

Special Newsletter (Elections 2024)

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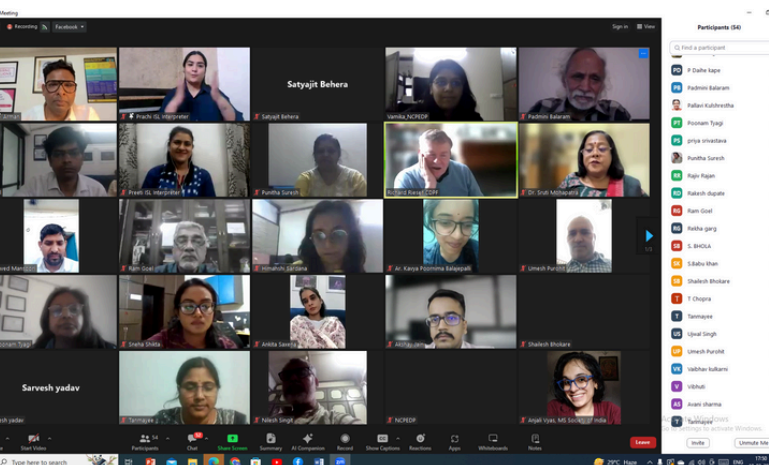
Odisha State disAbility Network

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Political Participation of PwDs :An Overview of the Special Newsletter-I

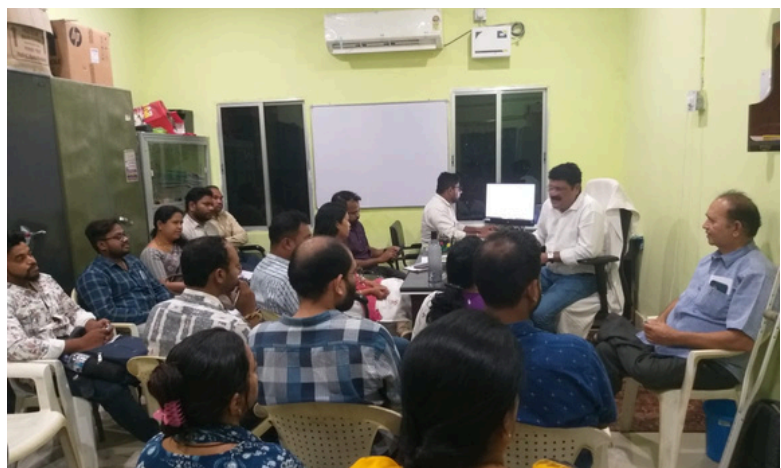
30/03/2024 -25/04/2023: Following the NDN-NCRPD meeting in New Delhi, which addressed political inclusion, on 14/04/2024 a virtual meeting of OSdN brainstormed strategies to ensure disability inclusion in political party manifestos. The Eastern Regional Consultation on 06/04/2024 at Bhubaneswar, attended by 115 participants, emphasized the importance of including disabled people in political processes. OSdN partners submitted manifestos and accessibility audit reports to various district authorities to promote inclusive elections. Multiple awareness meetings in districts like Khordha, Rayagada, Kendrapara, Bolangir, Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Nuapada educated PwDs on their voting rights. State and district-level steering committee meetings, including the State Level Steering Committee for Accessible Elections on 30/03/2024, saw active OSdN participation. Media outreach and training programs further promoted the facilities made for the ease of voting of PwDs and electoral accessibility.



Representation at District Level Steering Committee Meetings

29/04/2024: On the invitation of District Authorities of Balasore, Jayanta Pradhan, Secretary of Manav Utthan Seva Sansthan and one of the OSdN partner from Balasore participated in the special interactive session with various district level stakeholders for better electoral participation of PwDs and Transgenders.

09/05/2024: Umesh Purohit, Secretary of YSC (Youth Social Centre) and OSdN Western Regional Coordinator and District Coordinator Bolangir, attended a steering committee meeting in Balangir to discuss and update the preparations for accessible elections.



Voters Awareness Programmes Conducted by OSdN

27/04/2024: Swabhimana conducted an awareness session at Gram Tarang Employability Training Services Pvt., engaging 40 divyang youth. The session emphasized the significance of political engagement for PwDs and the government's provisions to facilitate their participation across Odisha. Topics included the Saksham app, voter registration procedures, and the availability of transportation assistance, assistive devices, and home voting options.

02/05/2024: Sadhana Organisation OSdN Partner, Mayurbhanj District, held village-level OPD (Organisation of Persons with Disability) meetings to protect the voting rights of PwDs. They compiled a list of individuals needing home ballots or assistance to access polling booths during the election in Mayurbhanj district and committed to ensuring polling booths are accessible.

