A Prelude to
Harmonised Guidelines & Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021
1. Accessibility is **only** about disability

2. Universal Design is **borrowed** in reference to International Context

3. Accessibility is **only restricted** to Buildings

4. Guidelines & Codes are **non visual and unfriendly** to read

5. Accessibility Evaluation is **complex** process

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**Guiding Approach**

- **Universal Design Approach**
  Revised keeping in view RPwD Act, 2016, elderly, women and children and other forms of temporary and situational disabilities. Evolved from the 2016 guidelines, the new guidelines aim at universal design approach.

- **Consistency with visual support**
  Original visuals/drawings with revised dimensions wherever required. Provides examples from India, to project best practices

- **Readable and Implementable**
  Restructuring the content in both sequential structuring and language while aligning it to NBC 2016 and Model Building Byelaws. The revisions are being made to render greater clarity.
Transform Practice

1. Shift from Barrier Free Approach to Universal Design Approach
2. Contextualized for India
3. Accessibility as a holistic process & experience
4. Accessibility Needs of Diversity & Disabilities
5. Simplified Accessibility Evaluation System

Framework Adopted

- Dimensions To suit Diversities
- Enhanced Illustrations & Imagery
- Relevance to Indian Context
- Easy textual Content & Improved readability
- Suggested Specifications
Waves of Pluralism and Diversities

The graphic composition of the cover page represents

**Nine WAVES, Nine COLOURS, Nine DIVERSITIES, Nine SECTIONS** representing diversity and pluralism as a foundation of universally accessible and inclusive India.

The waves with distinct curved profiles represent human life span with ability and disability as an inclusive experience for all.

The nine icons representing the diversity of age, gender and abilities provides a framework for including all.

Semantically, the number ‘nine’ also represents the cosmic universe in Indian mythology.

The cover design reinforces a positive image of inclusion with diversity and dignity to all human lives. It celebrates the idea of difference amidst the pursuit of equity.

It is complimented by the colour of royalty, Violet, depicting the significance of these guidelines in urban ecosystem.

Five Pillars of the Guidelines

- **Human Centric**
- **Universal accessibility**
- **Equity & Inclusion**
- **Safety**
- **Participatory**
Introduction
1. Background
1.2 Objectives of Harmonized Guidelines
1.3 National Policy Perspectives
1.4 International Policy Perspectives
1.5 Methodology of Guide Development
1.6 Applications and Stakeholders
1.7 Guiding Philosophy

Accessibility, Diversity and Universal Design
2.1 Diversity and Inclusion Perspectives to Accessibility
2.2 Understanding Universal Design
2.3 Understanding Disability & Diversity
2.4 Accessibility Needs for Persons with Disabilities
2.5 Accessibility Needs for Diverse User Groups
2.6 Barriers to Accessibility in Built Environment
2.7 Basic Anthropometry and Space Allowances
2.8 Accessibility Framework for Built Environment

Signage and Information Systems
5.1 Information System Perspectives
5.2 Signage and Wayfinding
5.3 Location
5.4 Visual Comfort and Colour Contrast
5.5 Tactile and Multi Sensory Information Systems
5.6 Tactile maps

Building Typologies
6.1 Residential Buildings
6.2 Educational and Research Buildings
6.3 Transportation and Supporting Infrastructure Services
6.4 Office and Public Buildings
6.5 Healthcare Buildings
6.6 Retail and Commercial Buildings
6.7 Commercial Restaurants and Dining Facilities
6.8 Hotels and Hospitality Buildings
6.9 Assembly Buildings
6.10 Judicial and Legal Buildings
6.11 Civic, Public Spaces
6.12 Parks and Open Spaces
6.13 Religious Buildings
6.14 Recreational Buildings and Spaces
6.15 Heritage Buildings and Sites
6.16 Industrial Buildings
6.17 Bank ATMs
Universal Accessibility benefits all and a way forward for inclusive Indian urban futures
Methodology Adopted

Inclusion in thought and process

1. Online Perception Survey
2. Public consultation with persons with disabilities, elderly
3. Public consultation with women and children
4. Focused Group Discussion with experts from Universal Design and Disability Rights

- Review of existing guidelines including NBC, 2016 and National Building byelaws
- Review of international guidelines
- Concept design for new/revised guidelines
- Technical discussion Round
- Case Study Review
- Perception Survey (Online)
- Structure development with contextualized visual language for guidelines
- Stakeholder consultations: Persons with Disabilities, elderly, children and women
- Stakeholder Consultation-Experts
- Technical Discussions
- Case study Review II
- Feedback Incorporation
- Draft Guidelines
- Review Through stakeholder organizations
- Final Guidelines