



Editorial

The United Nations, World Bank, and World Health Organization estimate more than one billion people i.e., about 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability. For this reason, in various ways, Sustainable Development Goals talk explicitly about education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, and data collection and monitoring of the SDGs to empower those who are vulnerable in society. It is to highlight that Disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between the features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives. We all are different in various aspects and diversity is the reality that needs to be embraced. In this context, and to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the 'INTERNATIONAL EJOURNAL OF DISABILITY STUDIES, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION', is committed to amplifying the cross-sectoral issues which impede the empowerment of persons with disabilities and is also committed to taking initiatives addressing these inequalities and mainstreaming inclusion into the socio-economic and urban agenda.

The past few months have brought into critical focus how a community of like-minded individuals can share knowledge and save lives. I feel that the need of the hour is to embed the aspects of "Accessibility, Safety, and Inclusivity" into the fabric of urban development in contemporary and future cities. The United Nations(UN) is working in various capacities to mitigate the barriers faced by persons with disabilities. The "International Day of Person with Disability" is an annual observance on the 3rd of December, proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The Day's observance aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase the gains through awareness derived from integrating persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

Mr. Parul Sharma, Editor - International Journal of Disability Studies,
Special Education and Rehabilitation', Inclusive City Planning and Accessibility Expert



International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebrations aim to increase public awareness, understanding, and acceptance of people with disabilities and celebrate their achievements and contributions. The CoVID-19 pandemic has fortified the connections between public health, environment, economy, challenges faced by persons with disabilities, and has retracted how the buildings and cities have been planned. It is resonated in this year's theme of "Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable postCOVID-19 World" as adopted by the United Nations. The Day is celebrated across the globe and in India by relevant government departments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. More than mere observance, celebrations of this Day is a sign of solidarity towards the international community and India's commitment towards the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

At this outset, it is also pertinent to mention that there is a need in our society for exploring practical ways of bringing in inclusion in urban space and design, engaging with youth and citizenry through an open dialogue. The present edition of this journal intends to engage with the public and promote awareness among young professionals, Special educators, students, government officials, urban practitioners, health & rehabilitation professionals, and other stakeholders and sensitize them about the issues relevant to and concerns of persons with disabilities. It also intends to bring in an action-oriented approach and discuss innovative yet practical methods of mainstreaming disability inclusion into the various social affairs and fostering the creation of Inclusive societies.