



# 10th National Conference on Disability 8th & 9th December, 2023

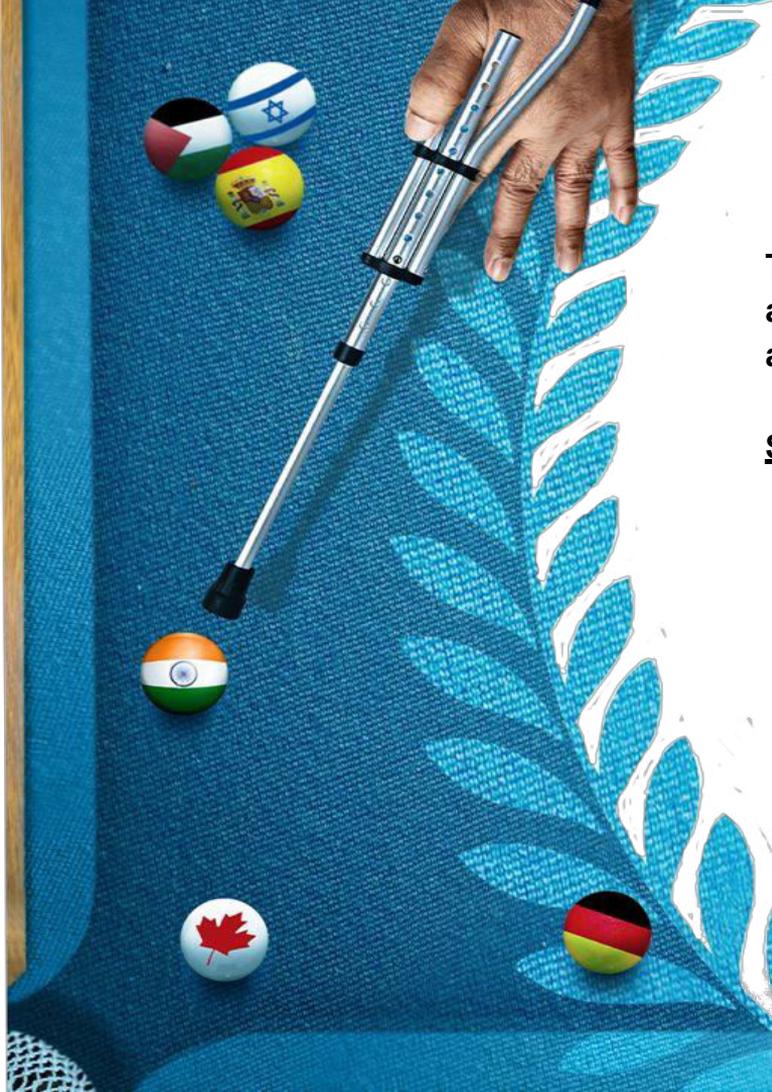
Venue: APEC, Sector 44, Gurugram

Supported by:



Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons  
with Disabilities (Divyangjan)





## **The Theme- Glocal Partnerships (GPS) - Paving the Way for Inclusive, Accessible, and Sustainable World**

**The discussions in the 2- day 10th National Conference revolved around establishing a Global & Local partnership to foster an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable world.**

### **Sarthak 10th NCD- Day 1, 8th December, 2023:**

- ❖ Panel 1: Focusing on Skill, Financial Empowerment & Excellence
- ❖ Panel 2: Inaugural Session - Setting the Theme - Glocal Partnerships - Paving the way for Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable World
- ❖ Panel 3: Government and CSR Efforts for Disability Inclusive India
- ❖ Panel 4: Awareness, Identification & Intervention - Maximizing the Potential of CwSN
- ❖ Panel 5: Imagine, Innovate & Inspire - Technology for Inclusion & Empowerment of PwDs



## The Theme- Glocal Partnerships (GPS) - Paving the Way for Inclusive, Accessible, and Sustainable World

### Sarthak 10th NCD- Day 2. 9th December. 2023:

- ❖ Sarthak Global Resource Center Inauguration
- ❖ Panel 1: Born for Business - Experiences of PwD Entrepreneurs going Global
- ❖ Startup Investor Meet- Bridging Investment and Innovation in the Disability Sector
- ❖ Panel 3: Glocal Partnerships to Accelerate Changes
- ❖ Panel 4: Confronting Biases and Inhibitions - Media Representation of Disabled Persons
- ❖ Valedictory Session

