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Deafblind Women Demand Visibility, Census Accuracy and Leadership in Chennai



CHENNAI – 6 Nov, 2026 Sense International India, in collaboration with The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN), organised a press conference at Chennai Press Club to highlight the need for accurate identification of people with deafblindness in Census 2027, accessible information and greater leadership opportunities for women with deafblindness.

Four women from Sense India's Udaan Network, a national network of approximately 280 adults with deafblindness across 25 states, shared their journeys and aspirations with the media. The speakers were Ganga (27), from Bathery, Wayanad, an independent professional; Vaishnavi, who is undergoing vocational training in tailoring and embroidery at SPASTN; Syed Ali Fathima (25), a Master's degree holder in English from Queen Mary's College, preparing for competitive examinations; and Yasmin Babu, who is developing her independence through tailoring and vocational skills. Fathima has also completed internships with Sense International India.

The speakers emphasised that accurate representation in Census 2027, accessible information, assistive technology and equal opportunities are essential to improving the lives of people with deafblindness. Uttam Kumar, CEO, Sense International India, highlighted that women with deafblindness must be recognised as leaders, advocates and decision-makers rather than merely beneficiaries of services. The press conference also sensitised journalists to the importance of respectful reporting and the inclusion of people with deafblindness in policies and decision-making.