



**Yi** **DISHA**  
**DISABILITY**  
SUMMIT 2025

AN IMPACT REPORT BY

**WE4YOU**

*An initiative by young minds*

Academic Partner



Supporting Hands



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# Yi Odisha Ability Summit, an initiative by WE4YOU

Some events host conversations. Some create collaborations.  
A few quietly begin movements.

The Yi Odisha Ability Summit 2026 a WE4YOU Charitable Trust initiative was designed to be the latter.

At a time when inclusion is often discussed within policy documents and CSR frameworks, this one-day multi-stakeholder platform brought together something far more powerful lived experience, institutional commitment, and industry action in the same room.

Organised by WE4YOU Charitable Trust, with Young Indians (Yi) as Strategic Partner, and supported by the SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), the Summit convened policymakers, administrators, corporates, CSR leaders, innovators, disability rights advocates, academic institutions, and community champions to co-create pathways toward accessibility, dignity, and sustainable livelihoods for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) across Odisha.

Because inclusion does not happen in isolation it happens when ecosystems align.

The event was formally kickstarted by Dr. Prasmita Tejaswini, Chair of Young Indians Bhubaneswar for 2026, along with Priya Jain representing Yi leadership. They set the context for the Summit by highlighting the work of Yi's Accessibility Vertical under the Confederation of Indian Industry, which focuses on building an inclusive and accessible society through collaborative action.

Referencing initiatives such as Sarv-Sugamya, digital accessibility capacity-building programmes including alt-text adoption and AI-enabled accessibility tools, and the organisation of Ability Summits across regions, they emphasised Yi's commitment to promoting accessible public infrastructure, challenging ableism, and strengthening employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through cross-sector partnerships.

## Beginning with Ability, Not Disability

The Summit opened with a deeply moving musical performance by visually impaired artist Satyajeet and group, presenting “Yeh Toh Sach Hai Ke Bhagwan Hai” — not as a ceremonial gesture, but as a powerful statement.

Ability exists. Opportunity must follow.

The formal proceedings of the Summit were engagingly anchored by Satyajeet alongside RJ Komal from Radio Chocolate, whose thoughtful and energetic hosting seamlessly guided the audience through sessions, performances, and panel discussions, adding warmth, accessibility, and vibrancy to the overall experience.

As leaders from government, industry, healthcare, technology, and civil society connected during the networking session, the space evolved into one of shared listening rather than hierarchical dialogue. Equally powerful was a moment that quietly reflected the spirit of the Summit itself — nearly fifteen beneficiaries from the PwD community, already meaningfully employed, joined as active contributors to the event, confidently serving refreshments to Hon’ble dignitaries and esteemed guests.

Their participation, alongside hospitality professionals from Lemon Tree Hotels and Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, went far beyond logistical support. It became a living example of dignity, independence, and inclusion in action — demonstrating that empowerment is most meaningful when opportunity translates into participation.



## The Formal Inaugural session:

The Formal Inaugural session: The inaugural session of the Yi Odisha Ability Summit 2026 set a powerful foundation by placing rights, lived experience, and institutional responsibility at the centre of the inclusion discourse.

Delivering the inaugural address, Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi — Former Chief Justice of Jharkhand, Former Acting Chief Justice of Odisha, and Member of the National Human Rights Commission — anchored the Summit firmly in the principles of constitutional responsibility and rights-based inclusion. Drawing from decades of judicial experience and public service, he emphasised that disability inclusion must move beyond welfare-driven approaches toward enforceable rights, institutional accountability, and systemic reform.

He called upon administrators, industries, and civil society to recognise accessibility not as an act of goodwill but as a constitutional obligation rooted in equality and dignity. Stressing that the true spirit of the RPwD Act lies in measurable grassroots impact, he underscored the need for stronger district-level inclusion models through coordinated action between government institutions, industry stakeholders, and community organisations. Accessibility, employment, and equal opportunity, he noted, must become visible realities in everyday governance and service delivery.

Highlighting institutional responsibility, he urged government bodies, corporates, and public institutions to adopt accountability mechanisms supported by sensitisation programmes, accessible grievance redressal systems, and inclusive workplace practices. Reiterating accessibility as a fundamental human rights mandate, he emphasised its integration across infrastructure, education, technology, and employment ecosystems so that participation, independence, and opportunity for Persons with Disabilities become non-negotiable standards of development.





