

# ANTARCHAKSHU<sup>®</sup> 2016

The Eye Within

**Creating an Accessible World**

**At Gurgaon**  
(25 - 26 February)

**Organised By**



**In Partnership With**



(Government Partner)



**NASSCOM<sup>®</sup>**  
**FOUNDATION**

(Knowledge Partner)

*Saksham*  
*disability*

(NGO Partner)

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 **Sightsavers**

## Enduring Images of Antarchakshu® 2016 at Gurgaon



Some of our volunteer team at Antarchakshu



Welcome gate at Antarchakshu



Way to the event



Participants awaiting entry into the blindfold zone



A Participant transiting from completing the blindfold activities into the accessible card game zone





Participants playing the card game to learn the 6 principles of accessibility



Participants going through various simulated game experiences



A section of the exhibition



Access technology being demonstrated at the exhibition



Accessible ATM being demonstrated at the exhibition



Participants sharing their feedback at the end of the experience

## Antarchakshu® -The Eye Within (Gurgaon 2016)

### The Theme: Creating An Accessible World

Over 1260 participants, including senior- and mid-level corporate staff, service sector employees, students, media persons, academics, homemakers, security personnel, NGOs, volunteers and countless others working in the National Capital Region (NCR) and hailing from all parts of the country, went through an eye-opening experience with their eyes shut at “Antarchakshu® - The Eye Within (Gurgaon 2016)” on February 25th and 26th 2016.

The workshop – a sensitisation and awareness process – was organised by the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) ([www.xrcvc.org](http://www.xrcvc.org)) at Epicentre, Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurgaon.



Participants walk through the Antarchakshu welcome arch



Mr T L Satyaprakash (in white shirt), Deputy commissioner, Gurgaon, inaugurating Antarchakshu

XRCVC is a support and advocacy centre aiming to work towards the holistic development of visually challenged people. It has realised over the years that while many are willing to help visually impaired persons they are not certain how they can — hence there is a crying need to spread awareness and sensitise sighted persons to the lives of persons with visual impairment.

The theme for Antarchakshu Gurgaon 2016 was “Creating An accessible World”, and it was inaugurated by Mr T L Satyaprakash, Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon.

“The central idea of this event was to create awareness about the lives of the visually challenged, which is why Antarchakshu primarily focused on the theme of Creating an Accessible World. Providing accessibility should not be seen as the responsibility of just one sector. Universal design should be a universal obligation. Through the Antarchakshu experience, our aim was to demystify accessibility and make sure that its basic principles are easily understood and made practical to one and all,” said Dr. Sam Taraporevala, Director, XRCVC.

The participants at this unique event were blindfolded and engaged in basic activities like using a touchscreen device, walking along a tactile path, unraveling a maze with their fingers, and choosing items from an

accessible menu, the way the blind do.

They then had the opportunity to go through a detailed exhibition area, where they were exposed to the various emerging technologies like Beacons (a low-end Bluetooth device that is used as a system for location indoor tagging) which can be harnessed to create an accessible world, educational aids, daily living aids, and some exhibits showcased by teams from Microsoft India and Assistech, IIT Delhi.



The registration desk



The baggage counter





An accessible ATM from NCR highlighted the value of effective accessibility and voice guidance.

Just before they left, the participants were able to share their experiences with visually impaired persons one-on-one, thereby gaining rare insights into a world which sighted persons often see, but do not stop to notice.

Antarchakshu focused on the following six principles of accessibility:

1. Universal Design: Usable By all
2. Accepting Differences & Sensory Substitution: Different ways of reaching the same goal
3. Multi-Sensory Approach: Enriches Experiences
4. No Clutter, Clutter confuses: Clean and non-cluttered layouts aid everyone
5. No half-baked cookie: Accessibility present from beginning to end and not only in parts
6. Nothing for us without us: User inputs and feedback taken during development

Appended below is a link to a media article titled 'Antarchakshu – an event with a difference' which appeared on 'People Matters':

<https://www.peoplesmatters.in/article/2016/02/22/diversity/anatarchakshu-event-difference/13003>

And here is what a cross-section of the participants said after the experience:

- Ayush Mira: This program made us aware of things we miss to notice, and neglect very often. Such events should be conducted more frequently to enable better understanding for many. Hats off! Too good!
- Bhawana Joshi: Two technologies which I believe have a major potential are the accessible food menu at restaurants and the traffic technology.
- Donita Dickson: I would like to motivate the company to make these objects and technologies accessible in all offices.

