



AYJNISHD(D), Mumbai Signs MoU with Ridlan AI Foundation on the Eve of World Autism Awareness Day

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The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (D), an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ridlan AI Foundation on Wednesday (1st April 2026) in Mumbai. The MoU was formally signed by Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD(D), Mumbai, and Mr. Akshay Ridlan, Founder, Ridlan AI Foundation, in the presence of senior officials of the Institute, along with key stakeholders from government, healthcare, technology, and the social sector.

The MoU was signed on the eve of World Autism Awareness Day. The collaboration marks a significant milestone in leveraging cutting-edge technology and artificial intelligence to enhance the quality of life of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Under this partnership, the Ridlan AI Foundation will integrate its flagship initiatives, such as Project Chetna and MilaapSetu, with the institutional expertise and nationwide outreach of AYJNISHD(D). The collaboration aims to develop a scalable digital ecosystem to strengthen safety, accessibility, and real-time support for vulnerable populations.

The initiative focuses on deploying QR-enabled smart identity systems that allow instant access to essential medical, behavioural, and emergency information, ensuring timely and effective support. It also involves the development of AI-powered tools designed to enhance communication, enable early intervention, and assist caregivers in providing better care. To ensure widespread impact, the plan includes implementing nationwide frameworks through collaborations with institutional networks, NGOs, and government agencies. Ultimately, this effort is driven by a long-term vision to positively impact the lives of over 10 million Persons with Disabilities across India.

This partnership aligns with India's broader vision of digital inclusion and accessible healthcare, reinforcing the importance of public-private partnerships in addressing critical social challenges through innovation.



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