His address set a reflective yet action-oriented tone for the Summit, with a clear message echoed across the room — **inclusion must move from intention to implementation.**

Adding a deeply personal and reflective dimension to the inaugural session, Shri Sannyashai Behera, OAS, Deputy Secretary, SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha, brought lived experience into policy dialogue. Beginning his address with a thoughtful sloka, he spoke candidly about the historical discrimination, social barriers, and everyday challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities. Speaking not only as a senior administrator but also as a member of the PwD community himself, he reflected on his own journey within public service and the resilience required to navigate systemic barriers.

He posed a powerful question to the audience — despite progressive laws, policies, and increasing awareness, why does the gap in inclusion still persist?

Answering his own question, he emphasised that the challenge lies not merely in resources or policy frameworks, but in perception. True inclusion, he noted, begins when society shifts from sympathy to respect, from accommodation to acceptance, and from viewing disability as limitation to recognising ability as potential. His reflections encouraged participants to examine unconscious biases and reimagine governance, workplaces, and communities through empathy and dignity.

Building upon this rights-based and experiential framework, the session seamlessly transitioned into the administrative and implementation perspective through the address by Bratati Harichandan, Commissioner, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Odisha. Translating constitutional principles into actionable pathways, she focused on skilling, accessibility, and industry participation as critical drivers of inclusive growth.

Emphasising that employment remains one of the strongest enablers of dignity, independence, and social participation for Persons with Disabilities, she highlighted the need to move beyond symbolic opportunities toward structured and sustained capacity building. She urged corporates to actively collaborate with government institutions, training bodies, and civil society organisations to design industry-aligned, skill-based training programmes that lead directly to employability.

Reinforcing the human rights perspective articulated earlier, she underscored accessibility as a non-negotiable foundation for inclusion. From barrier-free workplaces and accessible digital platforms to assistive technologies and sensitised work environments, she encouraged organisations to view accessibility not as compliance but as a strategic investment that unlocks talent and productivity.

Calling for stronger public-private partnerships, she emphasised the role of corporates in offering apprenticeships, internships, and job-linked training opportunities that enable Persons with Disabilities to transition confidently from skill development to sustainable livelihoods.

Together, the inaugural addresses created a natural progression for the Summit — from constitutional vision to lived experience, and from policy intent to practical implementation — setting the stage for deeper discussions on accessibility, innovation, and inclusive livelihoods that followed throughout the day.

The conversation on inclusive practice was further strengthened through an engaging curtain-raiser workshop led by **Durgashri Sardeshpande**, a disability inclusion expert who travelled from Tata Steel Foundation, Jamshedpur, especially for the Summit.

Beginning with a powerful demonstration of empathy in practice, she creatively described her own appearance for the visually impaired participants present in the discussion hall — a simple yet profound gesture that immediately reframed how accessibility begins with awareness and intentional communication. The exercise set the tone for a highly interactive session focused on everyday inclusion.

Through an engaging question-and-answer format, she guided participants across corporates, administrators, and volunteers on the **right approaches to communicate and engage with Persons with Disabilities**, challenging common assumptions and unconscious biases.



Categorising responses humorously yet insightfully as either “Pookie” (thoughtful and inclusive) or “Bare Minimum” (performative or compliance-driven), the workshop encouraged honest reflection while making learning accessible and memorable. Participants actively engaged in conversations around language sensitivity, consent, assistive communication practices, and workplace etiquette — reinforcing that inclusion begins with behaviour before policy.

A 15-minute networking interaction followed, allowing delegates from government, industry, healthcare, and civil society to connect informally — conversations that organically carried forward into collaborative discussions later in the day.

## **Panel I —**

### **Universal Access, Skilling and Institutional Preparedness**

#### **From Policy Intent to Lived Accessibility**

Following the interactive learning engagement, the Summit moved into its first thematic dialogue — a deeply reflective conversation examining how accessibility must transition from fragmented initiatives into integrated systems supported by governance, industry participation, and institutional preparedness.

Moderated as a cross-sector exchange rather than a conventional panel, the session brought together administrative leadership, regulatory oversight, corporate responsibility, and human resource strategy to explore how Odisha can move from policy intent toward measurable inclusion outcomes.

## The panel featured:



**Shri Sannyashai Behera**

OAS, Deputy Secretary, Social Security and Empowerment of PwD (SSEPD), Government of Odisha



**Bratati Harichandan**

Commissioner, Office of the State Commissioner for PwD, Odisha



**Dillip Sahoo**

CSR Head, TPSODL



**Parthasarathi Mishra**

Former Chief Human Resource Manager at Tata Steel and Board Member at Amnaya Corporation

## Reframing Accessibility — Beyond Infrastructure

Opening the discussion with reflections rooted in lived experience, Shri Sannyashai Behera offered a candid assessment of the distance that often exists between progressive policy frameworks and everyday accessibility realities. While acknowledging Odisha's evolving policy ecosystem, he observed that accessibility frequently remains confined to infrastructure compliance rather than functioning as a coordinated service ecosystem.

For true inclusion, he noted, transportation, education systems, digital governance platforms, and institutional processes must work together seamlessly. The deeper challenge, he reflected, lies not merely in regulation but in perception — urging stakeholders to shift from sympathy-driven approaches toward recognising capability and leadership among Persons with Disabilities.

Speaking about education and competitive examinations, he emphasised the need for uniform assistive mechanisms across institutions — trained scribes, accessible digital portals, adaptive examination centres, and accountable grievance systems — so that opportunity is not lost due to procedural inconsistencies.

# Accessibility as the Foundation of Employability

Building on these reflections, Commissioner Bratati Harichandan brought the conversation firmly toward employability ecosystems. She emphasised that skilling without accessibility risks becoming symbolic rather than transformational.

Drawing from regulatory oversight and field engagement, she observed that many Persons with Disabilities entering vocational pathways possess technical capability but face barriers in communication confidence, workplace exposure, and digital literacy. Addressing these gaps, she stressed, requires adaptive curricula, inclusive soft-skills training, and accessible learning environments supported by assistive technologies.

Advocating for stronger collaboration between rehabilitation institutions and industry, she encouraged corporates to co-design training programmes aligned with emerging sectors such as digital services, healthcare support, and technology-enabled roles.

Technology, she emphasised, holds unprecedented potential to accelerate inclusive skilling — through AI-enabled learning platforms, screen-reader compatible systems, speech-to-text applications, and adaptive devices that promote independent learning.

Her message remained clear throughout the dialogue: accessibility must not be viewed as compliance but as the enabling foundation upon which sustainable employment pathways are built.



## CSR as a Bridge Between Training and Employment

Offering the industry perspective, Mr. Dillip Sahoo reflected on how CSR ecosystems must evolve beyond short-term training initiatives toward long-term employment pipelines.

He emphasised that meaningful skilling begins with understanding industry demand and embedding placement pathways within programme design itself. According to him, impact cannot be measured through certification numbers alone but through sustained employment, income stability, and increased independence among beneficiaries.

Highlighting the unique reach of utilities operating across rural and semi-urban geographies, he noted that infrastructure and service-sector organisations can play a transformative role in creating apprenticeship opportunities through accessible customer service centres, digital operations roles, and community-facing functions supported by adaptive technologies.

He further emphasised collaborative partnership models involving government departments, specialised institutions, and corporates — identifying institutes such as Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR) as knowledge anchors capable of strengthening training quality while industry ensures market alignment and placement continuity.



## Redesigning Workplaces — The HR Imperative

Bringing a strategic human resource perspective, Parthasarathi Mishra addressed one of the most persistent barriers within corporate ecosystems — misconceptions surrounding productivity and operational complexity associated with disability hiring.

Drawing from decades of industry leadership, he emphasised that inclusive hiring is not an act of charity but a talent advantage. Organisations that invest in structured onboarding, mentorship, and accessible workplace systems often experience stronger retention and improved workplace culture.

He highlighted apprenticeships and on-the-job exposure as powerful bridges between hesitation and confidence, allowing organisations and employees to adapt mutually while aligning skills with operational realities.

From an HR lens, he further reflected that Odisha has the opportunity to emerge as a national benchmark in inclusive workforce development if governance incentives, accessible industrial infrastructure, and skill-linked hiring partnerships evolve together as a unified ecosystem.

# Setting the Tone for the Summit

As the discussion concluded, the panel established a powerful foundation for the day's deliberations — reinforcing that universal access is not a standalone agenda but the starting point for education, employability, and equitable economic participation.

