



# NEW DELHI DEAF & DUMB CLUB



# 13<sup>th</sup>

*My good wishes  
for the success of  
the annual day  
celebrations of the  
New Delhi  
Deaf and Dumb  
Club.*

*Indira Gandhi*  
(Indira Gandhi)

# ANNUAL DAY

15TH MAY 1974

**They take all  
they want  
from us...**



**...leaving us only  
with a big name**



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सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रपति भवन, नई दिल्ली-110004

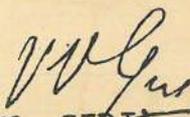
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN,

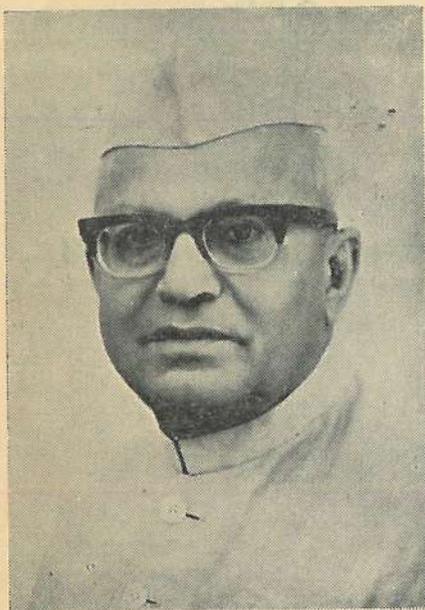
NEW DELHI-110004

April 8, 1974.



Service to the cause of the Deaf and Dumb is a real act of compassion and love. I offer my congratulations to the members and inmates of the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club on the occasion of its 13th anniversary and send my best wishes for the success of its humanitarian endeavours.

  
(V. V. GIRI)



उप राष्ट्रपति, भारत  
नई दिल्ली  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
INDIA  
NEW DELHI

April 24, 1974

I am glad to learn that the New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club has completed thirteen years of service to handicapped persons by providing them the necessary educational, training, recreational and rehabilitation facilities.

On the occasion of the celebration of its thirteenth Annual Day I send my felicitations to the Club and wish it continued success in its humanitarian task.

(G. S. Pathak)



सत्यमेव जयते

PRIME MINISTER  
NEW DELHI,  
April 3, 1974.



Dear Shrimati Premalabai Chavan,

I have your letter of April 1.

With a little help and training, handicapped people can give much to society. My good wishes for the success of the annual day celebrations of the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club and your efforts to raise funds for the work of the Club.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Indira Gandhi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.  
(Indira Gandhi)

Shrimati Premalabai Chavan, M. P,  
C2-47 Shahjahan Road,  
New Delhi.

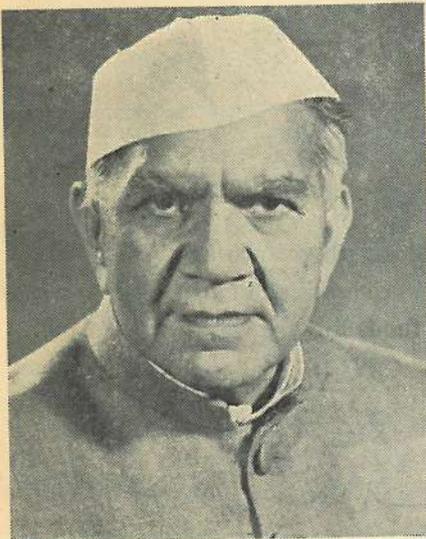
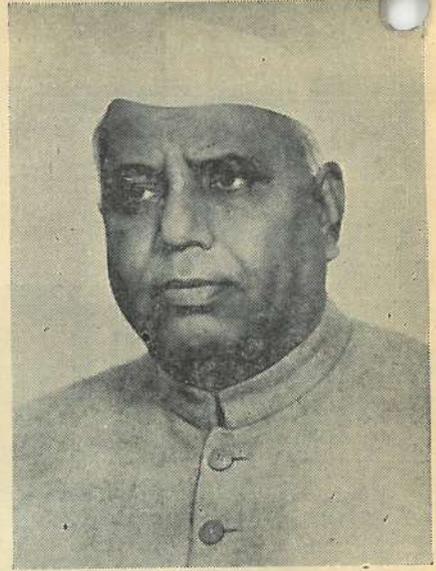
वित्त मन्त्री, भारत  
FINANCE MINISTER  
INDIA

New Delhi.  
April 8, 1974.

I am glad to know that the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club proposes to celebrate its 13th Annual Day on 12th May, 1974. I expect that the celebrations will succeed in exhibiting the courage and confidence of the deaf and dumb and in promoting greater public association with the efforts to make them useful members of the society.

My good wishes.

(Y. B. Chavan)



कृषि मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
NEW DELHI-110001

April 22, 1974

M A S S A G E

The mere fact of being deaf and dumb should not deprive one of the legitimate place in society. It is the duty of each one of us to ensure through behaviour that the deaf and dumb are not allowed to suffer because of handicaps. The New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club has taken the task upon itself to provide educational training, recreational and rehabilitational facilities to this section of the society. I offer my greetings to them on their having completed 13 years of useful service.

(F. A. AHMED)



औद्योगिक विकास तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिक मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTER OF  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
नई दिल्ली,  
New Delhi, the April 8, 1974

MESSAGE

The useful work which the Deaf and Dumb Club of New Delhi is doing for the handicapped persons is praiseworthy. I am happy to learn that the Club is celebrating its 13th Annual Day on May 12, 1974.

I wish the celebrations all success and send my good wishes to the Club.

(C. Subramaniam)



नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री  
नई दिल्ली  
(भारत)

MINISTER OF  
SHIPPING & TRANSPORT  
NEW DELHI  
(INDIA)

April 3, 1974.

Dear Shrimati Chavan Ji,

I am grateful for your letter dated the 1st April 1974, regarding your selfless service to Capital's Deaf & Dumb. It is really a very noble and pious cause that you have undertaken to serve and I extend my sincerest wishes for the success of your mission.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Kamlapati Tripathi)

भारी उद्योग मंत्री  
भारत  
MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY  
INDIA  
New Delhi-110011  
April 9, 1974.



MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the New Deaf & Club has completed 13 years of its useful existence. The task of rehabilitating the deaf and dumb is a challenging one and the Club has acquitted itself creditably in this field.

I wish the Club all success in its efforts.

(T. A. Pai)

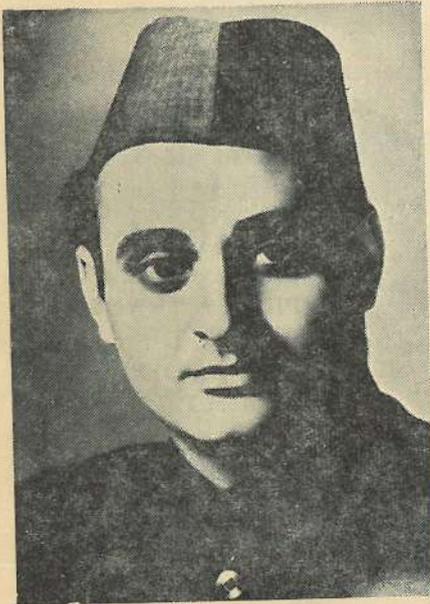


स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार नियोजन मंत्री

भारत

नई दिल्ली-११००११

MINISTER OF  
HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING  
INDIA  
New Delhi-110011



New Delhi, the  
April 5, 1974.

MESSAGE

India has made rapid progress in the field of medical education and medical care since Independence, but a great deal remains to be done in this sphere. In particular, prevalent attitudes towards physical disabilities need careful revision. The rehabilitation of handicapped persons as useful citizens of society is one of the fundamental challenges faced by those working in the field of health services in the country. I commend the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club for its good work and wish it all success.

(KARAN SINGH)



MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
& COMPANY AFFAIRS

New Delhi,  
April 10, 1974.

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club has completed thirteen years of selfless service to the deaf and dumb in the Capital. They are celebrating Thirteenth Annual Day on 12th May 1974 and are also bringing out a Souvenir on this occasion. I wish the celebrations and the Souvenir all success.

(H. R. Gokhale)



पूर्ति और पुनर्वासि मंत्री,  
भारत

नई दिल्ली-११००११

MINISTER OF  
SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION  
INDIA

New Delhi-110011

April 16, 1974

MESSAGE

I send my greetings to the New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club on the the occasion of their 13th Annual Day on May 12, 1974. Holding of Annual Day Celebrations by an institution provides an occasion for evaluating the work done in the past and also to programme for the future course of action. I am glad to say that the New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club have endeavoured to render excellent service for the cause of deaf and dumb in the Capital. Their efforts need all encouragement and support from one and all. I have no doubt that the Club will receive unstinted co-operation from the people of various walks of life. I wish the 13th Annual Day celebrations of the New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club all success.

