dialogue on different issues pertaining to equality. However, one very important dialogue continues to remain on side lines. This article aims to examine how disability reservation in education and employment is frequently treated as a promise, while the actual implementation of these provisions in practice continues to be overlooked.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, [2016](#) was enacted to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. The Act provides for reservation in all government institutions of higher education and other higher educational institutions receiving government aid and thereby are required to reserve five percent seats. The Act also states that persons with benchmark disabilities shall be given an upper age relaxation of five years for admission in higher education. Further the Act mandates a minimum four percent reservation in government establishments for persons with benchmark disabilities.

Despite these provisions, implementation on the ground still remains weak. A 2018 study on the implementation status of RPwD Act found that over 50 per cent of the states have failed to notify the State rules, despite the act mandating the same within six months of its enforcement. The same study also found that a similar number of states have failed to constitute State Advisory Board or notify Special courts in the districts. Moreover, only Tamil Nadu was identified to have increased the quantum of assistance for Persons with Disabilities in the social security schemes. ([NCPEDP](#)), [2018](#) Despite progressive laws like the Rights of PwD Act (2016), which mandates a 4% job quota, only 36% of PwDs participate in the labour force compared to 60% of non-disabled adults.

Adding to the already existing gap is the fact that disabled women face stark exclusion, with employment rates at 23% according to the NSO 76th Round of Survey (National Statistical Office [NSO], 2019). Most importantly, accessibility remains a hurdle because only under 25% of workplaces meet basic standards, despite government schemes like the Accessible India Campaign ([Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, 2023](#)).

India has a disabled population of about 2.2% and their rights cannot be overlooked. Though, estimates of India's disability population vary, researchers have put the figure to 70 million. An estimated 75% of people with disabilities reside in rural areas of developing countries and have very limited scope of attaining the services they require. The best possible manner to train, educate and boost the morale of disabled sections of society is by linking them to accessible spaces that not only support their needs but also empowers them. The key stakeholders in this conversation are government agencies, hiring companies, and the disabled community.



Credits: [Business Standard](#)

THE BINDER



Your essential collection of the latest legal updates, neatly organised for a quick reference.

Challenges exist at multiple levels. When a person, despite studying and developing themselves against all odds, finds that they are unable to secure suitable employment, it can significantly undermine their self-confidence. Disabled persons living in rural areas are often cut off from opportunities for self-development and lack access to education opportunities and computer skills, both of which are essential for employment. As a result, they are among the most severely affected by market fluctuations. Government's reservation policy of 4% reservation in government and public sector jobs does not translate to a reality because the disabled cannot pass the online recruitment tests and the method of job identification is cumbersome. In public sector, it is identified that persons with disability tantamount to 1-1.5% of their workforce.

These structural barriers are reflected in the actual functioning of institutions. Several reserved posts remain unfilled or are never advertised, particularly in higher level government services. In educational institutions, students with disabilities are frequently denied admission on vague grounds, even when they satisfy academic eligibility and possess valid disability certificates.



Credits: [LinkedIn](#)

This gap between policy and practice has also been recognized by the judiciary. In *Dr. Ganesh Baraiya v. Union of India (2017)*, Dr. Baraiya, a medical aspirant with locomotor disability, qualified the entrance examination but was denied admission to MBBS course due to rigid medical fitness standards. The Supreme Court held that blanket exclusion of persons with disabilities from medical education is discriminatory and violates the principles of the RPwD Act. The Court stressed that authorities must focus on reasonable accommodation and individual assessment, rather than automatic disqualification based on disability.

The above discussion shows that disability reservation in India often remains confined to statutory texts rather than lived reality. Lastly, it can be said that true inclusion requires more efforts than we think on the ground level as well as on societal level too and not only written promises are enough, instead it demands sincere implementation and accountability on many levels.

Ms. Priyal Shukla
Student, 3rd Year



Credits: [Userway](#)

THE GAVEL



The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

Pragya Prasun & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors., (2025 INSC 599)

The Supreme Court delivered a groundbreaking ruling On April 30, 2025, wherein it directed regulators to overhaul digital KYC processes for inclusivity. Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan emphasized that true technological progress under Digital India must accommodate all and enforce reasonable accommodations as a constitutional mandate under Article 21 and the RPwD Act, 2016.

