**Diluting boundaries for all....**

**International conference on mobility for disabled persons begins in Delhi today**

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/diluting-boundaries-for-all/article3905543.ece)

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Delhi will see a congregation of mobility and transportation experts, academicians, researchers from over 45 countries discussing and sharing the research work, best practices in accessibility, universal design in public infrastructure and transport systems at the 13th International Conference on Mobility and Transport and for Elderly and Disabled Persons being hosted by Svayam, an initiative by Sminu Jindal charitable trust, from this Monday to Thursday here in the Capital.

The Delhi Government and the Ministry of Urban Development along with the Ministry of Transport and Tourism and Canadian Transportation Agency are supporting the conference in association with Transportation Research Board of the US. A total of 120 papers will be presented in 21 parallel sessions, 3 plenary sessions and two panel discussions. Eminent speakers from across the globe alongside some of the nation’s leading personalities will be gracing the conference. The main theme of the TRANSED 2012 is “Seamless Access for All: Universal design for transport systems and infrastructure as a key element in the creation of livable cities.”

The TRANSED series of conferences are triennial conferences designed to review advances in research, profile international breakthroughs, and explore perspectives for technological innovations in response to the mobility challenges of an ageing population and persons with disabilities. It also aims to examine ways to address challenges associated with improving mobility and transportation needs for the elderly and disabled.

The conference will bring in best practices in accessibility and challenges in making that possible from across the world and we are sure that it would encourage the development of policies and practices in this region to ensure that achievements on accessibility are sustainable and meaningful,” Sminu Jindal chair-International Steering Committee, TRANSED 2012, and Svayam founder said in a statement here.

“Happiness comes through the ability to lead a life of independence and dignity and it is particularly true for those who have been traditionally thought to be dependent on others due to variations in abilities. TRANSED is all about providing mobility solutions so that each one of us can be a part of the social milieu and each one of us can be independent and celebrate life,” she said.

Delhi is seen as probably one of the most accessible cities in the country, as it offers some of the most accessible modes of transport systems in the country, a strong fleet of low-floor buses and metro rail. The only way to encourage people to shift from private vehicles to any public mode of transport is by enhancing the walkability of the city by incorporating safe uniform accessible pedestrian infrastructure like sidewalks, zebra crossings at regular intervals,” said Svayam Director Abha Negi.

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