02/05/2024: Sradha, OSdN partner, Sundergarh, Met with the Collector of Sundergarh and the BSSO of Lathikata Block to discuss strategies for an inclusive and accessible election in 2024, promoting equal voting rights. Additionally, Sradha organized an awareness seminar focused on empowering the voices of disabled individuals in politics.

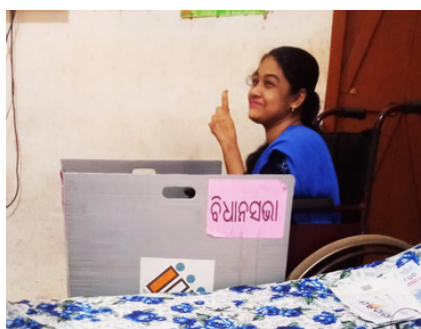
04/05/2024: Sweet Smile Divyanga Trust (OSdN Partner, Bargarh District): Conducted village-level awareness meetings to promote the participation of PwDs in the voting process this election.

07/05/2024: Rayagada Bhirnakhayama Mahasangha organized a village-level awareness meeting at Kalyansinghpur block of Rayagada district, focusing on safeguarding the participation of PwDs in the electoral process.



Voters Awareness for Home Pooling

- Biraja Routray (OSdN Kendrapada District): Received the 12D form from the BLO (Booth Level Officer) for exercising the option of home voting as a #pwdvoter. All eligible PwD voters with a 40% or above UDID certificate and genuine mobility issues, as well as voters above 85 years, are eligible for home voting.
- Dr. Sruti Mohapatra casted her vote in the General Election 2024 through the Home Ballot system, demonstrating accessibility in action and ensuring every vote matters in our democracy.
- Divyang Youths like Prativa Nath, Mamuni Dalai who are voters with locomotor disability, casted their vote in the General Election 2024 through the Home Ballot system.



Advocacy with Office of Chief Election Officer

Representations sent to authorities for access audit. Collectors, BDOs, and other officials responsible for making arrangements for accessible elections at state as well as district level.

- Representation sent to the Office of the Chief Election Officer requesting an audit of sample polling booths in all districts of Odisha.
- letters to Collectors, BDOs, and other officials responsible for making arrangements for accessible elections in 20 districts of Odisha, along with the Election Manifesto of PwDs and recommendations based on the accessibility audit report.
- Data on Voters with Disabilities collected from the Office of Chief Electoral Officer specifying number of voters in each disability category .



Access Audit of Polling Booths

With the support of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, teams comprising divyanjan and members of OSdN partner organizations conducted physical audits to evaluate the accessibility of polling booths in Odisha. Using the checklist provided by Swabhiman, these teams audited polling booths in both urban and rural areas across 20 districts of Odisha, covering a total of 117 polling booths.

Key Findings:

- **Designated Parking Space:** Only 74 booths had nearby parking spaces, but none had designated parking for PwDs. No proximate parking was connected to an accessible pathway among the audited booths
- **Ramp Accessibility:** 93 schools had ramps, but none of them met accessibility standards. 24 schools lacked ramps entirely. Only 52 locations had handrails, which were inaccessible, while 9 had no handrails at all.
- **Pathways Leading to Polling Areas:** 61 locations had clear pathways but without guiding tactile tiles. 41 places had pathways not connected to polling booths. 12 locations had no clear pathways, and 3 had inaccessible pathways.
- **Tactile Guiding Tiles:** Only 37 locations had tactile guiding tiles installed; 39 did not.
- **Signage:** Only 24 locations had signage at proper eye level, but none mentioned Braille or had proper color combinations. 93 locations had insufficient signage.
- **Accessibility of Tables:** Only 10 locations had proper accessible tables. 107 locations had tables that did not meet accessibility standards.
- **Braille Ballot Papers and EVMs:** 22 polling stations offered Braille ballot papers, 71 did not. EVMs with Braille features were

available at 28 locations; 35 lacked this feature.

- **Wheelchair Availability:** 105 polling stations reported having wheelchairs; only 2 locations lacked them.
- **Accessible Pick-Up Vehicles:** 40 polling stations offered vehicles for pick-up, but they were not accessible. 77 locations did not provide any vehicle pick-up service.

The above data revealed significant gaps in infrastructure for PwDs, including inconsistent ramp accessibility, inadequate handrails, insufficient tactile guiding tiles and signage, and uneven availability of Braille ballot papers, EVMs with Braille features, trained volunteers, wheelchairs, and accessible vehicle pick-up services.



