

Soft Launch (Beta-Version) of ‘Swarajability’, India’s 1st AI triggered Job Platform for Persons with Disabilities by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India Prof. Vijay Raghavan.

IIT Hyderabad has jointly developed this platform with Youth4Jobs & Visual Quest with support from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

Highlights:

- 1. This is a unique platform to provide independence to persons with disabilities, through tech training and jobs, said the speakers.**
- 2. The Platform is uniquely crafted using AI, for the benefit to the persons seeking employment having disabilities like visual impairment, hearing impairment, and locomotive disorders.**
- 3. The platform will analyze the available information and suggest the required training needed for the concerned jobseeker.**
- 4. It has been developed for both web and mobile versions for the maximum reach of the initiative.**

The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India, Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, soft-launched (beta-version) India's first AI-triggered accessible job portal for persons with disabilities (PwDs). For this high-impact and important project, different organizations with different competencies have come together. While IIT Hyderabad (IITH) gives its expertise for the AI component; Visual Quest India is the developer and Youth4Jobs brings its rich experience in skilling, disability, and job linkages. The project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank.

There are 21 million persons with disabilities in India. About 70% of them are unemployed/underemployed. The Right to PwD Act 2016 for the first time highlights the right of a person with a disability (PwD) to education and employment. This provides an opportunity for PwDs to get skilled and linked to jobs. However, one major challenge they face is that most of the existing platforms are inaccessible and not customized to the special needs of persons with disabilities. The importance of creating this platform is if the country is to meet its demographic dividend, the most vulnerable, like youth with disabilities, should be skilled and linked to sustainable opportunities. Technology can facilitate this and ensure that no one is left behind.

This customized job platform is named “**Swarajability**” as it gives independence to PwDs using technology, skills, and job linkages. It is an effort to include cutting-edge technology that allows persons with disabilities from all walks of life to join and explore job opportunities. Youth are given training that is tailored to their skills and knowledge. It is a one-stop-shop for organizations that want to hire persons with disabilities. Also, it supports NGOs, educational institutions, and governments in their efforts to promote diversity and inclusion. Speaking at the occasion were Ms. Meera Shenoy, Founder-CEO, Youth4Jobs; Mr. Jayesh Ranjan IAS, Secy. IT, Telangana govt, Mr. Prakash Apte, Chairman, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Prof. B. S. Murty, Director, IITH and Dr. Maunendra Desarkar, Associate Professor, Department of CSE & AI, IITH.

Prof Vijay Raghavan delivered the keynote address, congratulated IIT Hyderabad, Youth4Jobs, and Kotak Mahindra Bank for coming together for a very critical cause. He emphasized on the significance of rigorously testing technological innovations in both the software and hardware sector among groups of people who need them before these innovations are scaled up by the industry for a transformative impact. Furthermore, he added that it is important to remember the age-related sub-groups of people with disabilities; children are a vulnerable group too and their disabilities should be



considered. He added that critical feedback be taken on the beta version with the goal of making it a widely used platform.

Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, congratulated the whole team for accomplishing this wonderful and noble endeavor in a short period. He hoped that this portal would come live soon and benefit a large section of those needing such a platform.

Electronic Media Release: <https://youtu.be/FLiCq-4JMyg>.

About IIT Hyderabad

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is one of the eight new IITs established by the Government of India in 2008. In a short span of **13** years, the institute has become a top ranker and currently has **260+** full-time faculty, **3,900+** students (**26%** women), nearly **200+** state-of-the-art laboratories, and five research and entrepreneurship centers. The institute has a strong research focus with approx. Rs **575+** crore of sanctioned research funding with Ph.D. scholars accounting for about **30%** of total student strength. IITH has to its credit more than **7200+** research publications, **210+** patent disclosures, **1600+** sponsored/consultancy projects, and about **100+** startups.

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