Background

The lead petitioners in W.P.(C) No. 289/2024 were acid attack survivors with severe facial disfigurement and eye burns that rendered them unable to blink for the mandatory "live photograph" in digital KYC/e-KYC/video KYC (V-CIP) processes. This barrier blocked them from opening bank accounts or purchasing SIM cards.

The petitioners also faced daily hurdles in identity verification, general monetary transactions, and accessing government schemes due to visual-dependent norms like OTP reading and signature requirements. These processes that are governed by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, RBI's KYC Master Directions, 2016, and sectoral guidelines, prioritize anti-money laundering but completely overlook disability needs thereby forcing reliance on often unavailable and unaffordable assistance.



Credits: FourFront

Issue(s)

1. Does the mandatory "liveness" check (e.g., eye blinking) and visual tasks in digital KYC violate the right to dignity, equality, and non-discrimination under Article 21 and RPwD Act Sections 3, 13, and 40?
2. Are current guidelines compliant with accessibility standards (WCAG 2.1, IS 17802) and the duty for reasonable accommodations under RPwD Rules, 2017?
3. What alternative mechanisms are required to enable independent KYC for acid attack survivors, blind/low-vision persons, and other PwD in financial, telecom, and government services?

Judgment

The Hon'ble Supreme Court opined and expressed concerns over inclusion of Person with Disabilities in digital India. The Court remarked: "However, amidst this wave of digital progress, there remains a crucial and often overlooked aspect that demands urgent attention - ensuring that digital infrastructure and services are accessible to all, including persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups."



Credits: Indian Global Forum

THE GAVEL



The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

The Court held that Digital KYC systems create serious barriers for Persons with Disabilities. Individuals who are blind, have low vision, mobility impairments, or intellectual disabilities often cannot use these platforms because they're incompatible with screen readers, rely solely on visual content, use inaccessible CAPTCHAs, have un-labelled fields, and require biometric tasks like blinking or precise face positioning. The petitioners who are acid attack survivors with facial and eye disfigurements cannot complete KYC processes and are therefore locked out of essential financial and government services. Despite their statutory right to accessibility under the RPwD Act, 2016, and the respondents' acknowledged duty to ensure accessibility, these barriers persist. The Hon'ble Court has also established that bridging the digital gap between the Persons with Disabilities is a constitutional imperative thereby recognizing the right to digital access as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The petitions were allowed and disposed of without costs. The Hon'ble Court underscored that – “True inclusion requires that technological advancements accommodate the diverse needs of all citizens, thereby fostering an environment where no individual is left behind.” (para 2 9th line). This ruling sets a precedent for barrier-free digital governance for all citizens including the visually impaired and Persons with Disability, thereby bridging the accessibility gap in India's tech-driven economy.

Ms. Aarya Temgire
Student, 3rd Year



Credits: LawAttorney.

THE GAVEL



The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

Kabir Paharia v. National Medical Commission (2025 INSC 623)

Background

Kabir Paharia, a Scheduled Caste candidate with benchmark disability (PwBD), secured an exceptional rank in the NEET UG 2024 examination under the SC-PwBD category. Despite meeting the prescribed cut-off with a wide margin, his admission to the MBBS course was denied on the basis of the National Medical Commission's (NMC) disability eligibility guidelines. The denial rested on a mechanical assessment of physical impairment, disregarding functional ability, assistive devices, and reasonable accommodation.

Both the Single Judge and Division Bench of the Delhi High Court upheld this exclusion, relying on medical board opinions that declared the candidate "ineligible" under prevailing NMC norms.

Issues Before the Court

The Supreme Court was called upon to consider whether disability assessment for medical admissions can be based solely on rigid physical criteria, without evaluating individual capability, assistive technology, and reasonable accommodation as mandated under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Ruling

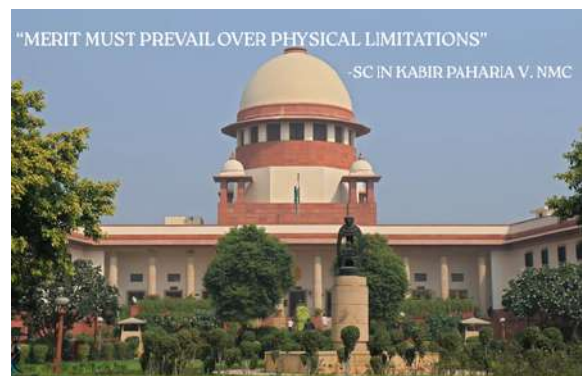
The Supreme Court set aside the earlier approach and directed the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi to constitute a specialised five-member medical board, including experts in locomotor disability and neurology, to conduct a fresh functional assessment. The reassessment revealed that Kabir Paharia was capable of performing essential clinical skills such as suturing, intubation, and intravenous cannulation, with only minor, non-disqualifying practical limitations.

