

PRESS RELEASE



Government Employees Sensitised on Assistive Technology for Inclusive Workplaces

Shillong, Aug. 4: The Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities under the Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, in collaboration with the Secretariat Administration Department (SAD) and Trestle Labs Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, on Tuesday organised a sensitisation programme on "Assistive Technology and Digital Accessibility for Government Employees" under the theme "Promoting an Inclusive Workplace for Employees with Visual Impairment."



Addressing the gathering, Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya on Social Welfare, Bah Paul Lyngdoh, stressed the importance of creating an inclusive work environment and leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to make government services and workplaces more accessible to persons with disabilities.



Congratulating the organisers, Lyngdoh said the initiative would help the State Government build a more inclusive ecosystem through the use of assistive technology and digital accessibility. He also appreciated the efforts of the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with

Disabilities, the Secretariat Administration Department and Trestle Labs for organising the programme.

Highlighting the need to change perceptions towards persons with visual impairment, Lyngdoh said eyesight alone does not determine a person's vision or potential.

He said there are many people with perfect eyesight but no vision, while others with little or no eyesight possess extraordinary vision. He urged government employees to adopt a more inclusive and empathetic approach in their workplaces.

Lyngdoh also encouraged employees with disabilities not to view their disabilities as limitations but to recognise their abilities and potential to contribute meaningfully to society.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of the Secretariat Administration Department (SAD), Swapnil Tembe, IAS, highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the department to make the Secretariat more accessible to persons with disabilities. He spoke about measures such as the construction of ramps, improved restroom facilities and other accessibility features aimed at ensuring greater convenience for persons with disabilities.

Tembe also said that if there were any suggestions for further improving accessibility, they could be brought to his notice so that the department could take appropriate steps to enhance facilities and make the Secretariat, as well as other government offices, more accessible to persons with disabilities.



On the occasion, Bah Paul Lyngdoh handed over the Kibo assistive technology device to the Secretariat Administration Department for official use.



The programme was also attended by Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Lyngkor Kynjing, MCS; Director of Social Welfare, Saloni Verma, IAS; officials from various government departments; invited guests; and other participants.