



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री

Prime Minister

MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to know that International Seminar on Disability and Development is being held in New Delhi during April 11-13, 2016 under the auspices of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People.

India believes in the principles of inclusion and integration. This stems from the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – that the whole world is our family – a philosophy that transcends all life forms and relationships, including our environment.

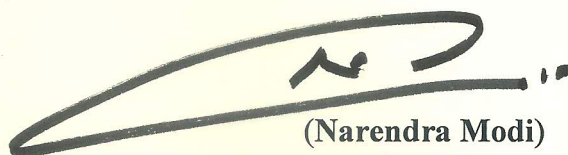
Disability has been recognised as an international issue. The cost of exclusion of people with disabilities from the workplace is estimated by the World Bank to be around 3-7 percent of a country's GDP. It is, therefore, imperative that as the world advances to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, particularly eradication of extreme poverty, people with disabilities are included in this journey.

My Government is fully committed to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for achieving empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities. In the last two years of office, we have already taken several significant steps to ensure that the demographic dividend of people with disabilities is adequately tapped in nation-building. Initiatives such as Accessible India Campaign aim to make the built environment inclusive for people with disabilities. We are also working on making the railways accessible & starting a centre to develop Indian Sign Language.

The theme of Disabled Peoples International 9th World Assembly is 'Building Human Capital – Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals for People with Disabilities'. With a number of eminent experts and planners from so many different countries and cultures gathered under one roof, it will be a fitting platform for constructive and fruitful exchanges.

I sincerely hope that the International Seminar will chalk out a clear road map to ensure protection and promotion of rights of persons with disabilities for all nations in general. I assure you that my Government will consider the suggestions and recommendations coming out of this International seminar.

I wish the event and its organisers all success.



(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi
5 April, 2016