



## Why remember UN International Days?

'International Days' predates the United Nations, but they use them as a powerful advocacy tool. It is an opportunity to:

- ✚ *Celebrate the achievements of humanity.*
- ✚ *Educate the public about important issues.*
- ✚ *Help support and address global problems.*

## What is Dis-ability?

A disability is a condition or impairment relating to the body or mind, which makes it difficult for the person to engage in certain activities or interactions within the world. The notion of dis-ability challenges our communities, which are still predominantly geared towards "abled" bodied persons.

## UN Historic Context:

The Decade of Disabled Persons (1982-1991) was promoted by the UN to enable governments to implement measures to improve the lives of "**disabled persons**". The international awareness day commenced on 3rd December 1992. However, in 2008, the UN changed the name to "**Persons with Disabilities**", so the burden of the medicalised model was removed from the individual. The **social model of disability** became more accepted in making public spaces more accessible to all.



## The Focus:

**To raise awareness** of issues that impact people with disabilities, particularly relating to worldly disasters, where children and adults have lost their limbs and sense of freedom.

**To encourage participation** through events such as an Art Exhibition or Performing Arts to promote artists with disabilities.

**To promote the rights** and wellbeing of persons with

disabilities, especially in education, the workplace, and the public domain. **To educate and enable people without disabilities to understand those who have a disability by promoting inclusion, reasonable adjustments, and real diversity in the world.**



## Did you know?

- ✚ 80% of the one billion persons with disabilities live in developing countries.
- ✚ 46% of people aged 60 and over have a disability.
- ✚ 1 in every 5 women are likely to experience disability in their lifetime.
- ✚ 1 in every 10 children have a disability.
- ✚ Persons with disabilities are among the hardest hit by COVID-19.