



# ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023 - 24

**CEO & Publisher**

Prateek Madhav

**Associate Editor**

Chahat Dubey

**Designed by**

Don't Be Content

**Advisor**

Jawahar Bekay

**Photograph Credits**

AssisTech Foundation Team  
ATF Portfolio Startups  
Adobe Stock Images

**Contributing Editors**

Ravi G Narayan  
Suryaprakash  
Prateek Madhav  
Jawahar Bekay  
Chahat Dubey  
Shaon Chatterjee

**Startups Featured**

NeoMotion  
Trestle Labs (Kibo)  
Vifr Tech

# CONTENT

04 **Foreword**

05 **Overview**

06 **Building Impact**

09 **The 3L Impact Framework**

10 **Key Highlights**

12 **Future of Accessibility**

14 **Trends of Assistive Technology**

16 **Future of ATF: Driving Innovation**

18 **Patron Testimonials**

## DRIVING INNOVATION AND INCLUSION: A VISION FOR 2024-25

Dear stakeholders and supporters of the AssisTech Foundation,

I am honoured to present a reflection of last year's progress, collaborations, and a shared commitment to advancing Assistive Technology (AT) for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The journey at AssisTech Foundation continues to harness the potential of technology and build an inclusive society. This year, we have furthered our vision with new impactful initiatives.

We have expanded our partnerships across corporates, government, educational institutions, investors, communities, and startups, empowering over 42 portfolio startups with 43 patents and a network of more than 1,200 Assistive Technology innovators worldwide. Through our efforts, we've impacted over 5,10,000 lives, and we aim to empower 5 million PwDs by 2027.

Thank you for joining us in making an inclusive future a reality.

Sincerely,

*Prateek Madhav*

Warm regards,  
**PRATEEK MADHAV**  
CEO & Co-Founder,  
AssisTech Foundation (ATF)

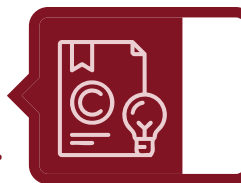
# OVERVIEW

AssisTech Foundation (ATF), is India's first Assistive Technology (AT) ecosystem that focuses on empowering PwDs by enabling **Learning, Livelihood, and Living** opportunities (3Ls of Empowerment). We do so by harnessing the power of AT & supporting the development of innovative technology products and services.

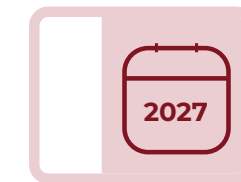
Our initiatives have impacted over **510,000** lives globally



Launched **100+** assistive products in the market and secured **43** patents.



This year, our efforts were recognised by the prestigious **NCPEDP-LTImindtree Helen Keller Award** for 2023 under Category B – Role Model Supporter of Increased Employment Opportunities for PwDs.



We foster an ecosystem of **450+** innovative Assistive Technology startups

Our vision is bold and ambitious: **to impact 5 Million lives by 2027**



# BUILDING IMPACT

## VISION

Assistech Foundation envisions creating a world of joy by empowering every Person with Disability.

## MISSION

Our mission is to foster potential and empower every individual through the power of Assistive Technology. We are committed to a world where PwDs can thrive in education, work, recreation, and beyond. At AssistTech Foundation (ATF), we aim to empower 5 Million lives of PwDs by 2027.

By fostering **Learning, Livelihood, and Living**, we, at ATF, are creating a world where technology enables individuals to thrive. Our vibrant ecosystem—including corporates, government, educational institutions, investors, communities, and startups—promotes entrepreneurship and collaboration, supporting a diverse range of initiatives that advance inclusion, accessibility, and impactful Assistive Technology solutions.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Disability brings unique perspectives and strengths to society, yet these often go untapped due to widespread barriers and negative perceptions. Globally, **90%** of PwDs lack **essential Assistive Technology**.

## OUR APPROACH

We focus on the **3Ls of Empowerment—Learning, Livelihood and Living**—enabling PwDs to achieve their dreams. Also, by focusing on the **4As— Acceleration, Availability, Awareness, and Association for Assistive Technology**, we support innovative startups, collaborate with stakeholders, and drive policy advocacy.

