Taj Cidade de Goa – Heritage hosts panel on inclusive skilling and accessibility

To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPwD), Taj Cidade de Goa – Heritage hosted a panel discussion that brought together educators, technologists, accessibility champions, and IHCL Goa leadership. Guided by IHCL's ABLE Framework, the dialogue emphasized building an inclusive, future-ready ecosystem that links early education, emotional well-being, and AI-enabled skilling to meaningful employment for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Educators stress early inclusion and classroom-to-career pathways

Speakers underscored the need to embed inclusion from the earliest stages of learning.
Neetal Amonkar, Member Secretary, Sanjay Centre for Special Education, delivered a compelling keynote on the "Classroom to Career" continuum. She highlighted the need to strengthen foundational learning, expand real-world exposure, and ensure that every student is confident, prepared, and supported as they transition into the workforce.

Academic insights on scalable inclusion ecosystems

Dr Aanchal Gupta, Assistant Professor and Member, Centre for Social Sensitivity & Action (CSSA), Goa Institute of Management, offered an academic perspective on inclusion. She stressed the importance of curriculum innovation, sensitivity training, and industry–academia collaboration in creating a scalable and sustainable Skill Lens ecosystem for Goa.

IHCL Goa champions accessible hospitality career pathways

Representing the hospitality sector,
Hemant Jaiswal, Area Director – Human Resources, IHCL Goa, reiterated IHCL's commitment to co-developing vocational modules with educational institutions. These modules are supported by guided internships, visual learning aids, and accessible workplace environments. He highlighted IHCL Goa's pilot initiative, which successfully mapped 45 PwD profiles to 11 viable job roles,

demonstrating the ABLE Framework's effectiveness both socially and operationally.

AI-enabled tools unlock personalized pathways to inclusion

Technologist Syam Ivaturi of Disha AI showcased how adaptive, inclusive AI solutions can support diverse learning needs, simplify operational training, and enhance digital accessibility across hospitality functions. He also emphasized how AI-driven skill identification and role mapping enable organizations to align individual capabilities with job-specific requirements—creating highly personalized pathways to inclusion and workforce participation.

IHCL leadership reinforces inclusion as a strategic advantage

Closing the discussion,
Ranjit Phillipose, Sr Vice President – Operations, IHCL Goa, reaffirmed that inclusion is not just a responsibility but a strategic advantage that strengthens teams, culture, and brand purpose. He stated, "Our greatest strength lies in our people, and our ABLE network reflects our belief that every individual brings unique talent and value. At IHCL Goa, inclusion is not an initiative; it is the way we choose to shape the future of hospitality."