

Introduction to Digital Accessibility

Towards Inclusion Seminar
July 25, 2026

आषाढ शुद्ध एकादशी

Prof. Swaroop Joshi

Associate Professor

Department of Computer Science and Information Systems

swaroopjoshi.in



BITS Pilani
K K Birla Goa Campus

The Curb Cut Effect

**When we design intentionally for disability,
we create innovations that empower
everybody.**



What is digital accessibility

Digital Accessibility (a11y)

refers to the inclusive practice of removing **barriers** that prevent people with disabilities from interacting with or accessing websites, digital tools, and technologies.

Under India's RPWD Act 2016 & Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan,

public digital platforms are legally required to remove digital barriers for all citizens.



What are some potential barriers in accessing digital artifacts?

Visual

Auditory & Motor

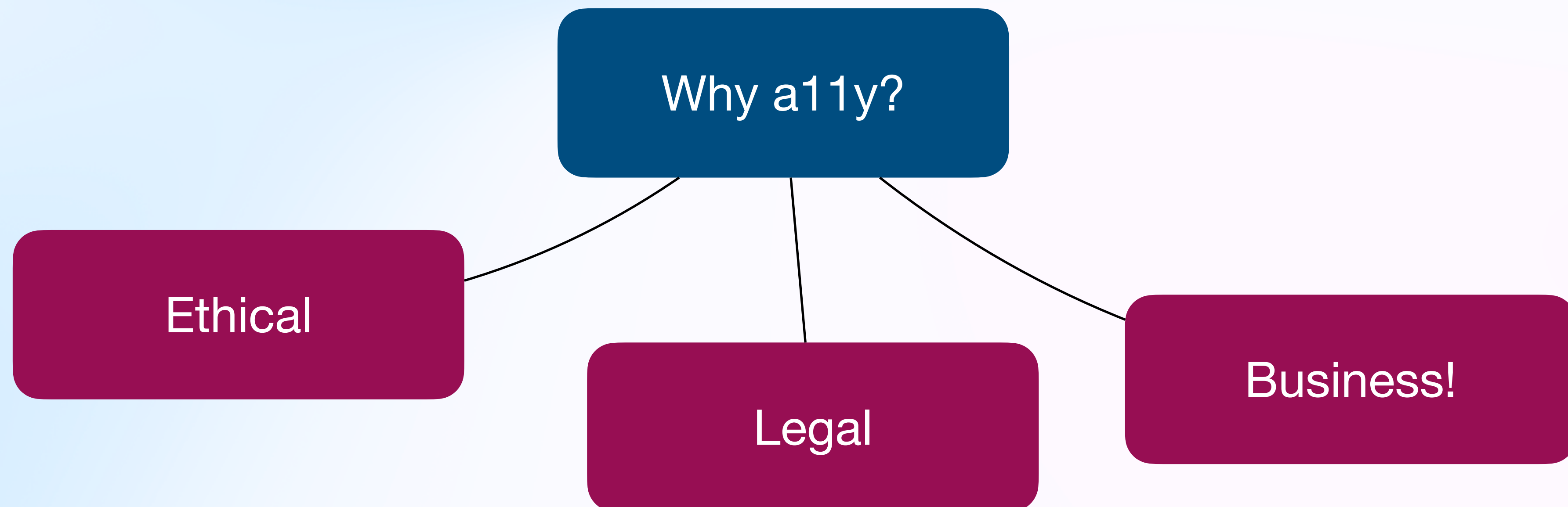
Cognitive &
Language

The Persona Spectrum

Permanent — Being visually impaired or blind

Temporary — Fracturing a wrist due to a small accident

Situational — Using your phone while holding an umbrella ☂



4 Habits You Can Start Today!

Add Alt-Text everywhere: Images in social media posts, Slide decks

Check your contrast: Avoid light grey or yellow text on white backgrounds

Add Auto-Captions to videos: Enable captions on reels, project videos

Use Proper Headings in Docs: Heading levels in GDocs/Word instead of “bold”

Some useful tools

Axe and Lighthouse — Chrome browser plugins

<https://www.a11yjobs.com/>

<https://www.learndigitalaccessibility.com/>

Thank you!