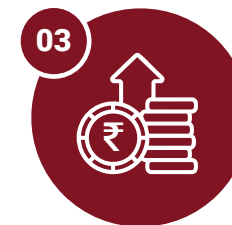
## HOW ASSISTECH FOUNDATION DRIVES INNOVATION



Support Assistive Technology entrepreneurs to build sustainable ventures



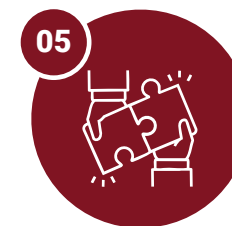
Build ecosystems with the corporates, government, educational institutions, investors, communities, and startups



Attract patient capital to the Assistive Technology innovation ecosystem



Set up India's first Centre of Excellence for Assistive Technology

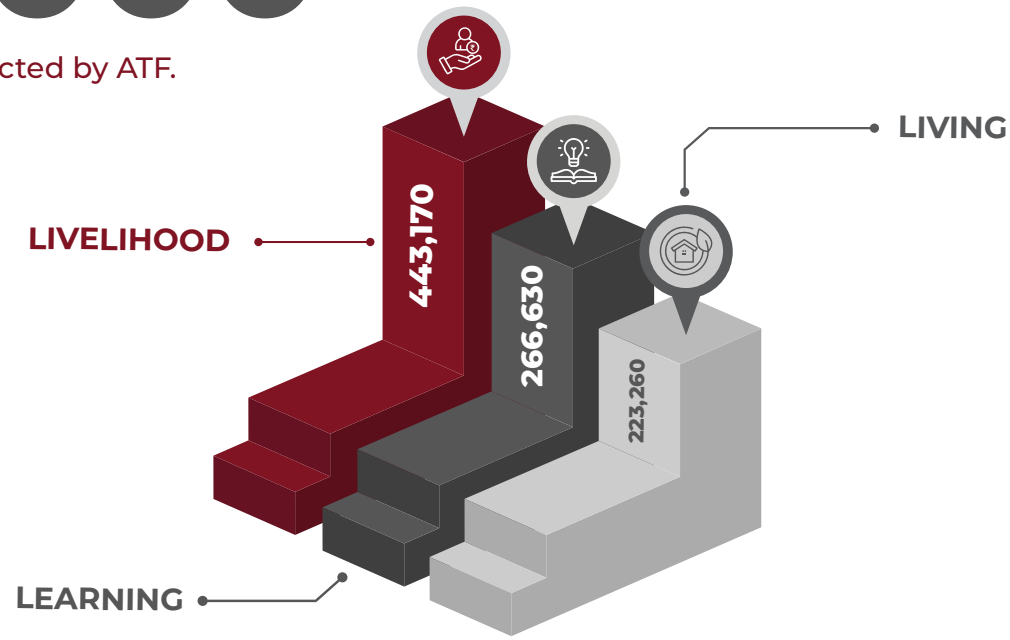


Partner up beyond boundaries to empower Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with technology, globally.



# 510,000+

PwDs have been impacted by ATF.



## INR 300Mn+

revenue generated by ATF Portfolio Startups

## INR 600Mn+

collective capital raised by ATF Portfolio Startups

### ATF STARTUP PORTFOLIO



# THE 3L IMPACT FRAMEWORK

### LEARNING

At AssisTech Foundation, we are committed to making education, knowledge availability and skill training more inclusive, especially for PwDs. We support Assistive Technology startups to meet the diverse learning needs of PwDs including accessible education apps for deaf children by **BleeTech**, and Virtual Reality tools for children with autism by **Halara**.

### LIVELIHOOD

Our mission extends to helping PwDs achieve financial and social independence. We champion inclusive policies and connect Assistive Technology (AT) startups with our stakeholders to promote AT. Some innovations include motorised wheelchairs by **NeoMotion**, real-time and portable written-to-audio translators (Kibo) by **Trestle Labs**, and digital sign language translator by **Sonant Tech**.

### LIVING

At AssisTech Foundation (ATF), we promote Assistive Technology to include essential aspects like healthcare, housing, transportation and equal rights, enabling PwDs to live independently. ATF works towards inclusivity, empowerment, and equality through supporting innovations like the bionic arm by **Symbionic** and the hands-free mouse for navigating desktops by **Dextroware**.







Recognising the unsung heroes in the field of AT, one award at a time.

**ATF AWARDS 2023**

The ATF Awards 2023 celebrates stakeholders who anchor Assistive Technology (AT) to drive change. By hosting the Awards for the first time at the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2023 as part of the AT Track, which we led, we were able to broaden the discourse on the Assistive Technology ecosystem.



Paving the way for financial independence & empowerment of PwDs through financial inclusion

**I-INNOVATE**

i-Innovate, a joint initiative of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub & HDFC Bank, with ATF, aimed at enabling **financial inclusion** for PwDs by leveraging **Assistive Technology** through an extensive study of the financial landscape. It also enabled startups through the i-Innovate Innovation Grant.