(R. K. Khadilkar)



सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTER  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
INDIA

MESSAGE

It is the duty of the society to help those who have been denied physical and mental faculties so that their handicaps may be minimised to the largest extent possible. I am, therefore, happy to find that the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club has been performing commendable service in the Capital over a decade and is celebrating its annual day soon. I am sure this institution will receive encouraging support from the citizens of this metropolis.

I wish their function every success.

(I. K. Gujral)



उप मंत्री  
सूचना और प्रसारण  
भारत  
DEPUTY MINISTER  
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING  
INDIA

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club is celebrating its 13th Annual Day on the 12th of May, 1974. The Club has been doing laudable work in the field of education, vocational training and rehabilitation of the handicapped. By such activities the Club has been making these unfortunate persons socially acceptable and enable them to earn for themselves; rather than be a burden on the society.

My good wishes for the success of the Annual Day programme and also for still better performance in the year to come.

(Dharam Bir Sinha)



राज्य मंत्री

पर्यटन तथा नगर विमानन मंत्रालय

नई दिल्ली

MINISTER OF STATE

MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION

NEW DELHI



I am happy to send my good wishes to the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club on the occasion of its Annual Day function on 12th May.

The Club has been rendering a yeoman's service to the deaf and dumb community in providing educational training and making them useful members of the Society. Steps to rehabilitate them will be another feather in their cap.

I wish it all success.

(Sarojini Mahishi)



प्रत्यक्ष जयते

C. ACHUTHA MENON  
CHIEF MINISTER OF KERALA

APRIL 9, 1974.

#### MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club is celebrating its 13th Annual Day shortly and that a Souvenir is to be published to mark the occasion.

I send my good wishes,

C ACHUTHA MENON  
Chief Minister

CHIEF MINISTER  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Jammu-Tawi,  
April 10, 1974.

Dear Shrimati Chavan,

Thanks for your letter No. 79 dated 8-4-1974. I am pleased to learn that 'New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club' is celebrating its annual day shortly and to mark this event a Souvenir is being brought out which will contain useful knowledge for deaf and dumb persons. In our society generally adequate attention is not paid to such people who might be invalid or incapacitated because of any reason and as such your Club's efforts are laudable.

With best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,

(Mir Qasim)



LUCKNOW

April 23, 1974

I am glad to know that the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club is going to celebrate its thirteenth Annual Day. The Club is engaged in a great humanitarian and praiseworthy pursuit. The task of rehabilitating the deaf and dumb and making them useful members of society is by no means an easy one. I am sure that the people, conscious their duty towards their unfortunate brethren, will assist the Club in every way to further of the mission it has undertaken.

I wish the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club every success.

(H. N. Bahuguna)



सत्यमेव जयते

SACHIVALAYA,  
GANDHINAGAR, (Gujarat) 382016.

April 25, 1974

MESSAGE

It gives me pleasure to learn that the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club is undertaking activities that would enable the physically handicapped to live a near normal life.

Being born deaf and dumb should not deprive an individual of the opportunity of bringing out the best within him. With the rapid advance in modern technology and science, it should be possible to enable the less fortunate members of our society to become self-reliant. This is exactly what the Club is trying to do and I wish it all success in its noble efforts.

(H. C. Sarin)



VIDHANA SOUDHA  
BANGALORE-1

MESSAGE

The tendency to treat the deaf and the dumb as social outcasts and dismiss their disabilities as part of their destiny is slowly disappearing, thanks mainly to medical research and to untiring efforts of institutions like yours. It is common knowledge that the deaf and the dumb are not inferior in intellect or aptitude for work. Given the proper opportunity and environment, many of these persons have proved themselves on a par with the rest of the people.

I am well aware of the good work being done by the New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club for the welfare of these unfortunate people. I extend to you my greetings and good wishes on the occasion of celebrating the 13th Annual Day of the Club.

(D. Devaraj Urs)

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**Dr. Surya Prakash Puri**

The year gone by has been an eventful one. We had our ups and downs, successes and failures, netted some gains and met with losses as well. A mixed bag indeed.

On the credit side are our achievements, the unstinted support that we were able to evoke from all sections except of course the Government which continues to be indifferent. Our opening of Training-cum Work Centre and maintaining other regular facilities at an expanded scale are also noted. On the debit side the worst was exhausting our limited resources half way through the year by taking up various projects in anticipation of Government aid which did not materialise, so also our failure to start our most ambitious projec.—Speech Therapy Clinic.

But God willing and given your powerful support we will attend to the remaining work during current year. I am grateful to my friends, especially Shri S. R. Damaniji M.P. and Shri T. P. Bhagatji who have once again lent me their powerful support in my humble work. Shrimati Premalabai Chavan M. P. our Executive President has proved a tower of strength and much of the success of the Club is due to her untiring efforts. We are all thankful to her.

I am often asked why we do not have a proper name instead of Club so that it can truly signify our multifarious activities. My answer has been that what is in a name? Rose by any other name would be as beautiful and as sweet. It is the work that really matters. However, due note has been taken of the advice of our well wishers.

Our Hony. Secretary has already given in his report published elsewhere an idea of the various projects now to be launched by the Club. I can only seek your blessings and support. For me at any rate it has been a very rewarding experience to be associated with this organisation. I invite my other friends to share this never to be forgotten experience.

I am also grateful to you all who are present here as also to those who have lent their moral and material support, which I value most. It will be my endeavour to merit this support in future as well.

## कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष

का

संदेश



श्रीमती पी० चव्हाण  
संसद सदस्य

प्रतिस्पर्द्धा के इस युग में जब आगे बढ़ने की होड़ लगी हुई है तो अपंगों का उसमें पिछड़ जाना स्वाभाविक ही है। अपंगों में भी सबसे दयनीय स्थिति मूक बधिरों की है क्योंकि उनकी अक्षमता शारीरिक न हो कर मानसिक और बौद्धिक क्षमता को प्रभावित करने वाली होती है। मूक-बधिर बाहरी रूप से पूर्णतः स्वस्थ और सक्षम दिखाई देते हैं। कोई अंग-भंग न होने के कारण अपंगों के प्रति जो सहज स्वाभाविक करुणा या सहानुभूति उत्पन्न होती है उससे भी वे वंचित रह जाते हैं। वास्तविकता तो यह है कि श्रवण शक्ति के अभाव में ये बोलने की शक्ति से भी वंचित रह जाते हैं और इस अक्षमता के कारण इनका सहज स्वाभाविक बौद्धिक और मानसिक विकास कुण्ठित हो जाता है।

जहां सुनने वाले अशिक्षित रह कर भी बोल-चाल की भाषा सीख लेते हैं—सांसारिक व्यवहार और आचरण समझ लेते हैं वहाँ इन मूक-बधिरों को अपना नाम तक समझना सीखना पड़ता है। शिक्षा के माध्यम से ही इनका संसार से और समाज से सम्पर्क बनाए रखा जा सकता है। अतः वह आवश्यक है कि मूक बधिरों में महज दस्तकारी की शिक्षा ही प्रचलित नहीं होनी चाहिए। उन्हें भाषा और संस्कृति की पूरी शिक्षा देनी भी उतनी ही आवश्यक है। बिना भाषा-ज्ञान के मूक-बधिर परिवार और समाज से तादम्य स्थापित नहीं कर सकते। अतः मैं पूरे जोर से कहूँगी कि मूक-बधिरों में भी भाषा शिक्षा का पूरा प्रचार होना चाहिए। तभी वे सोच समझ सकेंगे और पूर्ण बौद्धिक विकास को प्राप्त हो सकेंगे। मुझे हर्ष है कि हमारी छोटी ही सही यह संस्था इस दिशा में प्रयत्नशील है।

आज की यदि हम अतीत से तुलना करें तो हम पायेंगे कि स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद इन पच्चीस वर्षों में मूक-बधिरों की स्थिति में पर्याप्त सुधार हुआ है। अब ये सम्मान पूर्ण जीवन व्यतीत कर सकते हैं, अपने पैरों पर खड़े हो सकते हैं और समाज के उपयोगी अंग सिद्ध हो रहे हैं। यह ठीक है कि सुधार बांछित स्थिति तक नहीं हो पाया। पर इसके लिए तो मूक-बधिरों की विशिष्ट अक्षमता और प्रचलित सामाजिक स्थितियां भी उतनी ही उत्तरदायी है। सरकार अपना दायित्व निभा रही है। हमें स्वयं प्रयास कर के सरकार के हाथ भजबूत करने चाहिए। स्वावलम्बी होना चाहिए।