Prof. Swaroop Joshi

Associate Professor

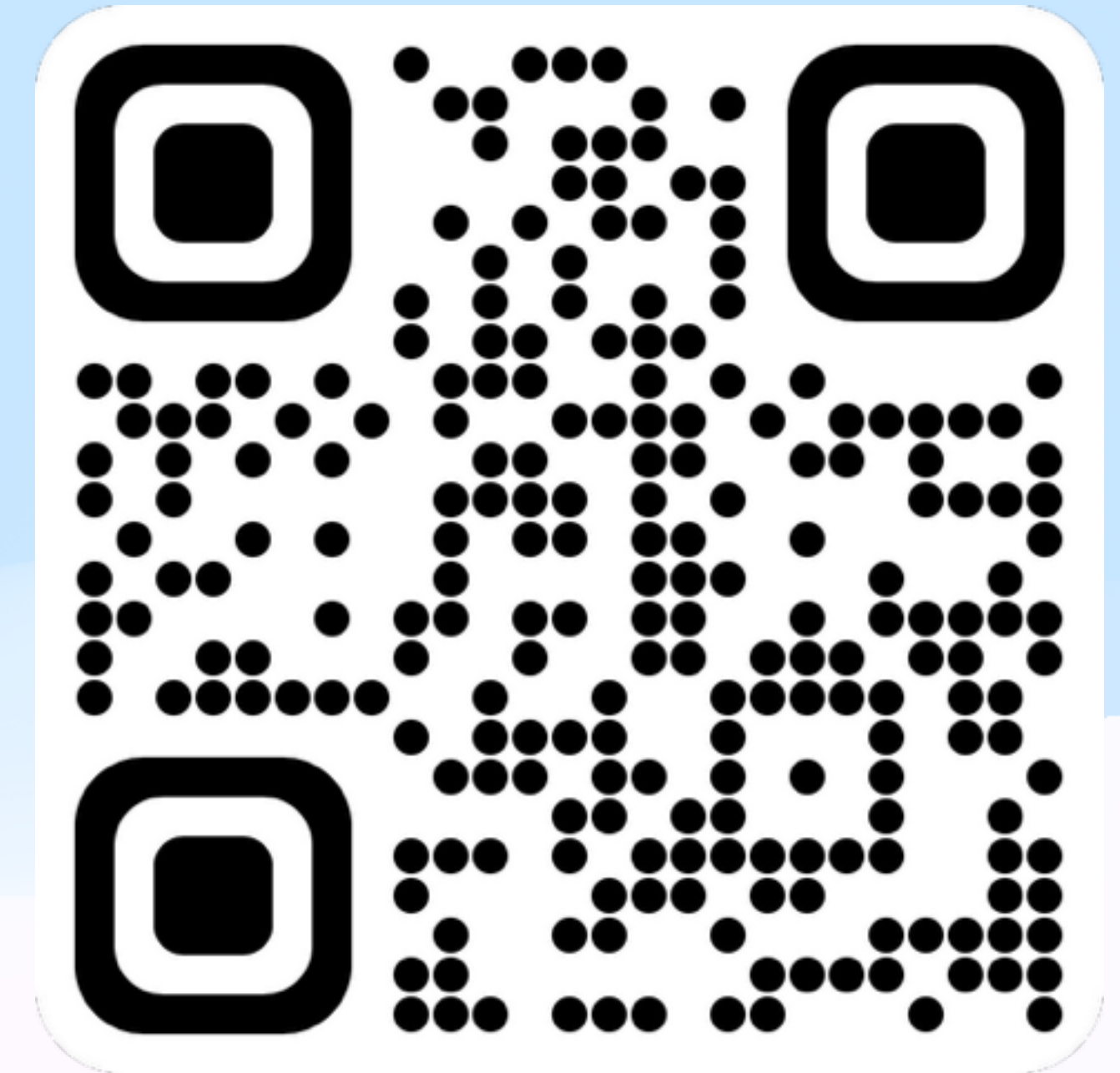
Department of Computer Science and Information Systems



 swaroopj@goa.bits-pilani.ac.in

 swaroopjoshi.in

 @swaroopjcse



**Always looking for interested
students and collaborators!**