**ATHLETE UNLEASHED 5K RUN**

AssisTech Foundation hosted the first ATHlete Unleashed, an AT-driven segment in the WIPRO Bengaluru Marathon. The inspiring event, held on October 8th, 2023, witnessed **18 PwDs** with their dedicated **Buddy runners** (CXOs & Industry leaders) crossing the finish line together in the 5-kilometre run.



Together, PwDs with their buddy runners, powered through challenges at this 5k marathon.



Adidvara - digital enabler platform to help PwDs understand and navigate AT better.



**ATF ADIDVARA**

Adidvara is India's first curated digital platform for PwDs. Through Adidvara, we empower PwDs in terms of learning, livelihood, and living opportunities. We conducted one-day workshops over the year, training stakeholders and cohorts to understand this platform better.





Driving the future of AT with entrepreneurship and innovation

## ACCELERATION

We have nurtured over **42 Assistive Technology (AT) startups** through our Acceleration Programs along with a wider network of **450+ AT startups**, that help bring innovative ideas to life and has resulted in **100+ product** launches. AssisTech Foundation (ATF) empowers acceleration with various event touchpoints like the i-Innovate and cATalyst — our yearly Investor’s Meet.



Bridging the gap between innovation and accessibility for all

## AVAILABILITY

At ATF, we’re working tirelessly to ensure that Assistive Technology is widely available. Through our curated digital marketplace—Adidvara, we are building a platform that brings assistive solutions closer to PwDs by addressing the key barriers—affordability, infrastructure, and trained professionals.



Celebrating changemakers of the AT ecosystem

## AWARENESS

Awareness breeds opportunity. We’re proud to organise ATF Awards, India’s first and only AT Awards, which celebrate unsung heroes of Assistive Technology — start-ups, partners, and enablers who make a meaningful difference. Another big campaign was the ATHlete Unleashed 5k Run with PwDs, this year.

## ASSOCIATION

Our global **Inclusive Innovation Network (+N)** and our **Friends of ATF** bring together leaders across industries and borders. This year, we facilitated panel discussions at the G20 Startup 20 Shikhar and established a presence at the Nasscom Global Inclusion Summit 2023. AssisTech Foundation also curated workshops collaborating with the **Solve For Society Challenge**, focusing on leveraging Assistive Technology.