मैं स्वयं अपने अनुभव से कह सकती हूँ कि मूक-बधिरों की मुख्य समस्याएँ हैं : शिक्षा के साधनों की कमी, प्रशिक्षण का अभाव और रोजगार की व्यवस्था। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में अभी बहुत कुछ करना है। उच्च माध्यमिक स्तर तक शिक्षा की तो इनके लिए अभी तक कल्पना ही नहीं की गई है। प्राथमिक शिक्षा और दस्तकारी में प्रशि-

क्षण यहीं हो पाया है। यह व्यवस्था बीसियों वर्ष पहले भले ही ठीक रही हो—आज के जमाने को और नवीनतम जानकारी को देखते हुए अर्ध-उद्योगी ही है। मैं जैसा बता चुकी हूँ पूर्ण भाषा ज्ञान के बिना इनका पूरा बौद्धिक विकास नहीं हो सकता और दस्तकारी सीख कर आजीविका की समस्या येन केन प्रकारेण भले ही हल कर लें एक सामान्य मानव की हंसी खुशी भरी जिन्दगी नहीं जी सकते और न ही अपने हम-मानवों के साथ तादम्य स्थापित कर सकते हैं।

जहाँ शिक्षा की यह स्थिति है कि भारत भर में मूक-बधिरों के लिए एक भी उच्च माध्यमिक स्तर का विद्यालय नहीं है और कुल मिलाकर देश भर में ५०-६० प्राथमिक या बहुत हुआ तो माध्यमिक स्तर तक की पाठ-शालाएँ हैं वहाँ प्रशिक्षण के साधन तो इतने भी नहीं हैं। भारत भर में वयस्क मूक-बधिरों के लिए एक मात्र प्रशिक्षण संस्था हैदराबाद में है जो समस्या का एक अंश भी हल नहीं कर सकती है। प्रशिक्षण के अभाव में आज चारों ओर फौजी बेकारी के युग में खुली स्पृद्धा में अन्य सुनने वाले व्यक्तियों से टक्कर ले स्थान प्राप्त कर लेना इनके लिए असंभव ही है। अतः जहाँ अधिक प्रशिक्षण स्थान खोलने की आवश्यकता है वहाँ यह भी जरूरी है कि मूक-बधिरों के लिए—पिछड़े वर्ग की तरह नौकरियों में स्थान सुरक्षित कर दिये जायँ।

कहने को तो अपंगों के लिए विशेष रोजगार कार्यालय हैं पर वहाँ के अधिकारी और कार्यकर्ता न तो इन मूक-बधिरों की 'भाषा' समझ सकते हैं न सम्पर्क स्थापित कर सकते हैं। फलतः इन रोजगार कार्यालयों से मूक-बधिरों को जितना लाभ मिलना चाहिए उतना नहीं मिलता है। मेरे अधिकांश सदस्य रोजगार की सहायता मांगने मेरे पास आते हैं। मैं हर सम्भव उनकी सहायता करती भी हूँ पर मेरी स्वयं की सीमाएँ हैं जब कि एक सुव्यवस्थित रोजगार कार्यालय यह काम सहज ही कर सकता है। मैं सरकार को सुझाव दूँगी कि इन अपंगों के रोजगार कार्यालयों में पढ़े-लिखे मूक-बधिरों को भी उचित स्थान दे जिससे वे रोजगार के प्रार्थियों और अधिकारियों की बीच सम्पर्क की कड़ी का काम कर सकें।

अब अपनी संस्था के बारे में दो शब्द कह दूँ। हमारा संकल्प है कि हम मूक-बधिरों की अधिकतम सेवा करेंगे और इस संस्था को स्थायित्व प्रदान करेंगे। आगामी वर्षों में मेरा प्रयास होगा कि संस्था का अपना स्थान ही जहाँ शिक्षा, प्रशिक्षण, मनोरंजन आदि के सभी कार्यक्रम सुचारू और सुव्यवस्थित रूप से चलाये जा सकें। मनोरंजन भी जीवन का एक अनिवार्य भाग है पर मैं बौद्धिक और मानसिक विकास के कार्यक्रमों को प्राथमिकता दूँगी। रोजगार प्राप्ति के हेतु एक निश्चित कार्यक्रम अपनाने की भी मेरी एक योजना है। इस संदर्भ में मैं अपनी सहकारी संस्था का उल्लेख करूँगी जिसकी गत वर्ष स्थापना कर ली गई थी। मुझे आशा है हमारी यह सहकारी संस्था बेरोजगारी दूर करने में सहायक होगी।

अन्त में मैं अपने मित्रों और सहयोगी संसद-सदस्यों श्री मोहन सिंह जी औबेरोय, श्री एस० एल० गुप्ता, श्री सीता राम जी जयपुरिया, श्री एम० के० मोहता, एवं श्री कृष्ण कुमार बिरला को धन्यवाद दूँगी जिनके उन्मुक्त सहयोग से ही आज यह आयोजन सफल हो सका है। अन्य जिन-जिन सज्जनों ने हमारी अपील पर विज्ञापन देकर हमें अपना योगदान दिया है उनके प्रति भी मैं आभारी हूँ। अपने सदस्यों में सर्व श्री रमेश गुप्त अवैतनिक मंत्री, कमल मेहरा, कोषाध्यक्ष एवं जसवन्त सिंह, सहायक सचिव का उल्लेख करना भी अपना कर्तव्य समझती हूँ क्योंकि उनकी दौड़-धूप ही के फल स्वरूप यह आयोजन सम्भव हो सका है।





**S. Mohinder Singh Gill, M.P.**

## **Vice-Chairman's Message**

Problems of deaf and dumb are no doubt complex but with a little bit of will and determination these can be easily solved. This has been amply demonstrated in various advanced countries where the deaf and dumb are leading normal lives as useful citizens.

In India also, much has been accomplished in this respect during the post-Independence era. It is of course admitted that all that was necessary has not been fully accomplished mainly because of colossal magnitude of problem and limited resource of the Government, which has to ensure simultaneous growth and progress of all sections of the society, not just of the physically handicapped.

It is here that organisations such as ours, the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club can play significant role and supplement governmental efforts to a great extent to ensure growth with social justice. I am happy that inspite of paucity of resources, our Club is rendering yeoman's service to the cause of deaf and dumb.

During the past 13 years of its existence, the Club may not have been able to achieve any major break-through but this hardly matters much. That it has completed 13 years in the service of this most neglected yet most deserving section of our society is in itself of utmost significance. I am confident that during the coming years also, the Club will continue to champion the cause of deaf and dumb and help in making them self-reliant and self-supporting citizens.

Lastly, I would say to our workers that they are doing a splendid job and they must not feel discouraged if at all times things do not go as wanted. Their work is its own reward and sooner or later their efforts will win recognition. Meanwhile let us continue our work selflessly with strong will and determination, and with renewed vigour.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT



**Shri Ramesh M. Gupta**  
Honorary Secretary,

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to welcome you all to our 13th Annual Day Celebrations. Your presence gives us new inspiration and courage to rededicate our lives in the service of our fellow sufferers. I thank you all for your attending our function by sparing some time from your busy schedule. We are grateful.

The biggest event of the year 1973-74 was that we were able to enlist the powerful support of our Executive President, Shrimati Premalabai Chavan M.P., with out whose active participation in our day to day activities, I am doubtful if we could have done as much as we have actually done during the year gone by.

Other significant developments were that we were able to open a Training-cum-Work Centre for our members. We were also able to equip our office properly. It is however a sad commentary on our capabilities that we soon ran out of our limited funds and had to shut down the Training-cum-Work Centre. Our main fault, now as we look back appears our utmost reliance on Government aid which however did not materialise. Henceforth our efforts would be aimed at standing on our own legs.

Our Reading Room and Library too have proved very popular among our members. This service we have been able to continue uninterrupted, paucity of funds notwithstanding. However, the steep rise in cost of periodicals proved a great strain on our meagre resources and we had to reduce the number of publications purchased. Embassies and High Commissions come to our rescue by mailing us their most useful and informative publications free of charges. We are grateful to all the Embassies and Missions stationed in New Delhi but can not refrain from placing on record our special gratitude to the Cultural Departments of the Embassies of the U.S.A., and U.S.S.R.

Evening Classes run by us have also proved most popular. We are indeed indebted to Shri Ramesh Tuli, one of our senior members and a past General Secretary who has been regularly taking evening classes free of charges. The number of students too is increasing

day by day and we would be needing services of more capable teachers. Apart from teaching the three 'Rs' our emphasis is always on teaching lip reading and pronunciation. Slowly our efforts will be crowned with success, of this we are confident.