The Court held that denying admission on such grounds was arbitrary, discriminatory, and violative of Articles 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution. It emphasised that equality under the Constitution is substantive, not formal, and that persons with benchmark disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodation rather than exclusion.

The judgment strongly reaffirmed that reasonable accommodation is a fundamental right and not a matter of discretion. It criticised the NMC's outdated guidelines for perpetuating systemic discrimination and mandated their revision in light of earlier decisions such as Om Rathod v. Director General of Health Sciences and Anmol v. Union of India. The Court directed that no deserving PwBD candidate should be denied medical education due to stereotypical assumptions about disability.

Considering that the academic session had already progressed, the Court directed that Kabir Paharia be admitted to the MBBS course at AIIMS, New Delhi in the 2025-26 academic year, without requiring him to reappear for NEET.

Ms. Durva Shinde
Student, 4th Year



Credits: Britannica

THE COMMENTARY



Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

Crip Camp(2020) - Documentary

Crip Camp is a meaningful and engaging documentary of disabled teens. It is, in essence, a coming-of-age story where teens with disabilities experience freedom, romance and friendship, away from home, at a summer camp. The documentary explores an important theme- why should we (PWD) be limited by society's expectations.

Based in the early 1970's, the film does not contextualize disability as a tragedy, or something that needs to be overcome. It treats disability, as it is. Teenagers are just that- unpredictable, funny and irreverent. A moment in the film reflects, "We're just kids having fun"! As teens grow up, they become activists, that play an important role in the disability rights movement of the United States.

The film is especially relevant for Gen Z, as it explores themes that are of most import to them- voice, visibility and resistance. The film framed disability as a social and political issue, rather than a personal limitation. For the viewers, it offers a window into disability rights history, and, a broader lesson about equality, agency and the power of young voices in bringing about change.

You can watch it on Netflix!

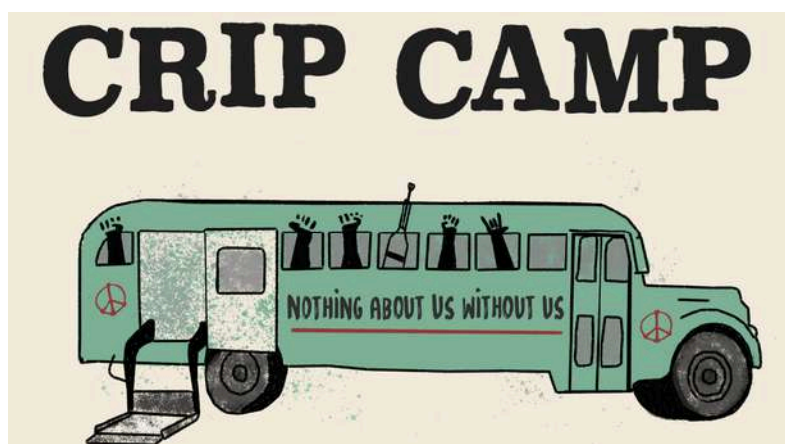
Dr. Apurva Thakur
Assistant Professor, PGCL



Credits: Judy Heumann



Credits: The New York Times



Credits: Pop Culture Collab

THE COMMENTARY



Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

Crafting Memories

Crafting Memories by Suman Mantri brings us a stirring reminder that ability is not defined by what is missing, but by what is sharpened. Through powerful, tightly framed visuals, these videos ask us to rethink how we understand strength, sport, and triumph.

In one, Team India's blind women's cricket squad storms the T20 World Cup 2025, navigating the pitch through sound, rhythm, and extraordinary trust. Their victory laps are euphoric, but also instructive: here, listening becomes strategy, and coordination becomes instinct.

In another, the 2025 Summer Deaflympics in Tokyo unfolds as a medal-rich testament to focus forged in silence. With 20 medals: 9 gold, 7 silver, and 4 bronze, India's deaf athletes dominate across shooting, badminton, and athletics, proving that the absence of sound can sharpen precision rather than dull it.



