

10 things Narendra Modi can do for specially-abled Indians

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Image source: [ASSA](#)

The Nation rejoices as India has finally elected a Government that has committed itself to the ideals of a Democratic governing body – OF the people and FOR the people. It was a historic moment when a common man from very humble roots took oath as the Prime Minister of India and it was the first milestone in the journey of a thousand miles.

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi symbolises the change in the composition of our population, our nation's priorities and changing expectations from the Government. This election has raised expectations of the public sky high and now, as the rubber meets the road, we the people have to be very prudent and mature to support the right actions of the Government.

Historically, the causes of people with disability in India have always been seen as a low-priority issue for the Government with an internalised understanding that we are a poor country and there always are more pressing priorities. This attitude was also a manifestation of the ignorance, stigma and shame associated with the specially-abled and the perception of them being a liability in general so their issues were relegated to social work activities carried out by trusts, civil societies, individuals and NGOs. In our

country, our politics created more and more divisions in the name of SC/ST, OBC, castes, religions and regions, minority status, reservation etc. that caused deterioration of the social fabric of our nation, pitting people against people instead of people with people on the path of progress together.

In the campaign for Narendra Modi as PM, India272.com played a major role in bringing people from all over the country to come together as citizens of India with the Motto of 'SabKa Saath, SabKa Vikas', was created the Group – *Empowering the Specially Abled*. Disability as an issue is universal and beyond the confines of gender, religion, social status, region of the country and affects everyone. Even by a very conservative approach, when we are talking about the specially-abled population, we are talking about 7-8 crore people and they were given a voice and role to play in bringing the change.

With a visionary leader, we can now expect that challenges pertaining to the disability sector will get due attention and we will try to close the gap between the best inclusive practices around the world and the current directionlessness state in India. We believe that with the correct understanding of disability without prejudice and proper focus on empowerment and contribution to society with dignity, we can be creative and resourceful to achieve our goals optimally.

With the above as background, we would like to propose the following 10 action items to be undertaken by the Government in the next six months as the groundwork to set the ball rolling.

10 action items to be undertaken by the Government

1 Assess AS IS: Meeting of all State and UT Disability Commissioners in Delhi, get the history of each State's performance reports for past three years and plan for next three years.

2 Develop a comprehensive broad policy of the Government with clear 1 year/3 year/5 year goals for the empowerment of specially-abled citizens encompassing education, accessibility, employment, healthcare and equality. It should reflect our philosophy of skill development, independence, inclusive growth-led empowerment.

3 Set up full Cabinet meetings to socialise policy, promote awareness, manifesto vision and seek their inputs and commitments to execute. Set up quarterly meetings chaired by the Prime Minister.

4 Facilitate faster presentation and due diligence of inputs to the standing committee, where the RPWD Bill is pending. We can create focus groups on critical policy amendments by forming sub-committees to expedite the process and submit the Amendments to the standing committee.

5 Aim to pass the Bill in 180 days with Amendments and find the 'number' support to pass the Bill in Rajya Sabha too.

6 Publish a comprehensive e-learning education policy document for specially-abled people along with skill development objectives matching local and future skill needs.

7 Develop a framework, approach and methodology for identifying each and every PwD that can become the base for connection from birth to death and coordinated life across the nation.

8 Pass an Ordinance to revive/set up a National Commission with appointment of its members as a nodal agency working with all other Ministries and States to own and implement the BJP manifesto initiatives for the specially-abled peoples of India.

9 Create and include tax incentives for individuals, families and companies in the proposed Union Budget 2014-2015. Form a committee if required to recommend the tax incentives.

10 Review and upgrade building accessibility code to match with international guidelines for Government and public buildings immediately and enforce compliance.

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