We had proposed to start a Speech Therapy Clinic. Unfortunately, instead of providing some funds of our own, we placed our reliance on Government aid. As often happens in such cases, the aid did not materialise and our Clinic remained only a project on paper. Similar was the fate of our proposal to set up a Studio for Deaf. However, we have now learnt our lesson and in future while planning our future course of action we would be more realistic and confine our projects to those items only which we can carry out through our own resources.

The spacious premises 68 Ashoka Road now fully placed at our disposal has solved our problem for suitable accommodation, for the time-being at any rate. We have also represented to the Government to regularise the allotment of the premises in our name and though our Executive President, Shrimati Chavan has taken up the matter with concerned Ministry, nothing much appears to have been done in the matter. The place is admirably suited for our needs and it is our cherished hope that Government will accede to our humble request.

Our sports and games activities continued unabated. Our cricket team has done quite well. In sports our members need more training. We are trying to get services of some qualified coach. Our annual programme for outing did not materialise mainly because instead of spending money on organising a holiday camp, we used it for opening our Work Centre. This year, God willing, we will organise a free holiday camp for our members in Himachal Pradesh.

Now let me tell you some thing about our dreams and aspirations. We wish to fully equip our Work Centre by securing other necessary equipment. A movie projector and a T.V. are also among the items which we have to acquire for our Members. Addition to our Library material is of paramount importance also. The Speech Therapy Clinic and Photo Studio must take shape this year. With your combined blessings we hope to be successful.

No doubt we have been able to secure jobs for some of our members but many are still waiting for some suitable opening. The Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped has not been able to extend any help to us. We will have to make extra efforts in this direction also. The main difficulty experienced by our members is that Government Departments have now started insisting that any applicant, be he or she even deaf and dumb must be Matriculate forgetting that deafs have not a single High School in the whole of the country. How then can they pass Matriculation? Also, there is a surfeit of normal persons in the employment market and before them deaf and dumb, unless some job reservation is made, stand no chance of ever gaining an opening. I would urge the Government, to reserve certain percentage of jobs for the physically handicapped; in case of deaf and dumb to relax the minimum educational qualification also.

I also wish to place on record our appreciation for what the College of Art, Delhi Administration has been able to do for deaf and dumb. Over half a dozen of our members have studied in it and after securing Diploma in Commercial Art are gainfully employed. But even this limited facility so far available is it seems, soon going to be denied to deaf and

dumb. With the introduction of Degree Examination instead of Diploma, the doors of the College are likely to be closed for deaf as only Higher Secondary passed persons will be admitted. This automatically bars deaf and dumb. I would appeal to Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of India to revise decision and permit two deafs to join the said College on year to year basis as has been done all these past years.

Reverting to our chronic problem of accomodation which has been hampering our activities, I would appeal to the Government, especially Hon'ble Shri Bhola Paswan Shastri to regularise allotment of 68 Ashoka Road in the name of the Club as it is most eminently suited for our purpose.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not place on record the sincere efforts made by the Club to forge unity with similar organisations of the deaf, for the second year running but without any tangible results. Executive Committees of Deaf and Dumb Association, Delhi Affiliated to All India Federation of Deaf and our Club's met jointly to thrash out the differences. But we found only lip sympathy and no sincere desire for unity among the bosses of the other party though the rank and file of that organisation is all for unity. It will appear a laughable matter to you gentlemen and ladies but the stumbling block in the path of unity proved the one and only request of the Club that it too should be given representation on the All India Bodies of the Deaf, now completely dominated by the representatives of Deaf and Dumb Association, Delhi. From among half a dozen of its nominees on the two All India Bodies, D.D.A. would have surely recalled one so as to make place for one of our nominees especially as we had agreed to merge completely with D.D.A. The plain fact appears that though they are willing to take us in their fold, they do not want to give any of us a position of some importance which they have been treating as private preserve all these years. Another date was fixed for joint meeting of the Executives which was attended in full strength by us but the other party showed its contempt by not attending the meeting in which only a couple of members from D.D.A. turned up.

It will be appreciated that any unity or merger only takes place on give and take basis. In the present case, this is not so. Hence no lasting unity can be achieved. We have however, not given up all hope and are still exploring ways and means to achieve a lasting unity among all like minded organisations having same aims and objectives.

I have also observed that these All India bodies collect huge sums of moneys through donations, flag sales or coupon sales. The sums so collected are mostly spent on salaries and honorarium for the privileged few. The benefit does not accrue to the real deserving cases. Take the example of All India Federation of the Deaf. It has top heavy administration; also about its various financial transactions no body seems to know much. At least it could periodically circulate its audited balance sheets among the institutions of deaf so that one can know where the funds go. It has been collecting funds for setting up a multi-purpose Centre for the deaf for over a decade now. The Centre has yet to come up. So far, therefore no real benefit has gone to the deserving deaf from all the moneys collected by it. I think it would be proper if some sort of control is imposed upon the fund collection and it should be seen that funds so collected are actually spent on some approved project or other. Where an organisation fails to render proper account or is found mis-using the funds, Government should move in and the funds so collected should be put to good use.

It is our misfortune that the twin publications of Club, the Indian Deaf and Bharatiya Badhir, slated for publication as bi-monthlies could not see the light of day mostly due to paucity of funds. God willing we will now bring out these periodicals very soon and help meet long felt need of such publications for the deaf and dumb.

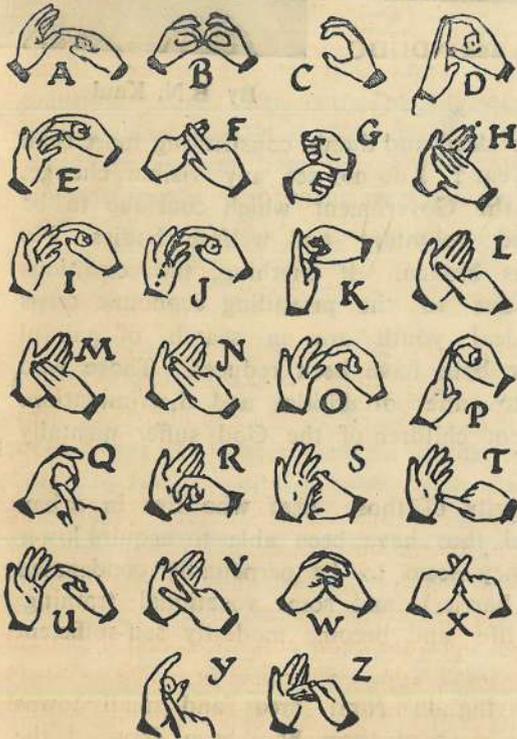
In the end, I wish to place our heart-felt gratitude to all those who have helped us during the past year in one way or the other. All the advertisers merit our sincere thanks. Shri S.R. Damaniji M.P. has again very kindly donated us a sum of Rs. 500 for the second year running. He is our patron-saint. So is Shri T.P. Bhagat who has been at our beck and call. We do not know what we would have done without his help. Shri H.L. Mehra has helped us a lot but he is our Financial Adviser so we can only thank him. Lala Jaswant Rai Aggarwal ji of Krishna Timber Merchants also deserve our thanks for his liberal assistance. Shri B. K. Sundan of Asia Rubber Mills has been our champion and we owe him a debt of gratitude Sarder Prehal Singh, President, Delhi Motor Traders Association, also other office bearers of DMTA have been extending their patronage to us year after year. We can in return only offer our thanks.

Among our members Sarva Shri I.P. Mehta, Ram Lal, and Jyoti Prakash Awasthi have rendered most sincere and selfless service which has been appreciated by one and all.

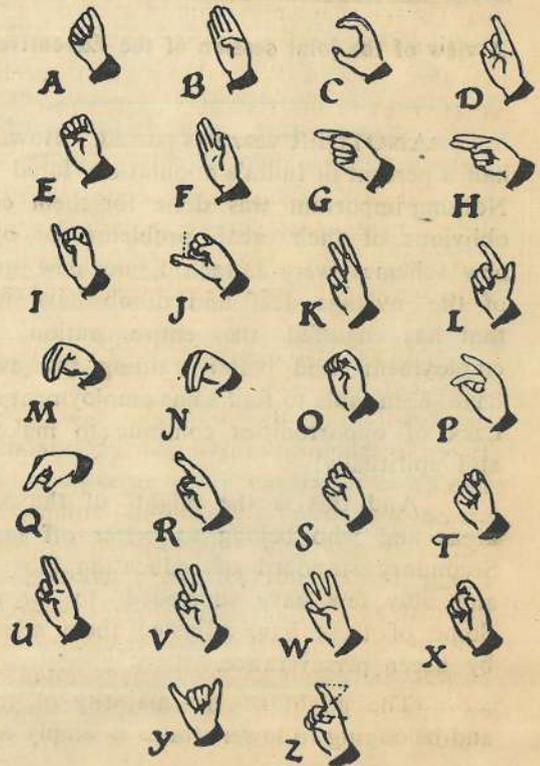
In the end, I once again thank you all for your kind presence.