The dialogue demonstrated that when governance insight, regulatory leadership, corporate responsibility, and human resource strategy converge, inclusion moves beyond intention and begins to shape systems capable of delivering dignity, independence, and opportunity at



## Panel II — Industry, Innovation & Inclusive Livelihoods

### When Opportunity Meets Enterprise

If the first dialogue of the Summit examined how systems must prepare for inclusion, the second panel turned toward a more urgent question — how can economic participation itself be redesigned so that Persons with Disabilities become active contributors to industry, entrepreneurship, and innovation ecosystems?

Moderated by Shubham Purohit, Lead Associate CSR at TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited, the conversation brought together leaders representing heavy industry, entrepreneurship, digital employment ecosystems, mobility innovation, and assistive technology.

## The panel featured:



**Rishi Pathania**

Vice President & Head CSR, Jindal Steel & Power



**Preeti Pallavi Patnaik**

CEO & Managing Director, Tushi Motors



**Pavithra YS**

Founder & Managing Director, Vindhya E-Infomedia



**Ashish Mahana**

Founder, AKM Robotics

**T**ogether, the discussion moved beyond intent toward execution — exploring how industries can build inclusive livelihoods that combine skills, technology, entrepreneurship, and independence.

Redefining Industry Responsibility — From Training to Employment

Opening the discussion from a large-industry perspective, Rishi Pathania reflected on how industrial ecosystems must move beyond isolated CSR training programmes toward structured employment absorption models.

He emphasised that training alone cannot transform lives unless industries consciously redesign hiring pipelines. Manufacturing units, service ecosystems, logistics networks, and administrative functions already possess diverse job roles capable of accommodating varied abilities when supported by adaptive tools and sensitised teams.

Highlighting Odisha's emerging industrial landscape, he noted that sectors increasingly require digital operations support, customer interface management, safety monitoring, and data processing skills — roles where Persons with Disabilities can thrive with the right preparation.

CSR, he suggested, must evolve into a bridge connecting government skilling initiatives, institutional training partners, and employer commitments. Collaboration with startups and social enterprises was identified as a powerful pathway to scale inclusive livelihoods, allowing innovation to complement industry capacity.



## Mobility as Dignity — Inclusion through Access to Movement

Bringing an entrepreneurial and mobility-focused perspective, Preeti Pallavi Patnaik reframed livelihoods through a fundamental lens — movement itself.

Speaking from the automobile sector's vantage point, she emphasised that mobility determines access to employment, healthcare, education, and entrepreneurship. Without accessible transportation solutions, even skilled individuals remain excluded from opportunity.

She highlighted how adaptive vehicle solutions, customised driving training, and mobility financing models can enable Persons with Disabilities to pursue self-employment as drivers, logistics operators, or service entrepreneurs.

Equally important, she noted, is transforming workplace culture within small and medium enterprises. Inclusive infrastructure, flexible role design, and sensitised teams often require mindset change more than financial investment.

Industry partnerships, she emphasised, can play a critical role in supporting small entrepreneurs through mentorship, vendor linkages, and accessible supply chains — ensuring that inclusion extends beyond employment into entrepreneurship ownership.

## Digital Workplaces — Opportunity without Geography

Offering insight from India's inclusive digital employment ecosystem, Pavithra YS demonstrated how technology has already begun dismantling traditional barriers to participation.

Leading one of the country's pioneering disability-inclusive outsourcing organisations, she reflected on how digital platforms allow talent from rural and semi-urban geographies to contribute meaningfully without relocation.

However, she also highlighted persistent challenges faced by rural and first-generation entrepreneurs — unreliable connectivity, lack of digital literacy exposure, and limited confidence in navigating formal markets.

Technology, she emphasised, creates equal opportunity only when accompanied by structured support systems — mentorship networks, accessible digital training, and institutional handholding during early business stages.

For first-generation entrepreneurs, particularly Persons with Disabilities, ecosystem trust remains essential. Access to clients, predictable income streams, and inclusive procurement practices from corporates can transform sustainability.

Her reflections underscored that inclusion in the digital economy is not merely about connectivity but about confidence, capability, and credibility.





