



Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 2026





XRCVC Annual Report

June 2025 – May 2026

Inclusion | Innovation | Consolidation

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Highlights of AY 2025-2026 (June 2025 – May 2026)

Impact at a Glance

- **9372** lives touched
- **1821** persons with disabilities reached through direct training and awareness programmes
 - **41** certification courses and skills training programmes
 - **53** awareness sessions on developments in assistive technology, accessibility, AI and other skills
- **7551** non-disabled stakeholders impacted through training and awareness initiatives
 - **14** training programmes for educators and special educators on inclusive education and special skills such as content creation and assistive technology
 - **128** awareness workshops, exhibitions and diversity discourse courses for the larger community

While building skills and capacities of persons with disabilities are a key focus of XRCVC's work, lasting inclusion also requires awareness and sensitisation among the wider community of stakeholders, including educators, employers, service providers, policymakers, families, and community members. Accordingly, our programmes engage a larger number of non-disabled stakeholders, recognising their critical role in influencing access, opportunities, and participation. Through these initiatives, we foster greater understanding of disability, accessibility, and inclusion, helping create enabling environments that support the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society.

- **67** websites, apps and hardware tested
 - **6** products tested based on request by developers for
 - **61** websites, apps and hardware tested to expand XRCVC's knowledge base and to bridge the digital divide for persons with disabilities through awareness programmes

Global Recognition of XRCVC's Impact

The year 2025-2026 marked a significant progression in the XRCVC's journey, taking its work from national recognition of the prestigious National Award (Inclusive Education) in 2024 by the Government of India, to international acknowledgement. Two of XRCVC's team members – Dr. Sam Taraporevala (Executive Director – XRCVC) and Mr. Ketan Kothari (Managing Consultant – Programmes, XRCVC) were included in [Diversability's D-30 Impact List](#) – an annual list honouring 30 disabled leaders globally who are making a meaningful difference.

Dr Sam Taraporevala has been recognised for his pioneering work in inclusive education, accessibility, assistive technology, and policy advocacy that has contributed towards systemic reforms and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in India. He states, "One feels deeply humbled on being recognised internationally. The honour goes to the entire XRCVC and all our stakeholders. Although it is an individual recognition, it truly is an endorsement of the entire team effort."

“It was a matter of pride to have been recognised on this Global D30 list and it helped in enhancing one's motivation. I hope this can become a factor to motivate some of our other young upcoming leaders with disabilities in India.” said Mr. Ketan Kothari who has been recognised for his longstanding contributions towards accessibility awareness, inclusive education, assistive technology training, and capacity building initiatives across diverse sectors.

Dr. Sam Taraporevala and Mr. Ketan Kothari on Diversability's D-30 Impact List – an annual list honouring 30 disabled leaders globally



Expanding Horizons of Work

In over two decades of its work, XRCVC has remained an agile organisation responding to emerging social, technological and other challenges. As a forward-looking organisation, XRCVC has consistently expanded its areas of work to include contemporary issues through innovation, collaboration, policy engagement and capacity building for beneficiaries and other stakeholders. During the year, XRCVC expanded its horizons of work to address three emerging themes of felt needs of persons with disabilities, which include:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

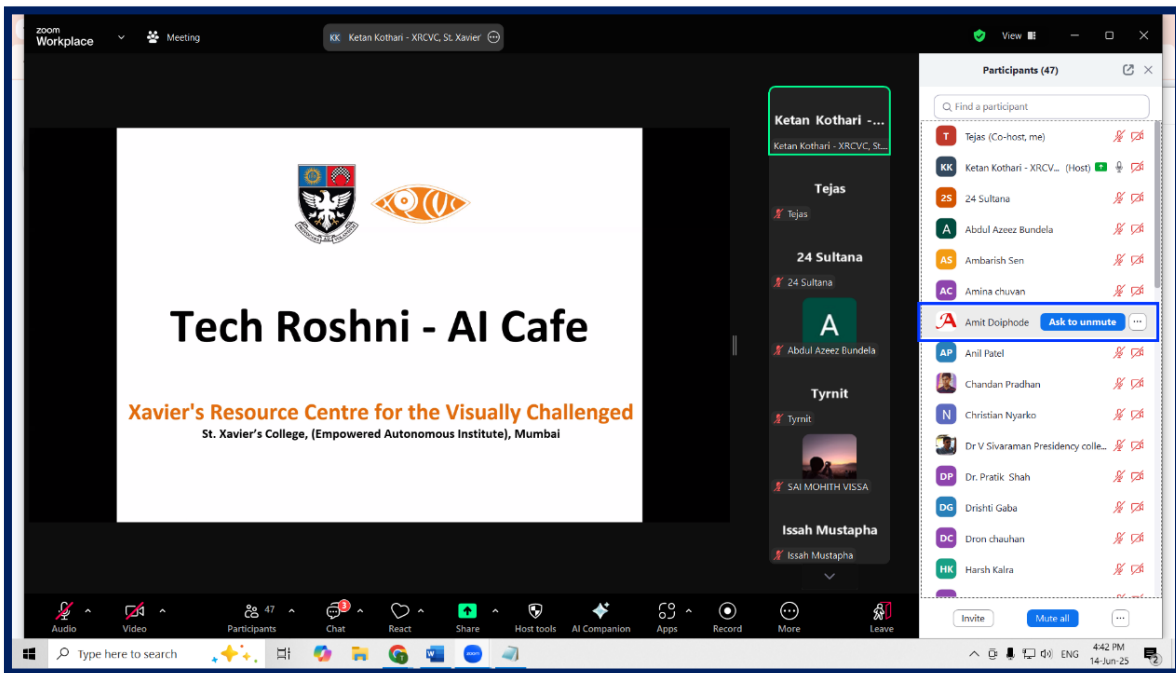
The field of AI is rapidly evolving and becoming an important part of education, work and social life. XRCVC's engagement with AI-related work strongly focuses on ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind from the AI ecosystem. This was addressed through a two-pronged approach: research and knowledge dissemination on cutting edge AI tools for persons with disabilities, and policy engagement towards inclusive AI.

XRCVC conducted extensive research on latest AI tools such as MS Word and MS Excel 365 with Co-Pilot with NVDA, ChatGPT with MS Word, MS Excel and MS PowerPoint, Sarvam AI, Perplexity Comet browser, etc to increase its knowledge base on their usage, relevance and accessibility. This knowledge was disseminated among our persons with disabilities beneficiaries through various training Tech Roshni Awareness programmes:

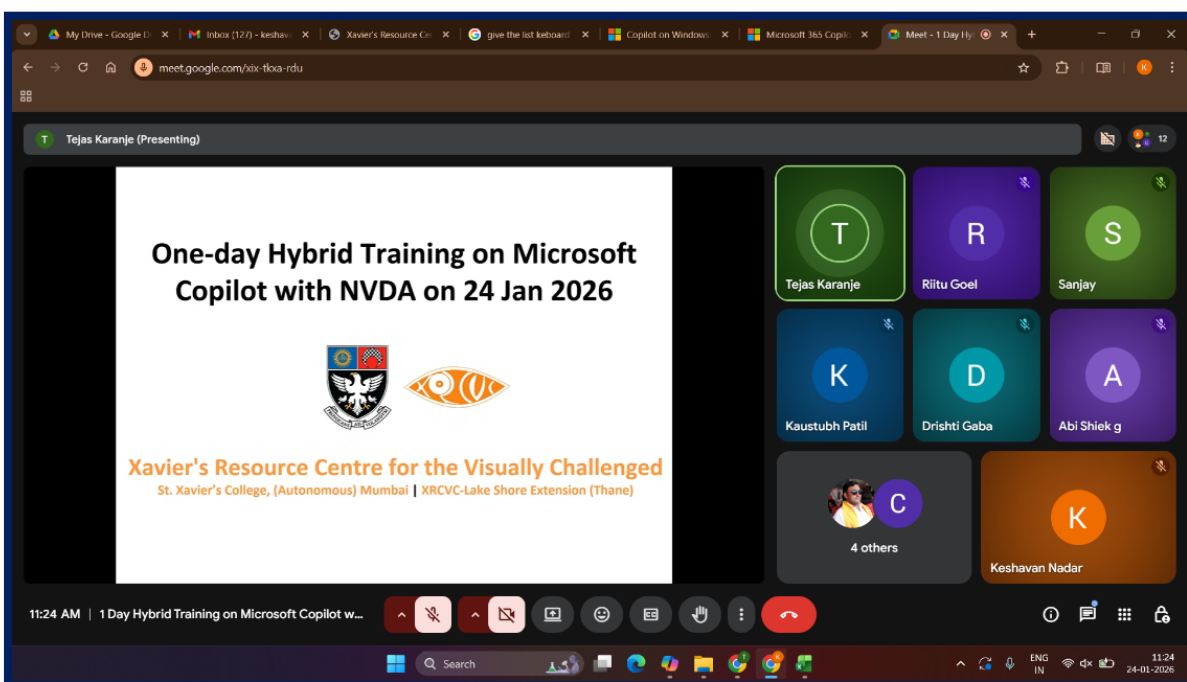
- 14 June 2025 – **Tech Roshni | AI Café** – an introductory workshop on various AI tools such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Grock and Claude and their accessibility
- 15 November 2025 – **Tech Roshni | AI Research Tool and Thinking Partner** – an orientation to Google Notebook LM and its potential for research and data collation

- 29 November 2025 – **Tech Roshni | AI Smartness in Excel with NVDA** – an exploratory workshop on AI tools in Excel that help generate reports, create custom formulae and ease workflows with the screen-reader NVDA
- 20 December 2025 – **Tech Roshni | AI for Intelligent Browsing** – a workshop on intelligent internet browsing.
- 24 January 2026 – Training programme on using the AI application **Microsoft CoPilot with the screen-reader NVDA**
- 31 January 2026 – **Tech Roshni | Google NotebookLM Part II** to orient participants on using NotebookLM to create better presentations, Q&A, and infographics.