**THE STANDARD MANUAL ALPHABET**

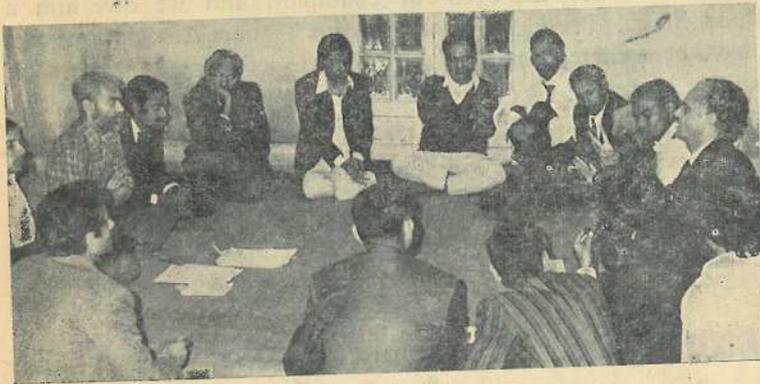


**THE ONE-HAND MANUAL ALPHABET**



## Plight of the Deaf & Dumb.

# **MISERY PLUS, RELIEF MINUS AND BETRAYAL OF BENEFACTORS**



A view of the joint session of the Executives of DDA and NDDDC



By B.N. Kaul

ANOTHER year has passed. How have the deaf and dumb constituting more than half a percent of India's population fared in this year? I do not see any visible change. Nothing important was done for them either by the Government which continue to be oblivious of their real problems or by so-called voluntary and welfare bodies. No new schemes were launched, no new ground was broken. If anything, the conditions of the average deaf and dumb have worsened due to the prevailing economic crisis that has engulfed the entire nation. More deaf youth are in search of gainful employment and better training but avenues for both have been reduced. Those who have been able to find some employment continue to suffer disabilities and discrimination. Lack of opportunities continue to make these silent children of the God suffer mentally and spiritually.

And this is the plight of the small minority of those deaf who live in urban areas and who belong to better off families and thus have been able to acquire lower Secondary standard of education (to which they seem to be perpetually condemned and only few have succeeded to break this barrier) and some vocational training. Some of these have adjusted them selves to the life and become modestly self-sufficient by sheer perseverance.

The plight of the majority of the deaf living in rural areas and small towns and belonging to lower stratas is simply appalling. Most of them have been deprived the

chance of even learning three "Rs" and picking up some craft training. Backward conditions of their homes have retarded their mental development and they are living like destitutes.

### **Real Weaker Sections**

Lot of tears are being shed for weaker sections and lots of verbosity is being invested for them, which of course is paying no dividends. But nobody will deny that the physically handicapped, especially the deaf and deaf-mutes are the weakest among the weaker sections. If the development has to start from lowest rung it should have started with them but the physically handicapped, especially the deaf, are the most neglected lot.

I had occasion to tell the Bangalore Seminar on Employment and Training of the Physically Handicapped years back (and what happened to its recommendations?) that one day the State and the society will be able to rid the country of casteism and backwardness and develop a balanced society and this will solve the problem of scheduled castes and backward tribes for ever. But the problem of the weakest will have to be provided with a permanent solution, or a flexible approach which leads to such solution for all times. The physically handicapped will be there in all human societies. Modern life instead of reducing has actually increased their numbers. The question is whether they will remain a burden on the society as they are in our country or they will be, with proper efforts, made self-reliant citizens who are an asset for the society as is the case in the advanced countries.

### **Window Dressing**

The Government's efforts in this regard thus far have been piecemeal and unrealistic, because it does not know what the real problem is and what is its real solution. Then there is the paucity of resources and lack of organisation and expertise. So, whatsoever little is done is just window dressing, which helps very few among the deserving at very high operational costs which mainly provide employment to some normal people with usual terminal benefits.

The problem is further bedevilled by the general policy of providing protective and sheltered jobs etc. to the physically handicapped, the deaf being worst victims. What the latter actually need is a little sympathetic support to stand upon their own feet, which they are capable of. They do not want any pity or charity. They want equal opportunity and equal facilities for self-development, perhaps a little more of the latter as to be able to adjust their handicap to the normal life.

But the Government is either not understanding this simple solution of the problem or it will not shed the usual time consuming and wasteful bureaucratic methods. So, all it will do is to provide the schools here and there which do not provide even Higher Secondary education, grant few scholarships and also provide a dozen small jobs and then think that it has done all it owes to about four million deaf and dumb in the country.

I have been also told by some responsible persons that the Government could do much more for the deaf, but properly organised voluntary organisations did not come forward with practical and plausible suggestions and so much of the grants lapsed with

the end of each financial year. This is true but largely it are the authorities who are to be blamed for the state of affairs and partly the deaf who have got a little education and are managing some organisations for the deaf.

Of all the physically handicapped the deaf are most suited to self-help efforts and self-rehabilitation. But unfortunately there has crept much party politics and vested interests in the various organisations they have set up.

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that certain self-seeking normal people are exploiting these organisations for their own purpose.

The net result is that the deaf are divided in various groups and rival organisations in every major city. In Delhi alone six or seven different groups are functioning separately, with two posing as All India Organisations. Of the two only one has affiliation of some groups outside Delhi. The other is the "All India" Organisation of half a dozen permanent Delhiwallas whom nobody can remove.

### **Misfortune**

Many efforts have been made to unite these organisations into a well knit and properly organised body which could do some real useful work, but each time the vested interests who thrive on the funds of these organisations have frustrated these efforts. One officially sponsored effort in this direction was nullified by a former lady M.P. who then bossed one of the two self-proclaimed All India bodies. The paradox is that every boss and mini boss of these bodies whether deaf or hearing swears by the unity of the deaf but when such efforts make headway, he or she sabotages the whole endeavour by familiar tactics. And why?

The Government has given these organisations open general licence to raise funds through fairs sales (mostly organised in Government establishments with the patronage of officials), donations and other means also sanctions many grants particularly to those who enjoy political patronage. But has it ever made even random enquiry what was being done with these funds, what benefits did the really deserving deaf accrue from these organisations? What was the ratio of operational costs vis-a-vis welfare costs and who were the beneficiaries? Let the authorities also enquire what the deaf and non-deaf office bearers and others including the employees are getting in various ways. How much each could get if he had to seek employment in open market? Were these paid functionaries really necessary? What work they were doing and were they qualified for the purpose? Such enquiry will reveal startling facts. And when terminal benefits derived in various ways by these ladies and gentlemen, deaf and non-deafs some of whom have really fattened while serving these organisations, are examined it will be seen what an unfortunate dis-service is being done to deaf and those who want to help them.

### **Jilted Twice**

During the last two years serious efforts were made to merge our New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club with the Deaf and Dumb Association Delhi (affiliated to All India Federation of the Deaf). Last time (about a year back) an agreement was reached and signed by the accredited representatives of both the organisations. It had to be ratified by the general bodies of both organisations and then implemented. But the boss of DDA did not like this agreement because a casual remark by a representative

of ours had hurt him although amends were made, also because he would not acquiesce to nominal representation to NDDDC in his "All India" bodies so DDA conveniently forgot all about these agreements while we ratified these.

Then a fresh effort was made recently on the initiative of well-meaning persons on both sides ( a majority of DDA members also sincerely wanted the union which would have paved way for merger of separate bodies of the deaf ). After meetings of representatives and also joint meeting of the executives of both bodies, a general agreement was reached to merge the bodies and organise a new one in their place, but a hitch arose on the question of representation in All India bodies. The high ups in DDA would not allow any body from NDDDC into these All India bodies which they deem their special preserve. However it was decided to leave this point for settlement to myself and Shri Onkar Sharma of DDA with Shri K. K. Sinha, General Secretary of All India Sports Council of the Deaf acting as moderator. After examining the legal and constitutional requirements it was decided at the instance of Shri Sinha that the matter be referred to All India bodies and pending a reply from them the two bodies should work together on the basis of a formula that Shri Sinha drafted.

Accordingly, another joint meeting of the executives of the two bodies was called but in this a majority of DDA members remained absent. Those who were kind enough to come gave written assurance that they will ensure full participation in the next meeting, the onus of calling was left to them and full cooperation was assured from the Club. But weeks have passed and no word from DDA. So another effort has failed miserably. Only because unity of the deaf would have jeopardised the vasted interests.

This leaves only two ways open. One, the Government makes thorough probe into the working of all bodies of deaf and then locating various irregularities merges all of them under its supervision and puts them under the management of capable persons among the deaf with official representatives in the managing bodies. Those who fail to cooperate should be black-listed and barred from raising funds.