Credits: BBC

Together, these moments dismantle lazy stereotypes. Blind players hear their way to victory; deaf athletes channel quiet into fierce concentration. The question they leave us with is not what para-athletes lack, but what systems still fail to support them.

As you watch, consider this: what would it take for India to match this resilience with sustained funding, infrastructure, and visibility for para-sports? The videos are celebratory but they are also a call to pay closer attention.

You can watch the videos at the links given below:

Blind cricket:
<https://youtube.com/shorts/ZhzT5wl6GaU?si=Gk7BSXaEfbYIVAPo>

Deaflympics:
<https://youtube.com/shorts/06AgJGoEvjE?si=4KKf-Bxn1b1AxJSH>

Dr. Suman Kalani
 Vice Principal, PGCL



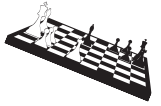
Credits: BBC



TOKYO 2025
 25TH SUMMER DEAFLYMPICS

Credits: Deaflympics

THE BLACK & THE WHITE



A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

A National Blind Spot: How India Forgets Its Paralympic Champions Between Tournaments

Every Paralympic season, India is reminded of its para-athletes anew. It is at this very moment that the news websites circulate congratulatory reports, politicians write congratulatory messages over social media, and online discussions are filled with hashtags of national pride. For a short span of time, Paralympians become icons of determination and nationalism.

But after the counting of medals and the end of media attention, the support systems of the country go back to hibernation. The facilities remain inaccessible, the opportunities for sponsorship dwindle, and institutional support recedes into relative silence. This pattern points to a disturbing fact that India does not support its paralympic winners in the long run; it merely consumes the achievements they create.

Public celebration thus substitutes sustained accountability. Media attention and official accolades celebration as a ritual of absolution which once performed, the State and society consider their duties discharged. Paralympians are remembered only as long as they serve the national image, and are forgotten the moment when they cease to be useful.



Credits: Mint

Hannah Ardent, a German and American historian and philosopher, view of the polis (here the term is used to describe the public space where individuals are seen, heard and taken seriously through their actions.) as a “space of appearance” is particularly instructive in this context. For Ardent, an individual becomes a political entity, not simply by being in-state, but rather through the act of public disclosure by means of their actions. Yet this public space is necessarily precarious. For it to continue, there must be continued group activity and public participation. Ardent argues that the moment the action is reduced, the space of appearance of the individual also disappears.

India’s treatment of Paralympians illustrates this fragility. Para athletes can appear in public space only at moments of spectacle: upon the winning of medals, the playing of national anthems and the reproduction of specific narratives. When the performances are over, so is their political visibility. The space of visibility for the Paraathletes exists only as long as they gather attention and engagement from the masses. Once the collective attention from the masses disappears, so does the recognition. The space of appearance is not followed through by policy, infrastructure or institutional support; it is fleetingly activated only to be abandoned. In Ardent’s terms, Paralympians are granted appearance without durability.

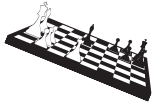
Medal ceremonies are carefully choreographed and well financed, while accessible training facilities, specialized coaching, rehabilitation services, and long term athlete welfare are not. The resulting imbalance is evident. A system that prioritizes celebratory rituals over robust infrastructure is not aspirational; it is negligent.

The consequences of the fading of the space of appearance of para athletes have severe impacts on their careers. Since the sponsorships are directly linked with the visibility of a tournament with the decline of public attention, financial insecurity also becomes routine for the para athletes. Many of them barely manage to finance their training, equipment or rehabilitation during the period between the tournaments.

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE



A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

Despite having an apparently solid legal framework, the neglect remains. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 acknowledges equality, accessibility and participation in public life, including sports. National sports policies also commit to inclusion and empowerment of para athletes. However, such assurances rarely get converted into ongoing institutional support for para-athletes.

When rights exist merely on paper, they function as symbolic compliance rather than effective protection. The law signals concern but fails to compel urgency. This gap between statutory promise and lived experience is revealing of a more profound failure, that is, the lack of political will to consider para-sports an ongoing duty rather than just a symbolic act. When Paralympians are framed as anomalies for extraordinary willpower, the onus of success is placed completely on the individual. Thereby the structural barriers caused to the para athlete due to the inadequacy of a system fade into the background, and celebration replaces systematic accountability.



