



Assistive and Adaptive Technology (AAT) at APD

Breaking Barriers with Assistive Adaptive Technology [AAT]

According to a report by the World Bank, India is home to 40–90 million People with Disabilities, who face stigma, exclusion, and limited access to education, healthcare, and employment. A 2018 study found that 9.2% of children (2–5 years) and 13.6% (6–9 years) have neuro-developmental disorders like vision impairment, cerebral palsy, autism, or intellectual disability.

Over 75 million people worldwide need an appropriate wheelchair, yet 85–95% do not have access to one.

Four in five people who need a wheelchair live in low- and middle-income countries like India.

In 1655 the first self-propelled wheelchair was developed. It was invented in Germany by Stephan Farfler, a person with disability and a watchmaker.

At [The Association of People with Disability] APD's AAT Department, we are celebrating 369 years of wheelchair - a symbol of freedom to a person with disability and working towards bridging the gaps in disability rehabilitation with innovative solutions—adaptive learning aids, mobility devices, and more. Through technology, we empower individuals to overcome barriers and unlock opportunities.

This newsletter explores our impact, advancements, and the power of assistive technology in transforming lives.

WHO WE WORK WITH



Children with Special Needs



Caregivers



Other NGO'S

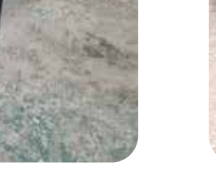


Hospital

TEMPORARY USE



INDOOR/URBAN/ EVEN-SURFACE



OUTDOOR/RURAL/ ROUGH-TERRAIN



DUAL USE/ INDOOR-OUTDOOR



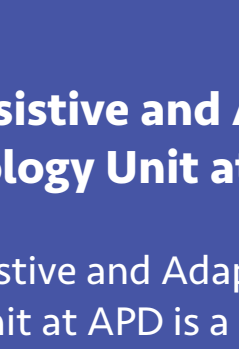
POSTURAL SUPPORT



Assistive and Adaptive Devices Foster Human Rights

Assistive devices are crucial for enabling individuals with disabilities to attain functional independence and to lead a life with dignity. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) insists on

- Living independently and being included in the community (Article 19)
- Right to education (Article 24)
- Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (Article 25)
- Right to work and employment (Article 27)
- Right to participate in political and public life (Article 29)
- Right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sports (Article 30)



The Assistive and Adaptive Technology Unit at APD

The Assistive and Adaptive Technology (AAT) unit at APD is a cornerstone of its mission to create a world of equity, dignity, and justice for persons with disabilities (PWD) since its inception in 1982. Empowering individuals across rural India, the AAT Unit fosters independence through innovative devices designed to alleviate pain, enhance autonomy, and promote social inclusion.

Users of Assistive Adaptive Devices

- ✓ Older people
- ✓ Children and adults with disabilities
- ✓ People with long-term health conditions such as diabetes, stroke, and dementia

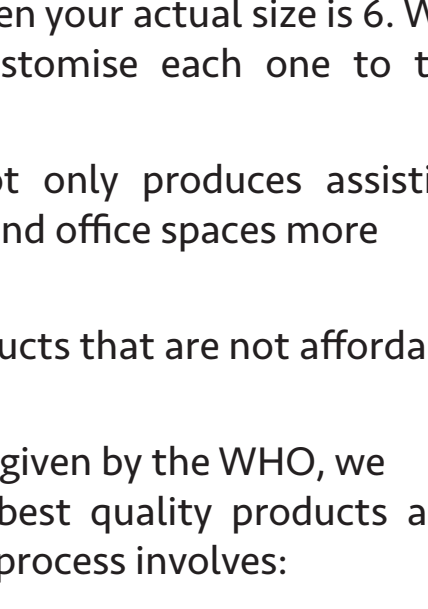
Our Work and Range

The AAT Unit specialises in providing over 400 types of assistive aids, including:

- ✓ Upper and lower extremity prosthetics and orthotics
- ✓ Spinal orthoses
- ✓ Orthopaedic footwear
- ✓ Adaptable wheelchairs
- ✓ Hearing aids
- ✓ Mobility devices – Canes, rollators, walkers

Our Impact

In the year **2023-2024**, with the support of our generous donors the AAT Unit distributed **9000** assistive devices worth more than **Rs. 8 crores** to beneficiaries from different age groups and from the most deprived strata of society.