**Day 1- 8th December, 2023**

**Panel 1- Focusing on Skill, Financial Empowerment & Excellence**

**Panellists-**

- Ms. Bani Shushil Khurana, Corporate HR Lead DI & TM, Reliance Retail]
- Mr. Major Dinesh Sharma, Co-Founder, APCA Group Culinary Schools
- Mr. Vijay Jodha, Writer - Photographer - Filmmaker
- Ms. Sangeeta Robinson, Chief Sustainability Officer, PVR Cinema
- Ms. Madhu Sharma, Senior Manager, Amazon
- Mr. Rakesh Prasad, AVP HR and D & I Lead, Indigo

**Moderator-** Mr. Atul Bhatnagar, Former COO of NSDC - Board Member, Sarthak



### **Key discussions-**

In this insightful session, the panel delved into the intricacies of skill development and financial empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Exploring the contributions of government initiatives and the National Education Policy, the discussions highlighted key challenges faced by PWDs, strategies to overcome barriers, and provisions for fostering inclusive workplaces.



**Day 1- 8th December, 2023**

**Panel 2- Inaugural Session- Setting the Theme - Glocal Partnerships-  
Paving the way for Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable world**

**Panellists-**

- Mr. Krishan Kalra, Ex President AIMA, President NAAI
- Mr. Lov Verma, Ex Secretary - Govt of India, Board Member-Sarthak
- Mr. Rakesh Vaid, Sr VC, ATDC
- Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary at DePwD, GOI
- Mr. Manish Kumar, Senior Consultant, World Bank
- Mr. SK Gupta - Ex DDG, Board Member Sarthak
- Dr. Jitendra Aggarwal, Founder and CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust

**Moderator-** Sandeep Bhargava, Co-Founder at Umeandus, Senior Advisor at HMD, Board Member-Sarthak





### **Key discussions-**

Setting the thematic tone for the conference, this inaugural session focused on the significance of global-local partnerships in fostering inclusive, accessible, and sustainable practices. The discussions revolved around effective strategies for collaboration, roles of governments and embassies, and sustaining financial support for disability projects.



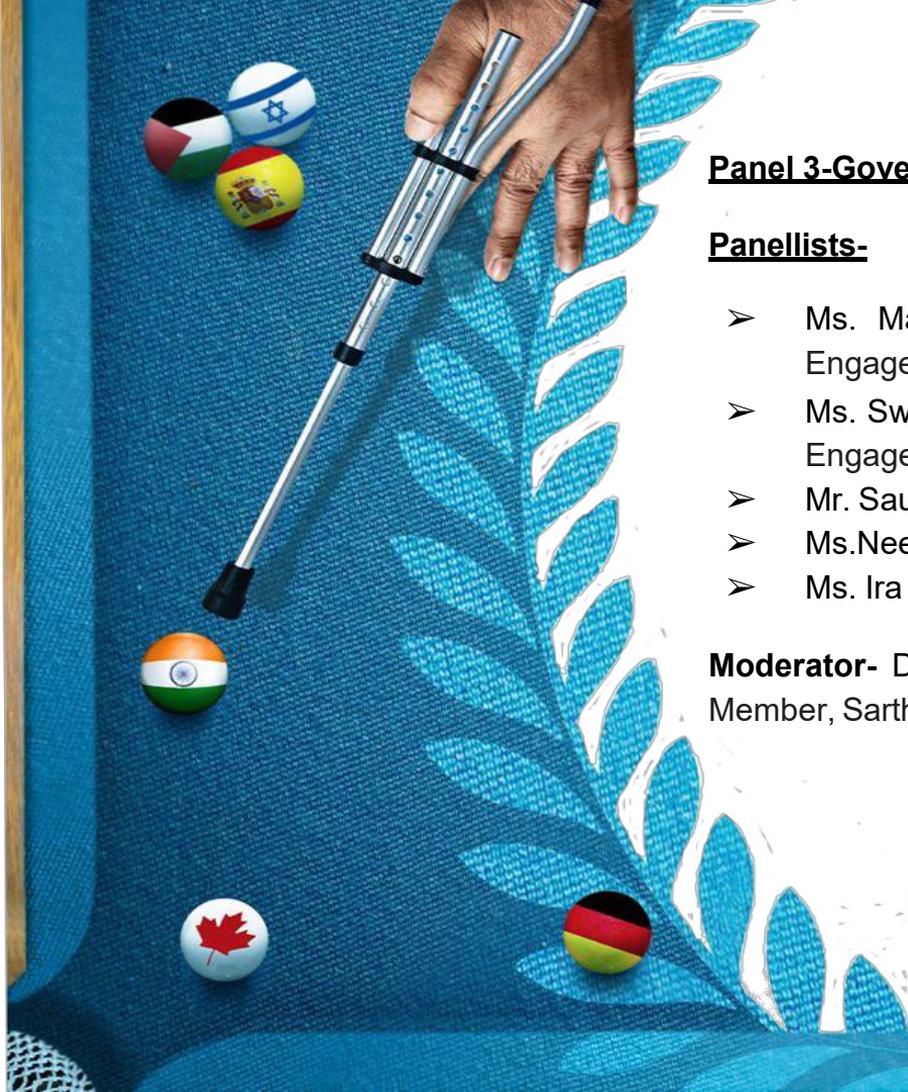
**Day 1- 8th December. 2023**

**Panel 3-Government & CSR Efforts for Disability Inclusive India**

**Panellists-**

- Ms. Manisha patil, Inclusion & Diversity, Sustainability and Community Engagement Leader at Amazon
- Ms. Swati Rangachari, VP and Country Leader - Public Affairs and Strategic Engagements - Optum Global Solutions India Pvt Ltd
- Mr. Saurabh Bajpai, DGM, SIDBI
- Ms. Neera Chandra, Director -CSR Head, ATDC
- Ms. Ira Singhal, Divisional Commissioner, Govt of Arunachal pradesh

**Moderator-** Dr. Sudhir Gupta, Co-founder & Director of Dr Safe Hands, Board Member, Sarthak





### **Key discussions-**

Examining the current status of disability inclusion in various sectors, this panel provided valuable insights into successful government-led programs impacting PWDs' lives. It explored areas needing improvement in existing policies, the role of corporations in fostering inclusion through CSR initiatives, and mechanisms ensuring transparency and sustained commitment.



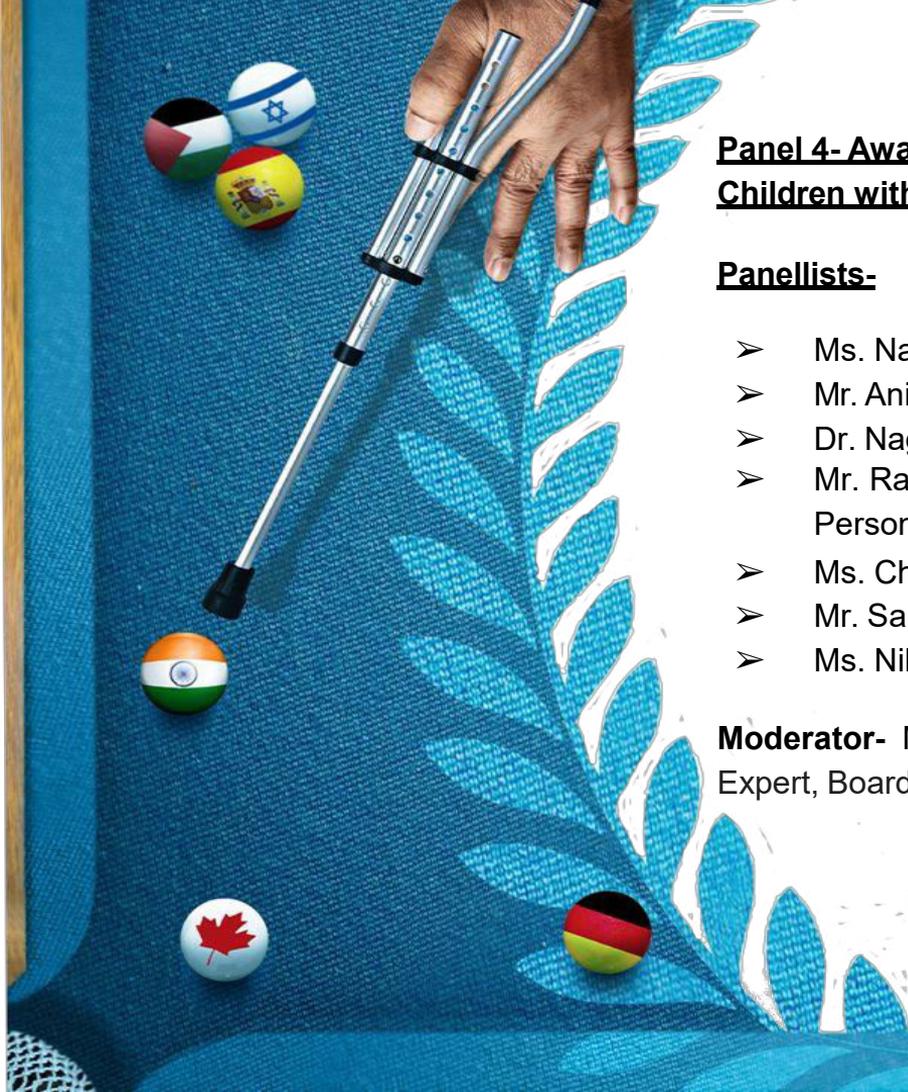
**Day 1- 8th December. 2023**

**Panel 4- Awareness. Identification & Intervention –Maximizing the Potential of Children with Special Needs**

**Panellists-**

- Ms. Nandita Saran, Head of Centre for Multiple Disabilities, NAB Delhi
- Mr. Anil Joshi, Ex Program Director, Accessibility, IBM
- Dr. Nagaratna V, Early Interventionist, RML Hospital
- Mr. Rajeev Sharma, Serving Forest, Environment, Biodiversity and Disabled Persons ,GOI
- Ms. Charulekha, Head Employability Programme for YwD, AADI
- Mr. Sandeep Varma, CEO, CGTMSE
- Ms. Nilam Jolly, Chairperson, Vishwas Ngo

**Moderator-** Mr. Sunil Pahilajani,CEO, Global Business Leader, Transformation Expert, Board Member, Sarthak





### **Key discussions-**

This panel focused on maximizing the potential of children with special needs through innovative technological solutions and collaborative efforts. Discussions included leveraging technology for PWD inclusion, strategies for designing mobile applications, harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI), and collaborative endeavors for technology-driven inclusion and empowerment.



**Day 1- 8th December, 2023**

**Panel 5- Imagine, Innovate & Inspire – Technology for Inclusion & Empowerment of PwDs**

**Panellists-**

- Mr. Prashant Ranjan Verma, GS, NAB
- Mr. Hunny Bhagchandani, Founder, Torchit
- Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary, BPA
- Mr. Raghav, Senior Adviser, CII

**Moderator-** Mr. Sameer Nigam, CEO, Stratbeans Learnings Solutions





### **Key discussions-**

This panel encompassed leveraging technology and innovation for the inclusive empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Topics included designing disability-tailored mobile apps, the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in personalized solutions, challenges in technology-based education for PwDs, innovation in resource-limited settings, and collaborative efforts between technology firms, disability organizations, and government agencies to drive inclusive initiatives.



**Day 2- 9th December. 2023**

**Sarthak Global Resource Centre (GRC) inauguration**

the Honourable Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, inaugurated the Sarthak Global Resource Centre in Gurugram on December 9th, 2023, a pioneering initiative for people with disabilities, on December 9th, 2023. This center stands as a testament to the shared vision of empowerment and inclusivity.



**Day 2- 9th December, 2023**

**Panel 1- Born for Business - Experiences of PwD Entrepreneurs going Global**

**Panellists-**

- Mr. Asif Iqbal, Associate Director, HR Consulting at PWC
- Ms. Richa Sahni, Head of Public Relations at Atypical Advantage
- Mr. Malikarjuna, Founder & CEO of IDEA
- Mr. Rajat Gupta, Managing Director, Diamond Footwear
- Mr. Harsh Gupta, Executive director, Diamond Footwear

**Moderator-** Prakash Sharma, Former CFO, NSDC; Board member, Sarthak.





### **Key discussions-**

This engaging panel explored the global experiences of PwD entrepreneurs, shedding light on their challenges and successes. It discussed how PwD entrepreneurs foster innovation, crucial mentorship, and the role of adaptive technologies in their global endeavors.