Credits: Motivation N You

India's neglect of its Paralympic champions is a political decision and not an administrative lapse. The arguments surrounding resources constraints and governance complexities are fair however, they cannot explain as to why there is plenty of celebration yet no support. It is not a capacity failure but a question of intent. The cost of this neglect is very real, economic and psychological.

This cost is borne by the careers of the para athletes whose bodies require sustained care and whose visibility is conditional. The only solution to this issue is when India supports its paralympians independently of their podium finishes and their celebration becomes more than just an exercise in moral convenience and a hollow manifestation of national pride.

Ms. Janhavi Angal
Student, 4th Year

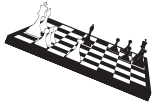


Credits: Paralympics.org.

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE



A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

Access Is not Accessibility: The dangerous confusion undermining Disability Rights.

We all love visible proof of progress. A freshly painted ramp at a government building. A lift installed just before an inspection. A website proudly stamped “accessible”. These markers are photographed, reported, and archived as evidence of inclusion. Yet for many persons with disabilities, these very spaces remain unusable. Due to the service not made available at the time of need because it is either “under maintenance” or the service actually only exists on paper. What is being built, it seems, is access in appearance, not accessibility in reality. The confusion between *access* and *accessibility* is not a technical error. It is a political and moral failure.

Access is static. It asks only whether something exists. Accessibility is lived. It asks whether a person can actually use that thing. And use it independently, safely, and with dignity. A ramp that ends at a locked door is access without accessibility. A lift that works only during office hours excludes those who arrive early, leave late, or need assistance outside rigid schedules. A “barrier-free” campus without accessible toilets or signage mocks the very idea of inclusion.

This performative approach allows institutions to claim compliance while avoiding responsibility. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, accessibility is a legal obligation and not a decorative choice. Yet enforcement remains weak, audits are superficial, and disabled users are rarely consulted. Accessibility becomes a checklist item rather than a continuous process shaped by real experiences.

And this discrimination is not limited to physical barriers. Eighty per cent of persons with disabilities have no health insurance, and 53% of those who apply face rejection, often without any explanation, noted a nationwide survey conducted between 2023 and 2025 of over 5,000 persons with disabilities across 34 States and Union Territories by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP).

The report also found that persons with disabilities continue to encounter discriminatory underwriting practices while using financial services, unaffordable premiums, inaccessible digital insurance platforms, and a widespread lack of awareness of available schemes and infrastructure.

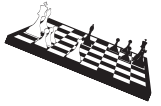
The danger of this confusion lies in its consequences. When the State treats symbolic infrastructure as sufficient, it shifts the burden onto persons with disabilities themselves. If you cannot enter the building, the problem is framed as your limitation, not the faulty ramp. If you cannot fill an online form, you are told to seek “help,” rather than questioning why the system excludes you. In this way, token access quietly legitimizes exclusion.



Credits: Scroll

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE



A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

This mindset also reinforces a charity-based view of disability. Accessibility is seen as a favour, a concession, something to be provided when convenient. But accessibility is not benevolence, it is equality. The cost is not just inconvenience; it is lost opportunities, enforced dependence, and systemic invisibility. True accessibility demands more than infrastructure. It requires design rooted in universal access, regular maintenance, accountability mechanisms, and most importantly the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making. It means asking not “Have we built a ramp?” but “Can everyone enter, navigate, and use this space without humiliation or assistance?”

India does not lack laws or guidelines. What it lacks is the will to move beyond optics. Until accessibility is understood as a lived right rather than a photographed achievement, inclusion will remain a performance staged for reports and inspections, not a reality experienced by citizens. Access opens a door in theory. Accessibility ensures someone can actually walk or wheel through it. The difference is not semantic. It is the difference between dignity and exclusion.

