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EDII fetes Differently Abled Entrepreneurs on International Day of Persons with Disabilities

by Nav Jeevan



As part of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, sports competitions for the disabled, including carrom, chess, badminton and table tennis & painting competition (for deaf & mute children) were organised on Friday and the winners were awarded on Saturday.-NE photo

- **The society has to bring in empathy in its approach towards the differently abled: Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS.**
- **One must defeat the odds and keep moving ahead with grit and persistence: Jaynt Kishor, IAS**
- **EDII's Centre for Empowerment for Differently Abled has reached out to 8,000 potential entrepreneurs through sensitization and training programmes, and 683 enterprises have been set up until March 2022 by differently abled entrepreneurs: EDII Director**
- **Honours Divyang entrepreneurs CA Vipin Jain (Manoj Vipin & Co.); Ketankumar R Patel (Shree Weltex Industries); Amitkumar M Patel (NexusLink Services India); Hemendra N Jansari (YHR Multiple Supply & Services) and Nisha Salet (Satva Packaging)**

AHMEDABAD, DEC 3

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) on Saturday observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by felicitating successful Divyang entrepreneurs and inviting noted professionals to talk about the need to have an inclusive society with opportunities for all.



Dignitaries at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) on International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Ahmedabad on Saturday.-NE photo

Chief Guest, Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India graced the event virtually. Also present on the occasion were Jayant Kishor, IAS, Under Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment Dept, Govt of Gujarat (GoG); Yuvraj Seddharth, Under Secretary, Dept of Panchayat, GoG; Nisheeth Mehta, Founder & CEO, Microsign Products; Kalpesh Vaniya, Deputy Director, Directorate of Social Justice, GoG and JS Saini, Professor, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh.

On the occasion, Rajesh Aggarwal said, “The society has to bring in empathy in its approach towards the differently abled. The focus should be on empowerment through training, skill building and counselling. New opportunities need to be created for them and they need to be assimilated in the mainstream. The government is working in this area with support of institutions like EDII.”

Kishor emphasized on how disability should not make a person lose the willingness and the confidence to achieve their goal. He said, “One must defeat the odds and keep moving ahead with grit and persistence. There are several newer initiatives of the Department towards social inclusion of the differently abled and I am sure these will cumulatively bring about a huge change five years down the line.”

Yuvraj Seddharth appreciated EDII’s initiative in making the differently abled self-reliant. He talked about the schemes and policies that should reach them and the need to sensitize the differently abled to comprehend the finer aspects of these measures instituted for them.

Dr Sunil Shukla, Director General, EDII, said, “The differently abled have unique competencies. These need to be identified and nurtured holistically. EDII’s Centre for Empowerment for Differently Abled has reached out to 8,000 potential entrepreneurs through sensitization and training programmes, and 683 enterprises have been set up until March 2022 by differently abled entrepreneurs. We look forward to developing many more enterprises owned by the differently abled and making it an inclusive society.”

Addressing the gathering, Nisheeth Mehta, an entrepreneur who employs only the differently abled opined, “There is a need to remove attitudinal barriers and provide rehabilitation for the differently abled and this will come about when the differently abled and the abled differently are put on the same platform. This way, those who can recruit them or give them a better life will be able to identify their strengths better.”

On this occasion, noted Divyang Entrepreneurs were awarded for rising above their limitations. The awardees included, CA. Vipin Jain (Manoj Vipin & Co.); Ketankumar R. Patel (Shree Weltex Industries); Amitkumar M Patel (NexusLink Services India

Pvt. Ltd); Hemendra N Jansari (Y.H.R. Multiple Supply & Services) and Nisha Salet (Satva Packaging). Each was presented with a citation and a cash award.

The one-day event also saw several panel discussions on removing the hurdles faced by the differently abled and making the world a better one for them.

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EDII, in association with Directorate of Social Defence and Gujarat State Handicapped (Divyang) Finance and Development Corporation, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Govt of Gujarat has set up the Centre for Empowerment of Differently Abled (CEDA).