Tech Roshni | AI Café – 14th June 2025



Training Programme on Microsoft CoPilot with NVDA – 24th January 2026



Recognising the growing role of artificial intelligence in accessibility and assistive technology, XRCVC provided user feedback on the Ray-Ban Meta AI smart glasses in August 2025. The feedback reflected the experiences and needs of persons with visual impairment and contributed to conversations on how AI-powered innovations can be designed to be more inclusive, accessible, and impactful.

XRCVC was on a panel discussion on "Work Unplugged: Breaking barriers, Building Futures with AI" at the Lead Beyond Limits: Disability and the New World of Work Purple Convention by Rising Flame, United Nations India, and Godrej Industries Group at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025.

XRCVC at the International Purple Fest Goa – Panel Discussion on Work Unplugged: Breaking barriers, Building Futures with AI – 10th October 2025



XRCVC also was involved in policy engagement work related to AI, primarily as a part of various stakeholder consultations on diverse themes as a precursor to the AI Impact Summit 2026 – these included:

- **6th November, 2025** – “Shaping AI Impact in the Financial Sector” organised by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, (an Indian government R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) and the Reserve Bank of India. This pre-summit event brought together senior leaders from financial and technology sectors to deliberate on opportunities, challenges, and priorities in AI adoption for the financial ecosystem with an aim to inform the AI Impact Summit 2026.
- **19th January, 2026** – XRCVC was invited to be a part of the AI4All Roundtable on Inclusion in Practice themed “Inclusion in Practice: Designing, Deploying, and Scaling AI Across Sectors” organised by Meta and Ikigai Law focussed on (a) the relationship between building local AI infrastructure, empowering local communities, and enabling population-scale adoption of AI; (b) the sector-specific nature of inclusion, risk, and accountability—particularly in healthcare, financial services, and education; and (c) the role of government as an enabler, procurer, and standard-setter in shaping an inclusive AI ecosystem.
- **30th January, 2026** – XRCVC was an expert consultant at the Pre-Summit Roundtable for the India AI Impact Summit on the theme "Inclusion for Social Empowerment: Unlocking the Potential of AI for Inclusion and Empowerment of PWDs" organised by the Government of Maharashtra and Primus Partners.

The work undertaken during the year represents the beginning of XRCVC's engagement with artificial intelligence. As AI increasingly becomes a part of everyday life, XRCVC will through research, capacity building, industry engagement, and policy initiatives help ensure that the future of AI is not merely innovative, but also inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Healthcare Access

The XRCVC strengthened its efforts towards promoting inclusive, accessible, and equitable healthcare systems for persons with disabilities. The initiatives under this objective focused on improving access to preventive healthcare, supporting rehabilitative and assistive healthcare needs, building disability inclusion within healthcare institutions, and contributing to systemic change through policy engagement and evidence-building.

XRCVC was invited to be a part of Vision 2020's 19th Annual Conference — a national conference on community ophthalmology held at Ahmedabad from 11th to 13th of July, 2025. XRCVC provided its expertise on two panels – “Sensitising the Sighted” at the session on Capacity Building in Inclusion and “What are the key focus points for Vision 2020 India to enable inclusion in the 2030 in Sight agenda in India”.

"Sensitising the Sighted" session on Capacity Building in Inclusion at the Vision 20/20 Conference – 12th July 2025



Additionally, the XRCVC also set up an awareness exhibition on Assistive Technology for persons with blindness and low vision throughout the conference to create awareness about its potential in lives of persons with disabilities.

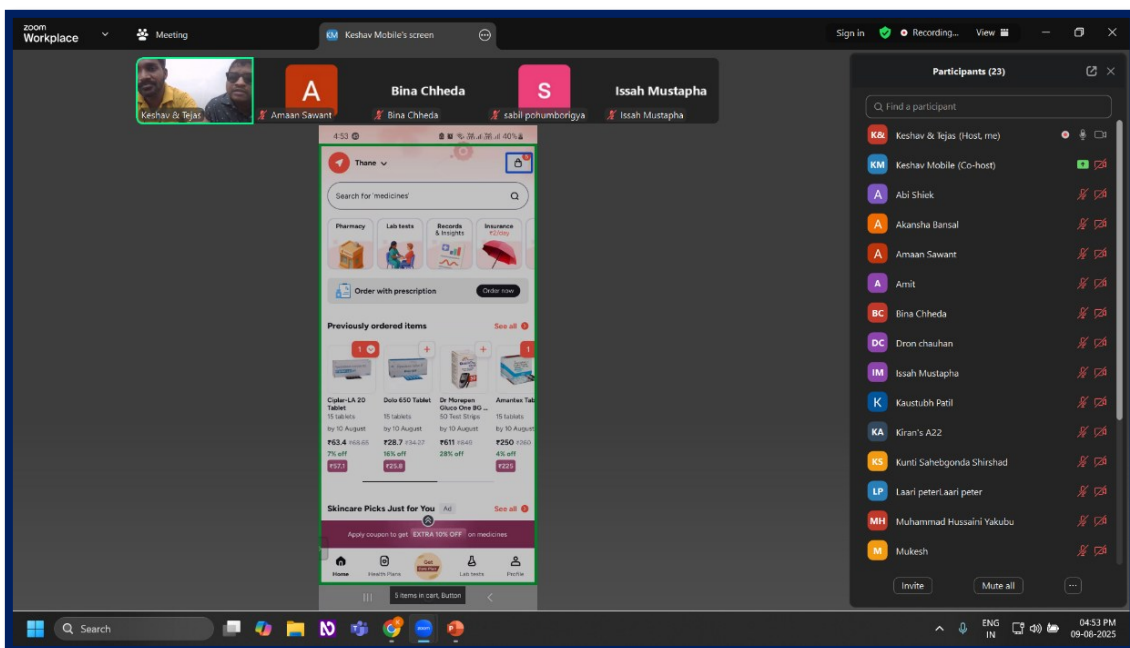
Assistive Technology Awareness at Vision 20/20 Conference – 12th and 13th July 2025



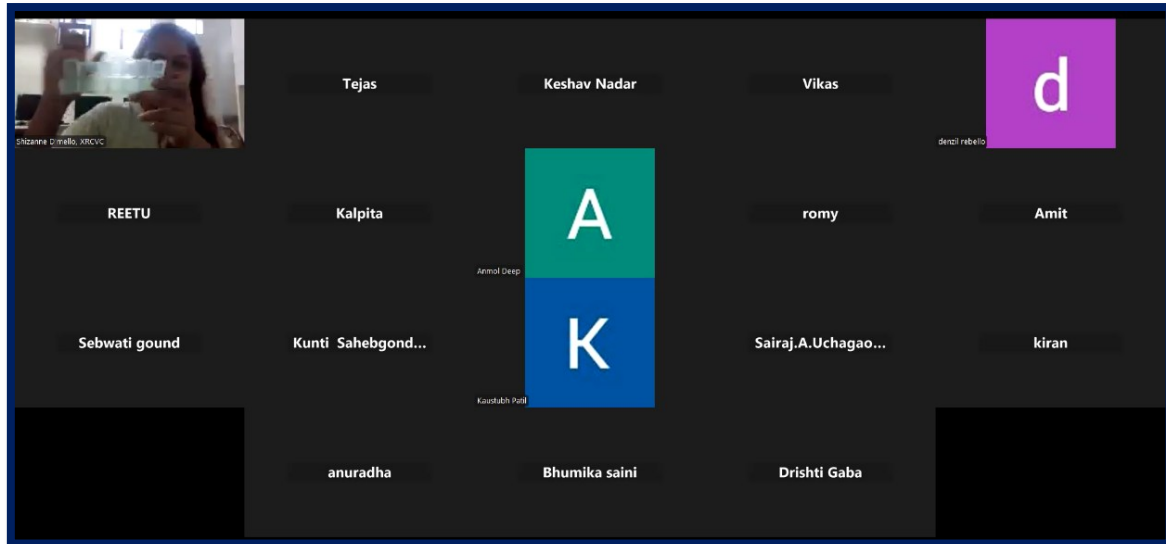
The XRCVC curated special programmes on healthcare themes under its Tech Roshni series to disseminate information about various digital tools and technologies that support healthcare access, self-management, medication adherence, and independent engagement with healthcare services. These included:

- 9th August 2025 - **Using Digital Healthcare with Talkback** on various mobile healthcare platforms on Android phones using the Talkback screen-reader
- 20th September 2025 - **Smartness in Medication** as an orientation to manage medication appropriately by offering various solutions to commonly occurring issues

Tech Roshni | Using Digital Healthcare with Talkback – 9th August 2025



Tech Roshni | Smartness in Medication – 20th September 2025



The XRCVC in AY 2025 continued the work of the MOU signed with the Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute in the previous year and conducted awareness and sensitisation programmes for medical and paramedical professionals towards bettering the healthcare system experience for persons with disabilities such as –

- 17th September 2025 - **Access Setu** assistive technology awareness exhibition was conducted for medical professionals and general public in collaboration with the Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute. This exhibition had a footfall of **357** attendees in the day.
- 27th February 2026 – **Antarchakshu**[®] **2.0** disability awareness and sensitisation workshop for medical and paramedical staff of SSEI as part of their Beyond Sight Low Vision Awareness Week
- 28th February 2026 – **Access Setu** assistive technology awareness exhibition for patients, caregivers, medical and paramedical staff of SSEI for their Beyond Sight Low Vision Awareness Week.

Access Setu at Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute – 17th September 2025





“Access Setu was indeed an “eye” opener to learn about the mind-boggling spectrum of available devices and innovations in the field of assistive vision, and hearing.

I was happy that many of our patient care teams and SSEI staff could visit the exhibition and benefit with this knowledge.”

- Dr. Somasheila Murthy (Medical Director, Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute)

Antarchakshu® 2.0 Disability Sensitisation Workshop at SSEI – 27th February 2026



“The [Antarchakshu®] session was deeply meaningful for our patient care staff, nursing team, and optometry colleagues.

The way you helped our team understand the lived experiences of individuals with low vision, severe visual impairment, and blindness was both practical and thought-provoking. We received excellent feedback from our staff.”

- Dr. Jenil Sheth (Associate Ophthalmologist; Head, Centre for Ophthalmic Training and Education and Education and Head, Centre for Visual Rehabilitation, Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute)

“The experience was really helpful to understand and make us feel the day-to-day life and other works with blindness or all other disabilities. It's really important to realise and understand that not everyone with disabilities need help, we should always ask first”

- Tushi Sharma (Antarchakshu® at Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute)

Access Setu as a part of Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute’s Beyond Sight Low Vision Awareness Week – 28th February 2026



In February, 2026 the XRCVC facilitated a **comprehensive eye check-up camp** by the Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute as a preventive healthcare intervention for **210** staff and students with disabilities of the St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai.

Comprehensive Eye Check-up Camp at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai – 18th February 2026



The XRCVC also designed and commenced an in-depth study on **healthcare access for persons with disabilities**. Through Focused Group Discussions, the study aims to better understand the healthcare experiences of persons with disabilities, identify key barriers and priority areas for intervention in order to inform future policy advocacy, systems reform, and efforts towards building more equitable and disability-inclusive healthcare systems.

Going forward, the XRCVC will consolidate the momentum of this year’s healthcare access initiatives and the findings of the study for deeper engagement with healthcare stakeholders and contribute towards

systemic reforms that make healthcare more accessible, inclusive, and equitable for persons with disabilities.

Access Setu: Assistive Technology Awareness Exhibitions

XRCVC also expanded the reach of its Access Setu Assistive Technology awareness exhibitions in AY 2025-2026. There were three Access Setu awareness exhibitions on a large scale conducted during the year, which included:

- 17th September 2025 – Access Setu Assistive Technology awareness exhibition at the Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute attended by **357** people
- 9th December 2025 – Access Setu Assistive Technology awareness exhibition at the St Xavier’s College, Mumbai with a footfall of **546**
- 15th April 2026 – Access Setu awareness exhibition at Atlas SkillTech University with **224** attendees

The audience of these Access Setu exhibitions came from various walks of life – students, educators, special educators, teacher trainees, organisations working in the disability space, healthcare professionals, ophthalmologists, corporates, policy makers etc helping spread awareness about Assistive Technology, accessibility and inclusion to key stakeholders.

The impact of the Access Setu exhibitions can be seen in the feedback received from attendees:

“The overall session was very good. We got to learn about a lot of technological things that help people with special abilities have a better life than what the society treat them as. Taught me about how we can use a lot of ways to make everyone feel equal and together.”

- Saksham Chaudhary (Access Setu at Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute)

“I hope more awareness can be created and more institutions adopt these technologies.”

- Anusha Sharma (Access Setu at Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute)

Access Setu AT Awareness Exhibition at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai – 9th December 2025





“It’s great to see such inventions and integration of technology. Would love to see this being made more accessible.”

- Maanya Parab (Access Setu at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai)

“Great exhibition and a very extensive collection of accessibility tools. Accessibility definitely needs continuous work; your efforts are truly appreciated.”

- Dr. Melitta Edward Menezes (Access Setu at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai)

“It was very well presented and educational. Being in rehab set up many things were eye opener”

- Aanchal Sarawgi (Access Setu at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai)

“I really enjoyed the XRCVC exhibition as it was very eye-opening and informative. I was amazed to see how advanced and thoughtful the technologies were for people with special needs—things I never even imagined could exist. The exhibition was well presented and truly highlighted how technology can support an inclusive future.”

- Joela Alria Yalangi (Access Setu at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai)

Access Setu at Atlas SkillTech University – 15th April 2026



"I'm proud that we're stepping up. I will hope that we'll find new ways to build the awareness and making of (providing for) products and services a part of our constant mandate. We will need to find a way of making accessibility a parameter of evaluation for all the design work we attempt in our courses."

- Anando Dutta, Dean (Academics), Indian School of Design and Innovation, (Access Setu at Atlas SkillTech University)

"Access Setu isn't just an exhibition, it's a reminder that accessibility is not a niche requirement. It's a design responsibility, and more importantly, it's an opportunity to rethink how we create.... the takeaway was clear: accessibility is not a constraint on design, it's an opportunity to do better."

- Zoya Charania (Access Setu at Atlas SkillTech University)

Financial Inclusion Initiatives

Financial inclusion has been a longstanding area of work for the XRCVC and it has worked with key stakeholders across the banking and financial sectors to advance the rights of persons with disabilities to independently access and use financial services.

Building upon this legacy, the XRCVC continued to contribute towards improving the accessibility of financial systems during the year.

In June 2025, the organisation tested the updated ATM machine of NCR Atleos for accessibility upon request, providing user-centred feedback on the banking experience of persons with disabilities.

In August 2025, the XRCVC reviewed the accessible credit card of Union Bank of India.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invited XRCVC to check the latest currency checker in December 2025.

The XRCVC collaborated with NSE Sustainability Ratings and Analytics Ltd. on initiatives aimed at advancing accessibility and awareness within the financial inclusion ecosystem. In January 2026, the XRCVC conducted an accessibility evaluation of the Centralised KYC (CKYC) website and provided recommendations to improve its usability for persons with disabilities.

"The thorough testing of our web controls and various website options has provided us with invaluable insights, particularly regarding the user experience for those using screen reader tools."

... Our development and technical teams are actively working on incorporating the necessary changes to enhance the website accessibility's compliance."

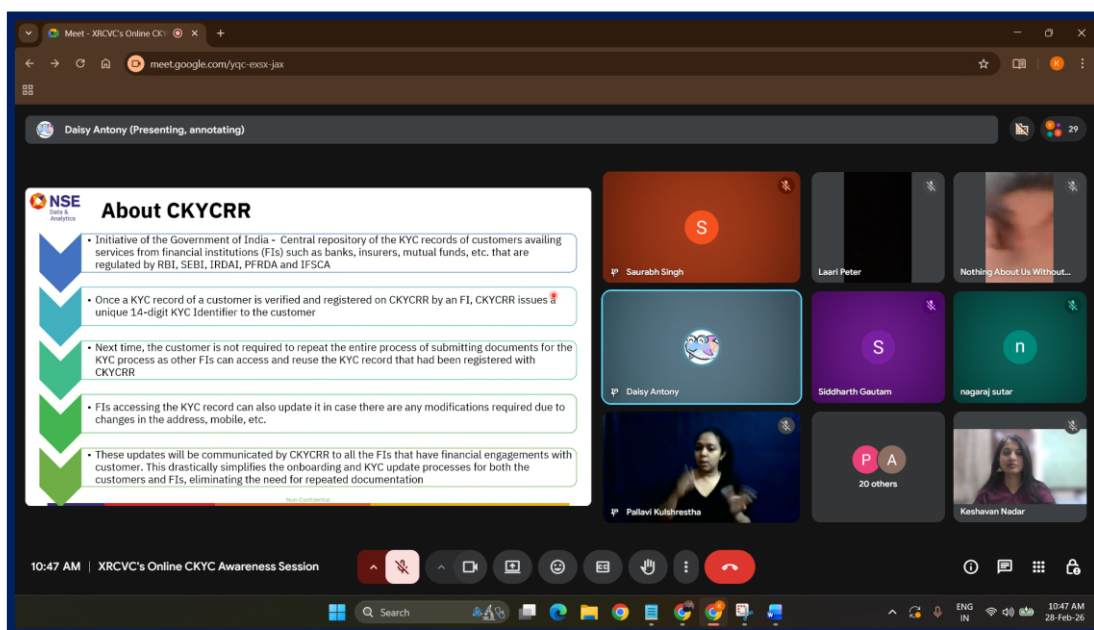
- Daisy Antony, Chief Manager, NSE Data and Analytics Ltd.

