Our City Accessible City , Let Us Realise This Dream Together

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Accessibility should be and is slowly becoming a concern all over the world, but cities have often been behind the times. Despite the idea of smart cities rising in popularity and many urban areas embracing technology to improve everything from user experience to safety, accessibility hasn’t had the same attention as these ‘glamorous’ innovations. Today, the world as we know it is changing, and cities will have no choice but to readdress their current accessibility or lack of it.

Cities and urban areas are often the guilty parties and cite their own barriers to accessibility. Old and historical cities contend with strict heritage laws while others simply feel they can’t begin to change a huge area of established buildings and spaces. Today, people with all types of disabilities continue to face common and often easily solved obstacles.

Fortunately, there are some cities starting to take the lead on accessibility. As technology has reshaped the lives of all of us, many are starting to see how it could also reshape the lives of those living with a disability. This in part due to increased awareness of accessibility failures, an increase in people living with disabilities and an ageing population that is resulting in the disabled population increasing even more for many countries.need to put my focus on creating a completely accessible cityuffer from the clutter and noise that city areas present.

While Google Maps has recently taken serious steps to address accessibility in their app, accessible specific directions and real-time information still fall far short of what’s needed.

 Awards for innovative workplace accessibility ideas including:

1 Column-free spaces

2 Low concierge counters

3 Lift doors stay open longer

4 Handrails flank both sides of staircases

5 Chairs with grab handles

6 Hearing induction loop for hearing aids

7 Braille directions, tactile guidance, east-to-read pictographs for visually impaired

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It is the vision of the Government to have an inclusive society in which equal opportunities and access is provided for the growth and development of PwDs to lead productive, safe and dignified lives. In furtherance of the vision of the Department, it is imperative to launch a Nation-wide Awareness Campaign towards achieving universal accessibility for all citizens including PwDs in creating an enabling and barrier-free environment.In this direction, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has conceptualised the“Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)”as a nation-wide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility that will enable persons with disabilities to gain access for equal opportunity and live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. The campaign targets at enhancing the accessibility of built environment, transport system and Information & communication eco-System.

[/](https://www.activesustainability.com/construction-and-urban-development/how-are-accessible-cities/)Cities have begun to develop an inclusive sensibility relatively few years ago. The different urban planning implemented by local governments have neither taken into account the architectural barriers nor ensured full accessibility for disabled until recently. However, adapting civic environments to all citizens is today one of the highest aspirations on sustainability.

“We have to remember that the idea of inclusive design or universal design is not just about repairing or changing things about one particular group, but by doing so you might have positive effects across the whole population.  There are points of intersection between the elderly with mobility needs and children living with chronic diseases.”

For social justice advocates, and those that promote the concept of Rights to the City this was a tremendous achievement. The language is supportive of diversity, and the dignity of persons with disabilities. It also points the many ways that local authorities should consider the rights of persons with disabilities.

However, we also know that with proper designs and some considerations, these same streets could be welcoming, safe, and inviting for all by deploying audible cues when crossing the street, or deploying sensors or way finding devices to provide visual or haptic cues.

the city being selected among the first 20 Smart Cities in India. Govt of India has announced on 28-Jan-2016 that Ahmedabad has scored 66.81 % for the Smart City Plan submitted on 15th of Dec 2015. In spite of being 2nd largest city on the list, Ahmedabad stands at 6th in rank in the country for its Smart City Plan.

the Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS), a bus service running in mixed traffic, and the BRTS, operated by Ahmedabad Janmarg Ltd (AJL), which runs on dedicated corridors (except junctions and a few other links). Both AMTS and BRTS are wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). A metro rail system called the Metrolink Express Gandhinagar Ahmedabad (MEGA) has been proposed and is in the advanced stages of plan

The Sabarmati river is a monsoon-fed river which has a total catchment area of 10,370 sqkm, out of the total basin area of 27,820 sqkm at Ahmedabad. Before the project, the width of the river varied from 300 m to 425 m.

It is uniformly narrowed to 263 metres (863 ft) without affecting its flood carrying capacity and the riverbed land is reclaimed on the both east and west banks to construct 11.25 km long riverfront. It can hold 470,000 cu ft/s (13,000 m3/s) without spillage. The total of 202.79 hectares of land is reclaimed. The reclaimed land is used for public as well as private development. More than 85% of the reclaimed land will be used for public infrastructure, recreational parks, sports facilities and gardens while nearly 14% will be used for commercial and residential purpose

Nearly 26% of the reclaimed land will be used for the parks and gardens to enhance environment and for public recreation. Some parks are already constructed and expanded while others are under construction and planning.

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There are nine bridges on the river Sabarmati that connect the eastern and western regions.