## Innovation Rooted in Empathy

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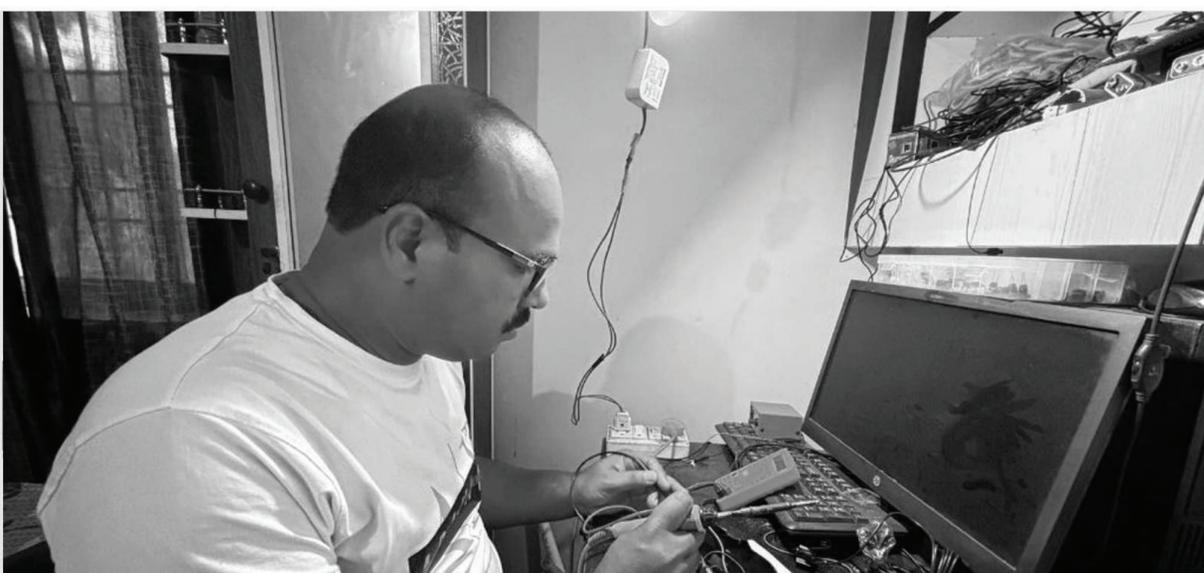
Perhaps the most personal narrative emerged through the journey of Dr. Ashish Mahana, whose innovation stemmed from lived observation rather than laboratory abstraction. Inspired by everyday mobility challenges faced by visually impaired individuals, he developed a GPS-enabled smart assistive device designed to enhance navigation independence and safety.

Sharing the innovation journey candidly, he reflected on the difficulties faced by grassroots innovators — limited access to funding, certification challenges, and navigating complex procurement ecosystems.

Innovation, he emphasised, thrives when industry and government create enabling environments that support experimentation, incubation, and early adoption.

Assistive technologies, he noted, have the potential to fundamentally transform independence for Persons with Disabilities — not by replacing human support but by enabling autonomy in everyday decision-making.

He called for stronger collaboration between corporates, innovation incubators, and public institutions to create pathways for scaling locally developed solutions into nationally deployable models.



# Innovation, Enterprise and Inclusion — A Shared Responsibility

As the discussion drew to a close, a common thread emerged across diverse perspectives.

Industry leaders spoke of redesigning hiring ecosystems. Entrepreneurs highlighted mobility and supply-chain participation. Digital pioneers demonstrated the power of remote opportunity. Innovators showed how empathy-driven technology can unlock independence.

Together, the panel reinforced a powerful message:

Inclusive livelihoods are not created through charity — they are built through collaboration between industry capacity, entrepreneurial courage, technological innovation, and enabling governance.

The dialogue marked a significant shift in the Summit's journey — moving inclusion from institutional readiness toward economic participation, aspiration, and ownership.

## Panel III —

### CSR, Career Opportunities, Capacity Building, Sports & Social Capital

#### From Opportunity to Aspiration — Building Pathways that Sustain Dignity

As the Yi Odisha Ability Summit 2026 progressed into its final thematic dialogue, the conversation shifted toward a deeper question — **how does inclusion sustain itself beyond access and employment to build confidence, leadership, and community belonging?**

Moderated by disability inclusion expert **Durgashri Sardeshpande**, the session brought together corporate CSR leadership, sports ecosystem champions, and impact practitioners to examine how skilling, careers, and aspiration-building must evolve together to create lasting transformation.

