APRIL 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 2026 AT MISSION ACCESSIBILITY

OCTOBER 31ST 2026

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FOUNDER'S NOTE

Our work to use the law to advance equality and dignity for persons with disabilities continued with full force for the period between April and September.

In many cases, our efforts bore rich fruits. The Supreme Court directed the appointment of a full-time CCPD and full-time SCPDs in 10 states which currently do not have a Disability Commissioner. Similarly, the Delhi High Court directed the appointment of a candidate with a locomotor disability in the Indian Engineering Services. It also held that a NEET disability assessment board is not to re - quantify the disability of an MBBS aspirant.

As ever, we remain conscious that a judgment alone does not guarantee the realisation of rights on the ground and that, for all those we help, there are many others whose rights violations go unaddressed.

And so our efforts went beyond just the courtroom. From visiting jails across Delhi and informal settlements in Nizamuddin to Shillong and Bengaluru, we tried to spread greater legal literacy amongst persons with disabilities.

A snapshot of our work is below. We hope to receive your continued support and encouragement.

Thank You!

Amar and Rahul



Figure 1: Group photo of team Mission Accessibility in their office. Amar and Rahul sitting, Sarah and Amritesh standing behind

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GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL AND STRATEGIC LITIGATION
NOTABLE WINS

1. Appointment of Disability Commissioners

On 29 July 2026, the Supreme Court ordered the Union of India to appoint a full-time Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, noting that a serving bureaucrat cannot discharge this role as an additional charge.

It also directed 10 states and Union Territories, including Delhi, to appoint a full-time Disability Commissioner in four weeks.

2. NEET Disability Assessment

The Delhi High Court held that the NEET Disability Board is only to assess an MBBS aspirant's functional competency to pursue medicine; it is not to re-quantify the disability.

On this basis, it set aside the disqualification of three candidates: two with locomotor disability and one with hearing impairment. It allowed all three of them to participate in NEET counselling based on the disability percentage in their UDID card.

3. Appointment in the Indian Engineering Services

The Delhi High Court directed the Railways to issue an appointment letter to a candidate with locomotor disability who had been disqualified after cracking the UPSC's Indian Engineering Services Exams in 2017.

The disqualification was because the Railways argued that he has a neurological disability, not a locomotor one. The Court accepted our argument that the disability is essentially locomotor, which only has neurological effects.

4. Stay on Deportation

The Supreme Court stayed the deportation of our client, a Belarusian national who is married to an Indian national who has muscular dystrophy. It found, at the preliminary stage, that her stay in India has been in accordance with law.

5. Air India Penalised for Forcibly Deboarding a Passenger with Disability

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities ordered Air India to pay a penalty of INR 50,000 and compensation of INR 5 lakh to our client with locomotor disability who was forcibly deboarded from an Air India flight.

It held that the deboarding was baseless and contrary to prescribed procedures.

6. Disqualification of Candidate with Mental Illness Stayed

The Central Administrative Tribunal stayed the disqualification of our client, a candidate with mental illness, for the post of Office Superintendent in the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

It found that the process by which the client was disqualified was unlawful and ordered that a seat be kept vacant for him.

NOTABLE HEARINGS

1. Compliance with Recommendations of Disability Commissioners

The Supreme Court issued notice in a PIL seeking to ensure stronger compliance with recommendations of Disability Commissioners as well as ensuring their proper resources, in terms of infrastructure and personnel.

2. Regulation of Rehabilitation Centres

The Supreme Court issued notice in a PIL seeking better regulation of rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities.

3. Accessibility of Films

The Delhi High Court directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to convene a meeting of all stakeholders to resolve existing issues concerning the accessibility of films for persons with disabilities.

4. Posting of a Person with Specific Learning Disability

The Central Administrative Tribunal reserved judgment in a case challenging the posting of a person with Specific Learning Disability in Prayagraj who is from Delhi.

5. Accessibility of the Zee5 Platform

The Delhi High Court issued notice in a petition challenging the inaccessibility of the Zee5 platform for persons with disabilities, directing the platform to take urgent corrective steps.

6. Disqualification in Railway Recruitment

The Central Administrative Tribunal issued notice in a case challenging the disqualification of a candidate with "both legs affected" type of locomotor disability from the post of Junior Engineer in the Indian Railways.

7. Employment Rights in the Private Sector

The Bombay High Court directed the Maharashtra State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities to take appropriate action against a private-sector employer who stopped the pay and work allocation of our client, a person with neurological disability, after he became disabled.

8. Reservation in Identified Posts at ONGC

The Delhi High Court issued notice in an appeal filed by us challenging a judgment whereby ONGC's refusal to reserve a post for a particular disability category, despite identifying the post as being suitable for that category, was upheld.

9. Denial of Promotion

The Central Administrative Tribunal issued notice in an application challenging our client being overlooked for the grant of promotion by the Commissioner of Income Tax.

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SENSITISATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Legal Literacy in Prisons

We conducted four workshops in prisons across Delhi: Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli, to spread greater legal literacy amongst prisoners with disabilities and to ensure that they are provided an accessible environment inside prisons.



Figure 2: A collage of pictures of Team MA conducting workshops in prisons across Delhi

2. RPwD Act: A Decade of Reflection

We launched an interview series in collaboration with Radio Udaan and the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the RPwD Act.



Figure 3: Screenshots of a few videos covered as part of the RPWD@10 series

3. Disability Rights in Informal Settlements

We conducted a workshop in collaboration with the Migration Asylum Project in Nizamuddin, Delhi, for persons with disabilities living in an informal settlement.

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SENSITISATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

4. Disability Rights Workshop in Bengaluru

We partnered with Outlawed and the Karnataka Legal Services Authority to conduct a workshop on disability rights in Bengaluru.



Figure 4: Team MA conducting the Bangalore session

5. Disability Rights Workshop in Shillong

We partnered with the Office of the Meghalaya State Commission for Persons with Disabilities to conduct a workshop on disability rights in the Meghalaya High Court, Shillong.



Figure 5: Group shot at the Meghalaya assembly

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

RPwD Act, 2016: Reflection & Journey Towards 2036

- Former CJI Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud | RPwD Act 2016: Reflection & Journey Towards 2036 | Episode 1
- **Dr. R. Venkataramani, Attorney General on RPwD Act, 2016 | Reflection & Journey Towards 2036 | Episode 5**
- **Padma Shri Rajdeep Sardesai on RPwD Act, 2016 | Reflection & Journey Towards 2036 | Episode 4**

Opinion and Analysis

- **A Quiet Revolution in the Queue for Justice**
- **Invisible Discrimination: How Private Sector Evades India's Disability Rights Law**

In the Media

- **Unregistered Centres, Unqualified Staff: The Supreme Court PIL Fighting for Children with Disabilities**
- **Danish Mahajan Interviews Advocate Amritesh: SC's 4-Week Deadline on CCPD Post**