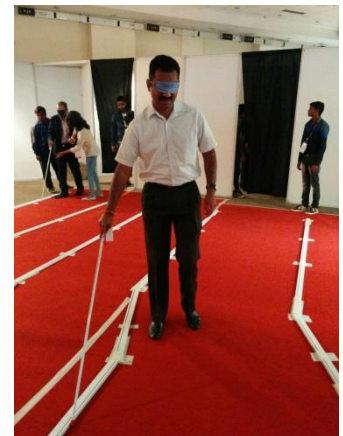


A blindfolded participant learns how to use a touchscreen device

- Chaitanya Kaul: As an engineer, I'm thrilled to see the use of technology helping differently abled people. Science and technology will always do wonders. Good work!
- Sujet Kumar: It was a different experience. I'll try my best to design good products which can help the visually impaired.



A blindfolded participant being escorted through the Activities area using the sighted



An enthusiastic Mr. Satyaprakash was also the first participant to be blindfolded and shown how to navigate a tactile path



Mr Shrikant Sinha, CEO, NASSCOM Foundation, types out his name blindfolded



- Anupama Vaish: It was a very well organized event. In spite of being part of Diversity and having worked in the area of PwDs, I learnt so many new things and got a chance to experience how a visually impaired navigates and things which we take for granted are not that easy without vision. Loved to see the new technologies available in market and as a country we need to do lot of things to make it really inclusive. Hats off to the visually impaired people whom I met at the event — their spirit, energy and hard work is incomparable.
- Navneet Mehta: They proved nothing is impossible! XRCVC is connecting them with the world.
- Vipul Agarwal: A great and different experience. Made me think differently and realize we have to be more inclusive in our approach. Kudos to the team!
- Monika Sikka: It was an eye opening session. Made me realize my responsibility towards society.
- Ritesh K: Wonderful experience. Such kinds of programs should be organised in every part of society to create awareness.



A blindfolded participant learns how to use an accessible menu



A volunteers gently helps a participant take her blindfold off

**Antarchakshu® — The Eye Within** was organized by XRCVC in partnership with the Government of India's Accessible India Campaign (Government Partner), NASSCOM Foundation (Knowledge Partner), Saksham (NGO partner) and People Matters (communication partners) supported by Microsoft India and also supported by Tech Mahindra Foundation, Tata Capital, Dhun Pestonji Parakh Discretionary Trust, NCR, Sightsavers.

Antarchakshu has been conducted earlier in various locations places in Mumbai and Delhi. Gurgaon was chosen this time because, over the years, it has become the hub of Corporate India, with the cream of fortune 500 companies having a presence there. Therefore, there could be no better location to spread awareness about disability, sensitise people, and transmit

onward the message of accessibility to Corporate India.

By experiencing awareness on the lives of persons with

blindness and low vision, over 50 corporates including TCS, IBM, Ericsson, Deloitte, Oracle, Dell, MDI, UST Global, KPMG, Oracle, Accenture, Microsoft, NCR, Zomato, Som Pro Security, Whirlpool, V Mart, and IIT Delhi

not only took steps to create an inclusive society; but also were

able to hopefully transform their organisational and HR culture through three integrated objectives:



Participants learn about the six principles of accessibility through a simply designed card game



Participants learning how to use a talking calculator



Among other things, Assistech Delhi demonstrated the use of the SmartCane



**a. Developing the Capacity to Challenge Beliefs that cover Truths and Facts:** By giving their teams a chance to reflect on their attitudes and beliefs towards persons with vision impairment, the event provided them the most critical skill that individuals and organisations can benefit from. The next time pre-conceived notions interfere with team dynamics or their next product launch or design ideas, they will hopefully have some learnings from Antarchakshu to help understand how to break down beliefs and myths in order to find facts and make winning strategy choices.



Special buses were organised to help participants and volunteers to the venue

**b. Diversity & Inclusion:** In increasingly diverse worlds and workplaces, helping employers and individuals understand differences is key to effective leadership and vibrant workplaces. Antarchakshu oriented participants to concepts of inclusion, accessibility, universal design, equal opportunity employment and other related ideas.



Display of a tactile floor plan in the exhibition zone



Participants learn how simple it is to use an accessible ATM

**c. Skill to Break Barriers and Overcome them to Achieve Success:** By giving a first-hand experience of learning how to function

effectively under a perceived limiting situation, and also getting to learn how this is done by persons with blindness all the time, the event offered a unique opportunity to its participants to understand concepts of personal strength, ability to work around situations, the power of imagination and the inherent human capacity to overcome odds through innovation and determination. The same experienced as a team, can provide a deeper impact, drive action and



Chief sponsor Microsoft set up a special booth to demonstrate its commitment to accessibility

help build teams.

The success of the event hinged on the intricate networking and coordination of over 160 staff and student volunteers from various colleges in the National Capital Region as also the support of various organisations. Special thanks to the energetic team of staff and students from Agrasar, whose contingent of over 40 played a key role at the event. Among other takeaways, all participants to Antarchakshu Gurgaon 2016 were given a uniquely printed accessible Braille tutor as a memento.

**For further information, please feel free to contact:**  
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Participants sharing their experiences with a visually impaired person just before leaving the venue



A participant leaves her impressions in the visitor's book