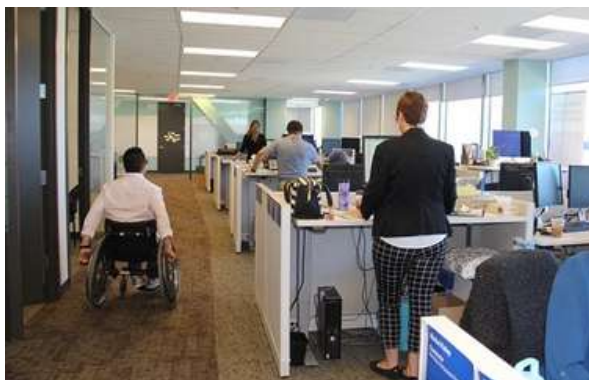
Ms. Shrishti Shastry
Student, 4th Year



Credits: UN



Credits: Thebytesized



Credits: Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre



Credits: All About Vision

DISCLAIMER:

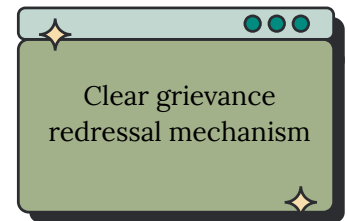
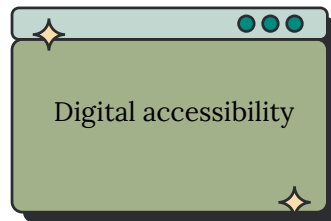
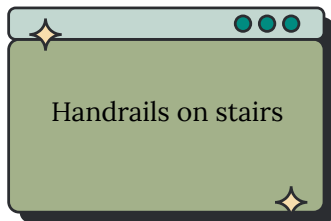
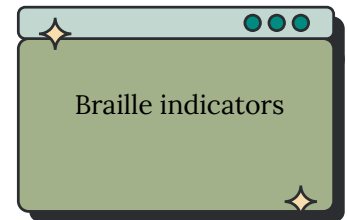
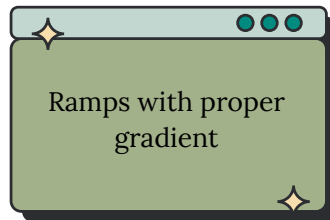
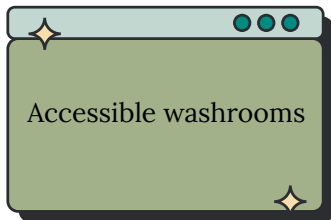
The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author(s) and do not reflect the views of the newsletter. The content is intended for academic purposes and does not aim to hurt, target, or offend any individual or group. Readers are encouraged to engage respectfully, and personal attacks or harassment will not be tolerated.

THE WIG & THE WIT

Simple and fun puzzles to judge your wit!

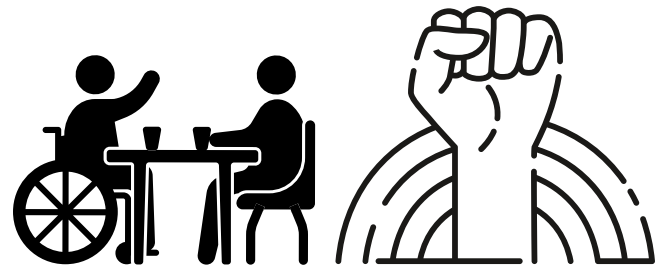


THE ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT CAN YOUR INSTITUTION REALLY SAY “YES”?



More ticks = more inclusion. 

Every unticked box is a barrier someone faces daily.



Guess: True or False

1. A disability does not have to be visible to be legally recognized in India
 True False.
2. Mental illness is excluded from India’s disability laws.
 True False
3. The denial of accessible transport can limit the right to education and employment.
 True False
4. Accessibility applies only to buildings, not websites or digital platforms.
 True False





THE CAUSELIST

The Newsletter's schedule for all things high and happening around the world.

Create a **POSITIVE**
and **INCLUSIVE**
learning
ENVIRONMENT

nyaya valokan 2026

The Moot Court Society
Presents
THE 14TH EDITION OF
**NYAYAVALOKAN TRIAL
ADVOCACY
&
JUDGEMENT WRITING
COMPETITION**

Date of event: **22ND - 25TH JANUARY, 2026**
Event's Location: **PRAVIN GANDHI COLLEGE OF LAW, MUMBAI**

www.mootcourtsocietypgcl.com | nyayaavalokan@gmail.com

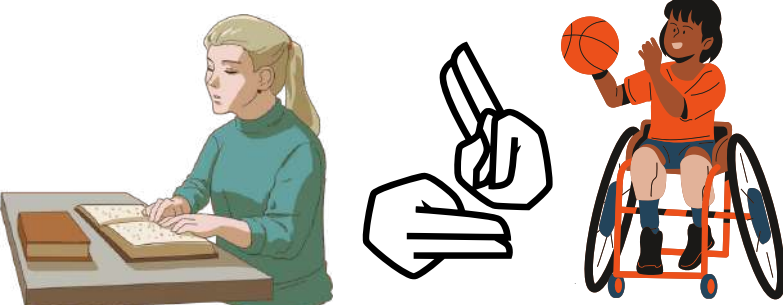
World Braille Day
January 4

**INTERNATIONAL
PAGET'S
AWARENESS DAY**
JANUARY-11

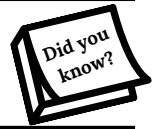
**Race Against Dementia
Day 2026**
January 21, 2026

NOVEMBER ANSWER REVEAL !

