# **ATF Monthly Newsletter**

ATF is proud to share progress on multiple fronts in its latest newsletter. A recent webinar focused on educating businesses on the importance of creating accessible digital experiences for everyone.

The success of the AThlete Unleashed Blind Cricket Camp, where visually impaired athletes were empowered through Blind Cricket training and learning about Assistive Technology(AT).

The newsletter also highlights ATF CEO & Co-Founder Prateek Madhav's participation in a CNN-News18 discussion on assistive devices showcases the growing awareness and importance of this field.

# **ATF - Project Updates**

## i-Innovate Challenge Update

i-Innovate is a collaborative initiative by the <u>Reserve Bank Innovation Hub</u> (RBIH) and <u>HDFC</u> Bank, in partnership with <u>AssisTech Foundation</u> (ATF). The program is designed to implement a range of initiatives aimed at leveraging technology to promote Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities(PwDs)

The challenge attracted an overwhelming response from various startups across India. The selection process was rigorous, involving multiple stages of evaluation and jury assessment to ensure that only the most promising and impactful solutions were chosen.

After thorough evaluation, a select group of startups emerged as winners. These startups demonstrated exceptional innovation, feasibility, and potential for significant impact in the realm of Financial Inclusion.

Here are six of the winning startups !!!



AThlete Unleashed Blind Cricket Camp Empowers Athletes with Assistive Tech

## AThlete Unleashed Cricket Camp for Blind Cricketers 2024



<u>ATF</u> partnered with the Shekhar Naik Foundation to host the first-ever AThlete Unleashed Blind Cricket Camp for visually impaired individuals. The camp, led by <u>Shekhar Naik</u> (Padma Shri Awardee and former captain of the Indian Blind Cricket team).Held at <u>The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore</u>, the 2-day camp provided training and mentorship to 25 aspiring blind cricketers. The opening ceremony commenced with the esteemed presence of our guests of honor:

- Ms. Rita Goel & Mr. Satish Goel (Patrons & Camp Sponsors)
- <u>Nitika Goel</u> (Chief Marketing Officer, Zinnov)
- <u>Prahlad D.N.</u> (Non-Executive Chairperson, Surya Software Systems Private Limited)
- <u>Paneesh Rao</u> (Chief Sustainability Officer, LTIMindtree)
- <u>Sourav Mukherji (</u>Professor & Dean, IIM Bangalore)

# Beyond Awareness:#GAAD Webinar Empowers Businesses with Accessibility Solutions



**Celebrating Global Accessibility Awareness Day**, <u>SaralX</u> In Partnership with <u>ATF</u>, and <u>The National Association for the Blind</u>, <u>Meerut</u> joined forces for a powerful webinar titled "**Unlocking Digital Accessibility for Corporate India**." Held on May 23rd, the event brought together accessibility enthusiasts and corporate leaders for an evening of learning and action.

A diverse panel of experts, including :

- <u>Akashdeep Bansal (Founder & CEO</u>, SaralX)
- <u>Kumar Saurabh</u> (Assistant General Manager Information Technology at Union Bank of India)
- Madhu Bala Sharma (Sr. IXT APAC & Middle East Communities Lead, Amazon)
- <u>Prateek Madhav</u> (CEO & Co-Founder , ATF)
- Rahul Gambhir (Chief Manager , Union Bank of India)
- <u>Srishti Taneja (</u>Marketing Manager ,Urban Company)
- <u>Sheri Byrne-Haber (Audit Subcommittee Member, W3C)</u> shared their valuable insights and real-world experiences designed specifically for corporate decision-makers and tech teams, the webinar delved into the growing importance of digital accessibility in today's evolving technological and legal landscape.

# **Top ATF Covers**



### Assistive Devices and Inclusion on CNN-News18

<u>Prateek Madhav</u> (CEO & Co-Founder ,ATF ) participated in a panel discussion on "**Enabling Inclusion Through Assistive Devices and Challenges in India**" at the Samarth Mini-Conclave organized by <u>CNN-News18</u> and <u>Hyundai Motor India Ltd</u>.

The day-long conclave addressed critical issues faced by individuals with disabilities in India and explored the potential of AT in creating a more inclusive society.

Prateek Madhav joined other leaders in the AT ecosystem for a thought-provoking discussion on innovative solutions and the challenges that need to be addressed.



#### Innovation for All: Fourth Wave Foundation Promotes Assistive Tech in Education for Children with Disabilities

The <u>Fourth Wave Foundation</u> is proud to announce the publication of a groundbreaking article co-authored by <u>Chahat</u> <u>Dubey</u> (Head of Partnerships, ATF )and <u>Prateek Madhav</u> (CEO & Co-Founder , ATF) The article **"Inclusive Education's Uncharted Potential: Assistive Technology's Radical Path to Inclusivity and Entrepreneurial Innovation**" explores assistive technology's transformative power in creating inclusive educational spaces.

Featured in the esteemed journal **"Enhancing Inclusive Spaces for Children with Disabilities,"** the article delves into how these innovative solutions empower children with disabilities and pave the way for impactful entrepreneurial ventures.

Read More



#### ATF in Partnership with PC-Quest : SaralX Enhances Digital Accessibility for Inclusive Online Experiences

In today's digital world, websites and apps need to be accessible for everyone, including users with disabilities. This article explores the importance of digital accessibility audits and how assistive technology can help create inclusive experiences.

- What is digital accessibility? It's ensuring websites and apps are usable by everyone, regardless of ability.
- Why is it important? Accessibility is essential for ethical, reputational, legal, and business reasons.
- How can accessibility be achieved? Audits help identify barriers, and AT provides solutions.

The article also highlights the work of SaralX, a company offering accessibility services such as audits, training, and inclusive hiring practices.

Read the Article

# **Invest in Change: Make a Difference with These Impactful Initiatives**



Shorter and more actionoriented: Empower Blind Cricketers to Shine.

The AThlete Unleashed Blind Cricket Camp aims to train visually impaired individuals in essential cricket skills and equip them with assistive technology, empowering them to pursue their cricketing dreams.

# Donate Now and Make a Difference

Your contribution will directly support:

- Top-notch training facilities
- Essential assistive technology
- Accommodation and logistics

By joining us, you'll be bridging the gap for these talented athletes and helping them excel on and off the field.



Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowering Rural Children with Kibo

Imagine a world where rural children, including those with visual impairments, have equal access to education. The AssisTech Foundation (ATF) is making this a reality by deploying Kibo XS Kits in 10 rural libraries across Karnataka.

## Donate & Help:

- **Inclusive Libraries:** Create accessible learning hubs for all.
- **Empowerment:** Enable independent learning for visually impaired children.
- Enhanced Learning: Improve vocabulary & engagement for all students. Join Us in Making a Difference

Special Donor Opportunity!

Donate and receive an exclusive invitation to the camp, including a chance to play alongside the Blind Cricket Team!

**Donate Today!** 

By supporting this campaign, you're investing in the future of 1,000 rural children. Help us create a world where every child has the chance to learn, grow, and thrive.

**Donate Today!** 



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