

## **Inviting Ideas and Solutions that Harness the Power of Technology to Empower People with Disabilities**

- Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation launch the program in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and ERNET
- The nation-wide innovation challenge to serve as an aggregator of technology-led solutions for empowering people with disabilities

Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation have launched the **Innovate for Accessible India** campaign in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and ERNET (National Research and Education Network under MeitY).

Innovate for Accessible India is a nation-wide innovation challenge aimed at empowering people with disabilities with the technology and tools required for better integration into society and access to equal opportunities. The campaign will be an aggregator of workable technology solutions developed using Microsoft Cloud, Artificial Intelligence and other technologies that address gaps faced by people with disabilities, especially in acquiring services and support in education, skill building, employment, mobility, rehabilitation and other government services.

### **Who can apply:**

The campaign will invite applications from students, citizens and social impact organizations to build customized solutions that address challenges faced by people with disabilities across the 21 officially recognized disabilities.

### **Categories:**

The key areas of focus that developers are encouraged to address include mobility, e-governance and access, education, skilling and livelihood and health.

### **Awards:**

The structure of the awards will be,

- 5 awards (one per each category) @ Rs. 5 lakhs each in Early stage projects—( idea, working prototype but not tested, working prototype tested by less than 25 people)

- 5 awards @ Rs. 10 lakhs each in Established projects - (pilot testing with a group of more than 25 beneficiaries, under mass production post testing, implemented innovation, available for the use of beneficiary)

The 10 best solutions that address key challenges faced by people with disabilities will also be provided mentoring support by Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation, along with grants to develop and scale their solution.

The following table summarizes the scope of the grant.

Disability areas covered	Visual Impairment Hearing Impairment Motor Disability Intellectual Disability
Key Thematic areas covered	Education Skills and livelihood Healthcare Mobility e-governance and access
Who can participate	Students – Individuals and Groups Student and Professor teams Research Scholars Unregistered individuals Non for Profits Social Impact Organizations Established startups

**Apply at:** [www.iai.nasscomfoundation.org](http://www.iai.nasscomfoundation.org)

**Application Last Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> April

**Write us:** [iai@nasscomfoundation.org](mailto:iai@nasscomfoundation.org)

**About Microsoft India**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT" @microsoft) is the leading platform and productivity company for the mobile-first, cloud-first world, and its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Microsoft set up its India operations in 1990. Today, Microsoft entities in India have over 11,000 employees, engaged in sales and marketing, research, development and customer services and support, across 11 Indian cities – Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune. Microsoft offers its global cloud services from local data centers to accelerate digital transformation across Indian start-ups, businesses, and government organizations.

**About NASSCOM Foundation**

NASSCOM Foundation is a non-profit with a vision to empower lives through technology and work towards creating a truly inclusive India. The Foundation is leveraging the capabilities of IT-BPM member companies of NASSCOM along with emerging social enterprises to meet the technology needs of non-profits and underserved communities across India with continuous support from the Government.