This engagement was followed by two awareness programmes—one online and one offline—conducted in partnership with NSE Data Analytics in February 2026 on the Centralised KYC system and recent updates relating to the inclusion of disability information.

CKYC Awareness Workshop by NSE Data Analytics at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai – 14th February 2026



Online CKYC Awareness Workshop – 28th February 2026



In February 2026, the XRCVC also conducted extensive user testing of Braille stickers designed for Point of Sale (POS) machines as part of the rollout of Android-based Cash Recycler Machines (A-CRM) by Hitachi Payment Services Pvt. Ltd.

“[XRCVC] team played a key role in supporting the validation of accessibility features aimed at delivering an inclusive and user-friendly Pin-on-Glass with Braille keypad for ACRM, enabling accessibility for visually impaired users. The work demonstrated a strong understanding of accessibility principles, regulatory considerations and real-world usability challenges faced by users with diverse abilities.”

- Mahesh Patel (Director – Products and Digital Transformation, Hitachi Payment Services)

In May 2026, the XRCVC wrote a letter of representation to the Reserve Bank of India in response to their Discussion Paper on “Exploring Safeguards in Digital Payments to Curb Frauds” regarding “Additional Authentication by Trusted Person” (Option 2) and other suggested provisions that were exclusionary for persons with disabilities.

Membership Base

The XRCVC membership base grew to **1,248** in AY 2025-2026.

The XRCVC members access a range of training and awareness programmes and other services towards enabling their independence and inclusion in society. These include training on computers, mobile phones and Assistive Technology usage, accessible content creation including Braille printing services, personal and career guidance support tailored to suit specific needs, support services to ensure access by engaging various stakeholders at micro and macro-levels.

XRCVC's commitment to promoting independent and dignified living for persons with disabilities extends beyond its membership base through sustained policy engagement efforts which has driven change across various spheres of society.

Volunteer Support

The support of XRCVC's volunteer base continues to remain central to the organisation's impact and outreach. During the academic year 2025–2026, the XRCVC gratefully received the support of **178** volunteers who contributed their time, skills, and commitment towards enabling inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities. Even in an era of rapidly advancing technology, volunteers continue to bring an essential human connection and personalised support to the lives of XRCVC members.

XRCVC volunteers provide a wide range of support services, including:

- **Reading Assistance:** Reading aloud support for persons with print disabilities.
- **Class Buddy Support:** Assisting students with disabilities by taking notes during classroom lectures and helping ensure access to academic materials.
- **Subject-Specific Guidance:** Providing academic support and tutoring in various subjects based on individual learning requirements.
- **Accessible Material Conversion:** Supporting the conversion of educational content into accessible formats through scanning, typing, editing, audio recording, and Braille embossing.
- **Scribe/ Reader/ Prompter Support:** Assisting individuals during examinations as scribes, readers or prompters to facilitate equitable participation in written and oral assessments.
- **Additional Assistance:** Individualised support services based on requirements on a case-by-case basis.

The XRCVC continues to facilitate both short-term and long-term volunteer engagements, adapted to the specific support needs of persons with disabilities.

These words from our volunteers of their experience with the XRCVC are a powerful reminder that accessibility and inclusion are best understood through meaningful interaction and shared experiences:

“My experience at Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) helped me understand accessibility from a practical perspective rather than just a theoretical concept, while performing tasks such as editing accounts document, typing image – based notes, and restructuring scientific material, I realised that accessibility requires both technical accuracy and sensitivity.”

- Joel Daniel (Student, FYBSc – IT, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai)

“I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by persons with visual impairment and the importance of accessibility in education and everyday functioning. This experience made me aware that inclusion is not about giving advantage, but about ensuring equal opportunity.”

- Livia D'mello (Student, FYBSc, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai)

“I had chosen XRCVC for my SIP in the first year, and I don't think I realised at that time how much that decision would impact me. What started as a part of my course slowly became something I genuinely cared about, which is why I continued volunteering in my second year as well.

Most of my work involved creating accessible content for visually challenged students. I ended up spending a lot of time working on Microsoft Word, and in that process, I learned so many practical things that I still use even today. It really helped me while working on my projects and especially my thesis. It's one of those skills that quietly stays with you and makes your work better.

But more than that, it was the experience itself that stayed with me.

Being a scribe and interacting with students with disabilities made me understand things I hadn't really thought about before. It made me more patient, more aware, and a lot more empathetic. You start seeing things differently.

I think XRCVC has played a big role in shaping the way I think and approach things today, both personally and professionally, and I'm really grateful for that.”

- Crystal D'souza (Student, TYBAF, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai)

Assistive Technology

The XRCVC continued to strengthen its extensive array of pan-disability Assistive Technology resources in AY 2025-2026 to enable greater accessibility, inclusion, and participation for persons with disabilities. Some of the key cutting-edge technologies added to XRCVC's resource base in AY 2025-2026 include –

1. Technologies for persons with visual impairment such as Clover Note 12.5 – a portable video magnifier for low vision readers for near and distance viewing and Orbit reader a refreshable Braille display for demonstration and lending purposes
2. Subscription to Handtalk app that translates spoken and written language into Sign Language
3. OCR – based technology for conversion of documents to into accessible documents such as Horizon OCR and FIDO AI OCR
4. Adaptive equipment for people with upper limb disabilities such as
 - a. Mouseware Pro – an assistive head-wearable device that translates head movements into on-screen cursor control, enabling hands-free operation of computers and smart devices,
 - b. Ergo Logitech Mouse and Ergo Logitech Keyboard that are ergonomically designed hardware for people with limited hand or arm mobility, allowing them to navigate and type comfortably without requiring wide ranges of movement.
 - c. Tobii – computer controlled by eye movements
5. Smart devices to pair with smart speakers for research testing and demo purposes such as Smartefi WiFi Smart Fan Regulator
6. Stair-climbing Seedee WheelChair for wheelchair users
7. Coffee/ Tea Vending Machine adapted for accessibility to promote independent living for persons with visual disabilities

As part of an initial initiative to promote independent living for persons with disabilities through accessibility of mainstream products and services, XRCVC procured a tea and coffee vending machine and adapted it for enhanced accessibility.

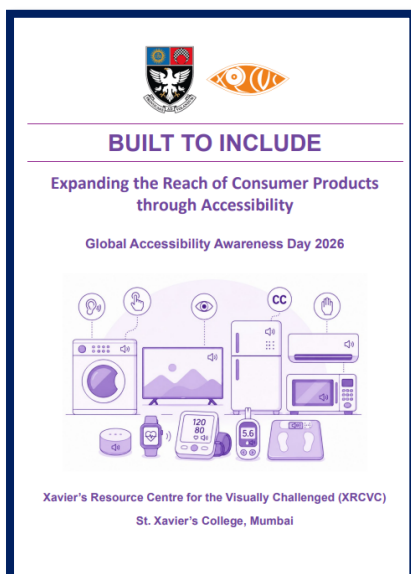
Tea/ Coffee Vending Machine with Accessibility Enhancements by XRCVC



The machine has been equipped with Braille labels, tactile markers on the control buttons, and clear tactile indicators to guide cup placement, enabling persons with visual impairments to operate it independently. This intervention was undertaken as a proof of concept to demonstrate how everyday appliances can be made inclusive through simple, thoughtful design modifications, and laid the basis for the publication of the white paper by XRCVC “Built to Include: Expanding the Reach of Consumer Products through Accessibility.”

Publications

Publication of White Paper “Built to Include: Expanding Reach of Consumer Products through Accessibility”



The XRCVC published a white paper titled "Built to Include: Expanding the Reach of Consumer Products through Accessibility" to commemorate the occasion of Global Accessibility Awareness Day 2026. This paper highlights the need for accessibility in mainstream consumer products and ways in which manufacturers of consumer goods can integrate accessibility into their products.

Focussed Areas of Initiatives

Inclusive Education

"As a student with a learning disability, the XRCVC's 360-degree approach to inclusive education makes me feel supported and understood. I feel encouraged to participate without fear of being judged because teachers and students create a respectful environment."