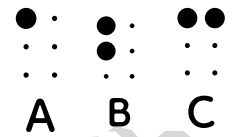
1. Juvenile
2. Child Labour
3. Child Labour
4. Rehabilitation
5. Education
6. POCSO
7. Dowry
8. Adoption



THE POST-ITS



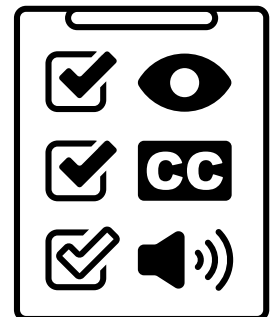
Sticky Notes to tack up some fun legal facts.



Reservation for persons with disabilities is a statutory right, not a policy choice.

The RPwD Act mandates 4% reservation in government jobs and 5% in higher education institutions, distributed across benchmark disabilities.

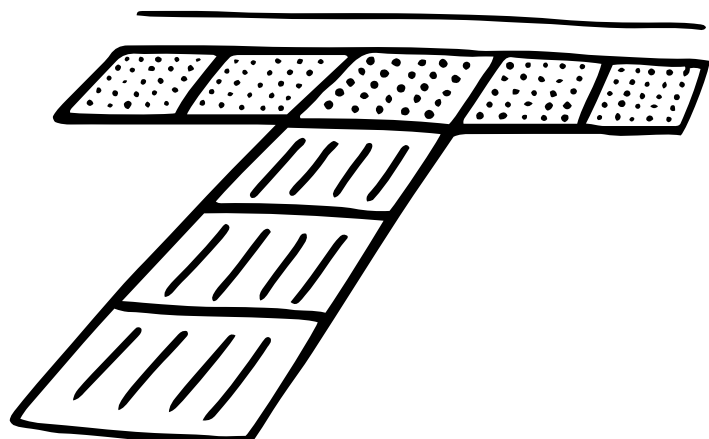
Denial of access to websites, online forms, or digital services of government establishments can be challenged as a violation of the right to accessibility



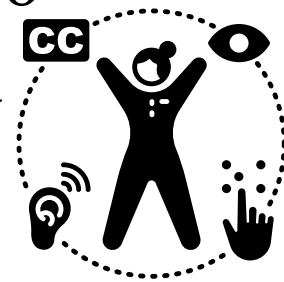
Consultation with disabled persons is a legal expectation.

Indian disability law aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD), which India ratified in 2007, requiring that persons with disabilities be involved in policymaking that affects them.

Around 15 per cent of the world's population, or estimated 1 billion people, live with disabilities. They are the world's largest minority



Inclusion is not bringing people into
what already exists; it is making a
new space, a better space for
EVERYONE



Until Next Time...

As we close this Disability Awareness and Rights edition of The Briefcase, we want to thank you for staying with us through these pages that asked us to look closer, listen harder, and question what inclusion truly means. This issue was an invitation to move beyond sympathy and symbolism, and toward rights, dignity, and lived realities.

We hope these stories, perspectives, and reflections challenged assumptions, deepened understanding, and reminded us that disability is not a limitation of individuals, but of systems that fail to include.

This, however, is not the end of the conversation. It's a checkpoint. Next month, The Briefcase returns with sharper legal insights, fresh ideas, engaging games, and thoughtful surprises that continue to push boundaries and open dialogue. We're growing, listening, and learning, just as we hope you are.

See you in the next issue. And trust us, what's coming next is worth the wait.
With purpose and solidarity,
The Editorial Board

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to you by: -**

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Thank you for reading!

We'd love to hear from you!
Share your thoughts, ideas, or
suggestions to help us make this
newsletter even better. Tell us
what you loved or what you'd like
to see in our next edition!

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