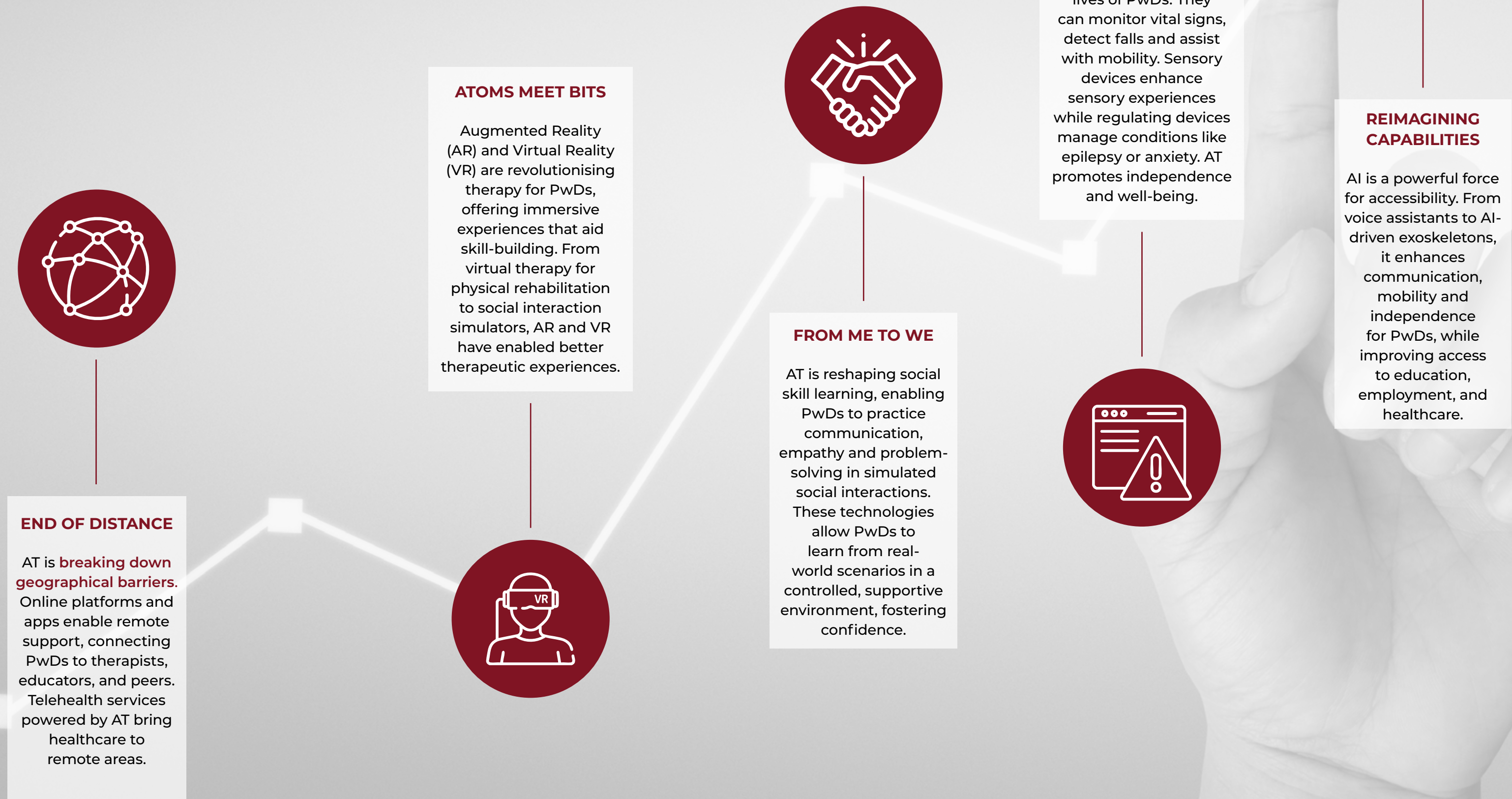


Building powerful networks to amplify impact and drive collaboration in the AT Ecosystem.



# TRENDS OF ASSISTIVE TECH

As Assistive Technology (AT) advances, our ability to promote inclusivity for PwDs will greatly improve. The global AT market for the disabled and elderly is expected to reach \$31.5 billion by 2027, while the disabled community, with a collective disposable income of \$8 trillion, stands as the world's third-largest economic power. This presents a very promising future.





# FUTURE OF ATF

## DRIVING INNOVATION

### ADVOCACY

With support from the Dept of Electronics Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Govt of Karnataka, ATF will establish a Center of Excellence for innovation with components like AT Experience Zone, Open Innovation Sphere & AT piloting.



### GLOBAL COLLABORATION

ATF will partner with organisations worldwide to drive systemic change. We're now a global network with six countries (India, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Canada, and Hong Kong). ATF plans to expand this alliance to 15+ countries. Moreover, ATF will launch a Global Acceleration Program.



### FUNDING INNOVATION

ATF will develop funding streams like grants and venture capital to support startups and innovators creating next-generation AT solutions. The focus will be on two key areas—AI for Disability and AT for Neurodiversity and Neurodevelopment.



### INDUSTRY-STARTUP PARTNERSHIPS

From the existing portfolio of 42 startups, ATF will nurture 110+ startups in the future. We will drive investments by connecting investors and stakeholders in the AT ecosystem via Investor Meets, AT Summits, and workshops.





*"Reflecting on India's first AssisTech Foundation Awards fills me with pride. The event showcased innovative solutions that enhance access and empower individuals with disabilities. The awards celebrated the beauty in imperfections and our journey toward creating an inclusive world. Let's continue making a difference through technology and fostering equal opportunities for all."*

**RAHUL DRAVID**  
Brand Ambassador, ATF Awards & Cricket Legend

*"AssisTech Foundation (ATF) is a leader in promoting change and inclusivity in the Assistive Technology (AT) sector. Their dedication to accessibility is exemplified by the ATF Award Winners, whose innovative solutions have made a significant impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities. We commend their hard work and groundbreaking contributions as we celebrate their role in creating a more inclusive future."*

**CHAPAL KHASNABIS**  
Former Head (a.i) of the Access to Assistive Technology and Medical Devices Unit, WHO



*"Athlete Unleashed is recognising the power of breaking down barriers and embracing tech innovation for individuals with disabilities. I wholeheartedly commend the AssisTech Foundation for its unwavering commitment to fostering inclusivity and empowering PwDs. As the Indian Contingent gears up for the Paris Paralympics 2024, events like these highlight our commitment to nurturing talent and breaking barriers, ensuring every athlete can shine globally, regardless of ability."*

**DEEPA MALIK**  
India's First Female Paralympic Athlete and President of the Paralympic Committee of India



*"Before the AssisTech Foundation journey, NEMA AI's goals were based on monthly or product-type milestones. After the guidance and mentorship from apt mentors, our vision has refined to being a 5-year and 10-year plan with NEMA AI being a brand rather than just a product!"*

