

Disability Futures: Intersections, Precarities, and Possibilities

Indian Disability Studies Collective -- Annual Conference 2026

Organised by the Social Science Group,

Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

May 14th and 15th 2026

Conference Schedule | Day 1, May 14th 2026 |

Venue: Gurudutt Auditorium (unless specified)

Time	Event
8:00 – 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 – 9:30 am	Opening Remarks: Meghana Rao [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru] Tony Kurian [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru] Inaugural Address: Kade Finnoff [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru] Someshwar Sati [Indian Disability Studies Collective & Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi] IDSC Report and website and newsletter launch: Anurima Chanda , [Indian Disability Studies Collective & Birsa Munda College] Rimjhim Bhattacharjee , [Indian Disability Studies Collective & Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya]
9:30 – 11:00 AM	Panel 1: Care and Belonging Chair and Discussant: Meghana Rao [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru] <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tuhisha Ghosh & Stuti Goswami [The Assam Royal Global University], Care, Community, and Emotional Labour in Sarmistha Pritam's <i>Sun on My Face</i>2. Shubha Ranganathan [Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad] & Bindulakshmi Pattadath [Independent Researcher], The future of autism care in urban India: Of interdependence, personhood, and belonging3. Arathi Saleef & Dr. Raisun Mathew [Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Deemed to be University], "Relational Futures of Disability: Questioning the Problematization of Singlehood"

11:00 – 11:15 AM	Tea Break
11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	<p>Panel 2: Disability, Policy, and Practice in India Chair and Discussant: Sanjay Jain [National Law School of India University]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aniket Ojha & Samriddhi Singh [Banaras Hindu University] Beyond Accommodation: Crippling Equitable Education and the Performative Limits of India's National Education Policy 2020 2. Dr. Irfan Rasool Najar [Christ Academy Institute of Law] & Sneha [Legal Associate, Settle Immigration Inc., Canada], From Legal Inclusion to Administrative Exclusion: Neurodivergent Persons and the Implementation of Disability Reservations in India 3. Sachu R Sunny [Centre for Development Studies], Evidence on disability prevalence in India disaggregated by caste, gender, age and geography
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00 – 3:30 PM	<p>Panel 3: State Power and Disability Chair and Discussant: Vijay Tiwari [The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sachendra Pratap Yadav, Amit Upadhyay & Shilpaa Anand [BITS Pilani, Hyderabad], "Move Over Human Rights! Recovering Disability Futures for Half Encountered People" 2. K. K. Prahalad & Nivedita Krishna [Pacta], "Governing Disability in Digital India: A Governmentality Analysis of the Unique Disability ID (UDID) System" 3. Rimjhim Bhattacharjee [Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya], "Disability Poetics Witnessing Palestine"
3:30 – 3:45 PM	Tea Break
3:45 – 4:45 PM	<p>Panel 4: Disability and Cinema Chair and Discussant: Anurima Chanda [Birsa Munda College]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kathiresan G. & Doreswamy [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati], "The Thyagi Trope of Disability Representation: Explicating the Discourse of Disability in the Tamil movie Mani Osai (1963)"

	2. Ajaykumar Shukla [Jawaharlal Nehru University], "Staring at Disability: Production of Ableist in Hindi Cinema from Creation to consumption"
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Keynote Address: Dr. Nandini Ghosh [Institute of Development Studies Kolkata]
5:45 PM	Tea Break
6:45 – 7:45 PM	Play: <i>Reunion</i> by First Drop Change Foundation [Ray Auditorium]
7:45 PM	Conference Dinner