**Day 2- 9th December, 2023**

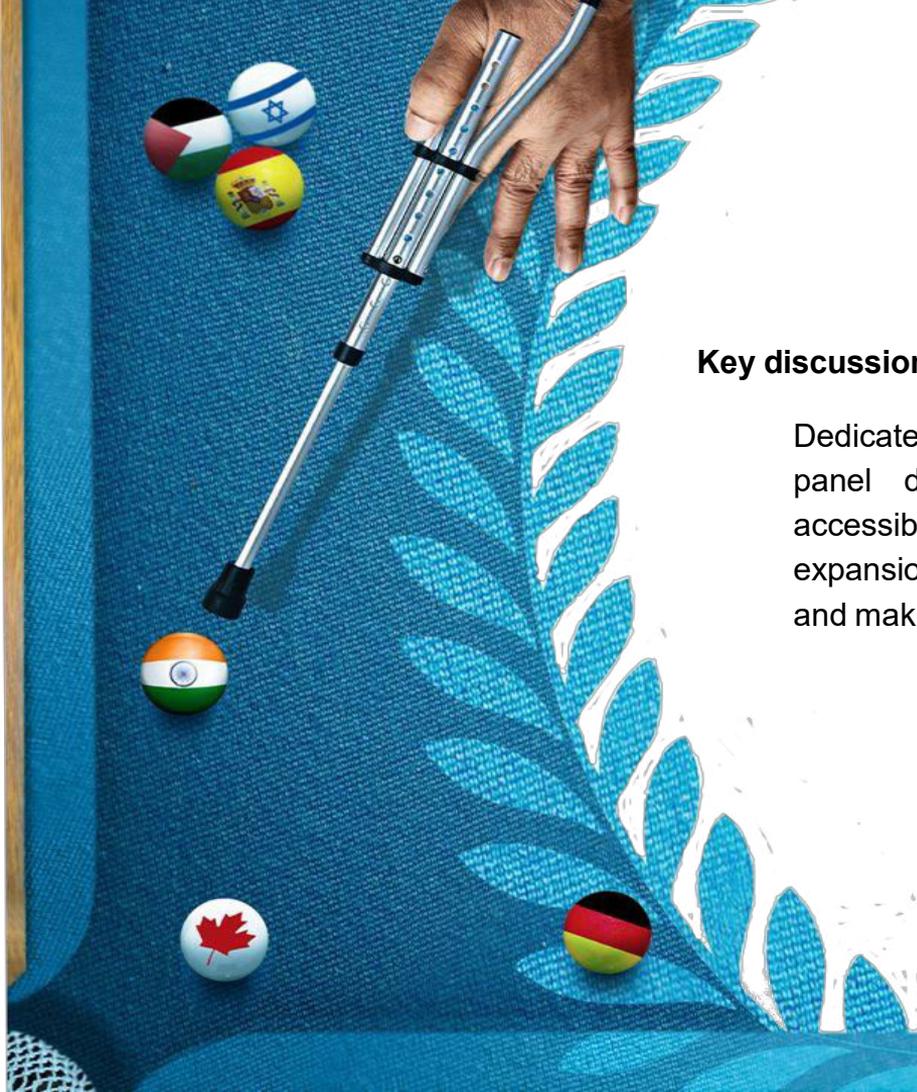
**Start Up investor meet- Bridging investment and innovation in the disability sector**

**Panellists-**

- Mr. Pankaj Gupta, Founder & Co-CEO, Gulf Islamic Invest
- Mr. Mohit Bhatnagar, Managing Director at Peak XV (formerly Sequoia India)
- Mr. Bhavesh Jatania Head- Start- up Banking, IDFC Bank
- Mr. Siba Panda, Co-Founder of ValuAble
- Mr. Mohan Sundaram, Founder, ArtiLab

**Moderator-** Mr. Rahul Gupta, Founder and Managing Director of ValuAble





### **Key discussions-**

Dedicated to bridging investment and innovation in the disability sector, this panel discussed equity in entrepreneurship, start-up provisions, and accessibility for PWDs. Conversations included strategies for national expansion, changing mindsets towards vulnerability and entrepreneurship, and making banking services more accessible.