## The panel featured:



**Prafulla Dhal**



**Rashmi Ranjana Mohanty**



**Kamalakanta Rath**



**Maitreyee Mishra**

### CSR as a Career Catalyst — Moving Beyond Support Models

Opening the discussion from a grassroots CSR implementation perspective, Prafulla Dhal reflected on the need for corporate social responsibility to evolve from short-term assistance toward structured career pathways.

He emphasised that sustainable inclusion begins when CSR programmes align skilling initiatives with real industry demand rather than isolated training targets. Youth across Odisha, he noted, increasingly require digital literacy, communication skills, and workplace adaptability alongside technical competencies to remain competitive.

Sharing insights from implementation experience, he emphasised that employment outcomes must remain the central success indicator of CSR interventions. Ongoing mentorship, employer engagement, and post-placement tracking were highlighted as essential mechanisms ensuring beneficiaries transition into stable livelihoods rather than temporary opportunities.

Capacity building, he observed, strengthens most effectively through partnerships — bringing together government institutions, specialised training organisations, and community-based groups capable of supporting individuals at the grassroots level.

## Bridging Education and Employment — The Digital Opportunity

Bringing a skilling ecosystem perspective, Rashmi Ranjana Mohanty emphasised the growing role CSR must play in closing the gap between education systems and employability expectations.

She highlighted digital skilling as one of the most powerful equalising forces in today's workforce landscape. Accessible training in emerging sectors such as IT-enabled services, data operations, and digital customer engagement allows youth, particularly women and Persons with Disabilities, to access opportunities without geographic relocation.

However, inclusion, she emphasised, requires intentional programme design. Capacity-building initiatives must address gender barriers, accessibility challenges, and confidence gaps through adaptive learning environments and mentorship ecosystems.

For CSR initiatives, success cannot be measured merely through enrolment numbers. True impact, she noted, becomes visible when participants demonstrate sustained employment, income stability, and professional growth — outcomes that reflect dignity rather than dependency.

## Sports as a Pathway to Leadership and Confidence

Shifting the conversation toward aspiration and identity, Kamalakanta Rath brought powerful insight from the world of para sports.

He reflected on how sports often become the first space where Persons with Disabilities experience recognition based on ability rather than limitation. Beyond medals, participation builds confidence, discipline, and leadership — qualities that translate into education, employment, and community engagement.

At the same time, he candidly addressed persistent challenges faced by para-athletes across Odisha, including limited grassroots infrastructure, inconsistent financial support, and restricted exposure opportunities.

Grassroots sports programmes, he emphasised, have the power to transform rural youth by building resilience and self-belief at an early stage. However, sustainable progress requires coordinated support from both government and industry.

In a powerful outcome emerging directly from the dialogue, the session translated conversation into collaboration. Both OPGC and the Tech Mahindra Foundation expressed willingness to explore partnership opportunities with the Para Sports Association of Odisha — opening pathways for future support and joint initiatives. The exchange reflected one of the Summit's defining strengths: meaningful connections leading to actionable commitments.



## Measuring Impact — From Intention to Transformation

Adding an impact assessment perspective, Maitreyee Mishra encouraged CSR leaders to rethink how social investment success is defined.

She emphasised that impactful initiatives begin with intention but must ultimately demonstrate measurable change. CSR programmes, she noted, must move toward outcome-based design — where employment continuity, leadership emergence, and community participation become key indicators of success.

Sports-based initiatives, she reflected, offer powerful long-term returns by building social capital within communities. When individuals gain visibility, confidence, and networks through sports participation, ripple effects extend into education, employment, and leadership.

Scaling inclusive sports ecosystems, she suggested, requires partnerships between corporates, grassroots organisations, and public institutions — ensuring infrastructure, mentorship, and exposure opportunities grow simultaneously.



# Closing Reflections, Recognition Ceremony & Voices of Lived Experience

## From Dialogue to Demonstration — Where Inclusion Became Personal

As the Summit progressed through conversations on governance, industry participation, innovation, and capacity building, the closing segment intentionally shifted the lens — from systems and institutions to individuals whose lived journeys embody resilience, aspiration, and possibility.

