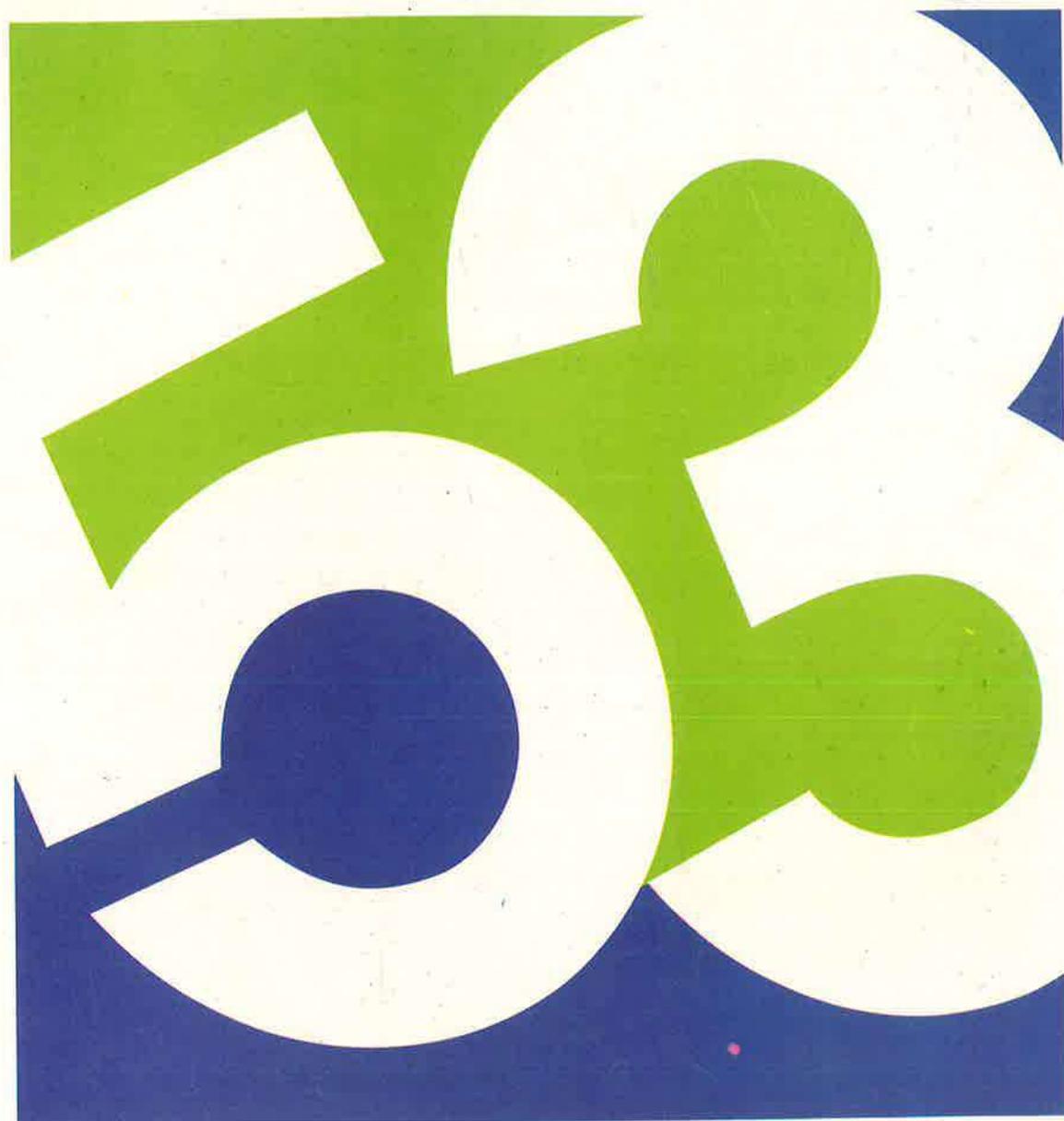
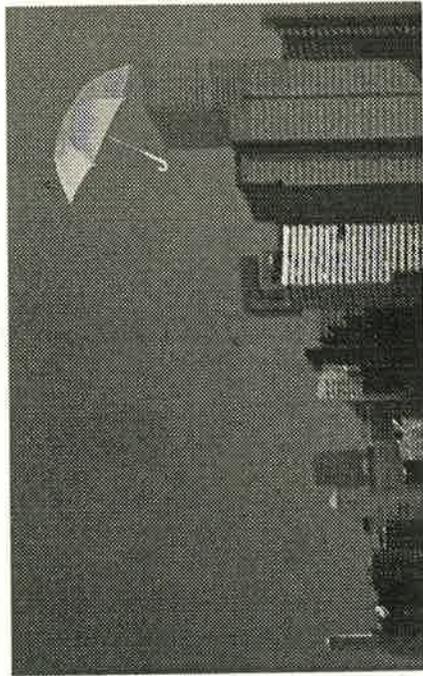


# DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

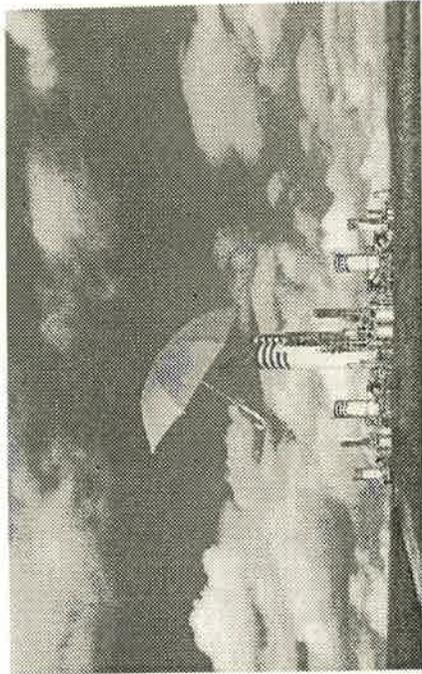


**53rd ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS**  
INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, 40 LODHI ESTATE, NEW DELHI  
19th OCTOBER, 2003

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नई दिल्ली - 110011  
**OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY  
TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110011**

### MESSAGE

Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat is glad to know that Delhi Association of Deaf has celebrated its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day on October 19 and a Souvenir is being brought out on this occasion.

The Vice-President of India appreciates the valuable contributions made by the Association of Deaf for the welfare of the disabled especially the deaf and sends his good wishes for the success of the Annual Day Celebrations and the Souvenir.

  
**(DR. K.B. THAKUR)**

**New Delhi  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2003**



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MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAJIV GANDHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-3

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*I am happy to learn that Delhi Association of the Deaf will be celebrating its Annual Day on October 19, 2003.*

*Such celebrations provide an opportunity for introspection, to review past performance and plan for the future. Therefore, these celebrations should be used to look back, identify shortcomings and set targets for the future.*

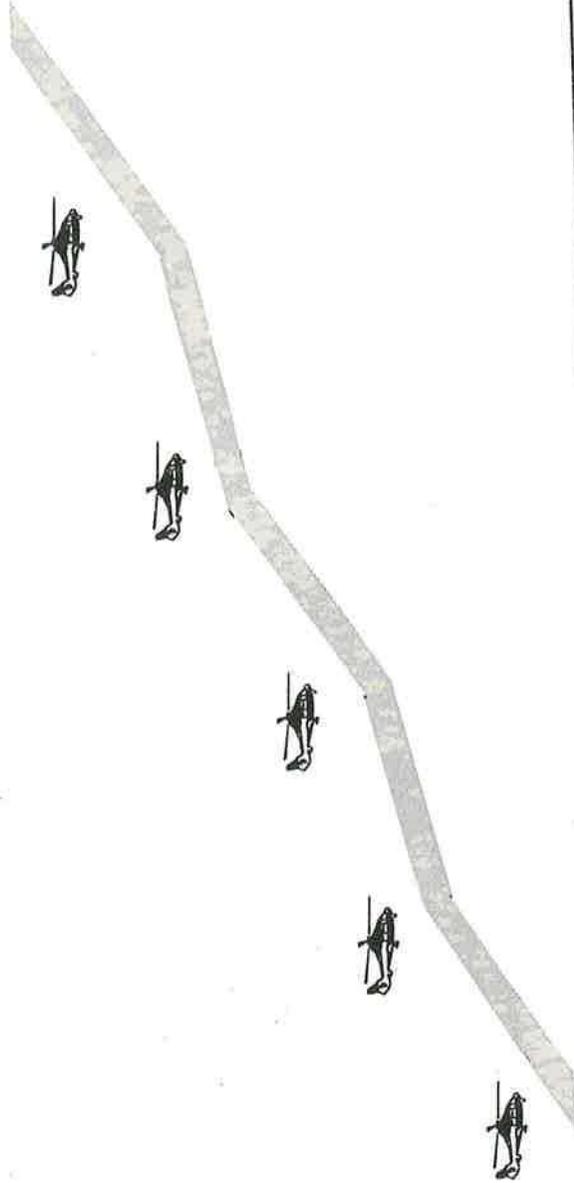
*During its fifty years existence, Association has successfully championed the cause of the deaf people and won for them several facilities and concessions. It has also taught and trained a number of deaf adults and has successfully rehabilitated a number of its members.*

*Since financial independence ensures a life with dignity, Association should, I feel, concentrate on socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf people. At the same time, it should attend to their diverse needs and try to make the lives of the deaf people as satisfying as possible.*

*On this happy occasion, I send my congratulations and greetings to all the members of the Associations and its office bearers, who I hope will work shoulder to shoulder as a unified team and achieve all round progress for the Association.*

  
( RAJIV PRATAP RUDY )

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**Dr. Shakuntala Dawesar**  
**G-27, Ansal Chambers -I**  
**3, Bhikaji Cama Place**  
**New Delhi - 110 066**



**Phone:** 26104129, 26195327, 26107191  
**e-mail:** [dawesar@vsnl.com](mailto:dawesar@vsnl.com)

### **Message**

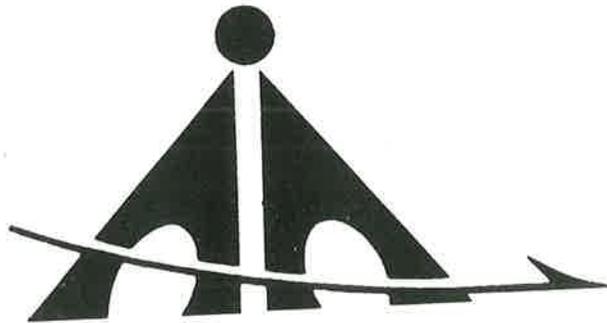
It gives me great pleasure to felicitate all the members on the occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of Delhi Association of the Deaf.

May the Association grow from strength to strength with each passing year. Both the strength in terms of numbers and the involvement of the members are essential to keep an organization vibrant and active. May all the objectives of the Association be realized during the coming year. I wish the members the best as they discover all their hidden potential for creating a better world for themselves.

With Best Wishes,

**Dr. Shakuntala Dawesar**

अपनी प्रत्येक हवाई यात्रा के दौरान चाहे  
आप किसी भी एयरलाइन में यात्रा करें  
आप हमेशा उड़ते हैं ए.ए.आई. के साथ



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### 53rd Annual Report (2002-03)

Mr. P. Shankar, Ladies & Gentlemen,

We are honoured by your gracious presence here. Today, our Association is celebrating its fifty third annual day. Fifty three years is a long period, long enough to show some positive results. Unhappily for us, even within such a long period, we have not been able to realise even a part of our dream – construction of our own building.

It is not that we have been lax. But even our best efforts were obviously not enough and so we could not achieve the results that we wanted. We are not seeking abilities. The fact however, remains that communication barriers resulting from our twin disabilities stopped us in our tracks. Absence of awareness about the cause of the deaf people did the rest by depriving us empathy and a much needed helping hand.

The cumulative result is that even after fifty three years, Association has not been able to get a place of its own. Its half built building, with construction lying suspended for nearly two years due to mechanisation of avaricious contractor, is to day a mute testimony of our abject failure on this front. We also failed to mobilise necessary resources inspite of our best efforts.

Tried as we have, we have not been able to win over the powers that be to initiate action for development of a Common Indian Sign Language for the Deaf. Sign language, it may be stated here, is the mother tongue and *lingua-franca* of the deaf people. Sadly, the Government has done nothing to promote development of sign language. The credit for doing preliminary spade work in this direction goes to an NGO. The Government has, however, rushed into starting three, three months duration courses for the interpreters of the deaf - without there being the tools of the trade i.e. a vibrant, rich, and standard sign language for the deaf. It is not that Association objects to interpreter's courses. However, rightly or wrongly, it believes that without there being a standard sign language in place, the entire efforts may end in an exercise in futility, and may even lead to confusion.

Association's attempts to implement a sign language development project of its own became a cropper that too, after the project was cleared by NIH. However, it appears that the Government had second thoughts because some NGO had done some work in this direction, which was for the Government good enough reason to drop the project - altogether.

On the rehabilitation front, which is the primary objective of the Association, it had to overcome obstacles at every step. This is essentially due to absence of awareness as otherwise the deaf are ideal workers. We are not saying so - the few who employ deaf workers are all praise for them. Association, overcoming the age old prejudices, was able to find over a dozen of its members gainful employment in private sector units during the last year.

Though one percent reservation for the deaf in Government services exists on paper, this is rarely implemented and even this small benefit eludes the deaf. Sadly, Association could do nothing in this regard, primarily because our members do have Secondary School certificate but not the knowledge that goes with the certificate.

This brings us to the steady falling levels of teaching in the Government, as well as private Schools for the deaf. Association has time and again tried to focus attention on this aspect of the situation. It has written to Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi who happens to be a past President of the Association, Education Minister, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and even met the

Principal Secretary Welfare, Delhi - only to draw a blank.

The half baked (or would totally raw, describe it better ?) students who some how pass the Secondary examination and even those who fail, come to us for employment assistance. They are most welcome and we do our bit. However, their near total ignorance of language stands in their way and we find it difficult to persuade would be employers to accept them. Incidentally, this face off due to poor linguistic skills has been going on for the last many decades. Association's well meaning suggestions constituting Governing Bodies, Parents Teachers Association, etc. for Govt. Schools for the Deaf, have been brushed under the carpet. Sort of launching an agitation, for which deaf are just not suited, there does not seem to be any mean to persuade the Government, to act.

During the year under review, as also even during the earlier years, Association has been pro-active and has been interacting with the Government to get the deaf their just dues but sadly without results. A typical example would be that though Association spends between Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 lacs per annum for providing services to its 1200 odd members, yet all that it gets as grant-in-aid is about Rs. one lac. The rest of the funds Association has to raise on its own - an uphill task, at the best of times. Also Associations representation to the Government on diverse issues concerning the deaf fall on deaf ears and no action is taken nor any reply sent.

As has been stated earlier, Association had to seek legal redress against All India Sports Council of the Deaf which arbitrarily withdrew affiliation from it without even a formal notice and accorded it to another body floated by some disgruntled members of this Association. This divide and rule policy adopted by the All India body has caused untold harm to the cause of the deaf people. However, Association had to protect its interests. The matter is still pending and being sub-judice nothing more needs to be said.

Association's efforts to get additional accommodation to run its **free computer training for the Deaf, programme** has not yet fructified. Some sites have been identified and it is hoped before long some place would be selected and training centre shifted there. Pending that, work is being carried on at the existing cramped space as best as we can.

Electricity supply of the Association was disconnected on 9th May 03 on the alleged tempering of seals and meter and a fine of Rs.30,907 was imposed. The amount has been paid under protest and a suit filed in the Consumer Redressal Forum, I.S.B.T., Delhi against BSES Power Ltd. As the Association had neither tempered with the seals nor the meter and bills based on actual meter readings were received and paid, other relevant documents are also available supporting Association's stand, there is every hope that court will do justice.

It was during this year that Dr. Bansi Dharji who had been heading the Association as Chairman resigned on health grounds. Shri Rajdendra Kumarji Gupta who was Vice Chairman also left due to misunderstanding. Both had been associated with Association for over a decade and had made rich contribution. Their absence will be felt for a long period. Association placed on record its appreciation and thanks for high caliber services rendered by them.

Happily the positions rendered vacant were soon filled up, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, (now Minister of State - Independent Charge, Ministry of Civil Aviation) stepped in as Chairman and has now become the main-stay of the Association. Readily accessible, he has been extending his help whole heartedly when ever needed.

It was also due to the personal involvement of Shri Rudy that Association could celebrate its Golden Jubilee from 2 to 4th October 2002 in an impressive manner. As a part of Golden Jubilee

celebrations, Association also organised a National Seminar on Improving Linguistic Skill of the Deaf for enhanced employment, as well as a Miss Deaf India contest. The National Mime Competition organised during this period was also a big draw. All these functions could be successfully organised thanks to the financial and organisational support of Shri Rudy and Dr. (Mrs.) Shakuntala Dawesar, who left no avenue unexplored for the success of Golden Jubilee celebration, with both taking an active, personal interest.

Fraternal delegations from across the country participated in all the above functions and returned with happy memories. It was, however, the National Seminar which was attended by academicians and educator that proved to be a resounding success, and may lead to their involvement in development of sign language for the Deaf.

Dr. Vaishna Narang, Head, Centre of Linguistics & English, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi, in particular has shown keen interest in sign language development and God willing Jawahar Lal Nehru University may have a Sign Language Development Cell, the first in India thanks to her untiring efforts.

To mark Golden Jubilee celebration, Association's Chairman announced introduction of free Computer Training Centre for the Deaf. This step will benefit a large number of the deaf. Once trained, they will be able to work as computer operators, data entry workers efficiently. Association's typewriting (Hindi, English, manual / electronic) classes continue to impart training in secretarial practices.

Other activities of the Association - socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf, library and reading room services for the deaf continue unhindered and benefit a number of deaf youths who wish to rise in life.

Association continue to interact with the other organisations, NGOs working for cross disabilities. It is an important constituent of Disabled Rights Group. As a representative of the Association, I had the privilege to attend a sensitizing programme at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, also a Conference of National Disability Network at Srinagar where in the cause of the deaf was put forth forcefully. Apart from these two Associations representatives attended a number of Seminars and conferences because Association has been accepted as a representative organisation of the Indian Deaf.

Association's Sunday School continues to render assistance to those deaf who wish to get some linguistic skills and enhance their general knowledge. For this Association is grateful to Lala Diwan Chand Trust and Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta, its Secretary. The attendance, alas, fluctuate but as the saying goes, show must go on.

These celebrations here today have been possible thanks to the kindness of Shri P.C. Sen, Director, India International Centre, who has very kindly allowed us the use of Auditorium, free of charges. Association places on record its indebtedness to Shri Sen for his invaluable help.

Association owes debt of gratitude to all the advertisers and donors who have been helping it year after year. But for their help, the activities of the Association would have come to a stand still, as Association does not have any revenue generating under-takings of its own and Government grant is inadequate.

We at Association are also grateful to you all for your presence here to day, it shows your solidarity with our case.

Thank you.



हमारी आकांक्षाएं

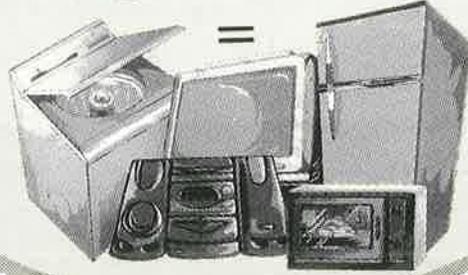
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उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं की  
खरीद हेतु

हर बार, जब भी आपने टेलीविजन सेट या फ्रिज खरीदने की योजना बनायी, किसी न किसी वजह से पैसे कम पड़ गये. मगर अब आपके सपने और आकांक्षाएं सच हो सकती हैं.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं की खरीद हेतु ऋण की अपनी अनूठी योजना के साथ आपकी मदद के लिए तैयार है.

अब देर मत कीजिए. बस, हमारी किसी भी शाखा में पधारिए और योजना की जानकारी प्राप्त कीजिए.

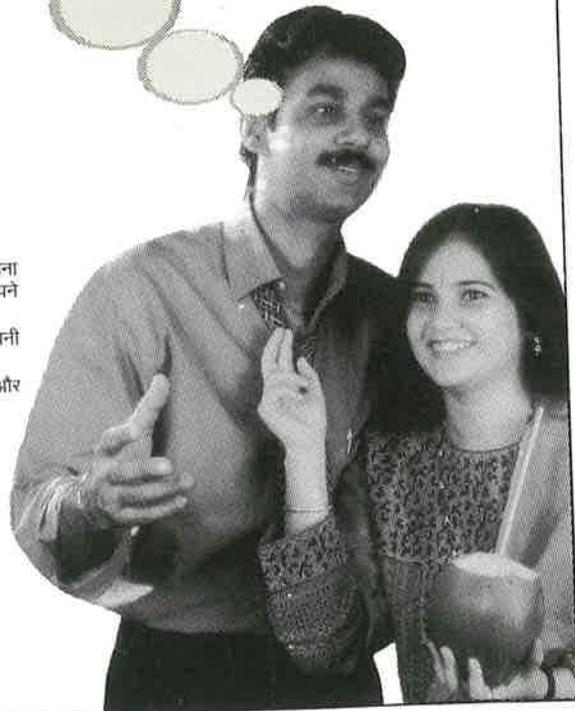


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## Why Development Left Deaf Untouched

**Ramesh Gupta**  
Executive President

Strange as it sounds - the fact is, deaf people are their own worst enemies. I am deaf. I have been working with deaf, for the deaf, these past forty odd years. I have criss-crossed the country more than once, have been abroad a number of times and met a cross section of deaf people from all stratas of life. Therefore, I should know.

Let us begin at the beginning, the childhood. Deaf spend this most valuable time of life which lays foundation for their future growth and well being in meaningless pursuits. Admitted into schools, they indulge in meaningless banter with their friends instead of studying their lessons. No doubt, teachers are not performing their duties properly and for a deaf to study on his/her own is an uphill task. But there is always a way where their is will. The deaf choose the easy way out. Ignore their studies at the cost of their future. They do not even realise, and there is no one to tell them so, the importance of education.

The result is that their linguistic skills, remain abysmally low, even after spending a decade in their school. They some how manage to obtain a certificate but not the quality, the skill and the knowledge that go with it.

Though Schools have group hearing aids, and individual hearing aids are often supplied, they do not use these to learn to speak, because to benefit from hearing aid patience and perseverance are required. These alas are wanting in most of us. Those who live in places where there are no other deaf children and have no school may fare a bit better if the parents are enlightened. They put the deaf child to family's vocation and the child if industrious, can readily learn the tricks of the trade and become self supporting. However if lazy and indolent by nature, he has nothing to look forward to. Unhappily they constitute the majority of our deaf population as hardly, if at all, less than one percent deaf of school going age have an access to formal education.

Thus spending their early formative years in idle pursuits they spoil what ever chances of advancements that they had. Though the fault lies with them, instead of admitting it they blame their parents and teachers.

When they grow up into adults and come face to face with life's truths, unlettered and without the two vital faculties of speech and hearing, they do not have even a ghost of chance to secure a gainful, paying position. Yet acting as choosy, they set their sights high and look at contempt posts that come their way. They want only the best - Government services, public sector jobs etc. - nothing less than a limited company. So they while their time chasing mirages and by the time they learn the truth the hard way by rejections, it becomes rather late in the day for them.

Unhappily, while some parents do try to place their progeny in gainful employment, the majority of parents, leave their deaf children to their fate. As a last port of call, such disillusioned and dejected deaf job searchers knock at the door of their NGOs for help. At most places, the few NGOs of the deaf that are there, have no means to render help. They lack office space, staff etc. and the will to be helpful is, more often than not, missing. The lip service and homilies given out by the office bearers of NGOs, do not provide any solution. In most cases, these office bearers, themselves using the NGOs for their daily bread and butter, are ill qualified even for counseling and yet to be in the good books of the supplicants, hold out empty promises which are never met.

have been members of managing committee – not for years – but decades – and their achievements – going on foreign jaunts at the drop of the hat - at the expenditure of the NGOs. In fact some of them have become glob-trotter-s - members of jet set, without ever spending a pie from their own pocket.

Instances are available where well established state level organisations have been denied affiliation because their office bearers can think on their own. Instances are also there where even the founder member has been shown the door only because it dares to act on its own. And by and large, the people who do these acts are themselves deaf.

There is yet another breed of deaf leaders. They allure simple deaf people with inducements, lead them down the garden path, brain wash them enough to part with a part of their hard earned earnings - no accounts rendered nor accounts asked for. Those at the helm lead a life of easy opulence, flush with foreign funds that come their way. Only benefit that accrue to the simpletons is learning of good manners and facility of enjoying pleasing company a few hours on selected days. Of course, by way of window dressing, some welfare work is done but neither the earning capacity of the deaf has increased, nor are they able to lead a satisfying life, not withstanding the fact that this type of NGOs seek out only well heeled deaf. The poor are, of course, suffered for the sake of appearances.

This is by no means all. The example set by deaf /normal bosses in the NGOs of the deaf, have spurred others to launch their own show. So far so good - more the merrier. But instead of mutual collaboration and co-operation with other similar organisations working for the deaf welfare, they prefer to plough their lone furrow and engage in one up-man-ship. Thus, where there is need for unity, we have division among the ranks of the deaf, often working at cross purpose. Then too, there are those ready to fish in troubled waters. Divide and rule becomes their creed, their motto and they work to the hilt to divide deaf and spur them on to go at each other's throat, so that their thorne, always on a shaky ground, is not toppled.

Thus, where as the need of the hour is to unite, take up a unified stand, work shoulder to shoulder to attain common goals – universal education for all deaf – creation of training facilities in sophisticated trades, adequate avenues of rewarding employment, a rich and vibrant sign language for the deaf and all facilities necessary for leading a satisfying life etc., we find the NGOs of the deaf at logger heads. But sadly, no body cares. No one is able to look beyond one's nose.

The shame of it all is that while other categories of persons with disabilities have gained much ground through their combined efforts – we the deaf continue to be in the reverse gear. We do not even have a sign language of our own- all because all think that only they themselves are capable of undertaking and completing the task. The result, no deaf organisation got the task, other people took it away. Like the cats of the fable, deaf even now continue to quarrel for a bigger share, the monkey has it all. When will the deaf learn that they sink or swim together, they have to make combined efforts, speak in one voice and instead of enemies of each other become friends and collaborators. But to achieve this end, we have to make sacrifices, give a heave-ho to our egos and work with a spirit of give and take.

Should I hope that we, the deaf, who have fallen to the bottom of the heap, vis-a-vis other categories of disabled persons, have learnt our lesson and charter a new course now. The Association is ready and willing to do its bit, this much I can assure you.

Now these facts are known to all, at least to all who are deaf and come in contact with the others. When they do meet in groups, the prevailing conditions and the trials and tribulations are rarely discussed. The time is spent in idle gossip. Some times, hours after hours are spent in meaningless idle talk. If some dares them to do something meaningful rather than in senseless talk, offence is taken at once.

Now normal hearing persons including the parents of the deaf, rarely if ever, take interest in the welfare of the deaf. Deaf people are themselves oblivious of the issue. Where as seniors in other categories of disabled persons take it upon themselves to see that schools are set up, hostel facility is provided, academic standards are maintained and the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for the Physically Handicapped and Special Employment Exchanges for the Handicapped perform their duties well, in the case of the deaf, no one cares. If some one like our Association does take up the matter with the authorities, others shy away fearing the loss of grant-in-aid if authorities are antagonised.

The result is that conditions in the special schools of the deaf (which do not even have Parents - Teachers Associations) are appalling. Authorities, even if plodded, turn a deaf ear and Nelson's eye. The deaf education continue to suffer. That is why where as there are plenty of M.As. M.B.As, Ph.Ds among other categories of disabilities, you can hardly find a Senior Secondary passed among deaf even if you search far and wide.

Unlike educated people of other categories of persons with disabilities who do not hide their disability, accept it as it is and remain at the same wave length as their less privileged and less educated fellow sufferers, barring a few exceptions, educated among the deaf, though they readily avail of facilities and concessions available to the deaf, do not care to be identified as deaf person. Therefore, their association with the deaf or any work by them for their fellow sufferers is out of question. Some of these persons, with borrowed feathers, even consider it beneath their dignity to be seen with the deaf. Use of sign language - the *lingua franca* of the deaf is an anathema to them. Thus those who could have espoused the cause of their fellow sufferers turn up their nose to establish their superiority and one-ness with the normal hearing people.

This leaves the field open for unscrupulous persons - both hearing and half-baked-semi-literate deaf people. In the guise of social service, they feather their own nests. The cause of the deaf is openly exploited. Once elected to a post, they leave it only on the shoulders of pall bearers. Even if glued to their chairs for ages, due to the lure of office and power and pelf that go with it, not to speak of free foreign jaunts, all this could have been tolerated. But lacking vision, far sight, also expertise and knowledge, they end up by being dogs in the manger - they themselves do nothing and do not allow others any opportunity to do some thing good.

No body in these NGOs rises to the top on the basis of merit or result oriented work. It is pure and simple manipulation. You scratch my back, I will scratch yours. You hold your position in your organisation, I will support you, you support me to hold my position. This has, brought a situation in the only two all India bodies of the deaf where the same set up has managed to stick to their posts, with minor shuffling of the cards for decades.

To protect their monopoly, these all India bodies have devised a fool proof method - affiliate only those who pledge unflinching loyalty, are largely uneducated, hence easy to mislead and can remain satisfied with the small crumbs thrown their way. We have instances where the same persons



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		Sale offer price	Repurchase bid price
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## Honorary Sports Secretary

### Our Stellar Sports Record

Delhi Association of the Deaf, the founder of All India Sports Council of the Deaf had been at the fore-front of Silent Sports promotion in India. In fact, it had been arranging sports and games for its members almost since its inception. It was because of this fact and its commitment to the cause of the silent sports, that on learning that some hearing, normal persons had hi-jacked silent sports, formed national sports association and also got it affiliated to C.I.S.S. (Comette International Sports Silentequ) that Association took up the cudgel to protect interests of the deaf and formed All India Sports Council of the Deaf, nurtured and nourished it for years, and did not rest till the imposters were shown the door and All India Sports Council of the Deaf had won Government recognition and affiliation to C.I.S.S.

Association's record on the sports front, has been exemplary. Except for once, or twice due to circumstances beyond its control, it never missed sending Delhi State contingents to participate in the National Games of the Deaf. What is more, the contingents sent by the Association used to be the largest and their performance superb. One of our members, Shri Satish Kumar Arora, won the coveted Arjuna Award and a very large number of our sports persons and players - both male and female - represented the country in the international meets.

Unhappily for the Association, this did not last for long. Selfish persons at the helm of affairs in the national silent sports organisation, bit the hand that fed it. In national events, our players and sports persons were discriminated against. They were given a raw deal. Their good performance was overlooked or some fault was found and the cronies of the bosses were adjudged the winner. Over looking the first place holders, laggards with fat purses, were selected to represent India. This step motherly attitude naturally disheartened the Association's office bearers as well as the players/sports person who did not consider it worthwhile to participate knowing fully well before hand that justice will not be done to them. They thus lost their verve, even their desire to take part in the national events.

As if all this was not enough, the national silent sports body, in an extreme act of betrayal, forgetting all that the Association had done for it, disaffiliated the Association on flimsy grounds and gave affiliation to the discredited members of the Association who had fought and lost election in the Association and later floated a parallel organisation with a handful of misguided supporters. As the matter is subjudice, nothing more can be said about it at this stage.

The affiliation may have been withdrawn and our right to field teams at nationals disputed but Association is not going to give up its sports activities so easily. We, at the Association, believe that sports and games are part and parcel of welfare activity. Schools, Colleges, Army, Navy, Air Force and all public sector, private sector, Government Deptts. provide sports facilities for their students/workers. This is because sports and games promote health and constitute a welfare measure, whatever the narrow minded, semi literate persons who manipulate themselves to top positions with the help of their fellow travelers in an organisation filled up with their chosen yes-men may say.

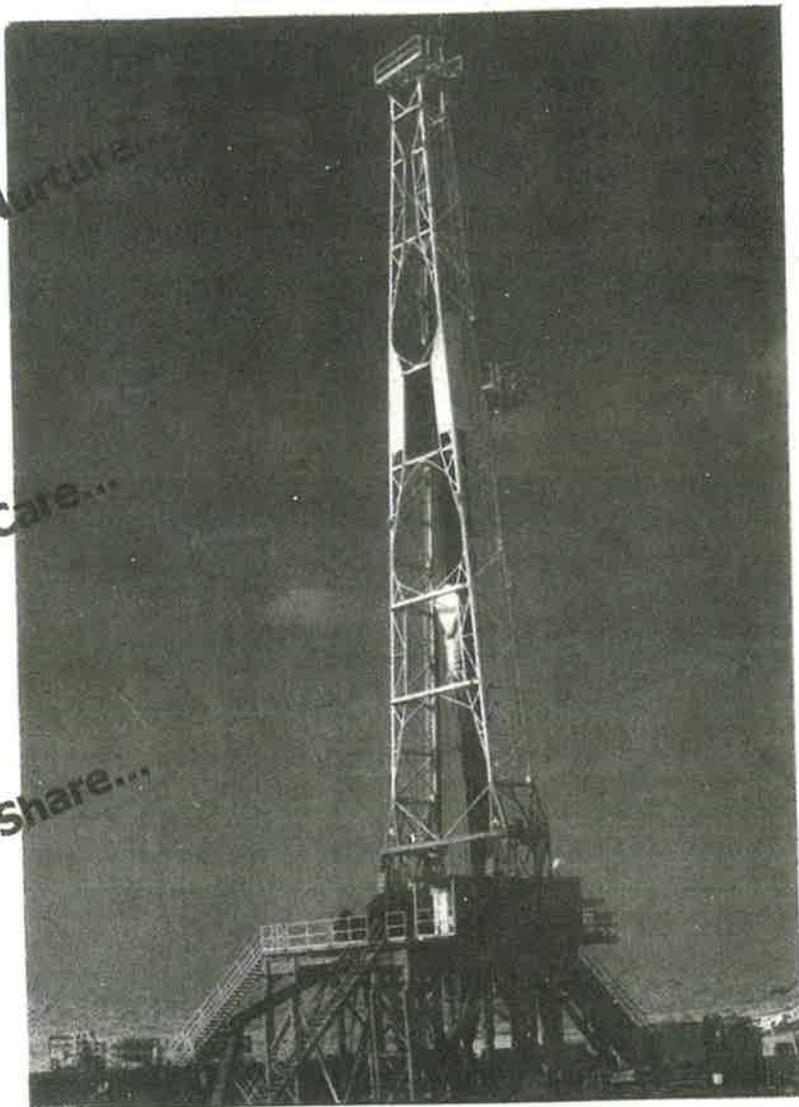
Therefore, Association continues to organise games for the benefit of its members, arranges friendly matches with like minded teams and its Annual Delhi State level sports meets at the prestigious Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, continue to set new standards for local meets. In short, to keep our members fit and healthy, sports and games will continue to be organised by us with renewed vigour.

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## THANKS

**ASSOCIATION** gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support extended by the following and offers them its heartfelt thanks.

- **Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Civil Aviation & Chairman of the Association** for his sustained, powerful support.
- **Shri P. Shankar, Central Vigilance Commissioner** for honouring us by being our Chief Guest.
- **Shri P.C. Sen, Director, India International Centre** for allowing us the free use of Auditorium.
- **Dr. (Mrs.) Shakuntala Dawesar** for her untiring efforts at advancing the cause of the Deaf.
- **Dr. Penelope Estabrook** for her princely donation.
- **Shri Yogesh Jain** for his most valuable financial help.
- **Shri Ravindra Mohan Gupta** for doing all of the Art Work.

And

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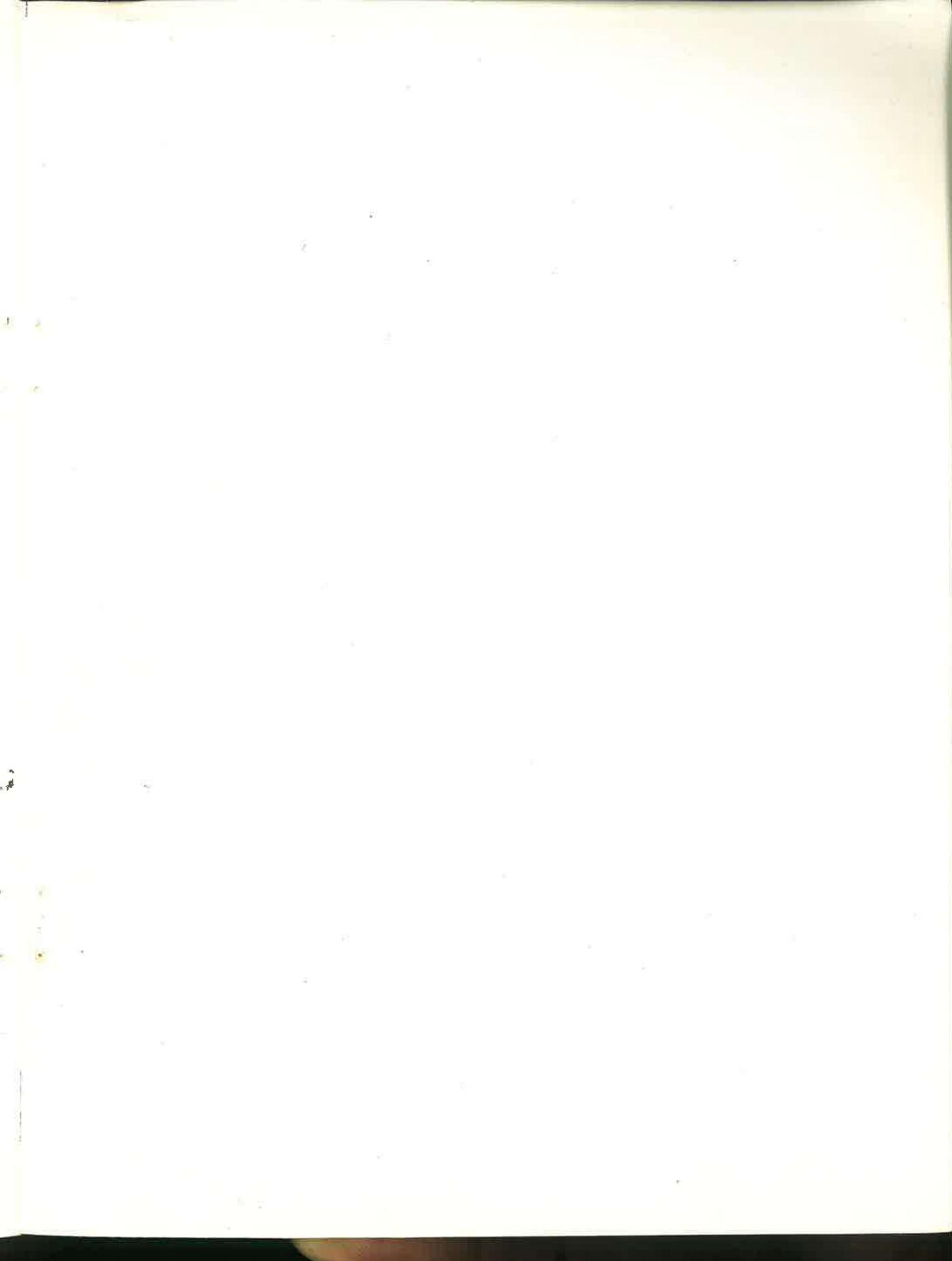
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