**NIDHI**  
Founder NEMA AI (ATF Cohort 5 Startup)

*"The program's tailored support was crucial in navigating the Assistive Technology industry's challenges. Exceptional mentorship provided valuable insights, and the well-structured curriculum, along with access to a network of mentors and partners, opened new opportunities."*

**PRAVIN**  
Founder - Dextroware (ATF Cohort 5 Startup)



## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jawahar Bekay**

Executive Chairman,  
TAO Automation, Ex- Co-  
Founder & CEO, Microland &  
Planetasia



**Krishnamoorthy A**

Ex-VP, Head for Retail &  
CPG (Infosys)



**Prateek Madhav**

Co-Founder & CEO, ATF  
Ex-CEO, Samarthanam  
Ex-GM, Accenture



**Ravi Narayan**

Ex Global Director, Microsoft for Startups,  
Ex-Chief Innovation Office (CIO),  
State of Telangana



**Suryaprakash**

Ex-SVP, Digital Head  
(Infosys), Angel Investor

## THE TEAM



**Chahat Dubey**

Head, Partnerships, Programs & Research



**Shaon Chatterjee**

Lead, Communications & Outreach



**Sarthak Bhardwaj**

Project Lead



**Deepali Prabhu**

Program Manager



**Ramesh N**

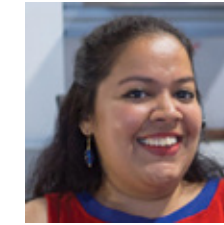
Office Manager

## FRIENDS OF ATF



**Arshad Sayyad**

Co-founder & CBO  
At StackGen



**Deepa Narasimhan**

D&I Champion 'Startup Evangelist',  
Associate Director, Deloitte



**Divyanshu Ganatra**

Founder, Adventures Beyond  
Barriers Foundation (ABBF)



**Gayatri Vasudevan**

Chief Impact Officer at  
Sambhav Foundation &  
Chairperson at LabourNet



**Girish Kamath**

Former VP & Managing  
Director At Picsart



**Manish Dugar**

Former CFO, Mphasis,  
Practo & Wipro-



**Manohar Swaminathan**

Principal Researcher at  
Microsoft Research India



**Mukta Kulkarni**

Mphasis Chair for Digital  
Accessibility and Inclusion,  
IIM Bangalore



**Naganand Doraswamy**

Managing Director & Founder,  
Ideaspring Capital



**Parag Dhol**

General Partner,  
Athera Venture Partners



**Pete Horsley**

Founder, Remarkable Tech,  
Australia



**Pravin Rao**

Ex COO & Member of Board at  
Infosys Ltd



**Raj Parthasarathy**

Ex Executive Director,  
Morgan Stanley, Co-founder  
& CTO, CreditNirvana



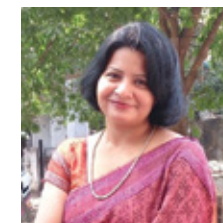
**Raj Rajkumar**

Ex Site Lead & CSR Head, TE  
Connectivity



**Prof Rishikesh T Krishnan**

Director, IIM Bangalore



**Rumi Mallick Mitra**

Director CSR, EY



**Sandeep Alur**

CTO, Microsoft Innovation  
Hub, India



**Sandhya Vasudevan**

ID, Ex-MD Deutsche Bank &  
Thomson Reuters



**Savio D Souza**

Ex-Vice President & Head,  
Infosys Labs



**Shekhar Naik**

Padma Shri Awardee &  
Former Captain Of Indian  
Blind Cricket Team



**Shiva Jayagopal**

Chairman, WinVinaya  
Foundation



**Subrahmanyam Ivatury**

CEO & Co-Founder, Social  
Convergence



**Suryanarayana A**

Start-up Consultant,  
Former COO, NSRCEL,  
IIM-Bangalore



**Vikas Revankar**

Head of Business Integration,  
MilliporeSigma



**V S Basavaraju**

Head, Education & Project Management,  
The Karnataka Welfare Association for  
the Blind, Bangalore

**NOTES**

**NOTES**



---

***Everybody has the Ability  
to change Disability.***

---



**Annual Report - Year 2023-24**

**Registered Address:**

Flat# D503, Nandi Woods Apartments  
No.67/1, Yelenahalli, Begur Hobli, SOS  
Village Post  
Off Bannerghatta Road  
Bengaluru (Karnataka) – 560076

---

 @atf.labs

 AssisTech Foundation (ATF)

 assistechfoundationatf4992



[www.atflabs.org](http://www.atflabs.org)