**Day 2- 9th December. 2023**

**Panel 3- Glocal Partnerships to Accelerate Changes**

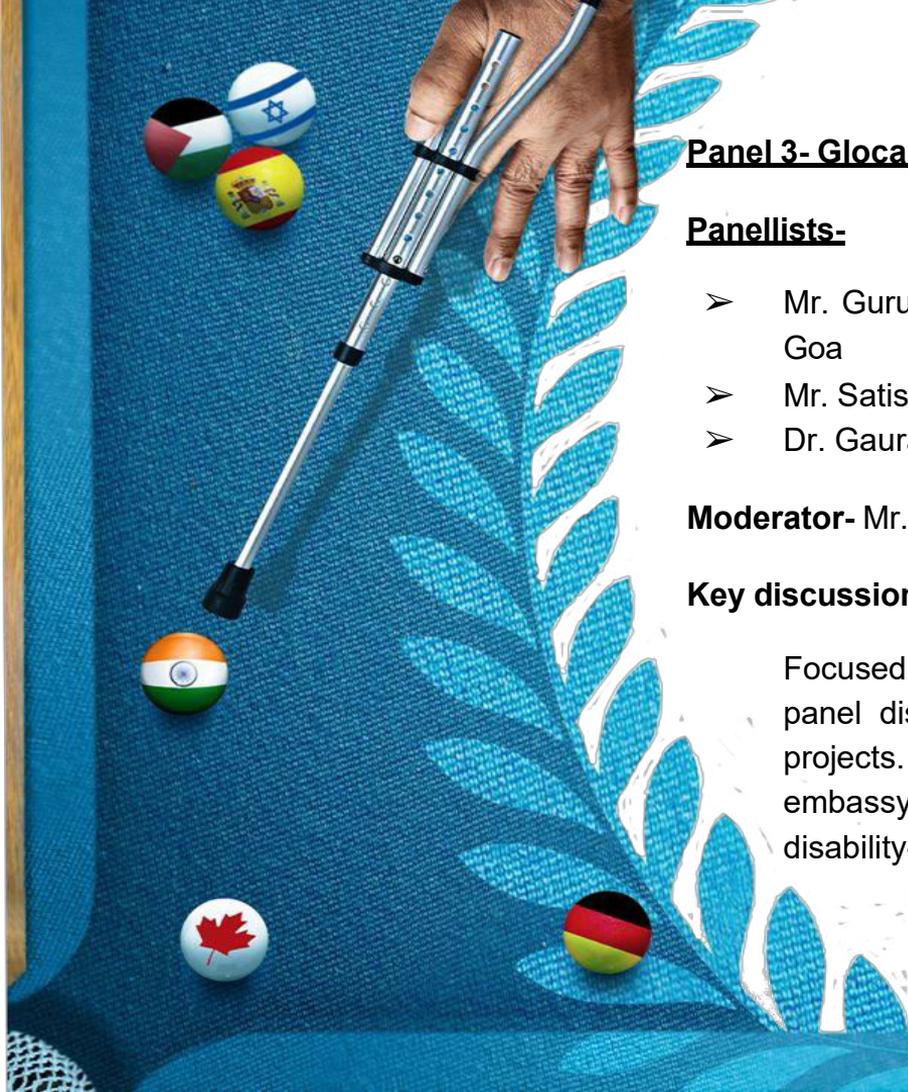
**Panellists-**

- Mr. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar, State Disability Commissioner, Government of Goa
- Mr. Satish Kapoor, Founding President, Brotherhood
- Dr. Gaurav Raheja, Professor & Head (Architecture & Planning), IIT Roorkee

**Moderator-** Mr. Rajive Gulati, Former Head, UNTIL, Board Member, Sarthak

**Key discussions-**

Focused on accelerating positive changes through glocal partnerships, this panel discussed collaboration, support, and sustained funding for disability projects. Conversations revolved around forging partnerships, government and embassy roles, incentivizing businesses, and streamlining global disability-specific research.





**Day 2- 9th December. 2023**

**Panel 4- Confronting Biases and Inhibitions – Media Representation of Disabled Persons**

**Panellists-**

- Mr. Ravish Ranjan Shukla, Senior Special Correspondent, NDTV
- Mr. Vicky Roy, Celebrate Photography, Street Dream Trust
- Ms. Sanjana Jon, Fashion Designer & Social activist
- Mr. Pradeep Narula, Bureau Chief
- Ms. Shruti Pushkarna, Inclusion and Diversity Advocate

**Moderator-** Mr. Supriyo Gupta, Founder & MD, Torque Communication





### **Key discussions-**

This crucial panel addressed biases in media representation, promoting inclusivity, and reshaping public attitudes towards disability. Discussions included media alignment with the Accessible India Campaign, roles of regulators, partnerships with disability advocacy groups, and strategies to counter biases in narratives.