How We Are Different

- **Customisation:** Imagine receiving shoe size 8 when your actual size is 6. We do not mass-produce assistive devices but customise each one to the beneficiary's needs.
- **End-to-End Accessibility:** Our skilled team not only produces assistive devices but also works tirelessly to make homes and office spaces more accessible.
- Reverse engineering of Assistive devices and products that are not affordable in India but are imported at a higher price.
- **The 8 step protocol:** Aligned with the guidelines given by the WHO, we follow an eight-step approach to provide the best quality products and services to the users of Assistive Technology. The process involves:



For the people by the people:

At APD's AAT Unit, persons with disabilities are redefining possibilities by expertly crafting assistive devices and products tailored for others with disabilities. Their lived experiences and skills ensure innovative solutions that empower and transform lives.

5As & Q: The unit has supported APD's beneficiaries across the country by making assistive and adaptive devices:

Available to all

Accessible Easily

Affordable for everyone

Adaptable to individual needs

Acceptable to users

Compliant with quality standards

Transforming Lives through Skilled Craftsmanship

Nagesh and Rajeshwari, both polio survivors, have rewritten their stories with APD's unwavering support. Once constrained by their circumstances, they are now expert artisans in the Assistive and Adaptive Technology (AAT) Unit, crafting life-changing mobility devices. Their journey from recipients of aid to creators of hope stands as a testament to the unique power of community-based rehabilitation. Today, they not only build tools that restore mobility but also train others, creating ripples of empowerment and livelihoods for countless individuals.



The AAT Unit at APD continues to be an agent of support and empowerment for individuals with disabilities, bridging gaps and enabling lives of dignity and independence.

Give the Gift of Mobility & Independence

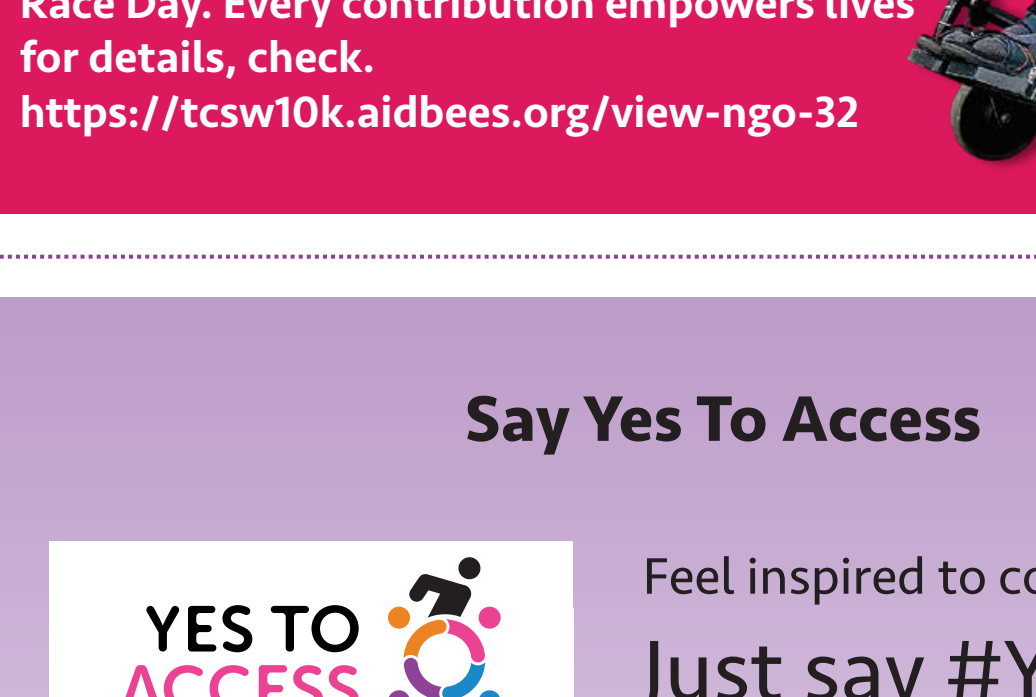
For millions of children and adults with disabilities in India, the right assistive device can mean the difference between dependence and freedom. Your support can change a life today:

“It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” – Mother Teresa

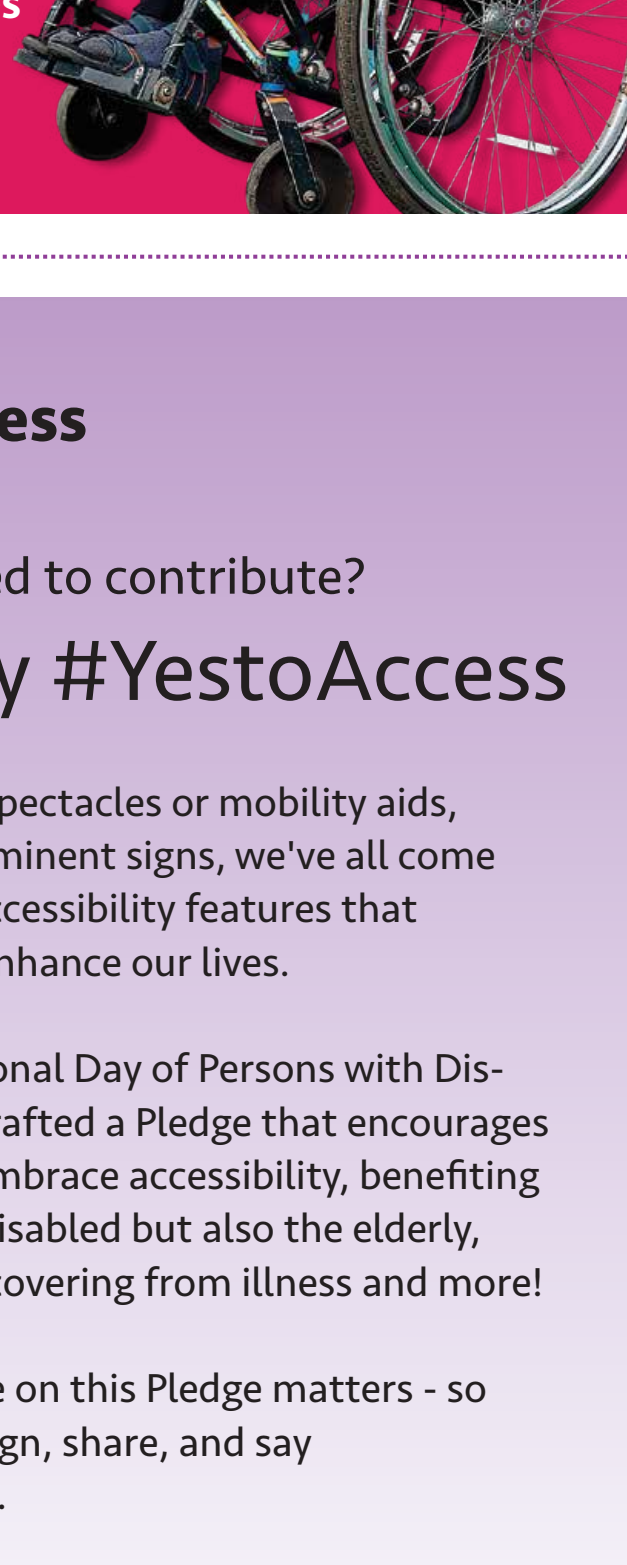
- ₹2,200 can provide a splint for a child with disability.
- ₹8,000 can fund a caliper, helping a person with a spinal cord injury regain mobility.
- ₹18,000 can provide a customised wheelchair, restoring independent living.
- ₹29,500 can gift hearing aids, opening a world of sound.

Every contribution brings hope. Donate today and empower lives.

Donate today



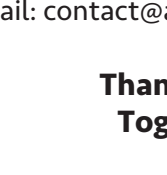
Join APD at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2025! Support rehabilitation for People with Disabilities — donate, fundraise, or cheer on Race Day. Every contribution empowers lives for details, check.
<https://tcs10k.aidbees.org/view-ngo-32>



Say Yes To Access

YES TO ACCESS

A crowd-sourced, AI powered app to map Accessibility features across public spaces.



Become an Inclusion Champion! Scan the QR code to contribute today!

How it works

- 1 Volunteers upload photos
- 2 AI generates a rating
- 3 Accessibility Data is available on a map layer for everyone!

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.

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



The Association Of People With Disability (APD)

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Thank you for your continued support! Together, we can make a difference!

Our Donors

