

PURPLE FEST 2026

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

DISABILITY 30TH NOVEMBER - 1ST DECEMBER 2026

Submit your abstract

Abstracts up to 500 words, in English. Register and submit through the same form.

<https://forms.gle/wBBMLwPPrCdCkvJa7>

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Organised by



Tracks of the Conference

**Foundations – Theory,
Rights and Discourse**

**Accessibility, Universal
Design and Technology**

**Inclusive Educational
Processes, Wellbeing,
Equity and Social Protection**

Important Dates

Abstract submission	10th October 2026
Abstract acceptance	20th October 2026
Full paper submission	10th November 2026
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Last Date of Registration	25 th November 2026
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Peer-reviewed proceedings with **ISBN/ISSN**, plus indexed journals

Best Paper Award in each of the three tracks

Working tea & lunch will be provided to all registered participants during the conference

With an estimated **1.3 billion people worldwide** living with a significant disability, this conference brings together academics, practitioners, policymakers and 1.3 billion people worldwide persons with disabilities to examine rights, accessibility and inclusion in a changing world – and to co-create roadmaps for an authentically inclusive society, guided by the principle **“Nothing about us without us.”**

Conference Committee

Prof. Neena Pandey – **Patron**

Shri. T D Dhariyal – **Chief Patron**

Shri. Uday Shankar Singh – **Patron**

**For Queries and
Correspondence please feel
free to contact:**

icd2026.org@gmail.com



Organising Committee

Dr. Abhishek Thakur - Convenor

Dr. Pankaj Kumbhar - Organising Secretary

**Prof Sanjoy Roy Dr Sudhir Maske
Prof Malathi Adusumalli -Co-Convenors**

Venue: Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK)

Uma Shankar Dikshit Marg, Teen Murti Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110021



About the Conference

Disability is one of the defining human-rights and equity concerns of the twenty-first century. The World Health Organization estimates that about 1.3 billion people, roughly 16 per cent of the world's population, live with a significant disability. Persons with disabilities are not a single, uniform minority. They are a cross-section of humanity, present in every community and across all ages, genders, geographical regions, and social groups. They include people with visible and invisible, congenital, acquired, and age-related conditions.

The way disability is understood has changed markedly over the past two decades. The earlier language of welfare and charity has given way to social and rights-based models, and more recently to an approach centred on well-being and '*working together*', guided by the principle of '*Nothing about us without us*'. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2006), now almost universally ratified, established disability as a question of rights, dignity, participation and inclusion. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its pledge to 'Leave no one behind', placed disability inclusion at the centre of global development. In India, the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2015) and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD), 2016 have widened the legal and programmatic basis for inclusion. Even so, the gap between policy commitments and everyday experience, with reference to services, decent work, education, health and public life of the persons with disability remains a central challenge in the present context.

In a world reshaped by rapid technological changes, digital and e-governance, urbanisation, migration and shifting legislation, accessibility can no longer be read narrowly as barrier-free infrastructure. It now encompasses public services, information and communication, education, financial systems as also emerging technologies (assistive technology and artificial intelligence), so that people are not excluded by the way systems are designed. Inclusion also depends on livelihoods: decent work, inclusive workplaces, entrepreneurship and support for disability-led enterprises. It calls for early intervention across the life course, equity, and social protection that reaches those most at risk of exclusion.

This International Conference aims to deepen scholarly and practitioner discussions on enterprise, accessibility and inclusion, and to examine the emerging issues, challenges and possible ways forward for the persons with disability. Open to all categories of disability, it brings together a range of stakeholders to build together an authentically inclusive society.

About the Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work), University of Delhi

The Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work), University of Delhi, has completed 80 years of academic engagement (1946–2026). It began in 1946 as the National YWCA school of Social Work at Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow. The school moved to Delhi in 1947, was affiliated to the University of Delhi in 1948 as the Delhi School of Social Work, and was taken over by the University in 1979.

The first batch of students met Mahatma Gandhi, and their written resolutions were compiled and presented to him as the profession's founding pledge. The Department's Platinum Jubilee coincided with 75 years of India's independence. The Department is a partner in RISHII (Resources for Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in India), co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. As Knowledge Partner, it leads the Conference's academic direction, scientific review and scholarly outputs.

About the National Association for the Blind (NAB), New Delhi

The National Association for the Blind, New Delhi (NAB Delhi) established on 19th April, 1979, has worked for over five decades towards the empowerment of persons who are visually impaired, have low vision, are deaf-blind or live with multiple disabilities, through inclusive education and full participation in society. Its services span education, employment, early intervention, rehabilitation, assistive technology and social integration, alongside advocacy for rights and equal opportunities.

Although NAB's founding expertise lies in empowering the visually impaired, its wider work and this Conference is open to every category of disability.

As the organising body, NAB brings to the Conference its practice-based knowledge in the fields of disability, assistive technology, employment and early intervention.

About Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK), New Delhi

Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK) is a non-governmental, service-oriented voluntary organisation established on 10th August 1961 under the Indian Youth Centres Trust. It was founded under the leadership of Shri Morarji Desai (Founder Chairman) and Shri Ramkrishna Bajaj (Founder Managing Trustee). Over more than six decades, VYK has worked on youth empowerment, capacity building and nation-building, nurturing leadership and creating opportunities for young people and grassroots organisations through training, workshops, seminars and development programmes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives of the Conference

To examine the emerging rights-based issues, discourses and challenges faced by persons with disabilities, across all categories of disability throughout the life course in the contemporary world.

To advance a critical understanding and identify good practices of Universal Design, innovation, assistive and digital technologies for inclusion and accessibility.

To examine well-being, equity and economic empowerment for persons with disabilities through early intervention, inclusive education and social protection across the life course.

Tracks of the Conference

Track 1: Foundations – Theory, Rights and Discourse

Theorising Disability: Models, Concepts and Emerging Discourses — conceptual and theoretical engagement with disabilities, including the social, human-rights, critical and intersectional models

Track 2: Accessibility, Universal Design and Technology

Accessibility and Universal Design in a Changing World — barrier-free environments, accessible infrastructure, information and communication processes and digital divide

Track 3: Inclusive Educational Processes, Wellbeing, Equity and Social Protection

Early Intervention, inclusive pedagogy, Inclusive Education and inclusive learning across the life course

Entitlements, benefits, financing and safety nets, decent work and inclusive workplaces, skilling and self-employment and entrepreneurship support

Call for Papers

The Organising Committee invites original, unpublished contributions, conceptual and theoretical papers, empirical research, practice reflections and case studies. The submissions must engage with contemporary questions of disability, accessibility and inclusion that point towards new ways of strengthening the rights, participation and well-being of persons with disabilities. Submissions may address any of the sub-themes above or any other relevant area within the ICD 2026 theme. These sub-themes are indicative, not exhaustive. The ICD 2026 welcomes work on all categories of disability and on cross-cutting themes.

Contributions from persons with disabilities, early-career researchers and grassroots practitioners are especially welcome.

The Conference aims to publish selected papers from among the papers presented in the ICD 2026 as peer-reviewed papers in the conference proceedings (with ISBN/ISSN) and in reputed or indexed journals.

Best Paper Awards: One Best Paper Award will be presented in each track of the conference to recognize outstanding research and scholarly contributions.

Expected Outcomes of the Conference

01

Build a shared, evidence-informed knowledge of the current state of disabilities, accessibility and inclusion;

02

Give academics, practitioners, civil society organisations, policymakers and persons with disabilities a platform to deliberate, strengthen networks and collaboration to co-create roadmaps for inclusive society;

03

Set out a clear set of recommendations, in the form of a Conference Declaration, for policy and practices;

Registration and Abstract submission

- ☐ **No Registration Fee:** There is no registration fee for participating in ICD 2026. However, all participants are required to register by filling out the registration form through the Google Form link below: Registration-Cum-Abstract Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/wBBMLwPPrCdCkvJa7>
- ☐ **Accommodation:** Free accommodation will be provided only to Paper Presenters who are persons with disabilities.
- ☐ **Selected International Participants** will be allowed for online paper presentation only. Online link will be provided in due course.
- ☐ Other participants for the conference must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, upon request, assistance may be provided.
- ☐ Working lunch and tea will be provided during the conference proceedings.
- ☐ **For Queries and Correspondence please feel free to contact:**
icd2026.org@gmail.com



Guidelines for Abstract & Paper Submission

- ☐ The abstract should state the title, sub-theme and 4–6 keywords, and include author details: name, designation, institutional affiliation, correspondence address, email and contact. Applicants interested in presenting a paper at the conference should submit an abstract. Abstracts must be in English and no longer than 500 words.
- ☐ All submissions must be original, unpublished and not considered for publication elsewhere. They will be screened by the review committee and must meet academic-integrity standards, with minimal similarity and no unattributed AI-generated content.
- ☐ Submit abstracts to the ICD 2026 electronically at the following link
<https://forms.gle/wBBMLwPPrCdCkvJa7>
- ☐ Authors of selected abstracts must submit their full papers by 10 November 2026.
- ☐ The full paper will be of 6000 words including references with Times New Roman, 12 point, 1.5 line spacing, with a 1.5-inch margin on the left and 1-inch margins on the other three sides. Follow APA (7th edition) referencing through out.

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Head, Department of Social Work, (Delhi School of Social Work) & Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences University of Delhi

Shri. Uday Shankar Singh - Patron

Chief Executive Officer, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi

Shri Prashant Ranjan Verma

General Secretary of the National Association for the Blind (NAB, New Delhi)

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