**Day 2- 9th December, 2023**

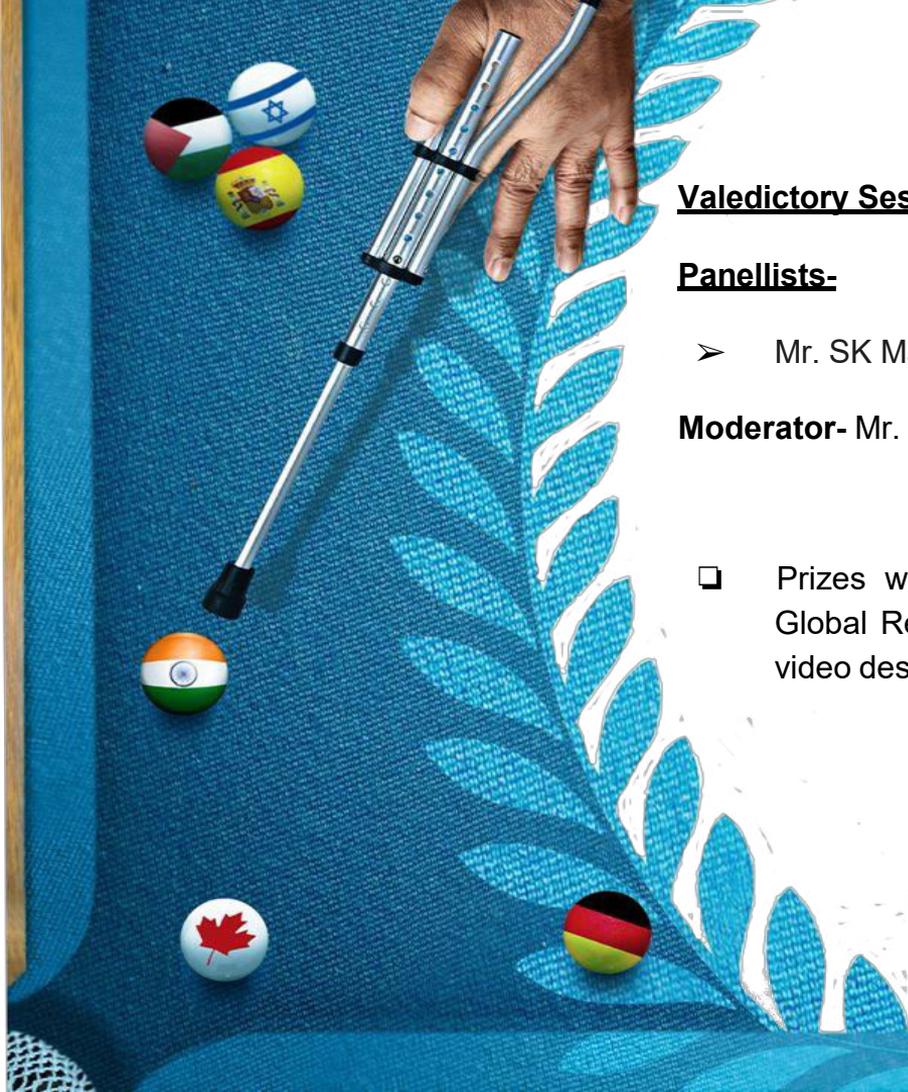
**Valedictory Session**

**Panellists-**

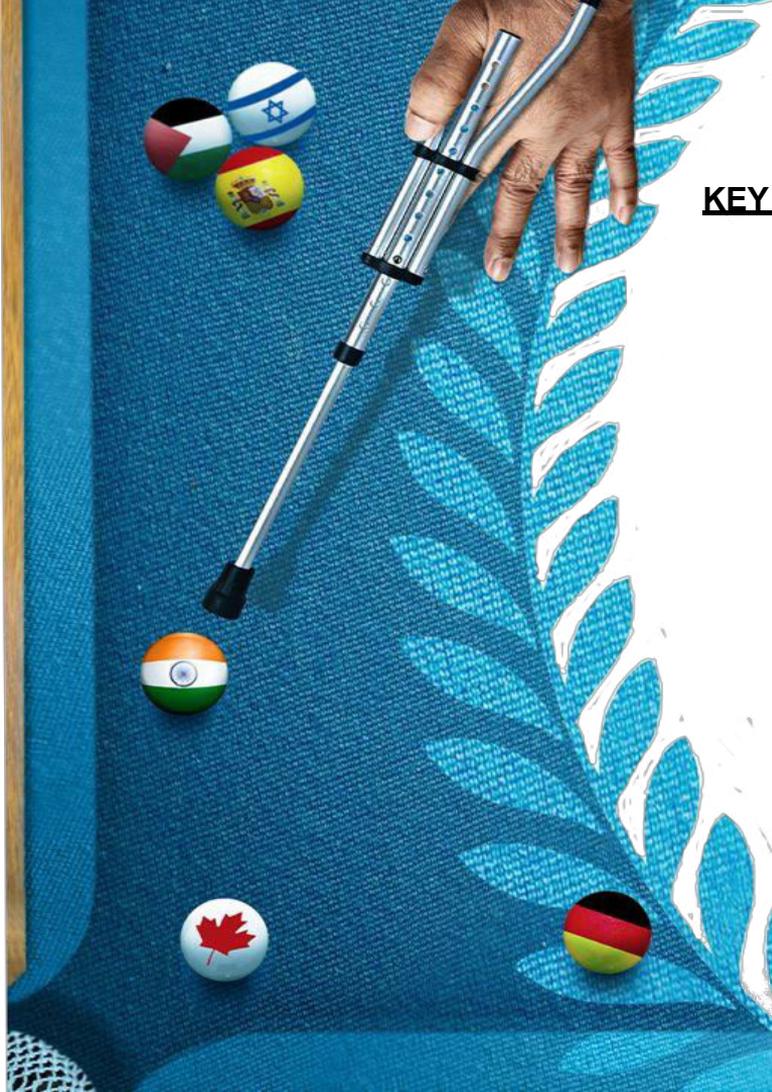
- Mr. SK Mahto, Under secretary, DEPwD, GOI

**Moderator-** Mr. S K Gupta, Ex DDG, Board Member Sarthak.

- ❑ Prizes were distributed to NAAI North regional competition winners at the Global Resource Centre. S.K Mahto congratulated Sarthak and showcased a video describing the application for PWDs.







## **KEY TAKEAWAYS-**

The conference provided a deeper understanding of the impact of government initiatives on skill development, financial empowerment, and the intersection of technology, glocal partnerships, and PWD empowerment. Insights into global advancements, strategies for positive change, and the envisioning of a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable world were key takeaways from this impactful event. Participants gained valuable perspectives on the role of entrepreneurship, the importance of collaborative efforts, and the need for continued advocacy to ensure a more inclusive and empathetic society for persons with disabilities.

## Links for Launches-

Following report launches were made during the 2- day Conference-

1. **NAAI Annual Report:**  