Because inclusion ultimately finds meaning not in policy language, but in lived transformation. The Recognition and Lived Experience Session became one of the most powerful moments of the day, reminding every stakeholder present that accessibility is not charity — it is an enabler of leadership.



## Voices That Redefined Possibility — Kunilata's Journey

Among the most inspiring voices was **Kunilata**, a visually impaired technologist whose story quietly dismantled assumptions around disability and capability.

Taking the stage with remarkable composure, she introduced herself not through limitation but through identity — as a coder, speaker, para-athlete, model, and professional navigating the digital economy.

She reflected on how technology, when designed inclusively, becomes the greatest equaliser.

Speaking about her journey into coding and employment, she shared that accessibility in education and digital tools had allowed her to compete on equal footing — but social perception often remained the larger barrier than disability itself.



She emphasised: **“Opportunity begins when society stops assuming what a person with disability cannot do — and starts investing in what they can become.”**

Her reflections extended beyond personal success to systemic change, urging corporates and institutions to invest in accessible learning platforms, adaptive technology, and mentorship opportunities.

For many young Persons with Disabilities present in the audience, her presence became a mirror of possibility — demonstrating that independence, professional excellence, and public leadership are achievable realities when ecosystems support talent.

## Recognition of Accessibility Innovators — Building Inclusion Through Enterprise

The Summit also recognised organisations translating accessibility into tangible solutions across infrastructure, mobility, and communication.

### **Jaago Motion — Mobility as Independence**

Representatives from Jaago Motion presented their work in designing adaptive mobility solutions and customised assistive devices aimed at enhancing independence and dignity.

They highlighted how mobility limitations often restrict participation long before opportunity begins — affecting education, employment access, and social engagement.

During the interaction, conversations moved beyond presentation into collaboration.

In a powerful networking outcome reflecting the Summit's spirit of action, Shri Kamalakanta Ratha, President of the Para Sports Association of Odisha, expressed interest in exploring customised wheelchair solutions tailored for para-athletes in the state.

The discussion opened immediate possibilities for adaptive sports mobility support — demonstrating how dialogue can translate into real partnerships within minutes.

It became a reminder that inclusion accelerates when innovators and community leaders share the same table.

### **SignXpress — Making Spaces Speak Accessibility**

Equally impactful was the participation of representatives Pritam and Neha from SignXpress India, who showcased how accessible environments begin with communication.

Their work focuses on tactile signage, Braille navigation systems, talking signboards, and inclusive wayfinding infrastructure designed to enable persons with disabilities to independently navigate public spaces.

They emphasised that accessibility often fails not because of absence of infrastructure, but because environments are not designed to communicate inclusively.

By integrating tactile tiles, multilingual signage, and assistive navigation tools, their solutions aim to transform hospitals, workplaces, transport hubs, and public institutions into spaces that welcome everyone equally.

Their interaction with stakeholders highlighted growing opportunities for Odisha to integrate accessible signage standards across institutions and public infrastructure projects.



## Recognition of Jaago Motion & SignX-press — Partnerships Beyond the Stage

The recognition ceremony moved beyond symbolic acknowledgement.

It became a moment of alignment — where corporates, government officials, and civil society leaders openly explored collaborations during and after the session.

Several stakeholders engaged directly with innovators to understand scalability, procurement integration, and CSR partnerships.

The Summit once again demonstrated that when innovators meet implementers, accessibility moves from concept to construction.

### A Closing That Felt Like a Beginning

As reflections drew to a close, the collective energy in the room carried a quiet but unmistakable clarity.



### Across the day:

- Policymakers had committed to stronger implementation pathways.
- Corporates had explored inclusive hiring ecosystems.
- Innovators had demonstrated technology as empowerment.
- Civil society had strengthened collaboration networks.
- And persons with disabilities had led conversations not as beneficiaries — but as professionals, athletes, entrepreneurs, and changemakers.