Our city has emerged as an important economic and industrial hub in India. It is the second largest producer ofcotton in India, an its stock exchange is the country's second oldest.cricket is a popular sport in Ahmedabad, which houses the 54,000 . communication and construction.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmedabad#cite_note-jnnurm-12) Ahmedabad's increasing population has resulted in an increase in the construction and housing industries resulting in recent development of skyscrapers.



A side walk at the Sabarmati Riverfront

The administrative responsibilities of the AMC are: water and sewerage services, primary education, health services, fire services, public transport and the city's infrastructure.

Health services are primarily provided at Ahmedabad civil hospital, the largest civil hospital in Asia.[105] Ahmedabad is one of the few cities in India where the power sector is privatised.[106]

Electricity in the city is generated and distributed by Torrent Power Limited, owned and operated by the Ahmedabad Electricity Company, which was previously a state-run corporation.

 Ahmedabad observes a wide range of festivals. Popular celebrations and observances include Uttarayan, an annual kite-flying day on 14 and 15 January. Nine nights of Navratri are celebrated with people performing Garba, the most popular folk dance of Gujarat, at venues across the city.

Ahmedabad had a literacy rate of 79.89% in 2001 which rose to 89.62 percent in 2011. As of 2011, literacy rate among male and female were 93.96 and 84.81 percent respectively

Ahmedabad is also home to the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, which was ranked first among management institutes in the country by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2018

Schools in Ahmedabad are run either by the municipal corporation, or privately by entities, trusts and corporations.

Organizations, both public and private are encouraged to use their CSR funds for building accessible infrastructure. They may adopt projects of their interest e.g. making a hospital accessible or creating an accessible toilet in a school. Once an organization decides to adopt certain number of projects from this portal, they would be entitled to become the “Organizational Stars “ and name and logo of Organization will appear on the home page of Accessible India portal. These organizations will also be rewarded and recognized in annual award ceremony of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.

Also the government of india has introduced SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN is also called as ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN because it is launched to achieve the universal accessibility of people for the economic growth in the country. It is an initiative program run by the government to equally serve the disabled people of the country. This program is launched to make disabled-friendly buildings and other public places.

This was launched on 3rd December in 2015 in New Delhi. This program is dedicated to the disabled community, that’s why it was launched especially on the international day of persons with disabilities.

The main purpose and the target of this campaign are to provide easy access for disabled people in the public places. According to the census of 2011, around 21 Million Indians are suffering from a disability, it is 2.21% of total population.

By 2018, the almost overall environment has become easier and compatible for the people with disabilities. This was estimated that by July 2016, international airports and railway stations in the country which comes under A1, A and B categories will be completely ready for the use of handicaps. It will help us to offer them equal opportunities like other normal people. With this plans there was also a plan to develop the online websites and mobile apps, so that common people can also upload their views regarding accessibility of any government building.

The visually impaired disabled people will have access to special set-top boxes which will make their TV watching more easy and convenient. It has also been planned that by next 5 years to give a training to almost 200 disabled persons to speak in sign languages. It is a system of communication which uses visual gestures and signs to teach deaf people through the government channels on TV. It also targets the private companies also to fulfil the ‘accessibility index’ standard for the differently-abled.

The government has been prepared the action plan regarding this campaign in order to work in a right direction. Various workshops have been planned to be conducted for zonal awareness to make aware the key stakeholders like government officers, architects, real estate developers, engineers, students, etc.

CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) resources will be channelized to create accessible buildings and transportation means. The action regarding physical accessibility will be performed to enhance the accessibility to education, employment and livelihood.

This plan and a campaign were implemented to enhance the productivity of people with disabilities as well as their economic contribution to the country. There is no doubt in progress and success of this campaign, it will really fulfil its all the objectives according to the action plan

This initiative is really very helpful for the disabled people of the country. The private companies from different sectors will be rated according to their investment in providing training and a good facility for disabled employees for their career growth. It is a big step taken by the government to bring disabled people also to the industry which has dual benefits like career growth of disabled and the economic growth of the country. Many years have passed since India became independent, however, we can not say that the people of India are self-reliant because the disabled or physically disabled persons are still dependent on their parents and family members or for their many basic functions. Depend on your carers. People with disabilities are still backward because they do not have access to public places, buildings, offices, schools, roads, railway stations, airports, metros etc. They can not physically take their wheelchairs to such places. Despite being a promising person of society, his life is limited to very few places. This initiative will really prove to be very useful for all people suffering from any type of disability. This will provide them equally opportunities to go ahead by accessing all the features very easily. Through this campaign, they can develop their career, become self-sufficient and at the same time can contribute to the country's economy.

Thus I feel very priviledged to be a part of accessible city and now the dream will be realized together and be fullfilled very soon.

Thank you