<https://www.abilympicsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/NAAI-ANNUAL-REPORT-2023.pdf>
2. **Sarthak Annual Report:**  
<https://sarthakindia.org/cms/annual-report-data/SARTHAK%20ANNUAL%20REPORT%202023.pdf>
3. **Advocacy Report:**  
[https://sarthakindia.org/reports\\_web/Sarthak\\_Advocacy\\_2022.pdf](https://sarthakindia.org/reports_web/Sarthak_Advocacy_2022.pdf)
4. **NAAI Report:** [https://sarthakindia.org/reports\\_web/Sarthak\\_NAAI\\_Report.pdf](https://sarthakindia.org/reports_web/Sarthak_NAAI_Report.pdf)
5. **Early Intervention report:**  
[https://sarthakindia.org/reports\\_web/Sarthak\\_EarlyIntervention\\_Final\\_edit001.pdf](https://sarthakindia.org/reports_web/Sarthak_EarlyIntervention_Final_edit001.pdf)
6. **Vocational skill building report:**  
[https://sarthakindia.org/reports\\_web/Sarthak\\_VocationalSkilling\\_Final\\_23072022.pdf](https://sarthakindia.org/reports_web/Sarthak_VocationalSkilling_Final_23072022.pdf)
7. **Sustainable Employment Report:**  
[https://sarthakindia.org/reports\\_web/Sarthak-SustainableEmployment\\_Report\\_2021.pdf](https://sarthakindia.org/reports_web/Sarthak-SustainableEmployment_Report_2021.pdf)





A hand holding a silver metal walker on a blue textured background with a white leaf pattern and several small globe icons representing various countries.

**THANK YOU**