### What remained was not just memory — but momentum.

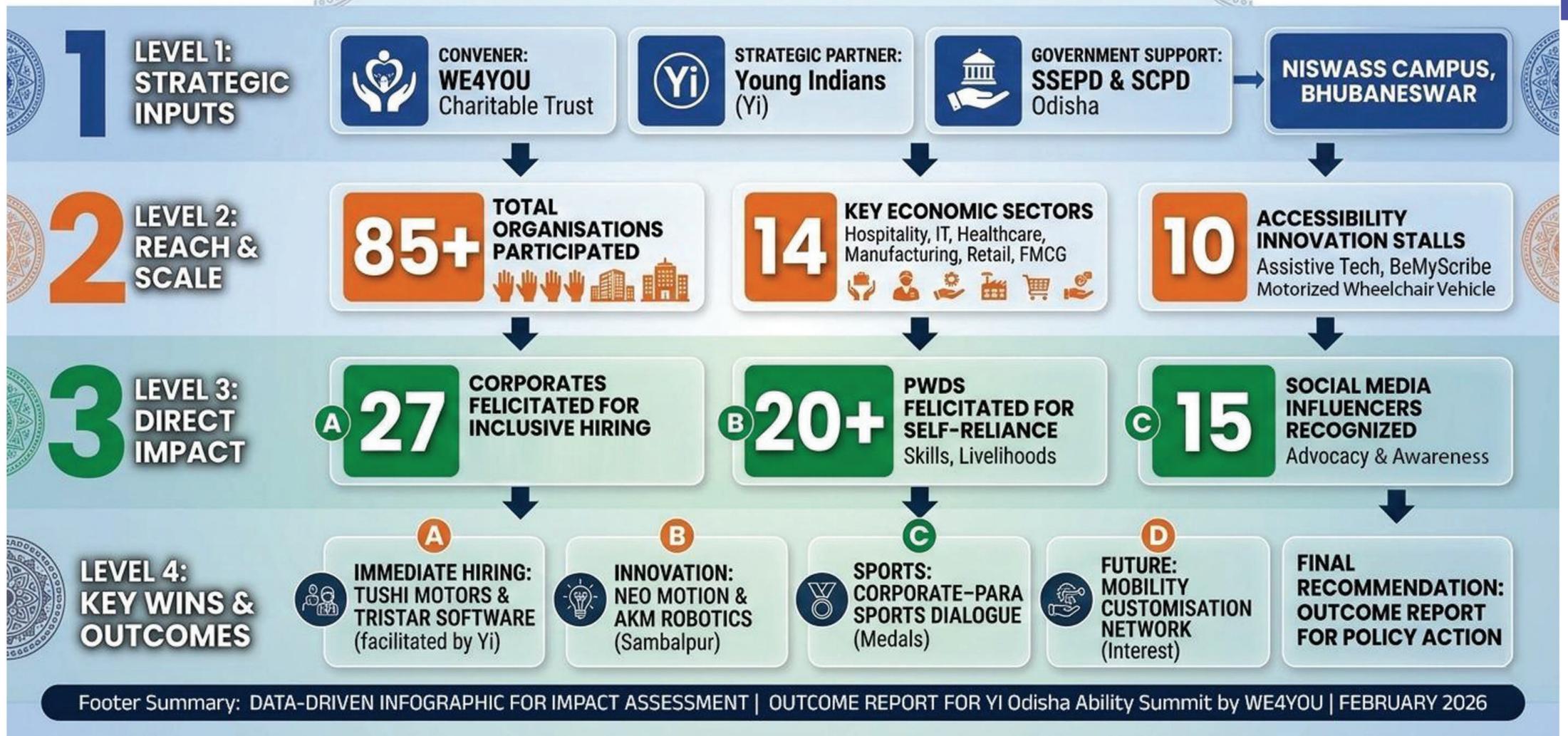
The Yi Odisha Ability Summit 2026 concluded with a shared understanding that accessibility cannot remain episodic.

It must become structural.

Because true inclusion is not achieved when doors are opened temporarily.

It is achieved when systems are redesigned so that doors never need to be opened again.

## YI ODISHA ABILITY SUMMIT 2026: IMPACT ASSESSMENT FLOW CHART



# Newly Added Impact Highlights

- Immediate hiring enquiry initiated by **Tushi Motors** for Persons with Disabilities.
- Employment placement facilitated by Young Indians through **Tristar Software and Solutions Pvt. Ltd.**
- Inclusive exhibition ecosystem featuring 10 accessibility stalls including:



## WE4YOU beneficiaries showcasing Assistive Devices and BeMyScribe solutions.

- Corporate–para sports collaboration dialogue outcomes.
- Mobility customisation interest initiated during networking discussions.



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