

IN THE SPOTLIGHT - POLICY AND ADVOCACY

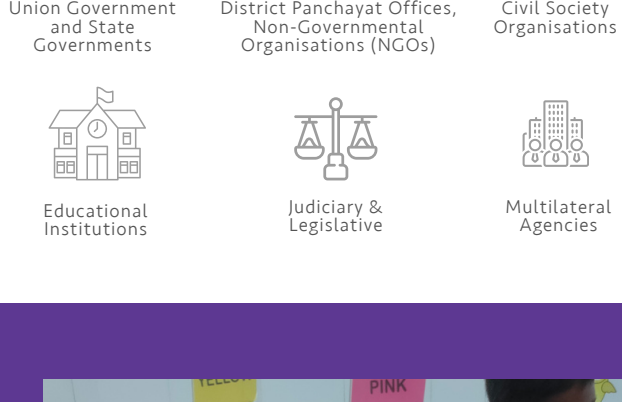
The Association of People with Disability's Policy and Advocacy (P&A) team

has been working diligently to bring about systemic change in the disability sector, collaborating with various stakeholders to influence policy change.

Our vision is the overall inclusion of persons with disabilities (PwDs) through enhanced knowledge, practice, and attitudes.

This special edition newsletter focuses on our P&A team's key achievements and efforts towards inclusivity! Read on...

Who We Work With



The NIRAMAYA Journey in Karnataka (2020-2023)

Transforming the Disability Landscape

What's NIRAMAYA?
The NIRAMAYA scheme provides affordable health insurance to persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

APD spearheaded the NIRAMAYA health insurance initiative in Karnataka, jointly with the Women and Child Development Department, Disability Directorate, Commissioner of PwDs, and Municipal Administration.

In 2020-21, APD's proactive efforts included -

- Submitting requests to district authorities and memorandums to relevant departments
- Urging the allocation of 5% of resources to NIRAMAYA insurance
- This led to 11 district administrations issuing circulars, promoting NIRAMAYA coverage in 30 districts

In 2022-23, the P&A team collaborated with the Disability Directorate to boost budget allocations for NIRAMAYA health insurance premiums.

Following intensive discussions and orientations with district-level officers, the directorate increased its recognition, allocating an average of Rs. 30,000 per beneficiary for premium payments. NTA-registered organisations and NGOs were mobilised, resulting in approximately Rs. 6 lakh allocated to NGOs, covering 2400 beneficiaries, and APD receiving Rs. 1.70 lakh for premium payments in neighbouring districts.



Centre for Disability Law

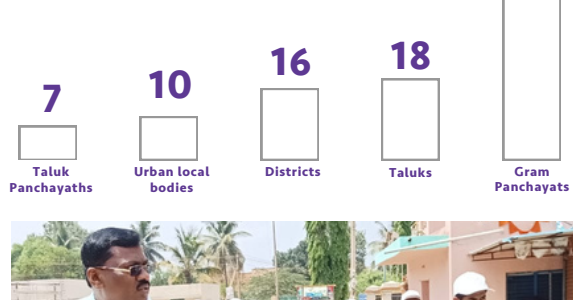
The APD RCL Centre for Disability Law, established earlier this year at Ramaiah Law College, is committed to emerging as a leading center for the study, promotion, and teaching of disability laws and policies in India.

Supreme Court Judge Justice AS Bopanna and Retd SC Judge and Andhra Pradesh Governor Abdul Nazeer inaugurated the centre in July 2023



The Karnataka Accessibility Taskforce,

formed by our Policy Advocacy team,



An accessibility campaign, initiated by Policy Advocacy team, in progress

Impact

1700 Polling Stations visited for accessibility assessment	1000 Magnifying Glasses distributed across Raichur district polling booths for the elderly and low vision voters
Ensured Accessibility in the Ilkal taluk region through Panchayat Development Officers (PDO)	Educated over 42000 people on accessibility through six public campaigns in rural areas



Dialogues with People's Representatives

Our P&A team held a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to address matters related to disabilities.



APD Bagalkot team submitting an accessibility proposal to MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar

Building Accessibility: From Local to State

Nearly 300 urban local bodies have been presented with accessibility assessment reports following audits conducted by our P&A team

Transitioning to rural areas, all 6022 panchayats across 31 districts of Karnataka have now been audited for accessibility. A circular has been issued, and a follow-up process is underway in coordination with the Disability Directorate.

Stay tuned, we'll be sure to bring you updates on this!

Educational Initiatives

Fostering future policy leaders requires building crucial civic knowledge and responsibility in the next generation. Here's how we are doing our bit!



Animated students at the Children Summit 2023 organised by APD's Policy Advocacy team.



An accessibility campaign, initiated by Policy Advocacy team, in progress

The Children Inclusive Summit 2023

Over 200 children special educators, NGO personnel, and members of school development management boards convened at Palana Bhavan in Bengaluru for the 2023 Children Inclusive Summit held in November.

The event served as a forum to deliberate on disability-related issues, inclusion, education, and more!

Start them Young!

Since its establishment in 2019, the Learning Empathy Not Sympathy (LENS) initiative, focused on fostering disability awareness in school children, has effectively offered disability orientation to more than 25,000 students.

LENS has also had a significant impact on the curriculum of the international organisation Bharat Scouts and Guides. Shradhanjali Integrated Primary School is the first school to have the Bulbuls and Cubs programme for children with disabilities.

YES TO ACCESS

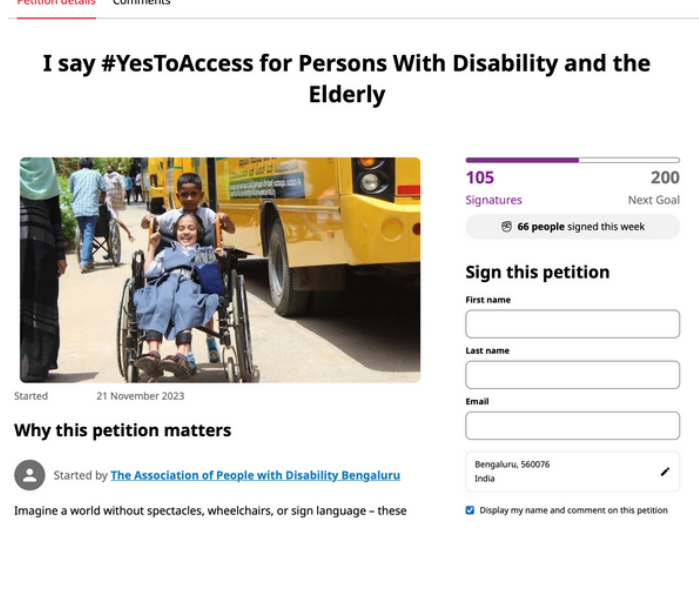
Feel inspired to contribute?
Just say #YestoAccess

Whether it's spectacles or mobility aids, ramps, or prominent signs, we've all come across daily accessibility features that significantly enhance our lives.

This International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we crafted a Pledge that encourages everyone to embrace accessibility, benefiting not only the disabled but also the elderly, individuals recovering from illness and more!

Your signature on this Pledge matters - so please click, sign, share, and say #YestoAccess.

[Click here](#)



Vision 2024-25

Paving the Way for Inclusive Futures

As we set our sights on 2024-25, The Association of People with Disability (APD) is poised to embark on a journey of impactful events and ambitious targets. Our roadmap encompasses diverse initiatives aimed at fostering accessibility, awareness, and empowerment across various sectors.

Here's a glimpse of what's in store



Accessibility Taskforce Committees

Formation of 30 district-level committees to spearhead accessibility initiatives at the grassroots level

South India DPO Leaders Meet

Assembling of leaders to exchange insights and strategies for impactful advocacy



NIRAMAYA Outreach

Reach 3000 PwDs to ensure access to health insurance for a healthier future

Polling Station Accessibility Advocacy

Influence state and district administration to ensure accessibility in 50,000+ polling stations



Democratisation of Public Institutions

Encourage 5.3 lakh PwDs and 12 lakh senior citizens to advocate for inclusivity in public spaces

Spinal Cord Injury Centers

Establishment of 2 centres for technical support and care for 50 PwSCIs per year



BBMP Rehabilitation Centers

Launch of two centres in Bengaluru south zone, extending support to 4000 PwDs annually



As we embrace these endeavours, APD remains committed to creating an inclusive and accessible society for all.

We would love to hear your thoughts on how we can do better - write to us at contact@apd-india.org