

## Meghalaya Chief Secretary launches Website accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

**SHILLONG, May 25:** Meghalaya Chief Secretary PBO Warjri on Monday launched the website of the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Meghalaya which is accessible to Persons with Disabilities at his office chamber. The inauguration programme was also attended by Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare department, T Dkhar, Secretaries, Social Welfare department, CCM. Mihsil and HM Shangpliang, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, C Kharkongor, Senior Technical Director and State Informatics Officer, NIC Meghalaya Timothy Dkhar, Senior Systems Analyst NIC, Candida Shadap, besides Officers from the Social Welfare department



The website <http://megscpwd.gov.in/> has been developed and designed by the National Informatics Centre, Meghalaya under a Scheme for Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) which is a Grant-in-aid funded by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

The web portal was designed under the supervision and guidance of Sr. Tech. Director and SIO, NIC, Meghalaya, Timothy Dkhar and Smti. C. Shadap. It may be noted that One of the Assistant Programmers recruited for the development of the portal Shri. Banjoplang Nongsiej is hearing impaired. He created the sign language videos in the Portal. Nongseij completed his BTech Computer Science from Kalasalingam University in the year 2013.

The website of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has developed to provide information pertinent to Persons with Disabilities (PwD), such as information relating to government schemes for PwD, information about government efforts for the welfare of PwDs, in addition to this the website contains contents from various NGOs working for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities.

The four key areas of disability accessibility that were targeted were:

1. Visual
2. Cognitive
3. Hearing
4. Mobility

**Persons with Visual problems** can range from an inability to distinguish color to no ability to see the content at all and **Persons with Mobility Cognitive** difficulties impacted the content itself, for example with the size of text and images or with color contrast. Flashy graphics and font types can also cause problems for some users, The solution provided was to make the content understandable such as - Easy-to-read sans serif fonts (fonts not having any tails), providing a functionality to resize fonts, inclusion of a text- magnifier tool, providing various color contrast schemes of foreground and background. Ensuring no auto-refreshes on all pages, turning of auto play of videos, where possible visual cues and standard icons were used to make the content easy to grasp. The general solution for all these issues was to make the content robust so that it can be reliably interpreted by user agents, and easily accessed with screen readers, for this semantic HTML and standards were followed. The lang attribute and abbr tags were used wherever applicable to further aid the screen readers.

**Persons with Hearing issues** i.e a user may not be able to hear any sound on the Web site. The solution provided was to make the content perceivable by using a text alternative for all non-text content, such as subtitles and closed captions and also the Inclusion of transcribed speech and sign languages.

**Persons with Mobility problems** i.e the inability to use the mouse. The solution for mobility was provided by making the content operable; that is, to make all functionality accessible from the keyboard alone. Allow navigation with proper use of headings and anchors. It was ensured that there was no auto-refresh on any of the pages.

The website was tested with the



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*In the presence of Meghalaya Chief Secretary PBO Warjri and STD, SIO Meghalaya Shri. Timothy Dkhar and other officers, Smti. C. Shadap, gives a walkthrough of all the disability features incorporated in the website of the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Meghalaya*