Two, if the Government does not act, the well meaning persons and organisations should set up a new and model All India body with well organised State bodies on the basis of clear out programme. ★

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# Question of Perspective & Priorities



Shri Devi Singh Chauhan

TWENTY-FIVE years is a long enough time in which to set out our objectives, define our perspective and fix our priorities. This has actually been done in other spheres but so far as education, training and rehabilitation of the deaf and dumb is concerned every thing appears to be in the same state as it was nearly a century ago. The mode of teaching is the same, emphasis is still on teaching some manual work and facilities for training and employment have also not improved much. The reasons are not far to seek. Those who have been entrusted the task of planning for this unfortunate segment of our society have but only vague book learning, a bit of sympathy but not much understanding about the real needs of the deaf and dumb.

It is also a fact that even 25 years after independence we have not been able to collect basic figures of the persons afflicted by this dreaded handicap. The ratio of increase in their numbers annually, the causes of this malady etc. are still very much of a guess work. Under the prevailing ignorance, it is next to impossible to plan out a course of action on sound scientific basis. The result is, with the best of intention and genuine sympathy for the deaf-mutes the authorities have not been able to achieve any break-through worth mention. The allocation of funds too is still inadequate and this too lapses for want of proper utilisation for obvious reasons.

The cumulative result has been that some sort of progress has been achieved but the growth is lop-sided. Where facilities for education were already available further extension has been achieved to some extent but where there were no facilities earlier, no fresh grounds have been broken. The result has been the concentration of institutions of deafs in metropolitan cities, while the rural areas, by and large still go without even the primary stage of education. Even in cities, the growth of educational institutions has not been able to keep pace with the demand which is increasing from year to year as more and more people become aware (not through Government media of information which continues to ignore these people) that it is possible to educate the deaf and dumb and make them useful and earning members of society.

Even the existing institutions in the cities, even the best of them are hardly making a dent in the problem. The management of these institutions can not be blamed for this state of affairs as no worth while and result oriented efforts have been made either to train a

new cadre of teachers of deaf on sound scientific footing using the latest technological developments in the field, nor have the institutions been provided with adequate funds to meet the expenditure for special equipment required for teaching the deaf-mute.

It is a sad commentary on our efforts that even today after we have long ago celebrated Silver Jubilee of Independence, the deafs still have to remain content with education upto primary standard. **There are in the whole of India not more than 100 schools for the deaf, most of which are run by private charitable Societies and impart education up to primary standard. Not a single school is of Higher Secondary level and we talk of Principles of Equal Opportunity as enshrined in our Constitution.** How can a deaf mute already handicapped by being deprived of two of the God's most precious gifts, speech and hearing, to human beings, compete on equal footing with his normal brothers or sisters? Have concessions of job reservations, relaxation in educational qualifications, upper age limits etc. been extended to them? Not at all. This is the privilege reserved for scheduled castes and tribes who are considered more backward than deaf and dumb. I wonder !!

For over  $\frac{1}{2}$  a percent of the whole population of India, there is just one Training Centre for Adult Deaf. How far it can solve the problem can be easily judged.

The paradox is that the Government does give a thought to the plight of these people but the priorities appear to have gone hay-wire. The Government has funds enough and to spare to send the self-styled representatives of deaf on foreign jaunts but has no money for hiring buses for the deaf boys and girls who can not for obvious reasons utilise city bus transport system. Again, the Government has no funds to provide basic amenities for games and sports to the inmates of deaf and dumb schools and members of recognised and registered organisations of the deaf. It can not also provide play grounds etc. because of lack of resources but again it has funds enough and to spare to send half baked teams of deaf to take part in international meets even though the teams so sent may instead of glory, earn the country plain disgrace through sub-standard performance. There does not appear any reason or rhyme in these acts of the Government.

The plain fact is that unless the Government associates true representatives of deafs with its various planning and policy making, bodies nothing much can be accomplished. There is just no short cut; no alternative. The sooner the Government does so, the better it would be.

It is of course no use in blaming the Government alone. The deaf are themselves responsible for their woe-begone plight. Their short-sightedness and disunity have made them easy prey of unscrupulous elements, both deaf and dumb and normal who have some how or other come to occupy the places of power and just for the sake of preserving their hold and ensuring their positions of power and pelf are exploiting the cause of deaf in the worst possible manner. The pity is they realise their predicament and also know the value of unity but find themselves helpless to act.

The time has now come when the common deaf should step up and ask his respective boss what good he or she has done so far and rid the organisations of deaf of vested interests who fatten on the moneys that should rightly go to deaf and dumb. The time to act has come. We are giving the lead, Dare others follow us?

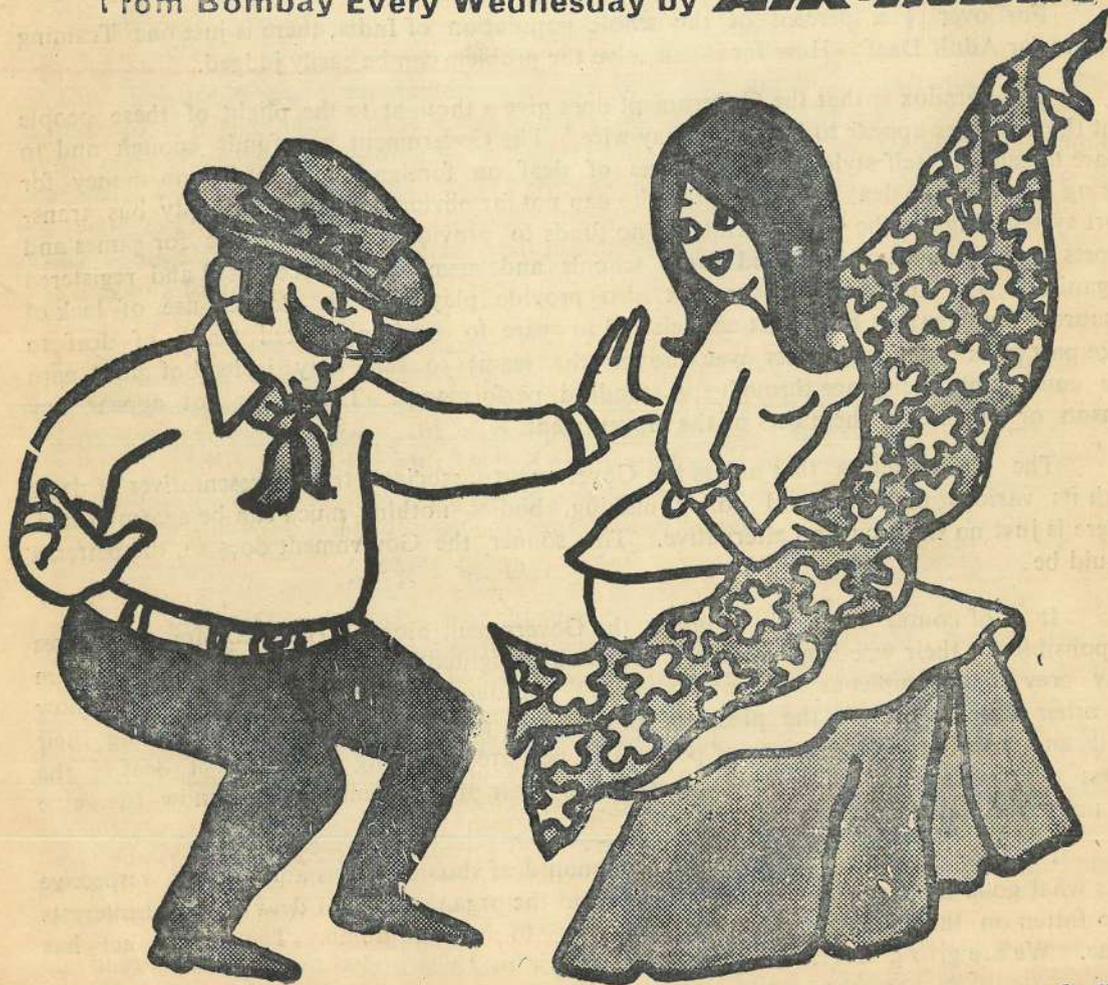
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## 1973 in PICTURES



From left to right : First Row, Hon'able Shri Bali Ram Bhagat M. P. and Ex Union Minister inaugurating the Training-cum-Work Centre at 68 Ashoka Road, on 15th Aug. 1973. Hon'ble Shri Dharam Bir Sinha, Union Dy. Minister for Information & Broadcasting releasing the 12th Annual Day Souvenir. (Middle Row) : Smt. P. Chavan M. P. our Executive President being introduced to members. Shri S. M. Joshi, the noted Socialist leader, one of our patrons and regular visitor, going through our Album to acquaint himself with what we did since his last visit. (Bottom Row) : A view of our Exhibition organised during our 12th Annual Day Celebrations which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri R. K. Khadilkar, Union Minister who is also seen going round the exhibition in the next picture.

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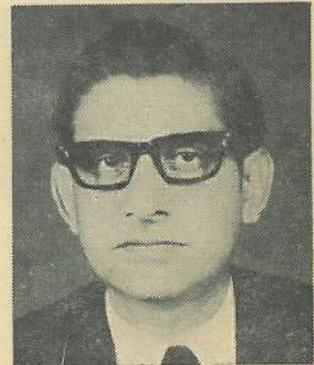


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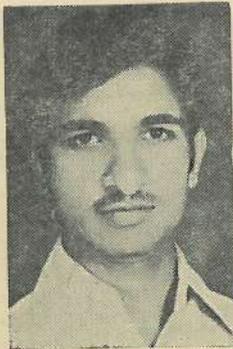
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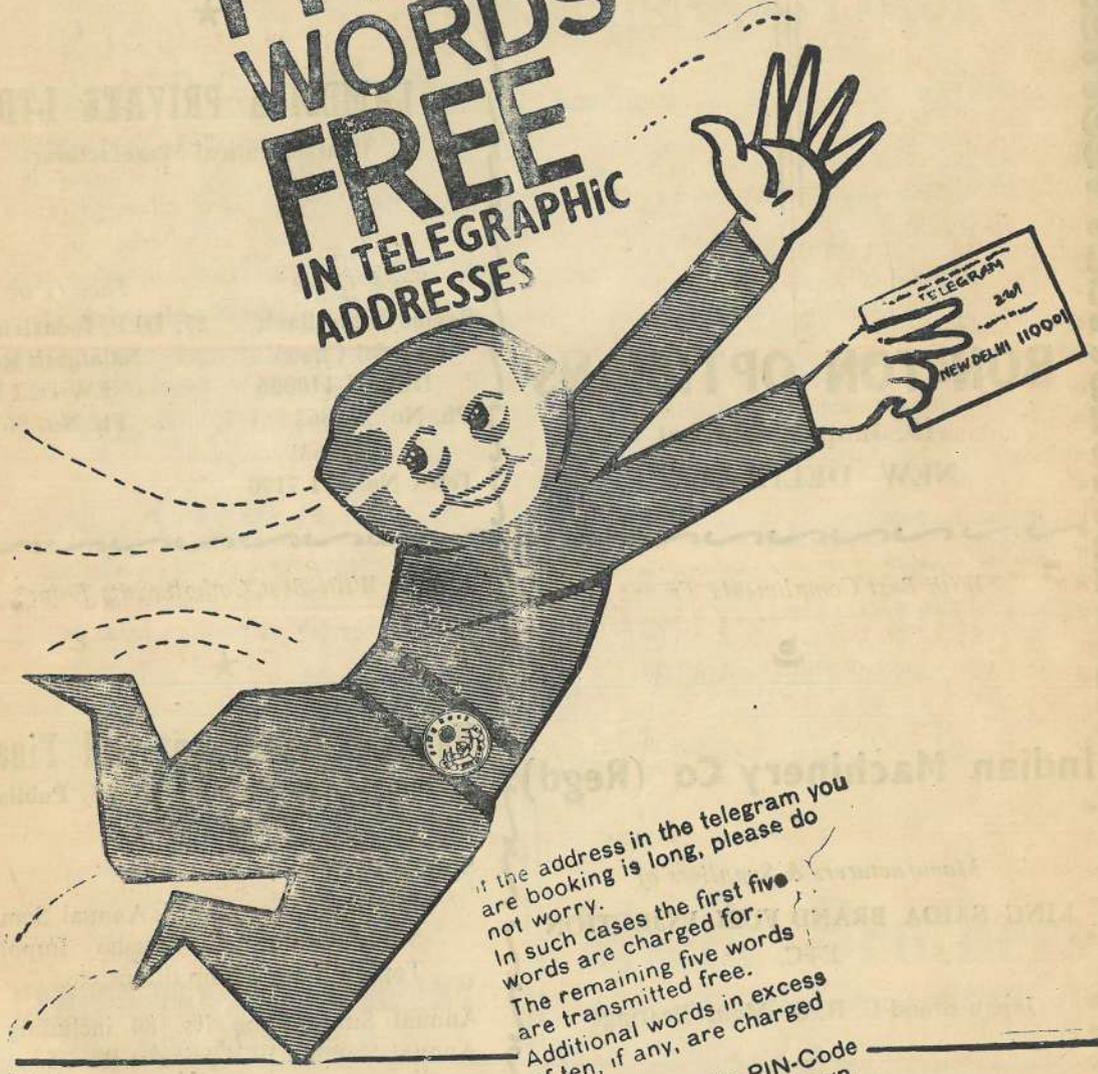
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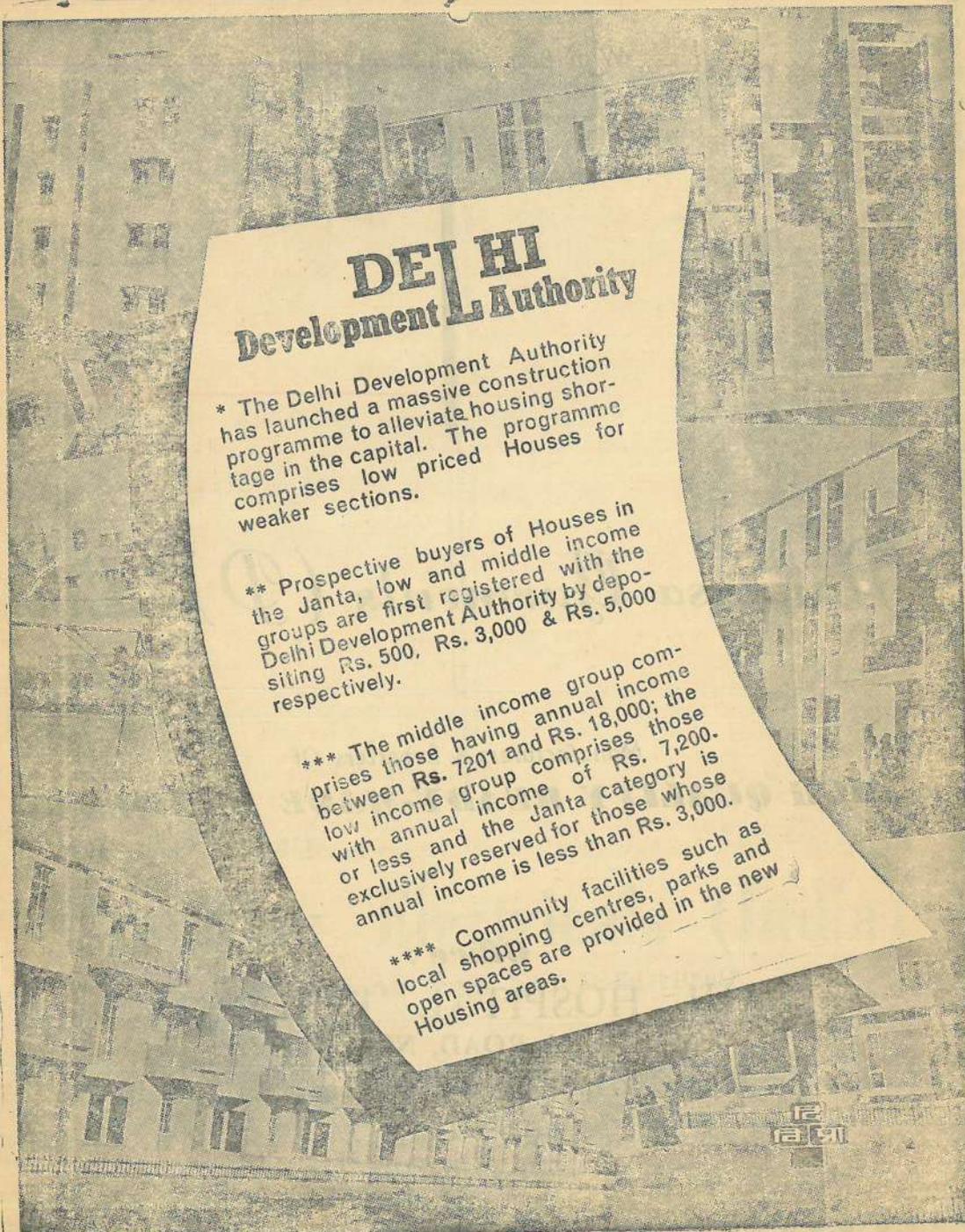
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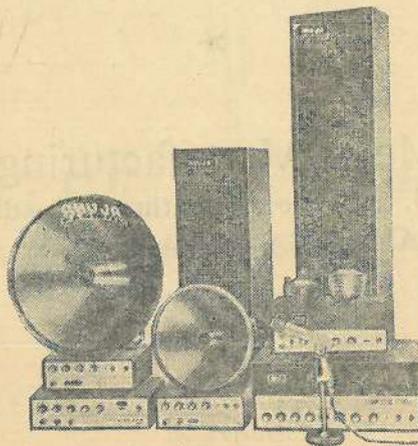
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- ★ The State has 23,000 kms. of metalled link roads, linking all villages numbering 12,188 with main roads and markets. This length is equivalent to seven times from Srinagar to Cape Comorin.
- ★ Five lakh children in 6-11 years age-group enrolled for primary education, giving a percentage of 93 per cent against the national target of 90 per cent.
- ★ Per capita availability of milk per day in Punjab is 409 grams as against 112 grams in the country.
- ★ Punjab is the first State to introduce 'Medical Manthan' scheme which has already covered 18 lakhs of rural population.
- ★ Punjab is the first State to introduce supplies of wheat atta and dals to fixed income groups in major towns at subsidized rates.
- ★ Punjab is the first State where Small and Marginal Farmers' Agencies have been set up to cover all districts.
- ★ More than 1,86,000 house-sites allotted to agricultural labourers covering 9,837 villages.

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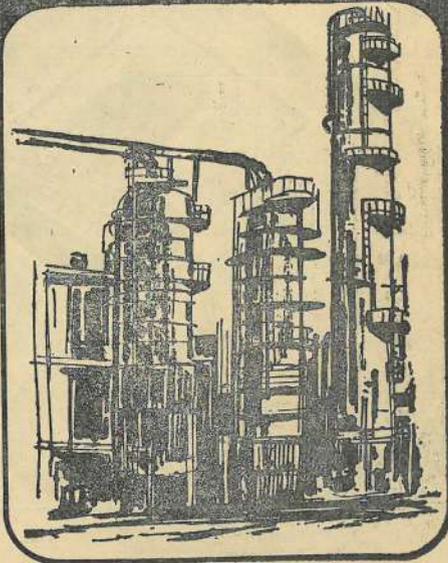
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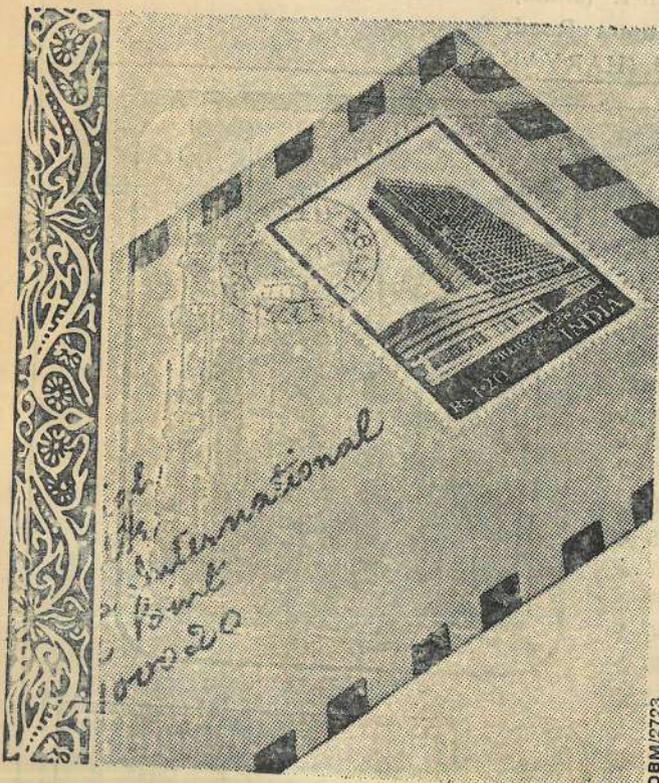
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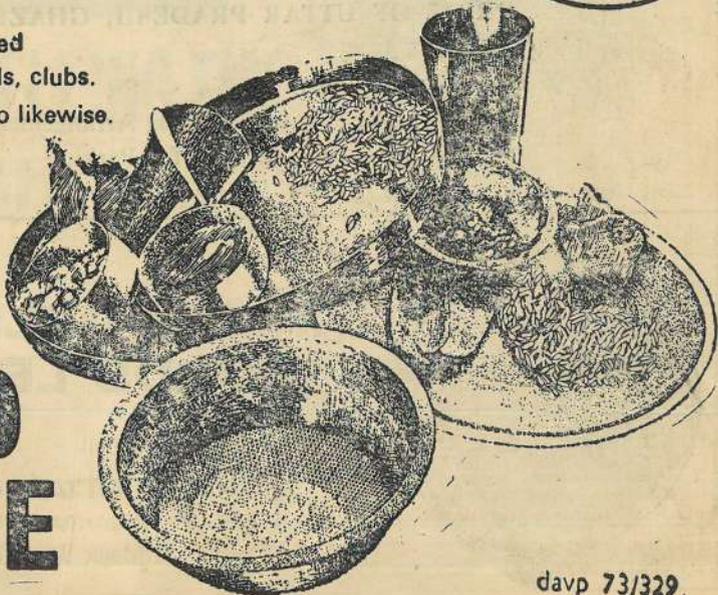
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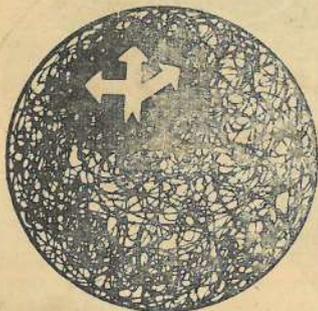
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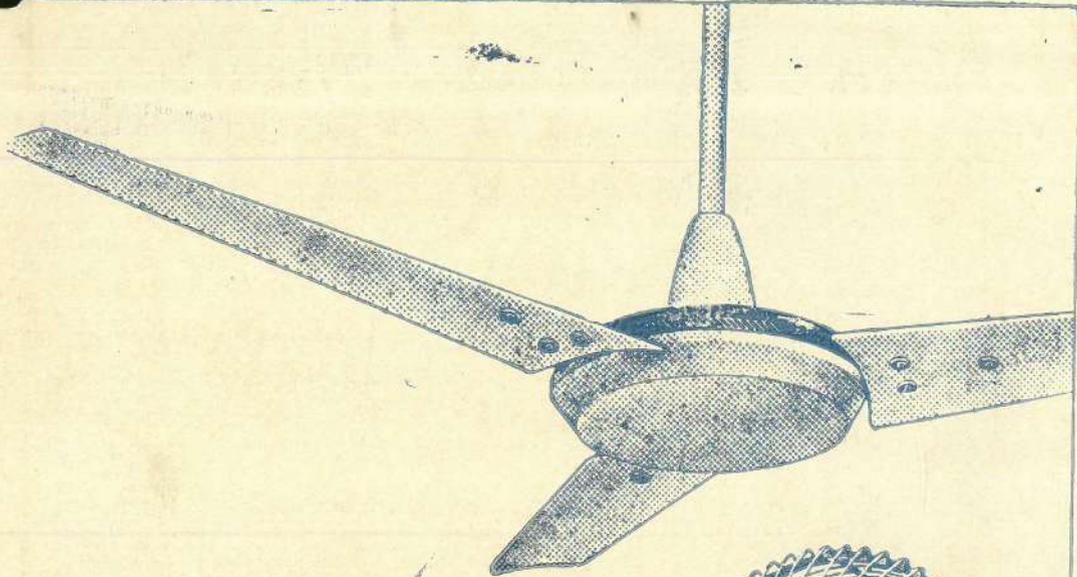
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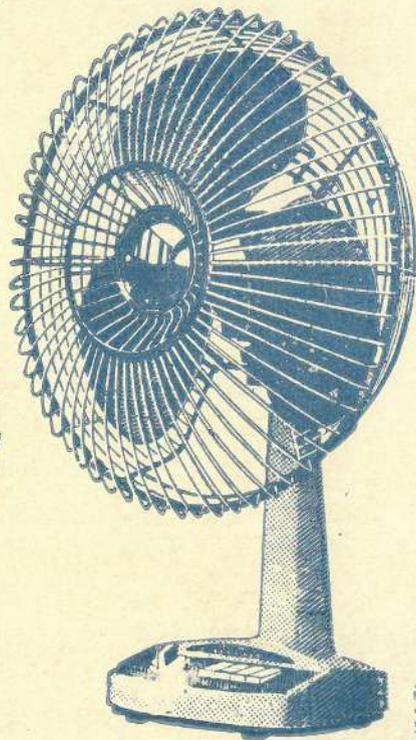


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