**Conference Schedule | Day 2, 15th May 2026 |
Venue: Gurudutt Auditorium (unless specified)**

Time	Event
8:30 – 10:00 AM	<p>Panel 5: Power, Knowledge, and Critique Chair and Discussant: Shubha Ranganathan [Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anubha Anusree [Rajdhani College, University of Delhi], Shilpa Anand [BITS Pilani, Hyderabad], Akanksha Mehta [University of London, London], Jiya Pandya [Yale University], & Meghana Rao [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru], "Critical Caste and Disability Studies: Alignments and Rupture" 2. Vijay Kishor Tiwari [The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences], "Challenging the Myth of a Caring Constitution: Reflection from Crip Hermeneutics of Suspicion" 3. Neelaksh Pithauria [Independent Scholar], "The Politics of Silence: Foucauldian Discursive Analytics as Methodology for Challenging Ableist Knowledge Structures"
10:00 – 11:00 AM	<p><u>Parallel Session I (Venue: Gurudutt)</u> Panel 6A: Access, Art, and Inclusion Chair and Discussant: Bhuvaneshwari. B [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru]</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shubha Ranganathan [Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad], "Access beyond accessibility: The story of curating an inclusive art exhibition in India" 2. Dr. Radhika Jain, Bejoy Balagopal & Umashankar Veeravalli [First Drop Change Foundation], "Playback Theatre as a Participatory Approach to Disability Awareness"
10:00 – 11:00 AM	<p>Parallel Session I (Venue: Ray) Panel 6B: Accessibility, Technology, and Pedagogy Chair and Discussant: Shilpa Das [National Institute of Design]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rashmi Malhotra [EnAble India], "Re/imagining Deaf CripTechno-Futures: From 'Technologies for Deaf' to 'Technologies by/with Deaf'" 2. Shaswata Bandyopadhyay & Ishan Chakraborty [Indian Institute of Technology, Indore], "Hands-On Humanities: Tactile Games as Accessible Pedagogical Tools"
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Tea Break
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<p>Panel 7: Affective Communities Chair and Discussant: Bindhulakshmi Pattadath [Independent Researcher]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Satyabrata Sahoo [Sikkim University], "Embodying the Non-Visual Assistive Technologies: Studying the 'affect' in the Schools for the Blind" 2. Nandana R. [BITS Pilani, Hyderabad], "Affective Publics/Affected Publics: Locating Disability in the Novel Enmakaje" 3. Surbhi Nagpal [BITS Pilani, Hyderabad], "Mothering Beyond Sight: Shared Responsibilities and Multisensorial Caregiving Practices Among Visually Impaired Women"
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00 – 3:30 PM	<p>Parallel Session II (Venue: Gurudutt) Panel 8A: Inclusive Education: Lived Experiences, Practices, and Futures Chair and Discussant: Ankur Madan [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru]</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Titiksha Pradip Rangari [Eklavya Foundation], "Becoming, Belonging, and Futures: Lived Experiences of Disability and Inclusive Education - An Autoethnographic Inquiry" 2. O. Aishwarya [International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore] & Rebecca Mariya Karvahlo [Vision Empower], "The Future is Inclusive: Mapping the Inclusive Education Models for Children with visual Disabilities in India" 3. Shivpal Chawda [SOITS, Indira Gandhi National Open University], Precarious Futures: Lived Experiences of Disability in Indian Higher Education
2:00 – 3:30 PM	<p>Parallel Session II (Venue: Ray) Panel 8B: Disability, Embodiment, Gender Chair and Discussant: Rimjhim Bhattacharjee [Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sumdhura Roy & Reshma Jose [University of Delhi], Retelling Fairy Tales, Reimagining Disability Futures: A Study of Classic Fairy Tales Rewritten from the Perspective of Disabled Women from India 2. Barbie Kar [University of Delhi], The Politics of Re-embodiment – Understanding Disability, Corporeality, and Hegemonic Masculinity in Abhishek Anicca’s <i>The Grammar of My Body</i> (2023) 3. Riya Chawla [Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur], Echoes of Unfulfilled Desires: Phantoms of Motherhood in Still Born"
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Tea Break
4:00 – 5:00 PM	<p>Final Reflections: Panel Discussion (Gurudutt Auditorium) Chair: Sanjay Jain [National Law School of India University]</p> <p>Panellists: Someshwar Sati [Indian Disability Studies Collective & Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi] Shilpa Das [Indian Disability Studies Collective & National Institute of Design] Vijay Tiwari [The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences]</p> <p>Closing Remarks: Chetan S.V. [Azim Premji University, Bengaluru]</p>