I feel safe expressing my ideas and asking for help because support is always available. This approach boosts my confidence and helps me grow academically and personally."

- Renzill Soans, FYBA (Psychology-English), St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

"Session was really fruitful. The way of interaction I like the most because, interaction helps everyone to understand the concept and logic very easily. I want this type of trainings again on other topics."

- Anisha Kumari (Training on Online Accessible Libraries with Screen Reader)

"I hope that you will come up more and more sessions which can help us in future."

- Tyrnit Dkhar (Crafting First Impressions: Resume Writing Workshop)

"The training highlighted the need for reasonable accommodations and fostering inclusive environments; practicing empathy through active listening and understanding the needs."

Dr. Pooja Gupta (Hansraj College, University of Delhi)

"It was practical, informative, meaningful and of great support for my future endeavours as a special educator."

- Sunita Philip Bhutelho (I for Inclusion at SNDT)

"I learnt about creating an inclusive classroom where every child, including those with disabilities or different learning needs, feels accepted and supported."

- Taslima Khan (I for Inclusion, St. Xavier's Institute of Education)

"For the first time, I drew lines, line segments, rays, angles, circles, and arcs using a geometry kit. I also used Wikki Sticks to make different shapes, which helped me understand concepts better. During the practical lab sessions, I gained hands-on experience with various equipment and safety tools like lab coats and goggles. I also visited the zoology lab, where I saw animal bones, a human brain, and a microscope. Even though I had used the geometry kit before, this was the first time I independently drew a circle using it. I really enjoyed the abacus session as it helped me revise and remember concepts I had forgotten."

- Rujul Goythale (Summer STEM Sense-ations Summer Training)

"It is truly inspiring to see the exposure and opportunities being provided to differently-abled children. Our children are enjoying all the activities, from Abacus and basic Mathematics to interactive learning sessions."

- Dr. Vaishali Kavathekar (Guardian of a student, Summer STEM Sense-ations)

XRCVC adopts a holistic approach towards inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream education. At an individual level, the XRCVC provides direct support to students with disabilities from KG to PG to enable them to access education in schools and higher educational institutions. Additionally, it actively

works on building capacity of educational institutions and the larger system to ensure accessible, equitable and inclusive learning environments for students with disabilities.

An overview in numbers

Activity	Number of Training Sessions / Workshops / Sessions	Participants
Computer Training and Assistive Technology awareness workshops for Persons with Disabilities	79	1,207 (including 21 non PWD beneficiaries like family members, educators, caregivers)
Special Skills Trainings and other awareness workshops for Persons with Disabilities	15	176 (including 6 non-PWD beneficiaries like family members, caregivers and other stakeholders)
Stakeholder Trainings (for educators, special educators and teacher trainees)	14	340 (including 5 educators with disabilities)
Accessible Content Creation (Persons trained)	6	106
Guidance Support for Persons with Disabilities, Families and Other Stakeholders	135	212 (93 PWDs and 119 non-PWD stakeholders)
Inclusive Education Support (For St. Xavier's College Students)		171
Technology Lending Scheme		5
Device Distribution (Smart Vision Glasses)		84

Accessible Content Created in the year:

- Number of E-pub books created in-house: **9**
- Number of books/pages in Braille: **200 pages** and some material
- Number of Class Notes converted to an accessible format: **4353** pages (including Mathematics content)
- Only OCR provided: **3410** pages
- Easy to Read Content: **626** pages (including 2 entire books)
- Number of Handmade Tactile Diagrams: **250+**

Key Training Programmes and Awareness Sessions for persons with disabilities

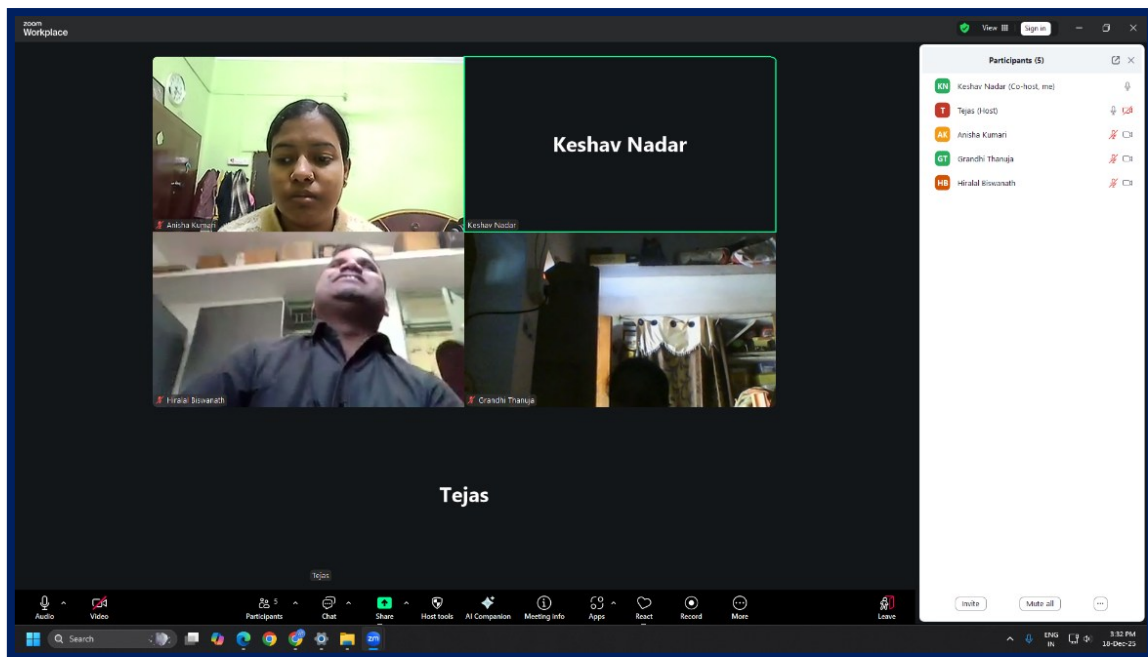
- In June 2025, the XRCVC conducted a two-day training on Visual Concepts Enrichment for 9 young students with blindness to introduce them to visual concepts through models and other tactile aids.
- On 26th July 2025, XRCVC organised a training on Online Accessible Libraries with Screen-Reader to enable persons with print disabilities to independently access books and knowledge.
- XRCVC commenced a training on HTML 5 for Visually Impaired, a 5-week certification training programme on basics of website development with HTML 5 in October 2025.

- XRCVC organised a training programme on “Saree Draping for Visually Challenged” on 29th November 2025 to introduce women with visual impairment to the techniques of draping a saree for social and professional settings.
- On 31st January 2026, XRCVC conducted a life skills workshop on “Bead Bracelet Making” for students with visual impairment.
- The XRCVC organised a special “Bhel Making workshop” introducing participants to basics of flameless cooking life skills on 7th February 2026.
- On 14th February 2026, the XRCVC conducted a training on “Public Transport Apps” for persons with visual impairment.
- The XRCVC in collaboration with the Student Inclusion Cell (SIC), St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai organised the Goonj Trophy 2026 on 3rd February 2026 at the St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai – an exhibition blind cricket match that aimed at creating awareness and sensitisation about the various aspects of lives of persons with blindness.
- The XRCVC conducted a workshop on “Crafting First Impressions” on writing effective resumes for persons with disabilities on 21st February 2026.
- A session was conducted on How to Develop Study Skills for Students with Visual Impairment as a part of Personality Development Camp by Snehanvit for high school and college students across Maharashtra on 23rd April 2026.
- As a part of its work to enable greater independence in everyday life for persons with disabilities, the XRCVC conducted 3 of its Orientation and Mobility training programmes in AY 2025-2026 designed to train persons with visual impairment independently move around by walking, using public transportation like buses and trains etc. A few individuals also received one-on-one training on a need basis.

Visual Concepts Enrichment Training – 2nd and 3rd June 2026



Training Session from Coding with HTML 5 certification programme – October 2025



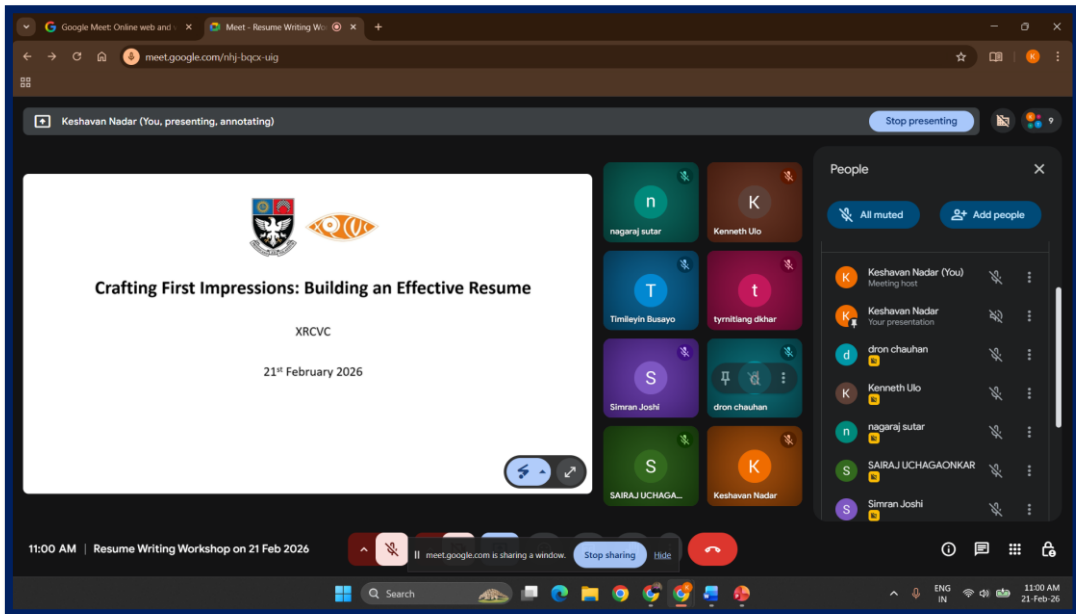
Bead Bracelet Making Workshop – 31st May 2026



Goonj Trophy 2026 – 3rd February 2026



Crafting First impressions – Resume Writing Workshop – 21st February 2026



Orientation and Mobility Training – November 2025



Highlights of Training Programmes for Educators and Special Educators

- In June 2025, the XRCVC was invited to conduct a two-day, I for Inclusion training for 16 special education teacher trainees from the Department of Special Education, SNDT, Juhu to sensitise them about disabilities, inclusive education pedagogy, and assistive technologies.
- On 4th July 2025 the XRCVC conducted I for Inclusion training workshop for 16 teachers including 4 special educators at the Beacon High School, Khar.
- XRCVC conducted a two-day I for Inclusion training on inclusive education for special education teacher-trainees from special education colleges across Mumbai – Hashu Advani College of Special Education (HACSE), SOPAN’s Suvidya College of Special Education and National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) at the NIEPID Regional Centre, Kharghar in August 2025.
- In November 2025, the XRCVC provided training to teachers of The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind (VMSB), Tardeo on Creating Accessible Content, Creating Tactile Diagrams and Social Media Accessibility.
- In December 2025, 13 special educators from the Rainbow Special Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, Badlapur, visited the centre for an orientation on Assistive Technologies.
- XRCVC conducted a session titled “Assistive Technology in Action” as part of the one-day local-level RCI–CRE programme, Application of Technology and AI for Children with Neurodiverse Needs, organised by SOPAN’s Suvidya College of Special Education, Mumbai. The session conducted on 9th February 2025 aimed to orient participants to the use of assistive technologies and AI to support students with neurodevelopmental disabilities.
- In the month of March 2026, the XRCVC conducted 3 ‘I for Inclusion’ programmes on inclusive pedagogy and assistive technologies for mainstream teacher trainees from teacher training institutions like St. Xavier’s Institute of Education, Gokhale Education Society’s College of Education and Research and St. Teresa’s Institute of Education.
- XRCVC continued the work on the compilation of the pan-disability assistive technology compendium “Equip Yor World” in AY 2025-2026.
- On 27th January, 2026, the staff of XRCVC attended a FIDO Training by an expert from the DAISY Forum of India (DFI) to receive an orientation on a new tool for accessible book production.

I for Inclusion Workshop at Department of Special Education, SNDT, Juhu – 26th and 27th June 2025



“Assistive Technology in Action” by XRCVC as part of the local-level RCI–CRE programme Application of Technology and AI for Children with Neurodiverse Needs – 9th February 2026



Inclusive Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education

- The National Council of Educational Research and Testing (NCERT) reached out to the XRCVC to harness its expertise on inclusive STEM education for students with disabilities to help them create a repository of Teaching-Learning Resources for students with disabilities.
- In May 2026, the XRCVC organised a summer camp on the theme of “STEM Summer Sense-ations” for young students with visual impairment. This two-week summer camp was a structured engaging programme aimed at making STEM education accessible through tactile learning methods, assistive technology, laboratory exposure, and hands-on experiential activities.

Abacus Training at the “STEM Summer Sense-ations” Camp – 4th to 16th May 2026



Accessible Products and Services

One of the key thrust areas of XRCVC’s work has been accessibility of mainstream products and services and it has contributed significantly through various initiatives towards ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities in various spheres of living.

Impact of Work on Accessible Products and Services in Numbers

Activity	Details of number of testing initiatives/ sessions	Participants
Assistive technology and Mainstream Technologies / Websites / Mobile Apps worked with for building accessibility through external requests	6	NA
Testing of Websites, Apps and Technology for Internal Research	61	NA
Assistive technology Awareness exhibitions/ sessions for General Audience	13	2047 (including 49 PWDs who were part of these sessions for the general community)

Highlights of Initiatives in Accessible Products and Services

- Mondelez India invited the XRCVC in September, 2025 to collaborate on a survey on the experience of chocolate products and packaging for persons with visual impairment to understand the preferences for chocolate products, challenges faced while purchasing, identifying and consuming chocolate and take inputs on improving the accessibility and inclusivity of chocolate products and packaging.
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre (DEOC), Bengaluru reached out to the XRCVC for user feedback on the development of tactile carpets developed by Mohawk Carpets to provide navigation cues for cane users. The testing took place on 11th October 2025 wherein 6 cane users provided extensive feedback on whether the carpets work in terms of detecting textural differences using a cane.
- XRCVC worked closely with the F.D. Alpaiwalla Museum to build an accessible experience of the museum for visitors with visual impairment.

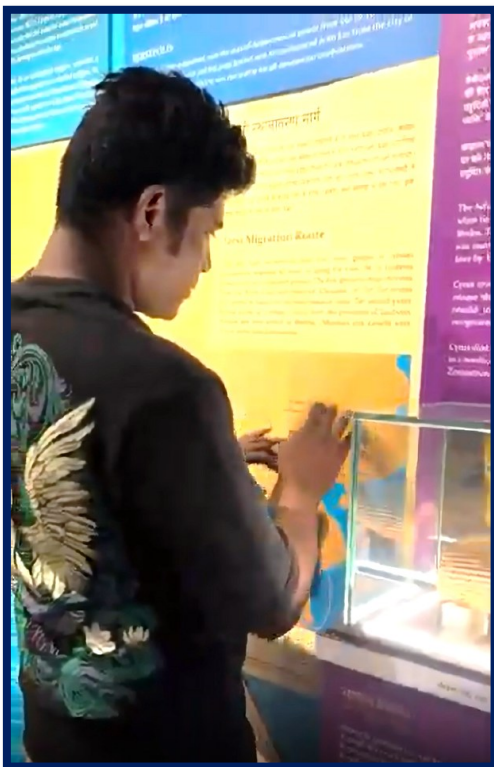
“We are very happy with the careful work done during the first phase. Your skills have helped make our collections easier to access and more welcoming for visitors with visual impairments.”

- Dr Pheroza J Godrej and Mrs Firoza Punthakey Mistree (Honorary Advisors, F.D Alpaiwalla Museum)

Survey by Mondelez India on Chocolate Products and Packaging – 13th September 2025



Braille Labels at the F.D. Alpaiwalla Museum by the XRCVC



Awareness and Sensitisation Programmes

XRCVC's awareness initiatives such as the Antarchakshu® 2.0 and Diversity Discourse (Storytelling) programmes are geared towards creating awareness among the community about the lives of persons with disabilities and address attitudinal barriers to access and inclusion.

Reach of XRCVC's Awareness and Sensitisation Programmes in Numbers

Activity	Number of Programmes	Participants
Antarchakshu® 2.0 Sessions	64	2629 (including 15 PWDs who were a part of these workshops)
Diversity Discourse (Storytelling) Course	5	229
Other Awareness Initiatives	36	2190 (including 66 PWDs)

Highlights of XRCVC's Awareness and Sensitisation Programmes in AY 2025-2026

- In June 2025, the XRCVC conducted an Antarchakshu® 2.0 awareness workshop for the staff of the Kurkumbh factory of Henkel India.
- On 10th June 2025, the XRCVC was invited by Rising Flame to conduct an awareness session on Copyright Laws and their current application for the staff of Zubaan Publishing House
- XRCVC conducted Antarchakshu® 2.0 awareness workshops for the incoming cohort of first year students across undergraduate programmes of the St. Xavier's College, Mumbai during June-July 2025 to enable them to become more inclusive peers for the students with disabilities on the campus.
- XRCVC was invited to conduct its flagship Antarchakshu® 2.0 awareness workshops for the incoming cohort of management students of the Atlas SkillTech University in August 2025.
- XRCVC conducted an inclusive trek to Kanheri caves as a part of the Human Library project on 21st September 2025.
- On 4th November, 2025, the XRCVC conducted a session on Braille and Sign Language awareness for two batches of Grade 2 students of the Hill Spring International School.
- XRCVC was invited to be a part of the 'Inclusive India Digital First' organised by BarrierBreak Solutions Pvt. Ltd, in which Mr. Ketan Kothari moderated a session on 'From Global standards to Indian Mandate Building an Accessibility Bridge'
- XRCVC conducted a customised Antarchakshu® 2.0 workshop for the second-year design students of the IES College of Architecture in December 2025.
- XRCVC set-up a booth on Assistive Technology and Disability simulations as part of Xynergy exhibition organised by the St. Xavier's College, Mumbai on 5th December 2025. This was attended by 509 external students, 47 external faculty, 10 parents, and 450 Junior College students.
- Antarchakshu® 2.0 workshops were conducted on invitation as a part of the Disability Inclusion Conclave & Research Symposium organised by the NMIMS (Deemed to be University) in January 2026
- Four faculty including director of education of YCMOU, Nashik visited the centre on 12th February 2026 to learn about inclusive education practices of the St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, the centre's work, and opportunities collaborate.

Antarchakshu® 2.0 at Kurkumbh factory, Henkel India –6th June 2025



Inclusive Trek to Kanheri Caves – 21st September 2025



XRCVC awareness booth at Xynergy 2025 – 5th December 2025



Antarchakshu® 2.0 at Disability Inclusion Conclave & Research Symposium organised by the NMIMS (Deemed to be University) – 20th January 2026



Hear from the participants of these awareness sessions about their effectiveness:

“The activities which taught us adjusting and reflected upon how the people with disabilities live and adjust like this on a daily basis.”

- Aisha Patrawala (Antarchakshu® 2.0 Workshop | K.C. College)

“My only feedback is that I wish more people experience this unique workshop. Every minute of this talk felt valuable & I hope this workshop travels worldwide. The fact that a visually impaired individual shared his first-hand experience made the talk even more insightful.”

- Melinda Viegas (Antarchakshu® 2.0| Sophia Polytechnic SCM students)

“It was a very informative, enlightening and eye-opening session”

- Dr. Manika Prabhakar (Antarchakshu® 2.0 | Faculty Development Programme of Hansraj College)

“From the Rethinking Disability workshops, I realized that disability is not about limitations but about how society creates barriers. I also learned the importance of accessibility and inclusion, and how small changes in our mindset and environment can create equal opportunities for everyone.”

- Nigel D’souza (Student, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai – Rethinking Disability Workshop)

“I think the session was very informative and rich in terms of exposure to the different people we come across but do not acknowledge as often as we should.”

- Anchit Bhuyan (Student, NMIMS, Antarchakshu® 2.0 Workshop)

“The session was highly engaging and created a safe space for open discussions and diverse perspectives. Practical examples and real-life scenarios made the concepts easy to understand and relatable.”

- Sahil Bindal (Student, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies, Antarchakshu®2.0)

“Inclusive setup is developed for employability of students with disabilities. All the setup was good. All the staff gave good information about all aids.”

- Prof. Sanjivani Mahale (Director, School of Education, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University)

“I really like the session and I learn that every human being is special and unique and it improves to support the person.”

- Shaikh Sabeeha (Dr. BMN College, Antarchakshu® 2.0 as part of Faculty Development Programme)

Policy Engagement Initiatives

The XRCVC worked on a host of policy engagement initiatives, apart from those already mentioned above, to enable access and inclusion of persons with disabilities in various spheres of society. These included:

Drafting of Examination and Practical Examination Guidelines

In AY 2025-2026, the XRCVC worked on drafting updated examination guidelines including those for practical examinations, for students with disabilities for representation to the Maharashtra State Board for the SSC and HSC exams.

Draft of Guidelines for Use of Computers and Assistive Technology for Examinations

The XRCVC also worked on drafting generic guidelines for using computers and Assistive Technology for taking examinations for students with disabilities towards various avenues of implementation.

XRCVC at Inclusive University Alliance’s Conclave 3.0: Advancing Together

On 7th August 2025, the XRCVC participated in the Conclave 3.0: Advancing Together of the Inclusive University Alliance aimed at mapping out systemic interventions towards inclusive higher education for students with disabilities in India.

Representation to the DEPWD for GST Waiver on Assistive Devices

The XRCVC engaged with the DEPWD in August 2025 requesting them to advocate a complete GST waiver on assistive aids and disability-specific products from the current 5% in light of the impending GST Reforms.

Faculty Roundtable on Inclusive Higher Education of Godrej DEI Lab

XRCVC was invited to be a part of the Faculty Roundtable on Inclusive Education for undergraduate colleges organised by the Godrej DEI Lab on 4th November, 2025.

XRCVC at Stakeholder consultation by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

XRCVC was a part of a stakeholder consultation organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India regarding the revised comprehensive guidelines for conducting competitive written public examinations (linked to employment or admission to professional or technical courses) for Persons with Disabilities issued by the DEPwD on 01.08.2025.

XRCVC at the AGM of the DAISY Forum of India

XRCVC attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the DAISY Forum of India (DFI) as its primary member. The agenda of this meeting included presentation and approval of the Annual Report and audited accounts of FY 2024-2025, DEPWD guidelines on writing examinations through computers or scribes, Inclusive University Alliance, updates on AI for production of accessible books etc.

Expert Consultation by Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

XRCVC attended a meeting on 11th December, 2025, organised by the Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi to consult with experts on the draft training module on inclusive education for Head of Schools and General Teachers, pedagogy and training materials required for the training and finalisation of resource persons/master trainers for the transaction of the training module.

Additions to our Team

With great gratitude and best wishes, we bid farewell to Ms. Poonam Deokar (Lead Consultant – Inclusive Education, XRCVC and Co-ordinator for Students with Disabilities, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai) who moved on from the XRCVC after a long stint of almost 7 years.

We also warmly welcome Ms. Evita Rodrigues who joined the Education team of the XRCVC. We look forward to her contributions as we continue our efforts towards advancing accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Media Coverage

1. Inching towards inclusivity

Parsiana June 21-July 6, 2025

EDUCATION
COVER STORY



Inching towards inclusivity

Through its training and advocacy initiatives, the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged has been attempting to create accessible avenues for the disabled

Parinaz M. Gandhi

Located at the far end of the corridor on the ground floor, the sighted may miss the door leading to the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC). For Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) this may well be among the most frequently visited areas at St Xavier's College known for its accessible campus with tactile pathways and Braille labels on doors to guide those with visual impairment, and ramps and lifts to assist those with motor disabilities.

"We are a very small unit in terms of physical space occupied (one of the smaller classrooms in the Indo-Gothic heritage structure at Xavier's plus a second branch at the Viviana Mall in Thana) and manpower (12-member team) but we are well known in government bodies," stated Dr Sam Taraporevala, founder and executive director of this proactive organization that has come of age, having completed 21 years. "With an agile culture we have grown organically; we don't want to grow physically. We want to build replicable models, create pathways that others could tread," he reinforced.

An alumnus of St Xavier's College, during his 50 years of association with his alma mater, as a visually impaired student, as the first visually impaired associate professor, as the founder of XRCVC, Taraporevala's commitment has been commendable. At the turn of the century when he realized that visually impaired students preferred to join Ruia College that had a resource center rather than Xavier's, he approached the Jesuit management. They supported his proposal to establish a resource center at Xavier's if he was willing to shoulder the responsibility, managerial and financial.

Thus he started operations from an assigned space under a staircase with one computer and requisite software financed by the Tans in 2003. XRCVC was able to draw visually challenged students from the following year. While students from the College availing of its facilities may average six to 10 a year, the Centre's impact is manifold. To ensure that we have the correct figures, Disha Kapadia, lead consultant — awareness, shares a PowerPoint presentation that reflects the magnitude of their work in three key areas of operations. In the sphere of inclusive education they have reached over 8,300 people with disabilities with over 700 accessible books and more than 2,000 teaching/learning aids. To determine the accessibility of products and services they have tested over 100 gadgets and reached more than 13,000 participants through assistive technology awareness events.

Their strongest impact though has been through awareness and advocacy work where they have reached over 45,000 persons. Under their registered trademark, Antarchaksm has conducted more than 680 simulation based sensitization workshops. As per their "1:10 philosophy, to



Top row, from left: visually impaired students learn the abacus; use the Braille; at the orientation and mobility course conducted by XRCVC; above left: ATM made accessible to the visually impaired; center: Dr Sam Taraporevala

28 Parsiana June 21-July 6, 2025

2. Does NEP really account for visually impaired college students in Mumbai?

[Mid-Day](#) 11th July 2025

3. Visionaries for a Reason

[Mid-Day](#) 19th July 2025

4. Turning Technology Inclusive

[Mid-Day](#) 17th September 2025

5. Samarth by Hyundai: Bridging Barriers through Accessible Learning

[Times Now Digital](#) 16th October 2025

- 6. HSNC University Organises 'Antar-Chakshu' Workshop To Sensitise Staff, Build Empathy And Awareness On Visual Impairment
[Free Press Journal](#) 1st April 2026
- 7. Sapna aankho thi nahi pan saakar thaay chhe atmavishwas thi
[Gujarati Mid Day](#) May 2026

02 ચિત્રકે

ખબરઅંતર

મુંબઈનું હવામાન

કોલાબા ૩૪.૬ ડિગ્રી
૨૭.૦ ડિગ્રી

સાંતાક્રુઝ ૩૪.૪ ડિગ્રી
૨૮.૦ ડિગ્રી

દર મંગળવારે ઊપડશે મુંબઈ-અયોધ્યા અમૃત ભારત એક્સપ્રેસ

મુંબઈ અને અયોધ્યા વચ્ચે દોઢાઠારી અમૃત ભારત એક્સપ્રેસ પાંચમી મેથી શરૂ થશે.

ટ્રેન-નંબર ૨૨૧૧૧ મુંબઈ (LTT)થી દર મંગળવારે સવારે ૭.૫૫ વાગ્યે ઊપડશે અને બીજા દિવસે મુંબઈ પહોંચશે.

દિવસે સવારે ૧૦.૧૫ વાગ્યે અયોધ્યા કેન્સીનમેન્ટ પહોંચશે. ટ્રેન-નંબર ૨૨૧૧૨ અયોધ્યા કેન્સીનમેન્ટથી દર બુધવારે બપોરે ૧.૫૦ વાગ્યે ઊપડશે અને બીજા દિવસે બપોરે ૩.૩૫ વાગ્યે મુંબઈ પહોંચશે.

આશરે ૨૬ કલાક ૨૦ મિનિટની જર્ની દરમ્યાન ટ્રેન ૧૨ સ્ટેશનોએ યોજાશે. આમાં સુલતાનપુર, મા બેલ્લા દેવી ધામ પ્રતાપગઢ, પ્રયાગરાજ, માણિકપુર, સતના, જામલપુર, ઇંદોરસી, ભુસાવળ, જલગામ, નાશિક રોડ, કલ્યાણ અને થાણેનો સમાવેશ કરાયેલો છે. આ એક્સપ્રેસ ટ્રેન સાથે કુલ સ્લો મોડેલ સ્ટોપ યુનિટ પડશે.

વર્ષા વિનિયમ

feedbackgm1@midday.com

આત્મવિશ્વાસથી કોઈ પણ શિક્ષક હંસલ કરી શકાય છે એનું શ્રેષ્ઠ ઉદાહરણ છે બિલકુલ જોઈ ન થકની સાંતાક્રુઝની ક્રીશ્ચિયી પેલે, સેન્ટ ઝેવિયર્સ કોલેજની આઈસીઆઈ વિદ્યાર્થીની ક્રીશ્ચિયીને મહારાષ્ટ્ર બોર્ડની આરમા પોરણની પરીક્ષામાં ૮૯.૬૭ ટકા આંક આપ્યા છે એટલું જ નહીં, લોની એન્ટ્રન્સ એક્ટામ કોમન લો એડમિશન ટેસ્ટ (CLAT)માં પહેલો વિષય ડિસિબિલિટી (PWD) કેટેગરીમાં પણ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા લેવલ પર તેનો છઠ્ઠો ક્રમાંક છે. પેરન્ટ્સ, શિક્ષકો અને ટેકનોલોજીની સહાયતાથી તેણે અદ્યતન સફળતા મેળવી છે. બે વર્ષ અગાઉ દરમ્યા પોરણમાં પણ તેને ૮૭.૮ ટકા આંક આપ્યા હતા.

ટેન્થમાં પણ ઝળકી હતી

પોતાના દમદાર પર્ફોર્મન્સ વિશે 'મિડ-ડે' સાથે વાત કરતાં ૧૭ વર્ષની ક્રીશ્ચિયીને જણાયું હતું કે 'વિદ્યુઅલી ચેલેન્જર બુક્સ, ડાયગ્રામ અને સ્કીનટીટર સોફ્ટવેરની મદદથી નોટ્સ તૈયાર કરી હતી. કોલેજમાં ડિલિવિસ એક્ટામ લેખરોપ પર આપી હતી, પણ બોર્ડની પરીક્ષામાં પેપર લખવા સરકારની મદદ લેવી પડી હતી. મહારાષ્ટ્ર બોર્ડની પરીક્ષામાં આરકોડ હોય છે એટલે લેખરોપ પર પરીક્ષા આપવાની પરવાનગી નથી હોતી. બોર્ડની પરીક્ષાની સાથે-સાથે લોની એન્ટ્રન્સ એક્ટામ CLAT પણ આપી હતી. એમાં ૮૬.૫૦ માર્ક્સ સાથે ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા લેવલ પર PWD કેટેગરીમાં મારો સિક્સથ રેન્ક અને મહારાષ્ટ્રમાં કન્ટ્રી રેન્ક છે. અગાઉ દરમ્યા પોરણમાં ICSE બોર્ડની પરીક્ષામાં ૮૭.૪૮ ટકા આંક આપ્યા હતા. મારી આ જર્નીમાં પેરન્ટ્સ ઉપરાંત મેન્ટલ અસોસિએશન કોર પબ્લિક (NAB) વરલી, ઝેવિયર્સ રિસોર્સ સેન્ટર હોરે ધ વિદ્યુઅલી ચેલેન્જર અને સ્પેશિયલિઝેડ હેલ્પલાઇન તરફથી સમર્થન અને માર્ગદર્શન મળ્યું છે.'

૩ મહિલાનામાં જ દૃષ્ટિ ગુમાવી

રેટિનોપથી ઓક પ્રોમોટોરિટી (ROP)થી પીડિત ક્રીશ્ચિયીને તેનું સુલિંગ અંધતાની પ્રારંભ એકેડેમીથી પૂરું કર્યું હતું. ત્યાર બાદ તેણે સેન્ટ ઝેવિયર્સ કોલેજમાં આઈસીઆઈ સ્ટીમનો અભ્યાસ કર્યો. હવે તેને મહારાષ્ટ્ર ગર્ભવસ્થા બાદ થયે હતો. જન્મ બાદ ઓપની સમસ્યા હોવાનું નિદાન થયું હતું. ઓપ્ટિક્સ આપવામાં આવ્યા એના પરિણામસ્વરૂપ રેટિના વધુ ડિસ્ટ થઈ ગયું. જન્મ થયાના ૩ મહિનામાં જ તેણે સંપૂર્ણપણે દૃષ્ટિ ગુમાવી દીધી હતી. તેનાં પેરન્ટ્સ ધવલભાઈ અને રૂપાલીબેન ડોશનમાં આવી ગયાં કે જોઈ ન શકતા બાલકનો છંદર કરી રીતે કરીશું? પૌત્રી પીમે પરિસ્થિતિને સ્વીકારી લીધી. ક્રીશ્ચિયી પોતાના જીવનમાં આજળ વર્ષે શરૂ અને પગલવર થઈ શકે એ માટે એજ્યુકેશન

સપનાં આંખોથી નહીં પણ સાકાર થાય છે આત્મવિશ્વાસથી

આ વાત સાબિત કરી છે બિલકુલ જોઈ ન થકની કૌશિકી પટેલે. મહારાષ્ટ્ર બોર્ડની બારમા ધોરણની પરીક્ષામાં તે ૮૯.૬૭ ટકા લાવી છે. બોર્ડની પરીક્ષા ઉપરાંત લોની એન્ટ્રન્સ એક્ટામમાં પણ તેણે દમદાર પર્ફોર્મન્સ આપ્યો છે. ટેકનોલોજીની સહાયતા અને સઘન પ્રત્યાસ દ્વારા આ સફળતા મેળવનાર કૌશિકીને સંગીતમાં રસ છે. કીબોર્ડ વગાડે છે અને હવે ગિટાર વગાડવાનું શરૂ કર્યું છે



ક્રીશ્ચિયીને કીબોર્ડ વગાડતી જોવાઈ.



પેરન્ટ્સ અને ભાઈ સાથે.

માર્કશીટ	
વિષય	માર્ક
ઈંગ્લિશ	૭૮
ફ્રેન્ચ	૯૯
હિસ્ટરી	૯૪
પોલિટિકલ સાયન્સ	૮૯
સાઈકોલોજી	૯૨
ઈકોનોમિક્સ	૮૬
કુલ	૫૩૮/૬૦૦



લેખરોપ પર પરીક્ષાની તૈયારી કરતી.

- 8. Design shortfalls of everyday items leave blind users vulnerable
[Mid Day](#) 21st May 2026
- 9. White paper calls for more accessible appliances for the visually challenged
[Hindustan Times](#) 21st May 2026

Acknowledgments

With another impactful year drawing to a close, we take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many individuals, institutions, and organisations whose support and partnership have strengthened the XRCVC's efforts towards creating a more accessible and inclusive world for persons with disabilities.

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The continued faith and support of our extended community remain the cornerstone of the XRCVC's growth and its standing as a recognised centre of excellence in the field of accessibility and disability inclusion.



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