Voters Awareness through Social Media and Media Advocacy

In the state of Odisha, a collective of PwDs, including activists, professionals, and students, joined forces with print and electronic media to launch a social media awareness campaign. The campaign's primary goal is to encourage all voters with disabilities to exercise their voting rights. This unified effort aims to promote inclusivity and ensure every individual's voice is heard in the democratic process.

By leveraging social media platforms, divyang youths across the state have appealed for the empowerment and integration of the PwD community into the political landscape, advocating for equal representation and accessibility. OSdN partners joined in, using their social media accounts to spread the message. Additionally, local newspapers, both print and electronic, community radios, and personal vehicles repurposed as mobile campaign vans were utilized to amplify the campaign. The initiative emphasizes the importance of voting as a powerful tool to influence policies and decisions that directly impact the lives of PwDs.



Video ink



Voters with Disabilities may be Game Changers this Election!



Kartik Chandra Pandab, Secretary of Sadhana Organization and OSdN District Convenor Sundargarh



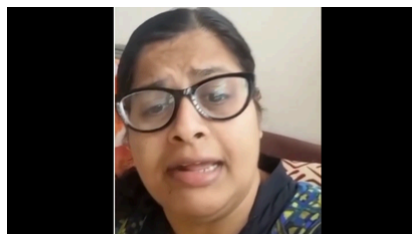
Ranjit Mohapatra, Secretary of Sadhana organization, Convenor of OSdN North Odisha and District Convenor, Mayurbhanj



Umesh Purohit, Secretary of YSC (Youth Social Centre) and OSdN Western Regional Coordinator and District Coordinator Bolangir



Suresh Choudhry, OSdN District Convenor Kalahandi



Sudeepta Mishra, voter with cerebral palsy, disability

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ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗ, ବୟସ୍କ

ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ୪୧୫୮

ଉତ୍ତର ମୃଦୁଆନ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ୧୬।୫ (ବୁଧବେ): ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଦେଶରେ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ଥିବା ପାଇଁ ମାଧ୍ୟମ

ଘରେ ରହି ଭୋଗ୍
ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗ, ବୟସ୍କ
ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ୪୧୫୮
କଣିକା ମନୁଷ୍ୟ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ୧୬।୫(ବୁଧବେ): ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଦେଶରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ଥର ପାଇଁ ସାଧାରଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନରେ ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଏବଂ ବୟସ୍କ ପାଇଁ ହୋମ୍ ବାଲଟ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ମତଦାନ ସାବ୍ୟସ୍ତ କରିବାର ସୁବିଧା କରାଯାଇଛି । ୪୦%ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମତା ଥିବା ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଏବଂ ୮୫ ବର୍ଷ ଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ବୟସ୍କ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଇଛି । ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟ ନିର୍ବାଚନରେ ଘରୁ ୪୧୫୮ ଜଣ ବୟସ୍କ ଓ ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଭୋଟର ଭୋଟ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ବୁଧବାରଠାରୁ ଏହି ମତଦାନ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଆଜି ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଦିନରେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ବହୁ ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଏବଂ ବୟସ୍କ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ହୋମ୍ ବାଲଟ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ

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ନିର୍ବାଚନରେ ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗା ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସହଭାଗିତା ପାଇଁ ସଚେତନତା

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ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା: ସୁପ୍ରିୟା, ଦିଶନ୍ତରେ ବୁଦ୍ଧପାଠକାଳୀ। ଅନୁରାଗେ ପଞ୍ଚାବଳୀର ବାଦନା ଦିନରୁ ପୁଣି ଅନୁରାଗେ ପଞ୍ଚାବଳୀର ବାଦନା ଦିନରୁ ପୁଣି ଅନୁରାଗେ ପଞ୍ଚାବଳୀର ବାଦନା ଦିନରୁ ପୁଣି	ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା: ସୁପ୍ରିୟା, ଦିଶନ୍ତରେ ବୁଦ୍ଧପାଠକାଳୀ। ଅନୁରାଗେ ପଞ୍ଚାବଳୀର ବାଦନା ଦିନରୁ ପୁଣି ଅନୁରାଗେ ପଞ୍ଚାବଳୀର ବାଦନା ଦିନରୁ ପୁଣି ଅନୁରାଗେ ପଞ୍ଚାବଳୀର ବାଦନା ଦିନରୁ ପୁଣି
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ଦିନରେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ବହୁ ଦିବ୍ୟାଙ୍ଗ ଏବଂ
ବୟସ୍କ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ହୋଇ ବାଲାର ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ

ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମତା ଗଣତାନ୍ତ୍ରିକ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତି

ଦେ ଶର ସ୍ବତନ୍ତ୍ରତା ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର କରୁ ନାହିଁ । ସ୍ବ
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ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ସର୍ବଦୃଢ଼ ଲୋକ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିତ୍ୱ ଶାସନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଶୈଳୀର
ଉପରେ ବିଶ୍ୱାସର ଆଧାର ଲୋକ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟାରେ ସ୍ବତନ୍ତ୍ର ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ
ନବୀନୀକରଣର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଶୁଦ୍ଧ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଲାଭିଥାଏ । ଏହି ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା
ଲେଖନୀରେ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଆମର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି ଡ଼ିଜିଟାଲ ନବୀନୀକରଣ
ଆମର ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ଡ଼ିଜିଟାଲ ନବୀନୀକରଣ ଉପରେ

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• ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ଅଧିକାର କର୍ମୀ, ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ, କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ
ଦୂରାବଧି: ୯୨୫୮୮୧୦୭୪

ନୂତନ ଭିଜ୍ଞାନ ଅଧିକାର ଆଇନ

ඉ. ටිලක මාලමලකඩ මාරුව ප්‍රදාන වී ඇති බවට තීරණය වූයේය. එමෙන්ම මාරුවේ ප්‍රදාන වී ඇති බවට තීරණය වූයේය. එමෙන්ම මාරුවේ ප්‍රදාන වී ඇති බවට තීරණය වූයේය.



සමාජ සේවකයෙක් වශයෙන් මාගේ වැඩ ක්ෂේත්‍රය වන්නේ ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදය සහ මානව හිමිකම් සංරක්ෂණයයි. මාගේ වැඩ ක්ෂේත්‍රය වන්නේ ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදය සහ මානව හිමිකම් සංරක්ෂණයයි. මාගේ වැඩ ක්ෂේත්‍රය වන්නේ ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදය සහ මානව හිමිකම් සංරක්ෂණයයි.

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ବିଜୁଳା ଲେଉଟୁଲେ । ମାତ୍ର ଏହି ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଧାରଣର ପରିଚଳନ ଆସିଲା । ବସନ୍ତର ନିର୍ବାଚନରେ ଅର୍ଥ ୨୦୧୧ ମସିହାରେ । ଏହି ଶ୍ରେଣୀର ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ବୃତ୍ତର ଭାରତୀୟ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଥମ କରି 'ପୁରୁଷୋତ୍ତମ' ଲେଖାଯାଇଥିଲା ।



ଚଢ଼ିତ ୨୦୨୪ ମସିହାର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ନିର୍ବାଚନରେ ଭିନ୍ନଗତ ଯୋଗଦାନକାରୀଙ୍କ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ପ୍ରତିଯୁକ୍ତ ଅଭେଦବୃତ୍ତ ଅଧିକ ଶକ୍ତି ଅପାଉଛି । ମାତ୍ର ମାସ ଶେଷ ପୂର୍ବା ନିର୍ବାଚନ କମିସନଙ୍କ ବୈଦିକାଭିଳାଷକର ବ୍ୟୟ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ସାରା ଭାରତବର୍ଷରେ ଯୁଗାନ୍ତ ଯୋଗଦାନକାରୀଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ୯୭୮୮ ବୋଲି ମଧ୍ୟଜ୍ଞ ଖଠାଣୀ ଉପାଦେୟ ଏବଂ ଯେଉଁ ନାଗରୀ ଏହି ଭିନ୍ନଗତ ବର୍ଗର ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ । ଯେଉଁମାନଙ୍କର

[illegible]

ପୂର୍ବ ସାଧାରଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନର 'ସୁରକ୍ଷା ନିର୍ବାଚନ' ପ୍ରତିବେଦନକୁ
 ବୋଉରାଲା ସହିତ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ଆୟତ୍ତର ଚୈତ ବଞ୍ଚି ଯାଇ ବୁଲୁ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନକୁ
 ଲେଖକଙ୍କର ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ନେତୃତ୍ବ, ସେହି ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ସମସ୍ତ - ଇତିହାସ ଆଦି ଓ
 ନିର୍ବାଚନ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଯୋଗୁଁ ବଦଳି ଯାଇଥିବା ସ୍ବରାଜ୍ୟ ଓ ଯୁଗ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତି