



6th International Abilympics
November 23 to 29, 2003, New Delhi, India

REPORT



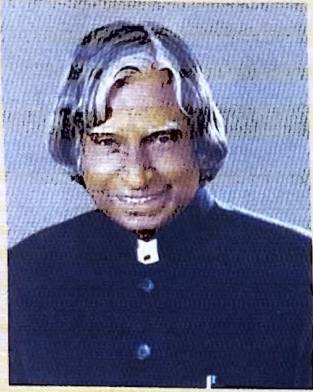
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**the spirit
triumphs**

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I am delighted to know that the National Abilympic Association of India, under the aegis of the Government of India, will be hosting the 6th International Abilympics in November 2003. It is an auspicious occasion in more ways than one. Amelioration of suffering of the disabled depends on the use of advanced technology and initiatives of a sensitised and enlightened society. The Abilympics will provide an opportunity for our disabled brethren to display their vocational skills and underscore the fact that given an opportunity, the disabled are more than capable of participating in national development as equal partners.

My greetings to all participants and organisers for success in this noble venture.

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

President, Republic of India





I am happy to learn that Abilympics (Olympic competition in vocational skills of persons with disability) will be held in India for the first time in our history. It is a good augury that this is happening around the time when our efforts towards eradication of Polio (a major cause of locomotor disability) are coming to fruition.

The disabled in any society deserve our respect and not our pity or charity. They are entitled to their own space. Empowering persons with disability, by vocational training for rehabilitation, is a laudable endeavour as it will help raise their self-esteem and bring about their inclusion in the social mainstream.

I wish the organisers of the 6th International Abilympics all success in this noble venture. May all participants enjoy this international meet and, in the process, also savour India's warmth, hospitality and rich culture.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Prime Minister, Republic of India



I do feel proud that India had deputed a team to the 5th International Abilympics held in Prague in August 2000. This event is still alive in our memories. Not only did the team of India's 14 contestants bring in an impressive haul of medals, it also inspired the Government of India for setting up a National Abilympic Association. This truly reflected India's democratic concern, sensitivity and commitment for the disability sector.

I am indeed delighted to learn that the 6th International Abilympics will be held in New Delhi from November 23 to 29, 2003. I extend our sincere invitation and a very warm welcome to all countries to come forward to visit our ancient land, share our rich culture in the shining bright atmosphere of Delhi for participation in the ensuing sixth event.

We have a strong belief and conviction that persons with disability can equally play an important role in mainstream society and that they are capable of giving their best contribution towards productivity and development of the nation.

I wish the organisers of the 6th International Abilympics grand success and the participants a deserving excitement and joy in a real spirit of bonhomie and healthy competition.

Dr Murli Manohar Joshi

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Republic of India



I am happy to know that the 6th International Abilympics are being held in New Delhi from November 23, 2003.

Excellent performance of our disabled children in the 5th International Abilympics in Prague (Czechoslovakia) proved that in no way are they less talented than able-bodied children and that no disability can hamper their talents.

Events like Abilympics provide an opportunity to disabled people to demonstrate their artistic skills and also help enhancing their self-confidence. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recognises their talent and is constantly working towards their welfare and empowering them.

I congratulate the organisers and extend my warm wishes to the participants.

I also wish the event to be a grand success.

Dr Satyanarayan Jatiya

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Republic of India



I am particularly happy to learn that India would be hosting 6th International Abilympics in Delhi in November 2003.

It is a befitting occasion as it will focus world attention in general and with all the Indian polity in particular, to give a major thrust to job environment for persons with disabilities. Nothing can be more welcome to a committed, sensitive and truly democratic nation than to ensure equal job opportunities for that part of its populace that suffers from disabilities.

In Delhi itself a very large number of governmental and non-governmental organisations are working to improve and enhance job opportunities for this sector, which they have to share with the rest of the populace as our country still has a sizeable unemployment problem.

International Abilympics, being held in Delhi for the first time, will give an added fillip to our commitments to this deserving sector. I have no doubt about its success. The Government of Delhi will extend a helping hand to the organisers of this noble venture.

I wish them all success.

Sheila Dikshit

Chief Minister, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, India



It was largely the effort of Dr Uma Tuli and members of the non-governmental agencies in India who brought [the International Abilympics] to realisation, with the full support of the Indian Government.

We look earnestly forward to the opportunity of looking at the various rehabilitation facilities in the Indian continent and more so the International Abilympics, which I have fullest confidence that India will make a great successful and enjoyable event.

I urge all countries should take part in this very meaningful endeavour.

Looking forward to seeing you all in New Delhi.

Professor The Honourable Sir Harry S.Y. Fang

Chairman, Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Challenged, Hong Kong



On behalf of the International Abilympic Federation, I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the National Abilympic Association of India for its efforts to ensure the success of the 6th International Abilympics.

First initiated in 1981 in Japan, the International Abilympics has offered opportunities for participants to demonstrate a wide range of professional abilities, to exchange knowledge and new ideas as well as to form friendships that go beyond age, sex, race and disabilities.

This time it will be in India that participants, observers and organisers enjoy many exciting, rewarding and memorable experiences.

I look forward to welcoming many participants from all over the world to the International Abilympics.

Tadashi Shiiya

President, International Abilympic Federation, Japan



India is hosting the International Abilympics for the first time in November 2003. It was only in 2000 that an Indian team, selected after an all-India competition, participated in the 5th International Abilympics in Prague.

We are hoping to make the 6th International Abilympics like a "celebration of life" for the disability sector – each one in his own space living life at his own pace. Our aim is to showcase the abilities of persons with disability, so as to demonstrate their productivity and employability potential in an organised environment.

Diversity of cultural practices, food, clothing and even languages in India sometimes bewilders a casual onlooker. But there is an underlying unifying cultural strain that runs through the entire polity and is visible in our festivals, modes and mores and in our essentially creative attitude to life and living. There is endless variety in India's music, arts and culture; possibly, it is the only nation which can boast of more than half a dozen well defined classical dance forms in addition to innumerable forms of folk dances.

India, with its inherent vast variety and multifaceted culture, has an inner warmth to be savoured by all. The soul of India is its sensitivity and commitment to democratic values and to the concept of equality and justice for all.

I invite all members of the world comity of nations to send their teams to participate in this glorious event. A sincere welcome awaits all. Come and savour the rare warmth of our ancient culture and hospitality.

Major General (Retd) Narindar Singh, PVSM, AVJ

Chairman, National Abilympic Association of India



The 6th International Abilympics being held in New Delhi will mark the culmination of efforts initiated nearly three years ago. While it will provide a unique and welcome opportunity for India to witness the exceptional vocational skills of our honoured participants from all over the world, it will also help in showcasing the abilities of persons with disabilities in our country. In conjunction with the contests, an international conference on 'Education towards employability for persons with disabilities' is being organised. This will be attended by eminent personalities and participants from the disability sector. An exhibition on assistive devices has also been arranged, where manufacturers from various countries will be demonstrating state-of-the-art products.

A unique feature this time is the Abilympic Village where NGOs from all over the country will display their products in an ambience highlighting the rich folk tradition of India.

I am confident that those attending the 6th International Abilympics will carry back memories of a truly rewarding and enriching experience.

Aruna Dalmia

President, National Abilympic Association of India

the Abilympic song

We can and we will

Koi mushkil ho, dur manzil ho,
Never stops us from dreaming,
Haarta hai woh, haar mane jo,
We are what we believe in.

Chorus

Hum dharti ko ambar sey mila dein,
Hum ud sakte hain, udkar dikha dein,
Hum choo le sitaron ko, we can touch the sky,
Aasha ke pankhon pe, we can and we will fly.

Jaane kal kya ho,
Jee le is pal ko,
Let's give life a new meaning,
Aaj kar le woh,
kah raha dil jo,
This is just the beginning.

Chorus

Hum jo sochte hain woh karke dikha dein,
Hum ud sakte hain, udkar dikha dein,
Hum choo le sitaron ko, we can touch the sky,
Aasha ke pankhon pe, we can and we will fly.

We can dream together, together you and me,
We can make it happen, if only we believe.

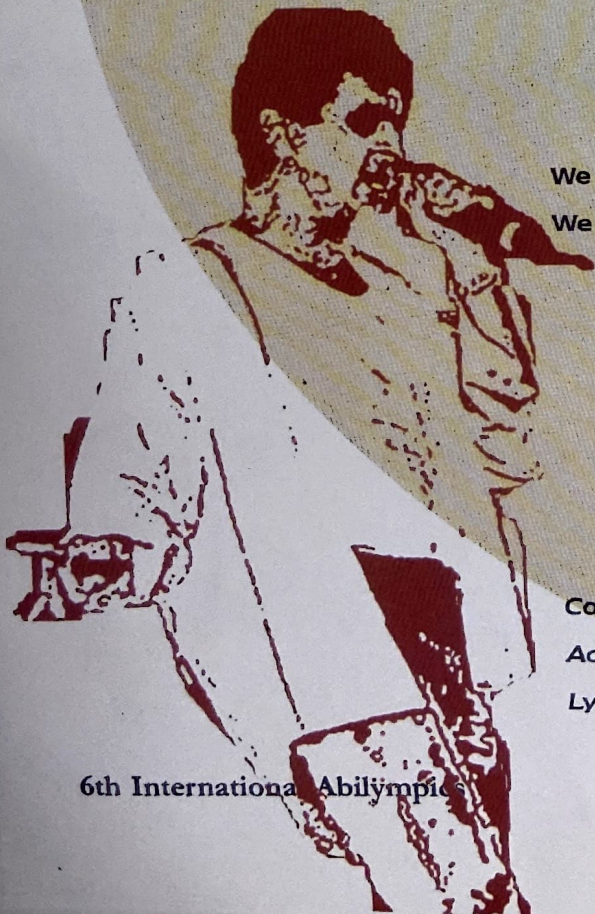
Chorus

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Hum ud sakte hain, udkar dikha dein,
Hum choo le sitaron ko, we can touch the sky,
Aasha ke pankhon pe, we can and we will fly.

Composed and sung by Dr Palash Sen

Accompanied by George Abraham and Manju Magu

Lyrics by Shubha Menon



The impact of the 1st International Abilympics held in Japan in 1981 inspired me to dream of organising such an event in India. Over the next few years, I had the privilege of attending the 3rd and the 5th International Abilympics held in Hong Kong and Prague, respectively.

The dream started taking concrete shape when India's bid to host the 6th International Abilympics in November 2003 was unanimously approved at the International Abilympic Assembly in Prague. The dream, I am happy to say, was fulfilled in glorious measure when the Prime Minister of India, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, inaugurated the event at the packed Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on November 24, 2003.

The commitment of the government to the welfare of the disabled was underscored when the President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, invited all the 1,500 participants, taking part in 45 contests, from 33 countries, for a get-together at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The 6th International Abilympics witnessed an unprecedented convergence of resources – government, NGOs, corporate sector, institutions, social agencies and individuals came together for a common cause. While it is difficult to quantify the benefits accruing from the event, it is obvious that what has been set in motion will have a multiplier effect in strengthening the disability sector. One can see the spin-off in terms of barrier-free features in public places and transport, creation of awareness of the employ-

ability of persons with disabilities and exposure to new technology in vocational skills.

Since 1981, the Abilympics movement has been growing steadily, spreading the message of equal rights and opportunities for persons with disability. During the journey from India to Shizouka in the next four years, one looks forward to participation from more countries with the approach of mainstreaming and gathering increased momentum.

It is my fervent desire that the Abilympics continue to serve as the platform to forge new friendships, strengthen existing bonds, highlighting commonalities rather than differences. This would, I am sure, greatly help in achieving our cherished dream of a world where people with disabilities become an integral part of an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society.

Dr Uma Tuli

Secretary General,

National Abilympic Association of India



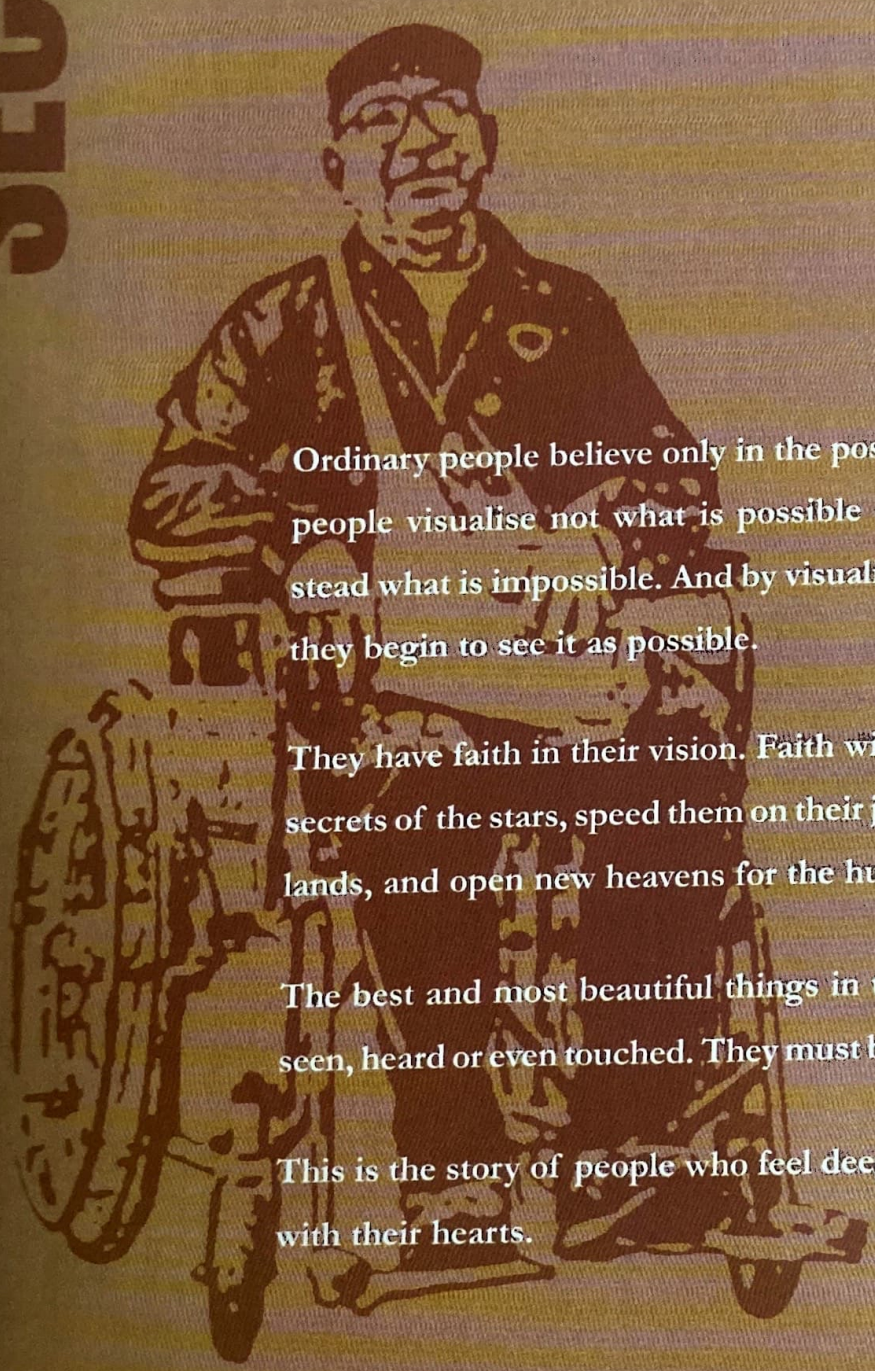
of the people

where DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY



the people

of the people



Ordinary people believe only in the possible. Extraordinary people visualise not what is possible or probable, but instead what is impossible. And by visualising the impossible, they begin to see it as possible.

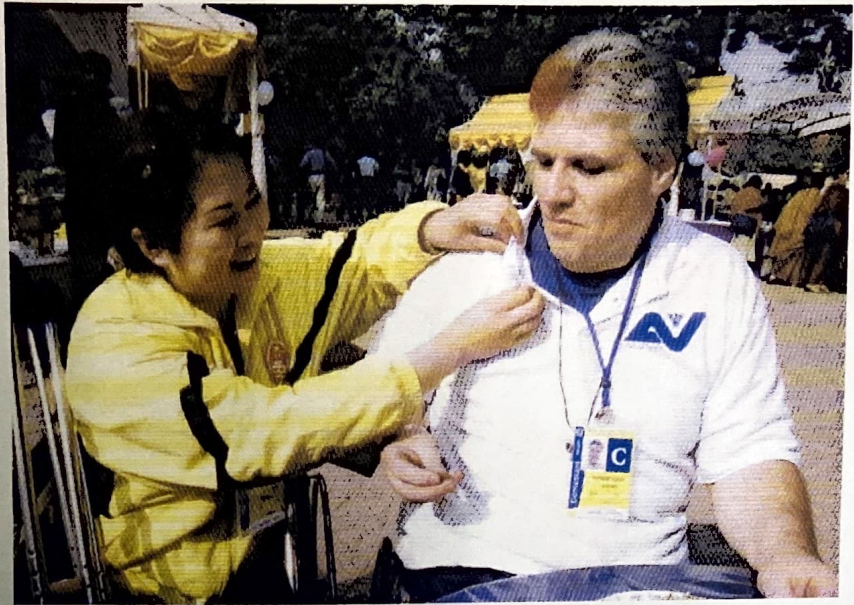
They have faith in their vision. Faith will reveal to them the secrets of the stars, speed them on their journey to uncharted lands, and open new heavens for the human spirit.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, heard or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

This is the story of people who feel deeply, and completely, with their hearts.

Don't work for my happiness... show me yours. Show me that it is possible. Show me your achievement... and the knowledge will give me courage for mine.

— Ayn Rand, in *The Fountainhead*



walking the path less known

The Abilympics – Olympics of Abilities – are not very different from the event that has inspired it. Passion and fervour run through the very fibre of this event. Indomitable joy and ebullience mark every action. An intense competitive spirit drives every contestant, yet this spirit is also the personification of humility and camaraderie.

Held every four years in different countries, the Abilympics actively promote the vocational skills of persons with disability. Disability can never mean inability; the prize-winning entries bear witness to the exceptional talent and skill of the contestants. The Abilympics empower the contestants, and help them rediscover strength and self-confidence deep within themselves. They guide them towards a path that leads to economic independence and self-reliance. They produce not only heroes but, more importantly, productive members of mainstream society.

Through the Abilympics, we strive to create a world where people with and without disability enjoy equal rights and opportunities. Since economic emancipation is the main focus, excellence of output is the only criterion. The events are judged very strictly. The quality of work must measure up to the standards and specifications laid down.

The Olympics of abilities

In 1972, the Japan Association for Employment of the Disabled, under the Ministry of Labour, organised the Olympics of Abilities. The aim was to improve the vocational abilities of people with disabilities and help them reach their highest potential. This would, in turn, result in increased employment opportunities for persons with disability.

That ideal led to the 1st International Abilympics in Tokyo, in 1981, to commemorate the United Nations International Year of Disabled Persons. The success of this event ensured that the Abilympics be organ-

ised as an international event every four years in different countries.

The infrastructural stability of the Abilympics was ensured by Sir Harry Fang, Past President of Rehabilitation International. He proposed that an International Abilympic Federation (IAF) be established to promote the Abilympics. Age is not a limiting factor. Physically, mentally, speech and hearing, orthopaedically, and visually impaired people compete on equal grounds.

Bogota in Colombia hosted the 2nd International Abilympics in 1985. This was followed by Hong Kong, Perth (Australia), Prague (Czech Republic) and, most recently, New Delhi (India).

1981 Tokyo, Japan
1985 Bogota, Colombia
1989 Hong Kong
1995 Perth, Australia
2000 Prague, Czech Republic
2003 New Delhi, India

Below: Mrs Uma Tuli carrying the Abilympic Flag in Prague, after India won its bid to host the 6th Abilympics. Right: The participants of the 5th Abilympics with Ms Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, India.



The road to Prague and back

Prague saw India participating for the first time in the Abilympics. The small 14-member team returned with an enormous haul – three gold medals, three bronzes and a certificate of merit! Along the way, the team encountered many instances of generosity of the human spirit. To quote one instance, the organisers had just enough funds to take a flight from Delhi to Paris, which was free courtesy Air India. Straitened financial circumstances dictated that the rest of the journey – from Paris to Prague – would have to be undertaken by bus! However, this would have been too uncomfortable for the disabled children to be a feasible option. The organisers decided to approach the Chief Minister of Delhi, Ms Sheila Dikshit. All she asked was, “What is the shortfall?” The organisers received the funds; the children travelled to Prague in comfort.

There were many adventures en route too.

For Anoop Singh, who bagged a bronze medal in jewellery in Prague, travel by plane was a highlight of the journey. Never in his dreams had he even imagined that he would undertake a journey by air. That was not all. On hearing that India’s national team was going to participate in the Abilympics, the plane’s crew displayed a spontaneous gesture of goodwill – in batches of two, the pilot took all the children into the cockpit, and explained to them the intricacies of flying a huge aeroplane! The children were overjoyed.

To cap our achievements, India’s bid to host the 6th International Abilympics was unanimously approved at the IAF Assembly after the events.

The Indian chapter

There was no time to waste! Planning for the forthcoming event, even though it was four hazy years in the future, began right away – in fact, in the aeroplane itself, on the return journey from Prague to Paris. Lager to get



moving, Major General Narindar Singh (PVSM, AVJ), drafted the first blueprints, jotting down the initial milestones and the committees to be formed. The first conference can rightly be said to have taken place in that aeroplane, between him and Dr (Ms) Uma Tuli, Founder Managing Secretary, Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, and currently Chief Commissioner, Persons with Disability, Government of India.

The first step was the formation of a national association to supervise an event of this magnitude. The National Abilympic Association of India (NAAI) was constituted on May 1, 2001, to prepare the ground for the international event. Maj Gen Singh was appointed Chairman. He brought formidable experience with him; he is a Founding Director of the Special Olympics Committee, and was involved in the organisation of the 1982 Asiad in India.

The host agency, Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust in Delhi, took on the task of forming the

National Headquarters in Delhi. This was followed by locating hosts at five regional centres: the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy in Kolkata, Vidyasagar in Chennai, Blind People's Association of India in Ahmedabad and Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust in New Delhi to represent the East, South, West, and North/Central India, respectively.

Though the Abilympics were scheduled to be held in 2004, this was to be election year in India – the entire government machinery would be busy elsewhere. The resultant dispersal of resources, mindshare and effort was not acceptable to NAAI. The date for the event was shifted to November 2003.

Planning started at a frantic pace. Committees – as many as 27 of them! – were formed, blueprints drawn up, hundreds of people roped in – there was a flurry of activity across the country. The objective was to get the best people from all over India. For that, hundreds of talented persons were pitted against each other in contests of vocational skills.

dancing to India's tune

India's cultural event – a dance choreographed to incorporate the vigorous movements of the Bhangra with the precision of the classical form – had everyone floored at the Prague Abilympics! Participants from other countries joined in spontaneously to dance to the universal beat of music along with their Indian counterparts.





Top: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee with the Indian squad before its departure for the 5th International Abilympics in Prague. Above: The participants of the 5th Abilympics taking a break from the contests.

The next step was organising the pre-Regionals in September-October 2001. Then came the Regionals, in October-November 2001. By this time, over 3,000 disabled persons had competed in various events all over India. The pool of talent had been whittled down to 600, who would now compete in the National Abilympics for the honour of representing India at the International Abilympics.

Governing Body Members

- Maj-Gen Narindar Singh (Retd), AVSM, AVJ – *Chairman*
- Ms Aruna Dalmia – *President*
- Dr (Ms) Uma Tuli – *Secretary General*
- Ms Radha Kumari – *Joint Secretary*
- Air Marshal (Retd) S.G. Inamdar, PVSM, VSM – *Member*
- Dr V.K. Dabbas – *Member*
- Dr W.N. Tungar – *Member*
- Dr Bhushan Punani – *Member*
- Dr A.K. Datta – *Member*
- Mr Kanubhai Tailor – *Member*
- Mr Vikram Dutt – *Member*

The First National Abilympics were held from November 26-29, 2002, at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Ability, not disability, was the focus of the 44 different competitions. From cake decoration to cabinet making, jewellery making to web page designing, painting to dress making – the skills of each individual were tested. At the end of it all, India had found its team for the International Abilympics.

meeting the Prime Minister



Above and right: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee speaking during the inaugural ceremony of the National Abilympics. He not only gave his blessings to the Indian team that represented the country at the 5th International Abilympics in Prague, but also inaugurated the National, as well as the 6th International Abilympics in Delhi.



The Abilympics have played an important part in sensitising people towards disability-related issues. A strong message has gone out to the world that India is a disabled-friendly country and that its government is deeply committed to promoting the welfare of disabled persons. This has been proved beyond doubt by the sustained interest that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has shown in the event. He gave his blessing to the Indian contingent before it departed for Prague for the 5th International Abilympics. He inaugurated

the National Abilympics, as well as the 6th International Abilympics.

Mr Vajpayee's continued involvement ensured that consciousness was generated among the public, who now are sensitive to the special needs of disabled persons. Efforts to provide barrier-free access to public places also received a fillip. People now comprehend that persons with disabilities do not need any pity or largesse. They need their own space to realise their potential.



**Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future,
concentrate the mind on the present moment.**

– The Buddha



Don't be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so.

– Belva Davis



What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

preparing the way

Planning was organised on many fronts. While the events were happening, teams of people were busy with preparations of a different kind. The capital city had to be evaluated very strictly – was it disabled friendly? Could the hotels, buses, offices, venues or shops handle the large number of disabled participants expected?

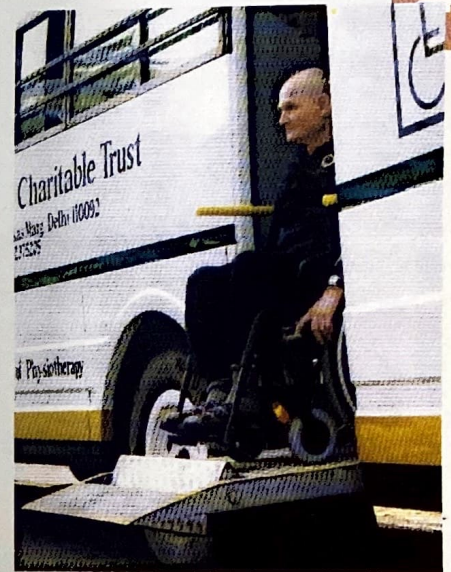
Accessible environment

Sanjeev Sachdeva, ED and Programme Coordinator at Samarthya, was part of the team that worked towards a barrier-free environment. "Delhi is sadly lacking in infrastructural facilities for disabled persons," Mr Sachdeva says. "With help from my colleague, Anjali Agarwal, we helped move things around, and tried to create an accessible environment."

It was an excellent opportunity to promote the cause of unhindered mobility. "We want to promote barrier-free tourism," adds Ms Agarwal, "along with accessible transportation, accommodation and public services."

Accessible buses were made available by the Government of Delhi-NCR, Akshay Pratishthan, Amar Jyoti, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), and the Army. One bus, for instance, could accommodate 14 wheelchairs; there was a hydraulic ramp in the rear for the wheelchairs to be rolled in; there were rods to hold on to; and there were wooden stoppers too. In addition, one bus was also modified to cater to the requirements of the contestants, all under the guidance of N.K. Somany, Chairman, Transport Committee.

Since foreign participants would want to move around in the city, Mr Sachdeva and Ms Agarwal also worked on making Dilli Haat and the Central Cottage Emporium, among other places of tourist interest, accessible. Others took on the responsibility of conducting audits of hotels and other buildings, to assess their accessibility and make them barrier-free. Over 22 hotels modified their entrances, rooms and toilets to make them accessible. At the venue itself, toilets were modified and mobile toilets installed.



Access Audit Team Members

- Sanjeev Sachdeva
- Anjali Agarwal
- Shivani Gupta
- Shivjeet Singh
- Premjit Lal

accessible signage

The Abilympics has, in more ways than one, set the standards for other events to follow with regard to disabled-friendly environments. One of these is the philosophy underlying the design of the signage:

- The overall design ambience of the signage system was derived from the identity of the event itself.
- The international symbol of accessibility was integrated into the design of signage for accessible spaces.
- The legibility of the message was maintained in all signage installations.
- A guide map within the event arena helped in avoiding confusion.
- To ensure that the signage did not pose a linguistic barrier to understanding, the pictograms used were of international standards.
- The overall aim was to ensure smooth and easy movement in the stadium.



In addition, Deependra Minocha and Ashwani Agarwal converted the material – bulky guidelines, references, notes – into Braille from English for visually impaired contestants.

Identity and signage

“Every event has its own identity and its own roots to derive cues from,” says Gaurav Raheja, Convenor, Signage. “Being an international event and organised on a mega scale, the Abilympics needed a similar methodology to design the signage system.”

The challenge that Mr Raheja and his mentor, Prof S.C. Handa, faced was that signage – be it external or internal – had to cater to diverse body capabilities and linguistic backgrounds. English was thus accepted as the language for the signage, in conjunction with internationally accepted symbols or pictograms for the various facilities. The entire design theme revolved around blue and yellow, the colours of disability.

A visually complementary identity system – I-cards for contestants, escorts, convenors, judges and volunteers, as well as banners and arena maps – was also evolved. The signage thus was not just an aesthetic element; it was also a unifying factor in the event.

Media strategy

Preparation of press notes, organising press conferences, preparing and distributing media folders, organising interviews – media planning was no less significant. George Abraham, Senior Vice President, NAAI, Prem Kumar, Jitendra Tuli and Prabha Mehta, ED of Disha – Centre for People with Disabilities and Vice President, NAAI, kept the event in the media's scope. A website gave updated accounts of the Abilympics.

The team hit upon a novel way of promoting the Abilympics, with help from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). “We tied up with the IOC to put our banners in over 130 IOC petrol pumps in Delhi,” reveals Mr Abraham.



During the events, the media centre was “one of the most inviting destinations,” says Ms Mehta. Daily bulletins on the Abilympics were brought out; copies, and other publications, were available at the centre.

So what if the electronic and print media relegated it to page 3 news? So what if some journalists did not find the events “newsworthy”? So what if an international event of this magnitude did not get what some would feel was its rightful share of news coverage? The enthusiasm of the contestants was undiminished, their spirit was unbroken; the zeal of the organisers and planners bordered on the fervent, their commitment to their cause unquestionable.

To reach out to Delhi’s young people with the message, ‘We can... We will’, Radio City 91 FM ran a quiz from November 20 to 26. Questions on the Abilympics were asked and listeners had to call in with their answers. The radio jockey asked the questions mimicking the voices of various film stars.



A large number of people called in daily with their answers. Two winners each day were given an Abilympics goody bag – each comprising an Abilympics cap and T-shirt, gift vouchers from Music World and a CD with the Abilympics song sung by Dr Palash Sen.

Event planning and training

There were no written specifications or rules, from previous Abilympics, for the planners of the 6th International Abilympics. So began a mammoth exercise. Guidelines were drafted not only for the competitions, but also for the judges, jury, technical assistants, convenors/co-convenors – in short, everybody. A syllabus and curriculum was also drawn up. Evaluation criteria were finalised. “It was a team effort; we consulted a lot of professionals from all over the country,” says Dr A.K. Datta, Chairperson, Events. A ‘Compendium of task assignments and guidelines’, compiled for the first time, will serve as reference for future Abilympics.

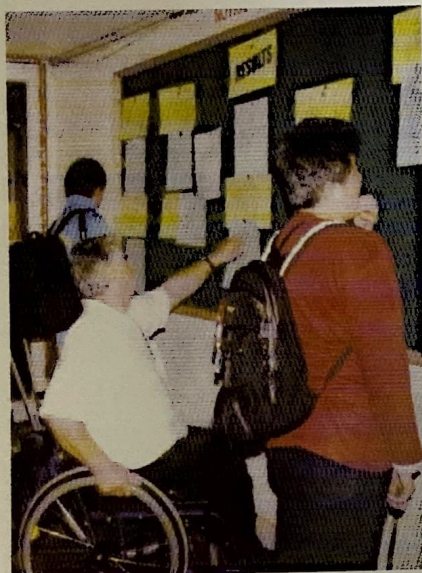


Clockwise from facing page: New friendships were forged at the event; a specially designed mobile toilet at the venue; Arun Rao, of Delhi Deaf Friendship Club, interpreting spoken language into sign language; and, the kit specially designed for the participants.



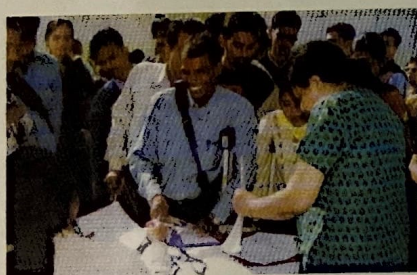


Left (top to bottom): Many schoolchildren volunteered for the Abilympics. Here, a group takes a break; eager eyes scanning the results; and the Registration booth. Below: An IAF delegation visited India in August 2003, and took a lot of interest in NAAI's strategies.



The seating needs of the contestants were worked out. This is significant because persons with similar disability (for instance, the hearing impaired) need to be seated together for sign language interpretation.

An Awards Centre was set up, under the guidance of Ranu Bannerjee, where the results were compiled and displayed daily. Adjacent to this was the judges' room, where the award-winning entries were displayed.



Ms Radha and her team organised training sessions for the contestants and orientation courses for the convenors and judges. Counters, managed by Shivani Gupta, had been set up in the lobby of Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium to help the contestants and guests. At hand were booths for Information, Travel, 'May I help you?', Registration, Stic Travels, Banking, Lost and Found, Cloak-room... the list is endless.

Visit of IAF delegation

On August 18, 2003, the National Abilympic Association of India (NAAI) hosted a dinner for the delegates of the International Abilympic Federation (IAF), who were visiting India. The dinner was attended by Members of NAAI's Governing Body and other officials, advisors, donors, sponsors and government officials.

The delegation had come to see the preparations made by NAAI for the 6th International Abilympics. They took a lot of interest in NAAI's planning and implementation strategies, as well as the arrangements made by NAAI not only for the contestants but for their escorts and other delegates as well.

They were satisfied with what they saw. Some members also made valuable suggestions, which were later incorporated during the international event.

meeting the President

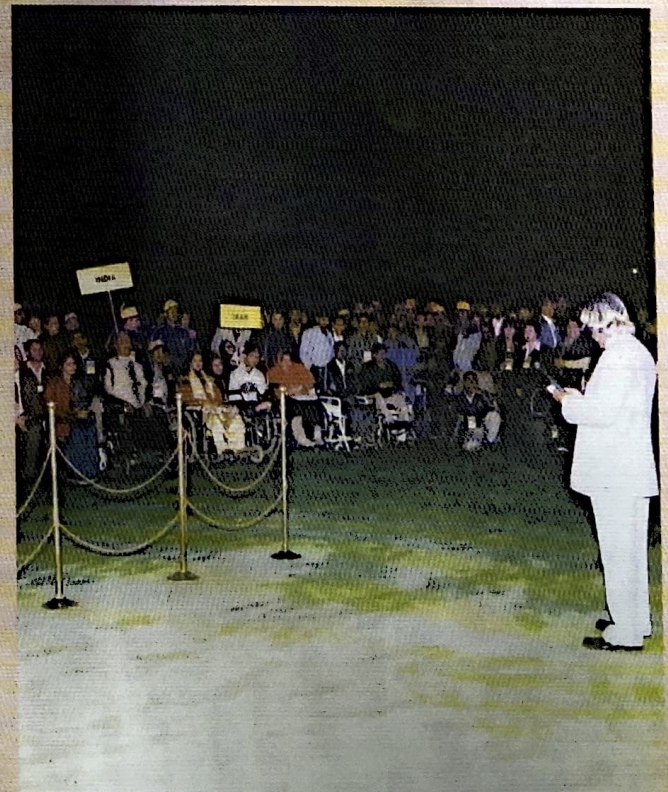
A biting cold December evening spread uncharacteristic warmth and cheer. On November 27, the participants of the 6th International Abilympics had a memorable tete-a-tete with the President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The lawns of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, host to formal banquets in honour of Heads of Government and royal personages, came alive with informality and vibrancy. Joyous voices rang out to welcome the 1,500 participants.

The participants had been looking forward to the interactive session with the President. And the President walked among them as among old friends, shaking hands, asking questions, congratulating them, laughing at a comment. Man-made barriers of protocol could not stand in the way of the exhilarating energy that coursed in the air.

Both the hospitality and the attention shown by the President was overwhelming. He expressed keen interest in what various participants were doing and wished them success in life. The highlight of the evening was a Tamil poem read by him (translated into Hindi and English for the benefit of the participants). The beautiful poem states:

We are all God's children,
Our minds are stronger than diamonds.
We will win, win,
With our mighty will.
God is with us, who can be against us!

The staff then ushered the gathering to the feast of Indian snacks and tea that awaited them. All too soon, it was time to bid adieu to a special friend of the Abilympics, the President.



Below and right: Delegates from over 30 countries participated in the 7th IAF Assembly and 19th Executive Committee meeting on November 24, 2003.



IAF Assembly & Executive Committee meeting

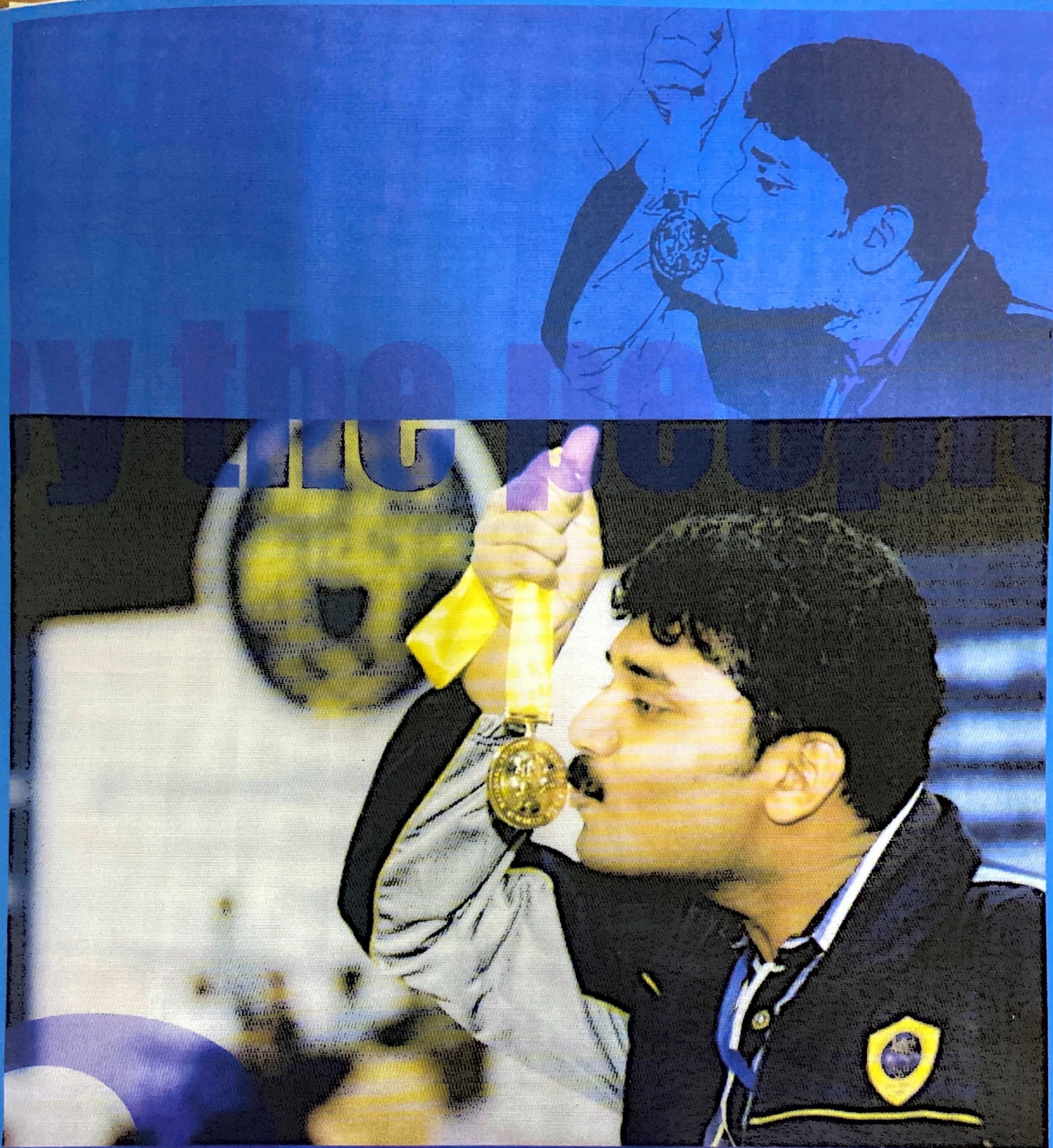
The 7th Assembly meeting and 19th Executive Committee meeting of the IAF was held on November 24 at the IGI stadium. Delegates from over 30 countries participated in the deliberations. On the agenda was the selection of the venue of the 8th International Abilympics (in 2011); the 7th will be held in Japan in 2007. At least seven countries had indicated their interest for hosting it. It was decided that the final decision would be taken in 2007 during the 7th Abilympics.

Nominated by the Executive Committee, the following officers were elected by the Assembly: Mr Tadashi Shiiya, Japan (President); Dr Uma Tuli, India (Vice President); Dr John Fisher, Australia; Mr Helmut Klomfar, Austria; Mr Eric Zhang, China; Mr Jaromir Krpalek, Czech Republic; Prof Arthur Mak, Hong Kong; Mr Khaled El-Mohtar, Lebanon; and, Mr Tomas Lagerwall, Rehabilitation International.

The International Assembly (IA) unanimously approved the new IAF Constitution and Rules for implementation of the IA, which had been discussed since the 6th Assembly held during the 5th IA in Prague. Future IAs will be organised in accordance with the stipulation of both documents.

Representing Japan, Mr Takehide Kamiya introduced the overview of the 7th IA, which would be held in Shizuoka.

The four organisations which were approved as IAF members in 2003 are: National Federation of Disabled Persons Associations, Hungary; Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation, Bizlink Center Singapore Ltd, and Ra'ad Rehabilitation Goodwill Complex of Iran.



by the
people

by the people

Strength and courage aren't always measured in how many medals we have won or how many victories we notch up. They are measured in the struggles that people go through and the obstacles they overcome. The strongest people aren't always the people who win, but the people who don't give up when they lose.

The story of the Abiliympics is replete with instances of heroic efforts by the participants. People who have overcome personal tragedy. People who have battled apathy. People who have slowly but surely rewritten their own destiny.

Whether they won medals or not, each Abilympian is proof of the eternally enduring human spirit. They are all people of strength and courage. They are all winners.

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it.

— William Arthur Ward

the incredible journey begins

November 23, 2003, was a decisive day in the history of the disability movement in India. This was the day when the new millennium witnessed a landmark gathering of disabled people, with exceptional vocational skills, from all over the world. A day when Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of the largest democracy in the world, inaugurated not only the 6th International Abilympics, but also set in motion a journey which imparted a new meaning to the Abilympics' motto: *"I can... and I will"*.

The inauguration marked the successful culmination of efforts initiated over three years ago. It was in August 2000 that the Prime Minister had blessed the 14-member Indian contingent just before its departure for Prague to participate in the 5th International Abilympics. Thus began the 6th International Abilympics, with a blaze of colour and fes-

tivity, marking the start of six days of intense competition that brought together some of the world's most skilled persons with a disability. Persons within each of whom is a hidden store of energy, which they can release to compete in the marathon of life.

Within each of them is a hidden store of courage, which gives them the strength to face any challenge. Within each of them is a hidden store of determination, which keeps them in the race when all seems lost.

Welcoming the 1,500-plus participants and escorts from 33 countries, the Prime Minister hoped that during the next few days, they would not only display their exceptional vocational skills but would also get an opportunity to forge new friendships. He also hoped that the overseas participants would savour the traditional hospitality of India.

Congratulating the efforts of the organisers as well as the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Human Resource Devel-



INAUGURATION



Left: Mr Vajpayee lighting the inaugural lamp; guests on the dais (middle); and the venue, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium (bottom). Below: Some dancers.



opment, he cited the examples of some great leaders and scientists of the world who have overcome their disabilities and have contributed meaningfully to society. It is, he said, the moral duty of society to acknowledge the abilities of disabled persons and to provide them necessary opportunities to develop their full potential. "It is rightly said that the people who are called disabled are not really disabled but only differently abled," he added.

In Mr Vajpayee's view, an area that demands special attention is skill development and employment opportunities for disabled persons. The vocational skills on display at the Abilympics were ample proof of what can be achieved for their empowerment, he said. "What is needed is multi-sectoral involvement of governmental bodies, the private sector, vocational institutions, the banks and financial organisations," he added. It is thus essential to increase the utilisation of technological resources to expand the coverage of appropriate training, which will open up job opportunities for disabled persons.



6th International Abilympics

Below: A troupe of performers on wheelchairs displaying their skill during the inaugural ceremony.



Wishing the participants success in their endeavour, Mr Vajpayee said, "We will have the privilege of seeing the power of your determination, the strength of your spirit and the rewards of your perseverance. Your performance will impart a new meaning to the words: I can... and I will."

Dr Satyanarayan Jatiya, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, said that the Government of India is committed to empowering disabled persons. "The very fact that the Prime Minister is with us to inaugurate the International Abilympics underlines his, and the government's, sensitivity and commitment towards the needs of disabled persons," he said. Referring to the recently constituted National Commission for Disabled Persons, Mr Jatiya expressed confidence that the Commission would prove to be a "milestone in the quest for the upliftment and empowerment of disabled persons". He then sketched out the efforts of the government in providing specialised services and facilities for rehabilitation at the grassroots.

Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for Human Resource Development, recalled that he had been associated with Amar Jyoti's efforts to organise the Abilympics since the beginning. Saying that his ministry had been supportive of the initiative, he promised continued support and sustainability for such events. Dr Joshi said he had already approached the Planning Commission and hoped that it would take positive steps to spread the message of the Abilympics.

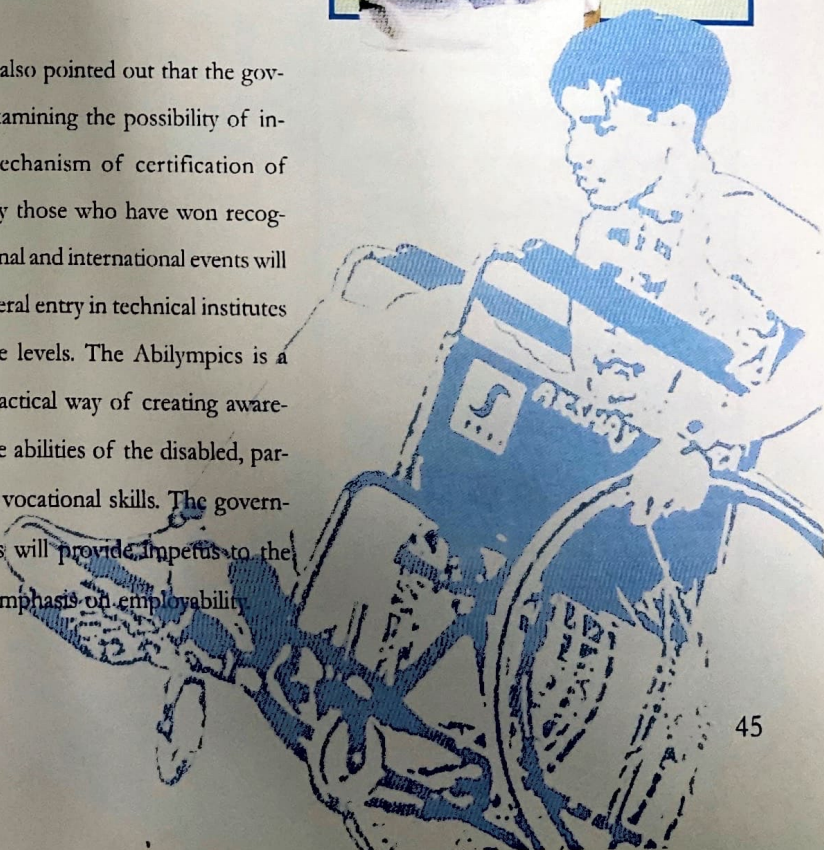
The Minister also pointed out that the government is examining the possibility of instituting a mechanism of certification of skills, whereby those who have won recognition in national and international events will be allowed lateral entry in technical institutes at appropriate levels. The Abilympics is a useful and practical way of creating awareness about the abilities of the disabled, particularly their vocational skills. The government's efforts will provide impetus to the Abilympics' emphasis on employability.

PERSONAL PROFILES

I Can... with my Resolve

Ila Sachani has never known the use of her hands. Since birth, her hands have been non-functional. So Ila has gone ahead and mastered the use of her feet which she uses to paint and embroider delicate patterns with finesse.

This gutsy woman from Ahmedabad has won many accolades and awards in her quest for excellence. She draws her inspiration from her deep faith in God.



INAUGURATION



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Below: Some dancers.



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PERSONAL PROFILES

I Can... with my Passion

Narasimhalu is severely orthopaedically impaired, but is also 'afflicted' with irrepressible enthusiasm. He is an accomplished painter with a unique sense of colour. He won the second prize in painting for his water colour on paper in the South Zone Regionals. He has also done a computer course in Basic Computer Applications and HTML. He uses his foot to operate the mouse. At present he is looking for a job.



Tadashi Shiiya, President of the International Abilympic Federation, praised the organisers for their efforts and the Government of India for its support to the event. The Abilympics provide a platform for highlighting the importance of improving vocational skills as well as the significance of a full life.

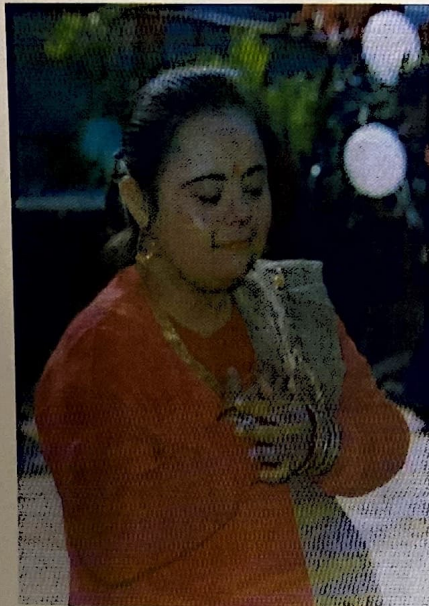
The participants have proven to the world, Mr Shiiya said, that people with disabilities "can" and "will" overcome obstacles with courage and determination. In addition, through media coverage, the Abilympics have raised the awareness of people in general, including employers, regarding disability issues. These consequences will surely make a beneficial impact on the lives of persons with disabilities, especially in their vocational life.

Then the message of the President of Rehabilitation International, Lex Frieden – wishing the 6th International Abilympics all success – was delivered by Tomas Lagerwall, Secretary General, Rehabilitation International.

Mr Lagerwall said, "Abilympics provides a unique opportunity for people to meet and show their abilities rather than their disabilities. Like sports, it can reach beyond borders and build bridges between people from different cultures."

Welcoming the dignitaries, participants and guests, B.S. Baswan, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, conveyed his Ministry's support to the event and wished the participants the best of luck.

Dr Uma Tuli, Secretary General, NAAI, recalled the small beginnings which had culminated in this dream come true, the dream of hosting such a mega event. In his vote of thanks, Maj Gen (Retd) Narindar Singh, Chairperson, NAAI, conveyed the gratitude of the organisers to all the supporters, government and non-governmental agencies, organisations, individuals and volunteers who had made this possible. Most of all, he thanked the participants, without whom the Abilympics would be meaningless.



Cultural show with a difference

Imagine a moment of perfect harmony, of fluid coordination, when a visually impaired child joins another with hearing impairment, who joins a physically challenged child and a slow learner to produce notes of pure melody. And when it is not a few but 225 disabled children performing together, it is a sight that leaves one speechless.

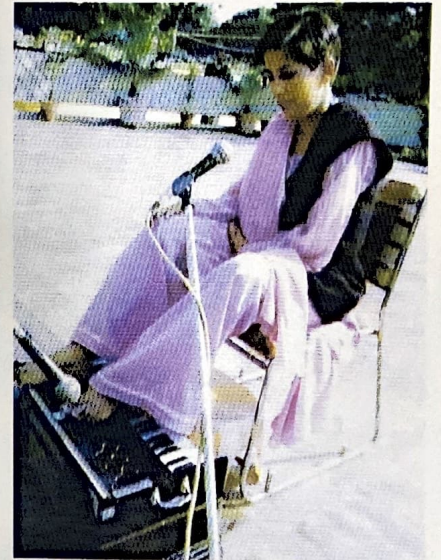
This was a highlight of the cultural programme organised on November 24. Boys and girls from six institutions in Delhi, wove a rich tapestry of sound and colour depicting the 'Rhythms of India' – some of the popular dance forms set to music.

The item was the result of 10 weeks of strenuous rehearsals. The performers were students from Amar Jyoti, Akshay Pratishthan, Laxman Public School, Balwant Rai Mehta School, Deepalaya and the Blind Relief Association.

The programme began with an invocation by the students of Amar Jyoti. This was followed by the lively bamboo dance by the students of the Blind Relief Association. Then came Manjira, a Rajasthani dance form, by children from Akshay Pratishthan, and the ever-popular Gujarati *Dandiya* by students of Laxman Public School. Tarana, performed by all the 225 children, was the grand finale.

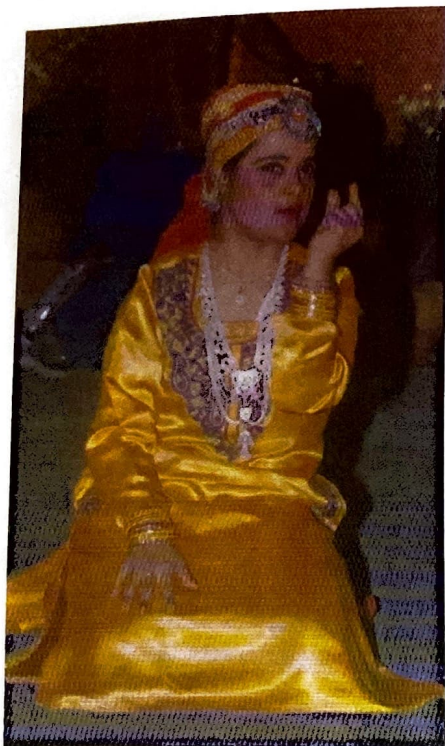
The cultural programme was such a hit with the spectators that the children had to do an encore! The same team then presented 'Colours of India', representing different dance forms with masks, at the valedictory function. Dances on show were Manipuri of Manipur, Ghorii of Kutch, Kathakali of Kerala and Chhau of Orissa.

One of India's best known dancers, Padmashri Shovana Narayan, had trained the children and choreographed the programme.



Left (facing page/this page): Vignettes of the inaugural and cultural ceremonies.

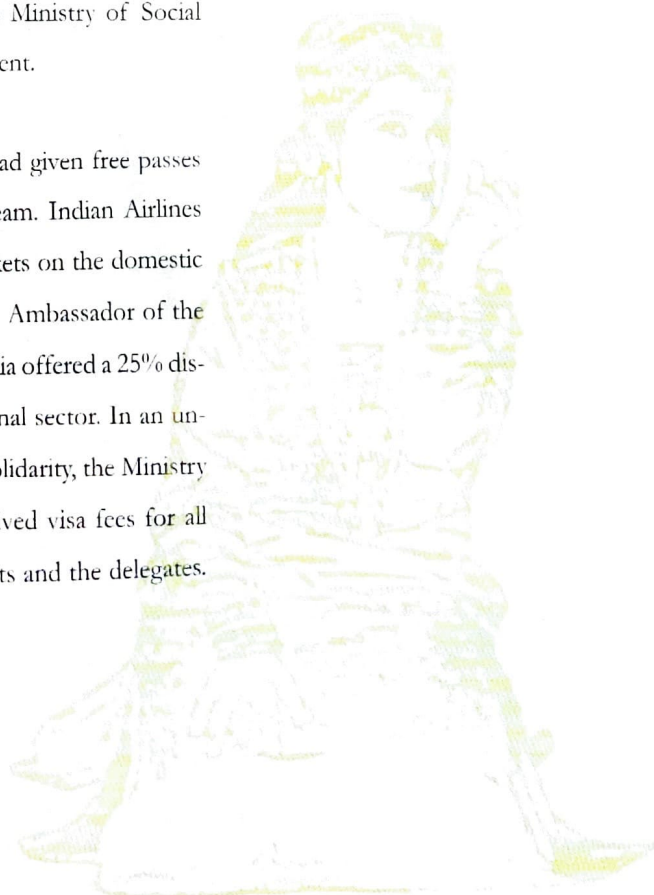
Top: Visually impaired children deftly form a pyramid. Above: In addition to her other skills, this young girl from Chandigarh (India) plays the harmonium beautifully with her feet.



Feted by India!

On November 26, the Railways sponsored a dinner for all the 1,500 participants of the 6th International Abilympics, at the Railway Museum in New Delhi. The evening was simply magical – everybody got carried away by the enthusiasm. The cultural event saw impromptu singing and dancing, spontaneous expressions of joy and friendship. A dinner was also hosted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Railway Ministry had given free passes for the entire Indian team. Indian Airlines pitched in with free tickets on the domestic sector for the Goodwill Ambassador of the Abilympics, and Air-India offered a 25% discount on the international sector. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, the Ministry of External Affairs waived visa fees for all participants, their escorts and the delegates.



Top: A moment frozen in time.

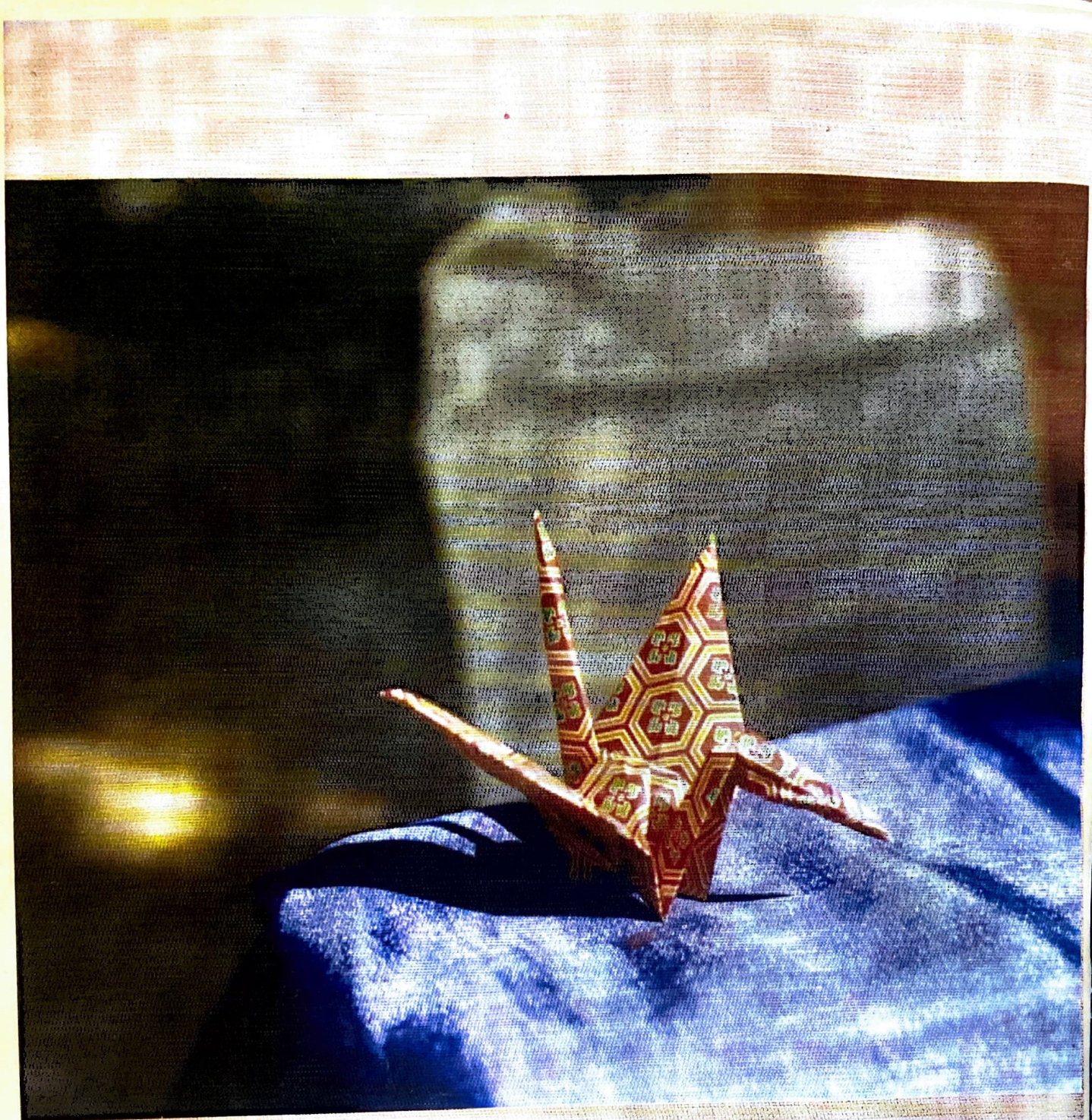
Top right: Shashi Kapoor at the event sponsored by the Railway Ministry.

Above: The group from the Philippines learning dance – Indian style!



Your belief determines your action and your action determines your results, but first you have to believe.

– Mark Victor Hansen



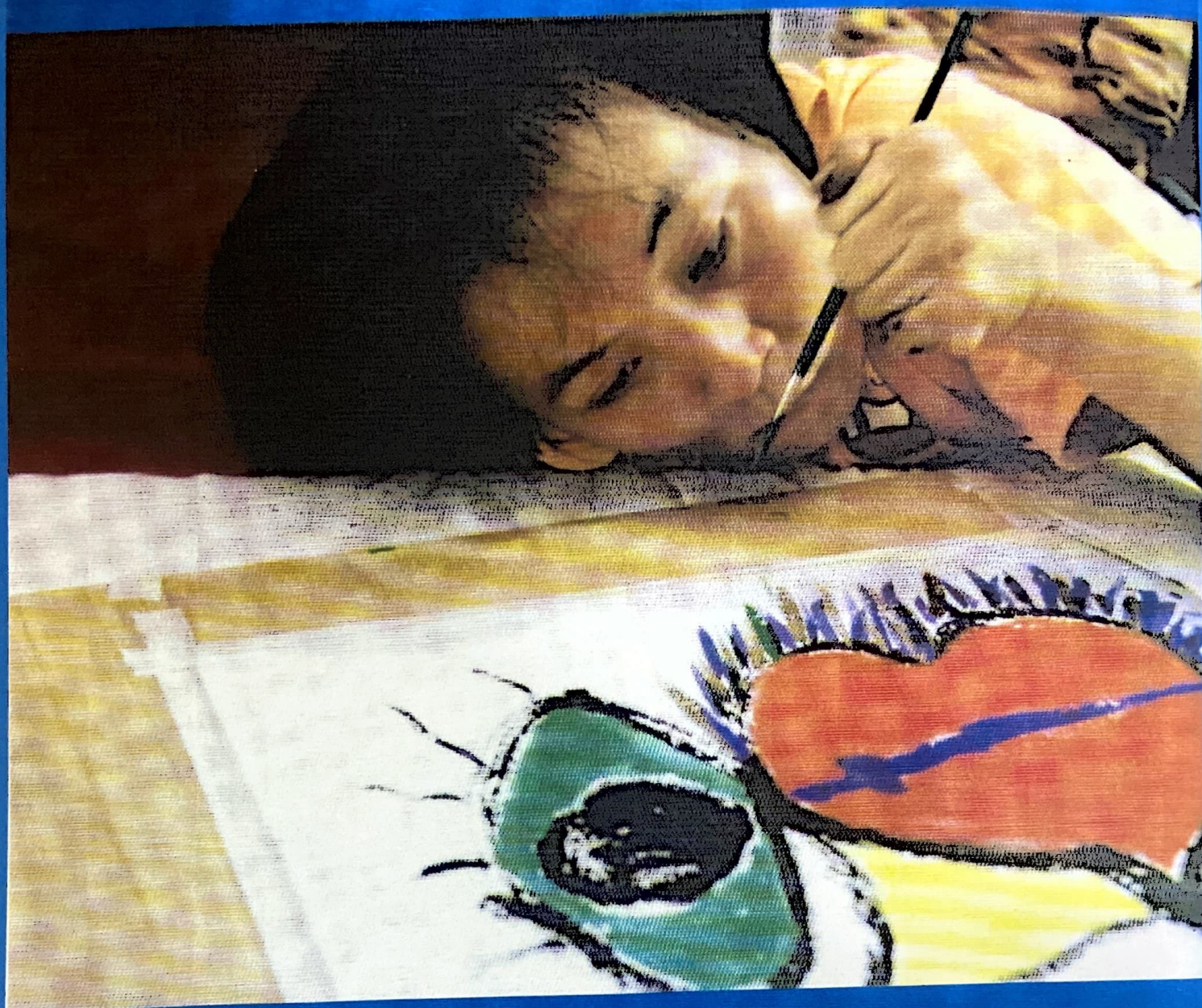
Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.

— Henry Van Dyke



It's lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believe in myself.

– Muhammad Ali



Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

– Special Olympics Oath



competing for honours

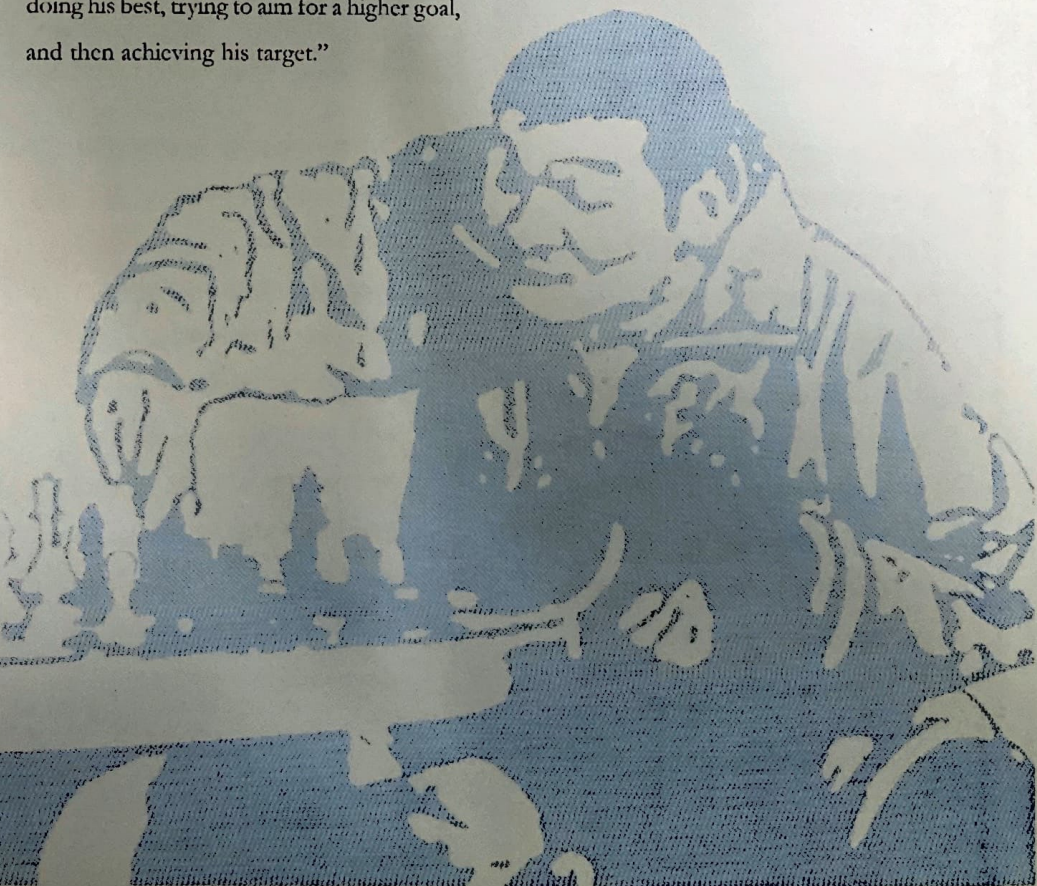
Half a billion people in the world live with a disability. The Abilympics encourages disabled people to rise above their circumstances. This is due to the event's rehabilitative power, the fact that it teaches self-determination and is a means of integration into society. A person with a disability participating in the Abilympics is not looked on as different, but as someone capable of achieving the same, or an even higher, level of skill, than a person without a disability can achieve.

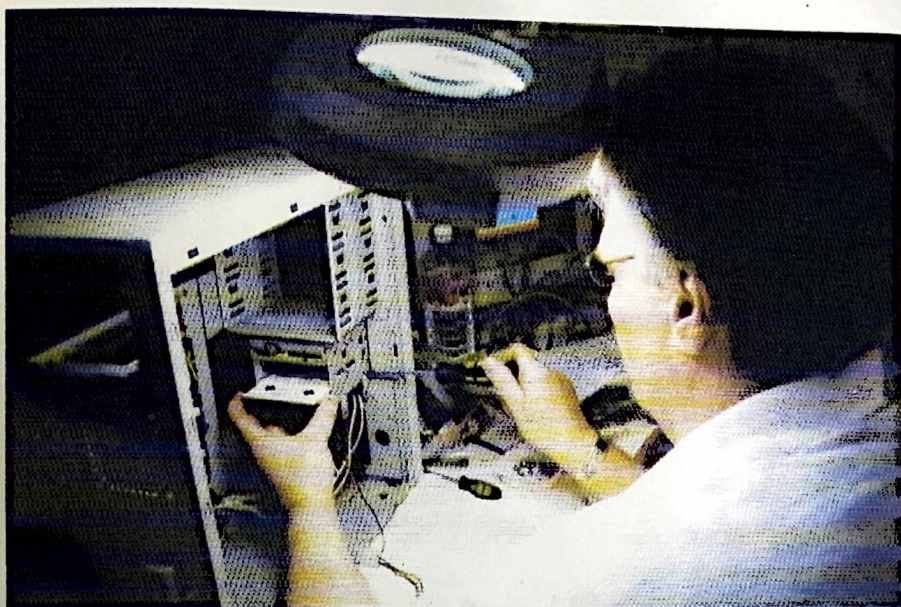
before the Abilympics! I sometimes cut corners, which I now deeply regret.' But just after saying this, he blinked away his tears and continued in a determined manner, 'I'll do my best from now and challenge people again, I promise you.'

Ms Kohyama says, "Through his experience in participating in the 6th International Abilympics, he studied the importance of doing his best, trying to aim for a higher goal, and then achieving his target."

The performances at the Abilympics were of an unprecedented standard. The competitors displayed immense competence, perseverance and the determination to succeed. Chikako Kohyama, a delegate from Japan, relates an illuminating encounter with a young Japanese contestant.

"When he heard that he got the 4th prize, I saw tears in his eyes. But what he regretted was not the prize he narrowly lost. He said, 'If only I had put all my energies in training





Vocational skills contests (above 15 years)

- Cane technology
- PC assembly
- Computer programming
- Creating web pages
- English text processing
- CAD engineering drawing
- English desktop publishing
- Ceramics
- Tailoring (men's)
- Dress-making (women's)
- Silk hand painting
- Tie and dye
- Block printing on fabric
- Jewellery-making
- Electronic assembly and testing
- Poster designing
- Photography (studio portraits)
- Photography (contest coverage)
- Cabinet-making
- Wood carving
- Cake decoration
- Floral arrangement – Ikebana
- Floral arrangement – Western style
- Painting (water colours on paper)
- Painting (oils on canvas)



Leisure and living skills (above 15 years)

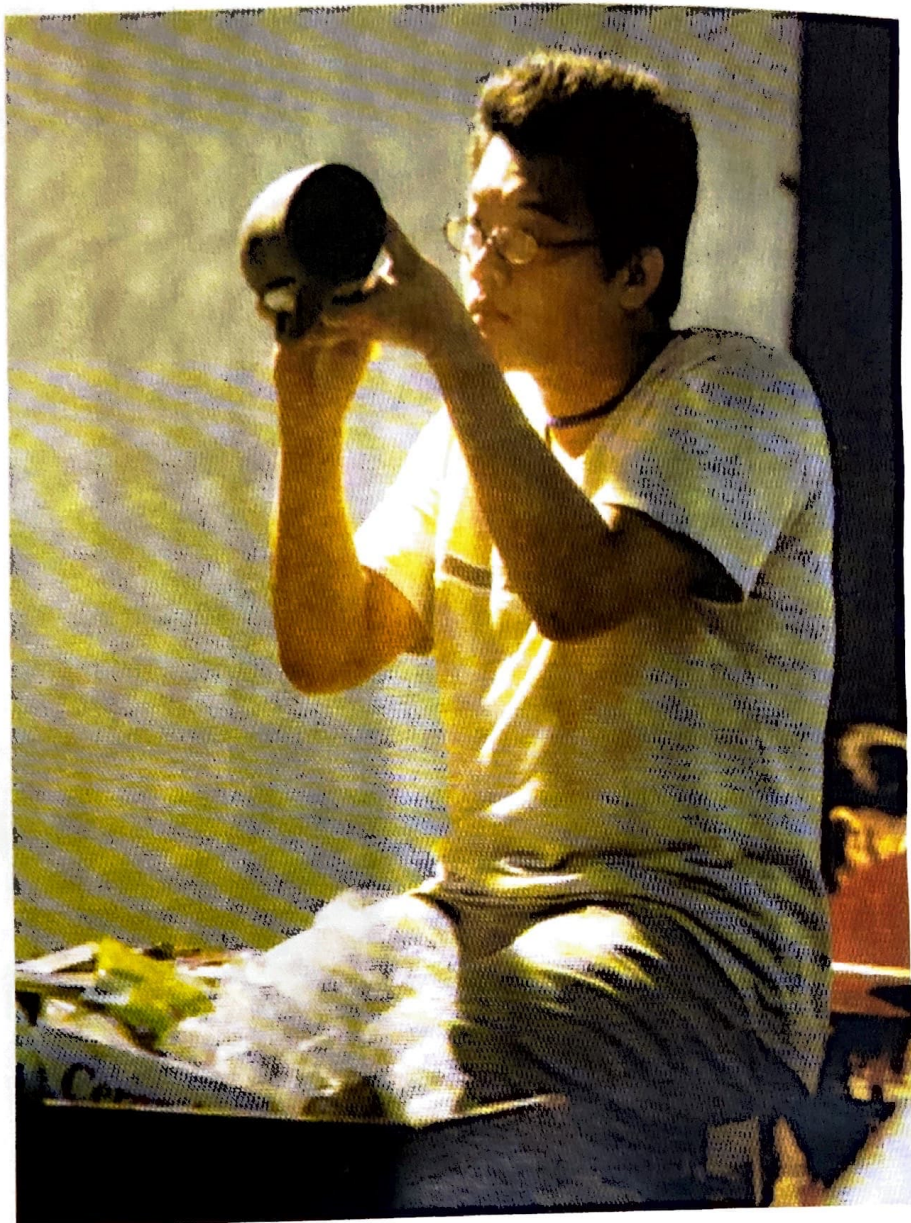
- ☐ Crochet
- ☐ Hand knitting
- ☐ Macramé (knotting)
- ☐ Chess
- ☐ Contract Bridge
- ☐ Embroidery
- ☐ Batik
- ☐ Waste reuse

Children's events (8-15 years)

- ☐ Embroidery
- ☐ Computer skills – Speed and accuracy
- ☐ Computer skills – Greeting card designing
- ☐ Lego
- ☐ Jigsaw puzzle
- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Chess

- ☐ Card designing – 'Get Well' card
- ☐ Card designing – Greeting card
- ☐ Origami (paper-folding)
- ☐ Plasticine modelling
- ☐ Cartooning

E V E N T S



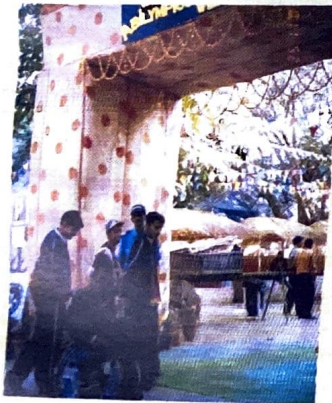
the Abilympic village

A typical village in the heart of the capital sounds like a tall order. But that is exactly what was achieved at the Indra Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. "We wanted a place to showcase Indian *sanskriti* (heritage), to create a mini-India," says Aruna Dalmia, President, NAAI, and Chairperson, Akshay Pratishthan. "It was a place where one could get a feel of the multicultural vista of India."

The 'chaupal' at the Village had a regular minstrel in Diwakar Sharma, a visually impaired 10-year-old boy, who regaled visitors and participants with his beautiful songs. He also plays the synthe-

siser. The other performers at the Village, as well as at the food plaza, who drew the loudest applause included the Rajasthan folk singers, children of Akshay Pratishthan, the Dubai Al-Noor team, the visually impaired children from Surat,

Below left: The Village recreated during the 6th International Abilympics was a virtual mini-India - it gave one a feel of the multicultural vista of this vast country. Below: The Village was a show window for talented disabled persons who could not take part in the contests. The mehendi (henna) stall was a popular attraction.



among many others. When a young Pakistani girl sang a Punjabi song, she moved many hearts.

The Village was a show window for talented disabled persons who could not take part in the Abilympic

contests. They demonstrated their abilities in various crafts.

Many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had been invited to display their products made by persons with disabilities. Participating NGOs included the National Institute for Deaf and Dumb, the National Association for Blind, Delhi Society for Mentally Retarded, Spastic Society of Eastern India, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Jan Maadhyam, Savera, Chetan, Guild of Service, Prayas, Samadhan, Amar Jyoti and Akshay Pratishthan.

Right: Vendors, an essential part of rural Indian life, abounded in the Village. Talented craftspeople had been invited from all over India to showcase their talent. One of them, this bangle-seller did brisk business. Bangles make up an intrinsic part of the Indian woman's wardrobe.

Below: Many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also displayed their products made by persons with disabilities.



Vendors, an essential part of rural Indian life, abounded in the Village. On any given day, you could see a mehendiwala or a bangle seller. The cultural programmes were the highlights of the Village. A souvenir shop selling Indian handicrafts was also set up. Two cafeterias - catering to vegetarian and non-vegetarian palates - complemented the experience offered by this Village.

The IA 2003 provided a platform for showing the importance of improving vocational skills as well as the significance of enjoying life. Participants have proved to the world that people with disabilities "can" and "will" overcome obstacles with courage and determination.

Tadashi Shliya, President, International Abilympic Federation, Japan



I am unable to express my gratitude for the honour and joy of being a participant in the 2003 Abilympics... The entire experience was unique, not to mention the handling and organisation. I... wish to be perpetually involved with the Abilympics...

Shashi Kapoor, Goodwill Ambassador

The Abilympics... has to develop into a movement, with stress on livelihood and employability. Awareness will come about slowly but steadily, and the Abilympics will play a significant part in this awakening.

Aruna Dalmia, President, NAAI, and Chairperson, Akshay Pratishthan



NAAI has two aims. First, to empower people and find them jobs. Secondly, to generate as much awareness as we can, so that people become conscious of disability-related issues and of what is required.

Maj-Gen (Retd) Narindar Singh, Chairman, NAAI



The event has ended but the movement is still on... Learning, sharing, smiling and working in a team has made this experience a milestone for my life....

Gaurav Raheja, Convenor, Signage

The entire experience was unique, superb, wonderful and unforgettable, besides deeply touching my heart on several occasions.

Vinod Kohli,
Coordinator, IT training

The entire experience was euphoric, good fun and exciting... It was a huge event, which brought many people together...

Poonam Natarajan,
Vidyasagar, Coordinator, Training

Abilympics [allowed] thousands of people with disability to showcase their abilities and has led them on to a wonderful voyage of success.

Prabha Mehta,
Vice President, NAAI



Abilympics is a stepping stone towards inclusion. It is an advocacy tool to promote inclusion...

George Abraham,
Senior Vice President, NAAI

The work behind the scenes was very hectic... I was still dreaming of it six weeks after the event had been completed!

Radha Kumari,
Joint Secretary, NAAI

Every day was a new experience... every day was a new challenge...

A.K. Datta,
Chairperson, Events

The theme of the [Abilympics] song is 'We can'. The events proved the words. There couldn't be more brave or deserving people than those who participated.

Shubha Menon, song writer

Disability should not be looked upon as inability... Working with disabled persons during the production of the song was a beautiful experience.

Dr Palash Sen, Euphoria lead singer

When I heard a Pakistani girl sing a Punjabi song, I realised we speak the same language, wear the same clothes... It made me wonder what the differences between us are.

Sanjeev Sachdeva, Convenor, Cultural Programmes



I asked children on wheelchairs to pirouette, used crutches as tapping pieces... Everything has rhythm, everything has colour...

Shovana Narayan, well-known classical dance exponent

A great beginning has been made which has reiterated my faith in our own capacities and commitment to meet challenges.

Asha Das, former Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

[The contestants'] sporting spirit, determination, skill and commitment to standards and quality are extremely high and exemplary. These kids have done what the Olympians have not been able to do! The country is proud of them.

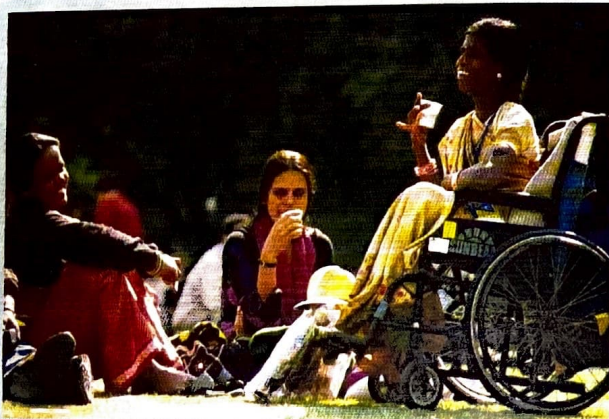
B.S. Baswan, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

When I first came here, I was very nervous. But as the days progressed, I became more and more sure of myself. The Abilympics made me confident of my abilities.

Rajesh Mahananda, a mentally challenged contestant and Gold medal winner in Batik

I feel energised. I have been inspired by meeting so many talented people... My ambition is to become a software programmer.

Kisan Bhujabal, a visually challenged contestant and Silver medal winner in Tie and dye



It was wonderful to see the cultural presentation on the inaugural day, and the children were beautifully tutored... The children are the focal point, and programmes should be arranged such that the children are always the priority.

Komal G.B. Singh, Master of Ceremonies (English) at inaugural ceremony

It was a great experience. Anticipating the needs of the people, and seeing the happiness on the faces of the people, was very satisfying.

Tirlochan Dhillon, Chairperson, Food Plaza

Abilympics is a movement... It is a platform for disabled persons to exhibit their abilities. The event showed what so-called 'disabled' people are capable of.

Sunita Singh, Convenor, Contests

The Abilympics has helped to erase the difference that is perceived between 'ability' and 'disability'... There was wonderful bonding and solidarity; it was like we were all one team. I am thinking of identifying a team of disabled people, within the next year, who could handle all aspects of filmmaking.

Kiran Bhujbal, Action Aid, and producer of a CD on the Abilympics

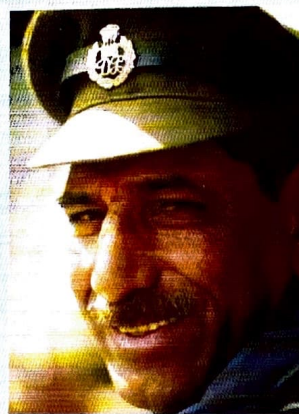
It was delightful to attend the events. I was impressed by the participants' vision and strength to fight all odds of life. They have a sincere desire to perform well, and they have great strength of character and spirit.

B.K. Sinha, Secretary, Sports Authority of India



My disabled artists carry [back] fond memories... the network they have established with other participants will forge an international community of disabled, willing and daring...

R. Hosany, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions, Mauritius



The Abilympics provided an insight to the Delhi Police into a facet of human life that is otherwise not known to an ordinary person. One has learnt a lot from the experience...

A Delhi Police official connected with law and order management

[The Abilympics] confirmed my research hypothesis that disabilities are a state of mind and a societal construct. It is an aspect of diversity that needs to be valued, accepted and celebrated. The seminar organised on inclusive education, in which I was one of the panellists, deliberated on the sociological perspectives of disabilities.

Madan Mohan Jha, Joint Secretary, MHRD (on study leave)

The wheelchair users were excited when they saw the special buses; they could not imagine that such buses could be found in India.

N.K. Somani, Coordinator, Transport Committee



It was a very good experience for all the Thai delegates who had come to participate in the International Abilympics... Apart from the prizes... it was a real eye-opener for us to witness this international event hosted by our great neighbouring country...

Santi Bumrungrakorn, Director, Division of Skill Development and Competition Promotion, Department of Skill Development, Thailand



I hadn't expected to win, but when I did, I was ecstatic. I was happy that I could bring honour to my country.

Shammi Kumar, Gold medal winner in Jewellery in Prague

Thank you for your hospitality... The high standards of work and effort are [truly exemplary]...

Khaled El Mohtar, NRDC, Director General RI, Vice President for the Arab region, IAF member

exhibition of assistive devices

An exhibition on aids and appliances for disabled persons was held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium. NGOs from India as well as other countries, such as Japan and Pakistan, displayed various assistive devices – designed to help persons with disabilities in day-to-day living – in more than 20 stalls. The exhibition was put together by the District Rehabilitation Centre, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

At the Japanese stall were artificial limbs, PC operations for persons with visual disabilities, dental techniques, etc. Pakistan's stall, called 'Disabled-friendly Pakistan,' evoked enthusiasm and warmth.

Advance Engineering Works showed aids for the visually impaired. Especially interesting was the hand-operated mini Braille typesetting-cum-printing machine. New Little Genius of New Delhi displayed games for the mentally challenged. Sunbeam HI-Tech Medicare exhibited attendant- and self-operated wheelchairs. Clothing and accessories were also on show. Several NGOs, such as Jan Maadhyam, Akshay Pratishthan, Amar Jyoti, Muskan and Blind Relief Association, also displayed their products.

The Human Rights Law Network and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had also set up stalls to help with queries.

PERSONAL PROFILES

I Can... with my Talent

Madhuri has challenged the world around her with her strength, passion for painting and her headpointer. Having no control over her body except the headpointer – which she uses strapped on her forehead – Madhuri paints boldly and daringly. She has been awarded the Outstanding Calcuttan Award for her achievements which include a degree in Commerce and a diploma in Computer Application.



the food plaza

One of the liveliest and most exciting places at the 6th International Abilympics was the Food Plaza. Gaily decorated, it hummed with activity not only at lunch time but for most of the day. New friendships were struck, old associations revived and experiences were exchanged with friends from across the globe.

There was something for everyone at the plaza. The menus had been especially selected keeping in mind the needs of the foreign participants – everything on offer was healthy and fresh and finger-licking good. In fact, the Korean delegation had brought its own food along. But two days of getting a whiff of the delicious fare was enough to make them abandon what they had packed and make a beeline for the Indian food!

The organisers' cultural sensitivity and attention to detail is highlighted by a small anecdote. "During the Abilympics, the rozas (days of fasting for Muslims) had started," reveals Tirlochan Dhillon, incharge of the arrangements. "We made special arrangements for *iftaar* (breaking the fast at sundown) for our Muslim participants. The way their faces lit up with joy at this gesture was a most gratifying experience."

The special needs of the participants had been kept in mind. There were low serving tables for wheelchair users and adequate number of tables for them to sit at conveniently and eat in comfort. The entire area was barrier-free.

Not only did the Food Plaza offer a variety of cuisine, it also offered a wide range of cultural activities from across India and abroad. For at least two hours every afternoon, the plaza was filled with the sound of music, the rhythm of feet and loud cheers for the performers. There were times when spectators became performers and joined in the gaiety. Then the form of the dance, the language of songs made no difference. People from all parts of the world could appreciate and enjoy every moment of it.



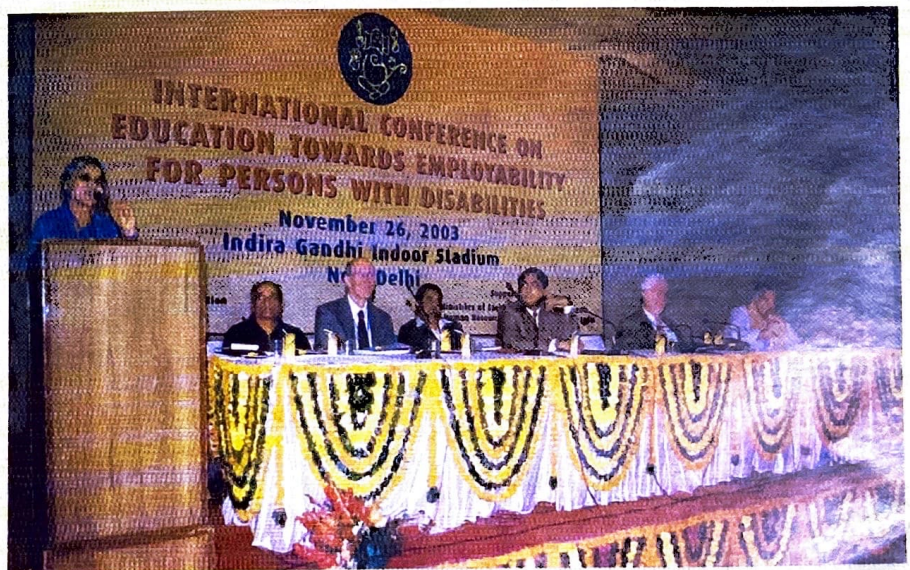
international conference

An international conference was organised on November 26, 2003, as part of the concurrent programme of the Abilympics, on 'Education towards greater employability for persons with disability'. Over 237 delegates from 30 countries discussed issues such as the challenges faced by teachers, the role of universities, as well as initiatives taken by the UN.

The conference was inaugurated by Mr Tomas Lagerwall, Secretary General, Rehabilitation International. The keynote address on 'Opportunities and challenges for teachers with disabilities' was delivered by Professor Emeritus John Elkins of the University of Queensland, Australia. Dr Uma Tuli, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, India, was the Chief Guest. Dr A.K. Chawla, Vice Chancellor of Kurukshetra University, was the Guest of Honour.

The business sessions were chaired by Peter Sewitz, a disability expert from Germany, and Dr M.C. Nahata, Chairman of the Expert Committee, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Gov-

ernment of India. The session was moderated by Vikram Dutt. Shashi Kapoor, Abilympics Goodwill Ambassador, was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function. Among the speakers were Prof Jiri Votava of the Czech Republic, Augusto Capio of the Philippines, Aurel Bitter of Slovakia, Ashwani Agarwal of India, Sharirai-nejad of Iran and Prof Shiv Kumar of India. In the second session, presentations were made by Sadiq Shaikh of Pakistan, Lee Chang Cheng of Chinese Taipei, Patricia Beazer of the USA, Jaap Brouwer of the Netherlands and Heather Payne of the UK. Presentations were also made by delegations from Australia, Bangladesh, Holland and Iran.



The 6th International Abilympics could not have had a better testimonial than this letter written by Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development, to K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission



डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री
भारत
नई दिल्ली-११०००१
MINISTER OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
INDIA
NEW DELHI-110 001
28 NOV 2001

In recent months a new organization called the National Abilympic Association of India has been set up under the Chairmanship of General Narinder Singh and with Smt. Uma Tuli as its Secretary General. Its Headquarters are located at Amar Jyoti Headquarters in Karkarduma, Delhi. They have already embarked upon the task of holding regional, national and international abilympics in India. Currently we have decided that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment will give them grant-in-aid to the tune of 50% of their expenditure on this account, for all the events till the year 2003. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) will give 25% and the balance 25% will be raised from donors and corporate houses.

While this effort is good as far as it goes, we have to ensure that organizations like the National Abilympic Association of India and its Regional and State Chapters do not suffer for want of financial resources in future, so that they can continue their important task with unabated zeal and enthusiasm. For this purpose, I propose that the Planning Commission should agree to earmark certain funds for grant of assistance to the National Association and its Regional and State Associations so that state level, regional level and national level abilympics are held regularly every year. This Ministry would be very keen to participate in such a national endeavour and I am sure the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment would also do the same. I am endorsing a copy of this letter to the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment. We shall follow up this letter with a formal proposal after the matter is discussed between the two Ministries.

Yours sincerely,
sd/-
(MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

Shri K.C. Pant
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ 2. Smt. Uma Tuli, Secretary General, National Abilympic Association of India, Karkarduma, Delhi. She may kindly get in touch with the Secretary (S&HE) for formulating a detailed proposal on the above lines.
3. Shri M.K. Kaw, Secretary (S&HE), Ministry of HRD, for follow up.

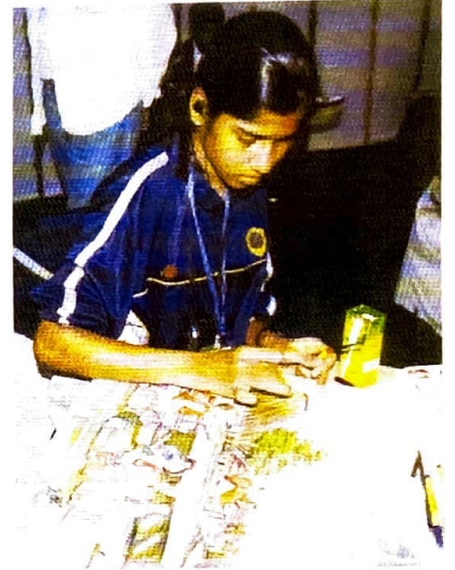
(MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. We must match our aspirations with the competence, courage and determination to succeed. We must believe in ourselves, or no one else will believe in us.

This environment that we fashion out of our beliefs, our thoughts, our ideals, our philosophy is the only climate we will ever live in.

We will fashion an accessible climate, create a world where joy and hope suffuse every action.

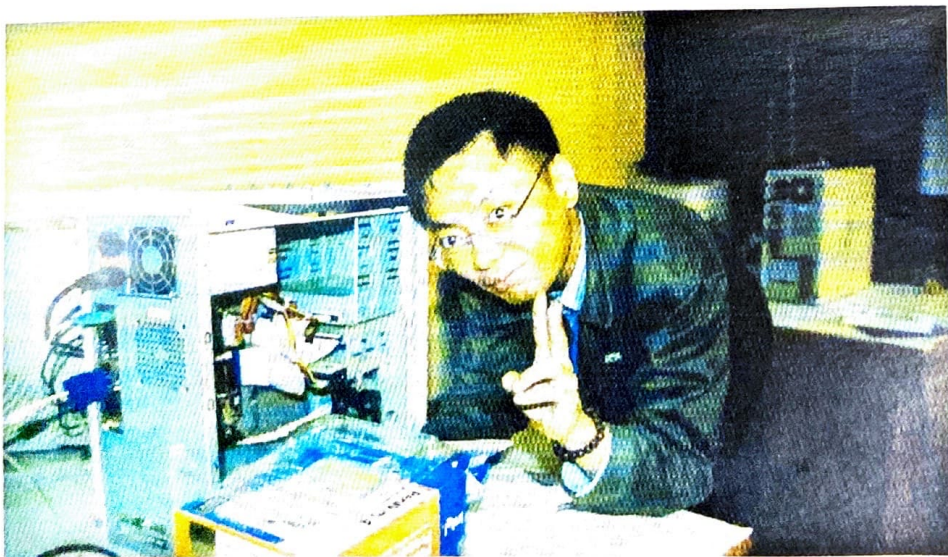
We will become the best that we can be.

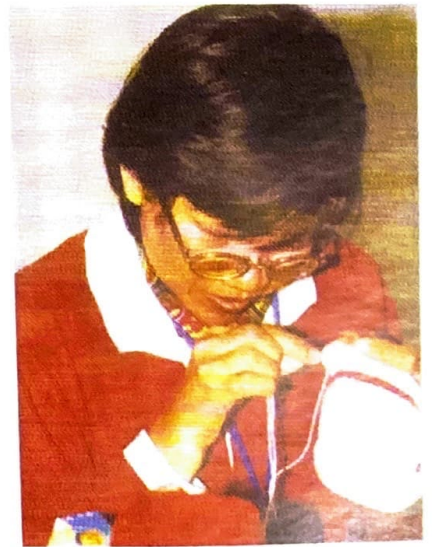


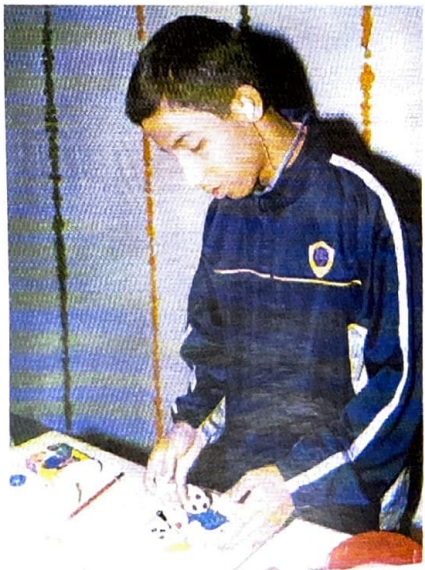
PERSONAL PROFILES

I Can...
with my Mind

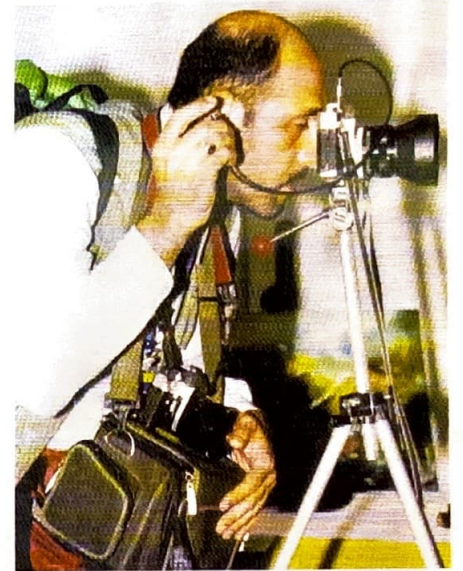
Diwakar Sharma operates a computer with dexterity and speed. The visually-impaired 10-year-old surprises everyone with his skill. He won a gold medal for speed and accuracy during the regionals held in New Delhi. Diwakar is also a talented singer. He has recently bagged prizes from Luxor Parker and an NRI in recognition of his exceptional singing talent.

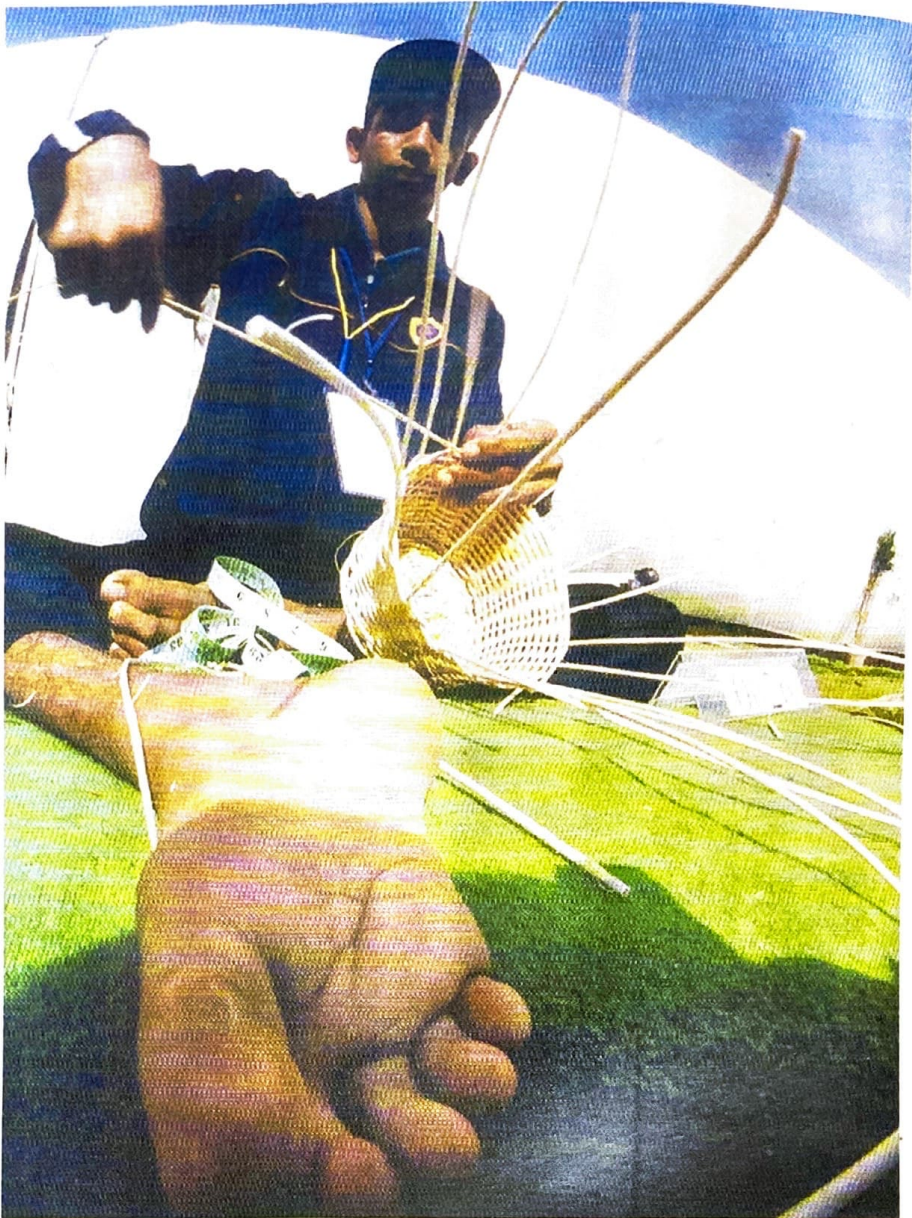






6th International Abilympics

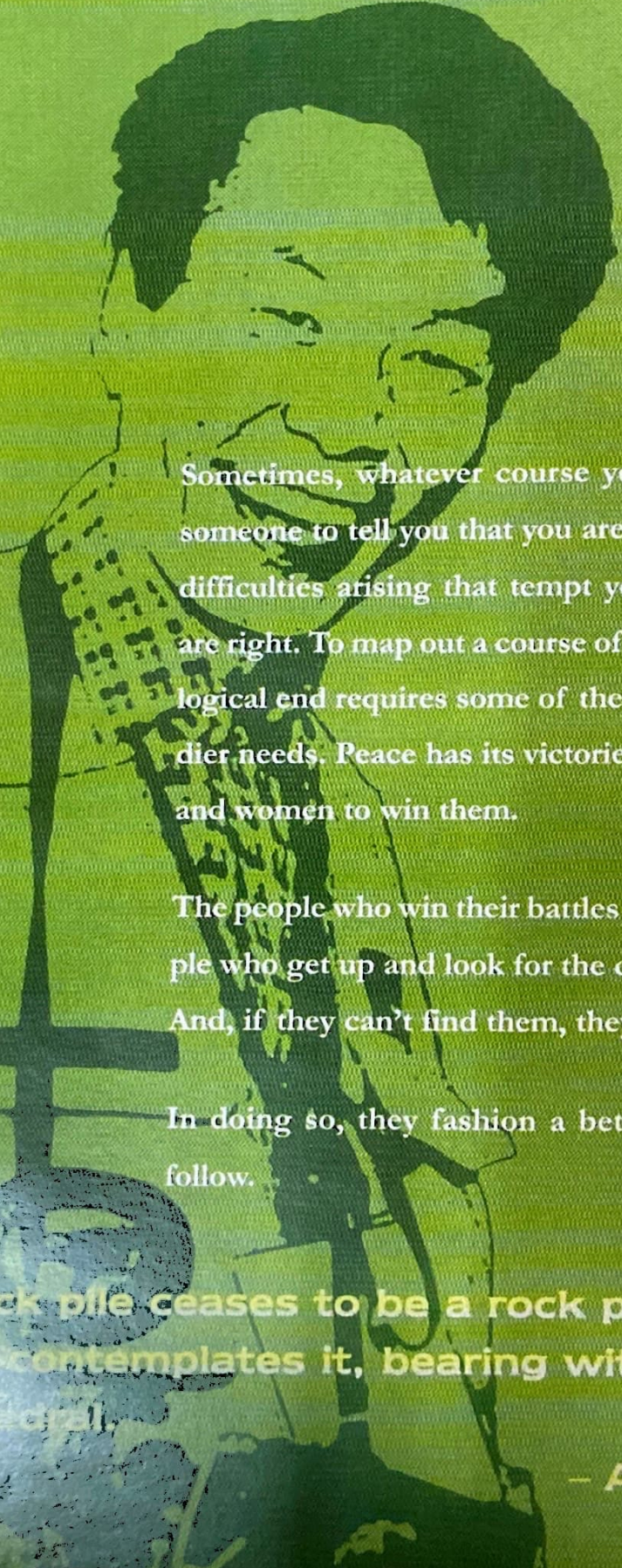




for the
people



for the people



Sometimes, whatever course you decide upon, there is someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to its logical end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.

The people who win their battles in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want. And, if they can't find them, they make them.

In doing so, they fashion a better place for those who follow.

A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral.

— Antoine De Saint-Exupéry

a better tomorrow awaits us

November 23 to 29, 2003, were landmark days in India's disability sector. Never before had the country, or indeed the world, seen such a celebration of reaffirmation, hope and faith. Never before had so many exceptional people been brought together on one stage from across the world. Never before had the words, '*We can... We will*', conveyed as powerfully the strong determination and the indomitable spirit of individuals facing and overcoming formidable odds. India's talented team won seven Gold, eight Silver and 15 Bronze medals.

The handing over of the Abilympic Flag by India to Japan, the host of the 7th International Abilympics in 2007, officially marked the close of the 6th International Abilympics. Dr Uma Tuli, Secretary General of the National Abilympic Association of India, handed over the Flag to Mr Tadashi Shiiya, President of the Japan Abilympic Federation.

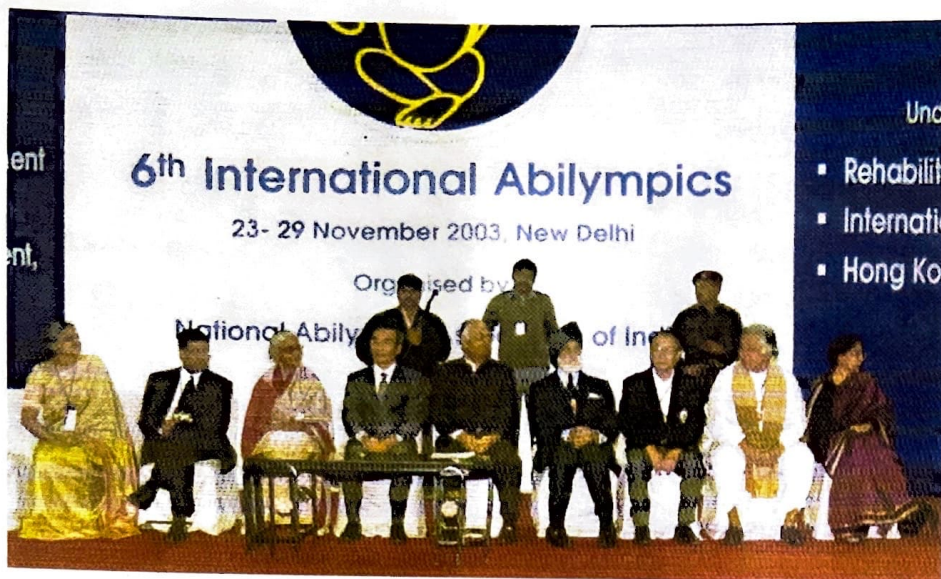
Mr K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, was the Chief Guest, and Shashi Kapoor, Abilympics Goodwill Ambassador, was the Guest of Honour, at the valedictory function.

It was then time for a beautiful dance by students from Amar Jyoti, Akshay Pratishthan, Laxman Public School, Balwant Rai Mehta School, Deepalaya and the Blind Relief Association. The children presented 'Colours of India', representing different dance forms

with masks, at the valedictory function. The dances performed were Manipuri of Manipur, Ghori of Kutch, Kathakali of Kerala and Chhau of Orissa. One of India's best known dancers, Padmashri Shovana Narayan, had choreographed the programme.

Throughout the seven-day event, whether at the Abilympics village, in the exhibition stalls or in the contest areas, participants on wheel chairs, using crutches or hearing aids or other





assistive devices were busy meeting the challenges at hand, busy achieving the goals they had set themselves. They were also quietly bringing honour to their country. In so doing, they were showing the world the true meaning of commitment, perseverance and integration.

"All people dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night, in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the morning to find that it was nothing. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous people, for they dream their dreams with open eyes, and make them come true." These words of Lawrence of Arabia ring very true today. These words symbolise all those who made the 6th International Abilympics possible – the organisers, contestants, escorts, volunteers and supporters. These dreamers dared to dream a magnificent dream; they dared to let their dream take over their lives. Their legacy will endure in the minds and hearts of their countrymen. The flame of their passion will always burn bright.

Facing page, clockwise from bottom left: Dr Tuli handing the Abilympic Flag to Mr Tadasbi Shiiya; the valedictory ceremony; and some jubilant participants.

This page: A few vignettes of the event.



Fringe benefits

A welcome fall-out of the 6th International Abilympics has been the accessible environment that was created in the national capital, at railway stations, bus stops, airports, shopping centres as well as government offices and other public places. Initially meant for the nearly 1,500 participants from 33 countries, these facilities will now benefit the citizens of Delhi as well as visitors.

The venue, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, was refurbished with barrier-free ramps, passageways and toilets. The Sports Authority of India provided the space for regular rehearsals for several months, and the rooms for offices were made available several weeks in advance. In addition, the entire staff of the stadium made the NAAI members feel completely at home during the preparations.

Several hotels in the city, where the contestants and their escorts stayed during the event, were modified to provide barrier-free living

conditions. For instance, entrances to lifts, rooms and other areas were made disabled-friendly; accessible rooms were especially earmarked for disabled persons.

This is what Mr Shiiya, a moving force behind the Abilympics, had to say: "We were impressed with the initiatives taken since the National Abilympics in 2002 to create a disabled-friendly environment, including the new accessible toilets, remodelled shopping plazas, barrier-free buses and accommodations."

Special buses were made available: the Government of Delhi-NCR sponsored two barrier-free buses, the Delhi Transport Corporation modified one bus, Amar Jyoti and Akshay Pratishthan gave three, and Army Headquarters gave two more. These buses had a low chassis, hydraulic lifts and wheelchair locks.

Another impact of the event was the sensitisation of the people towards disability-related issues. The need for barrier-free





On November 23, 2003, the International Abilympic Federation (IAF) Assembly was organised. The responsibility of preparing the Indian team for 2007, and of steering the Abilympics' ship into a new era of integration, has fallen upon Dr (Ms) Uma Tull, the current Secretary General of NAAI. She has been appointed Vice President of the IAF.

access to public places has been a long-felt need, but very little progress has been made so far on this front in the country. These efforts received a fillip as a result of the 6th International Abilympics. Consciousness was generated among bureaucrats and the general public, who are now sensitive to the special needs of disabled persons. They understand that disabled persons do not need pity or largesse. They need understanding, and their own space, to realise their potential.

Most importantly, a strong message has gone out to the world that India is a disabled-friendly country and that its government is deeply committed to promoting the welfare of disabled persons.

This event also saw the largest convergence of resources in an area outside of government activity. Corporates, multinationals, non-governmental organisations, government ministries, the private sector – all chipped in with whatever help or support they could provide.

The International Abilympics proved that no matter what our affiliations, our backgrounds or our beliefs may be, we all speak the same language – that of humanity, of love, of acceptance, of inclusion.

The road ahead

"The International Abilympics 2003 provided a platform for showing the importance of improving vocational skills as well as the significance of enjoying life. Participants have proved to the world that people with disabilities 'can' and 'will' overcome obstacles with courage and determination," says Tadashi Shiiya. "In addition, through media coverage, Abilympics widely raised awareness of people in general, including employers, regarding disability issues. These consequences will surely have a beneficial impact on the lives of persons with disabilities, especially in their vocational life."

And so another chapter begins in the life of the people associated with the universal treas-



ure that is the Abilympics. These are not the people who see things as they are and ask why. These are the people who see things as they might be and ask, why not? These are the people who are responsible for all progress and new thinking.

The 6th International Abilympics have certainly opened new avenues for thought. For instance, the disability sector needs to move away from being seen as a 'soft' story to being a mainstream one. The lack of this approach was evident in the media coverage. While the media did cover the event, it did not do full justice to the amazing people who displayed exceptional skills, nor was justice done to an event of this stature.

The companies – private and public – who had extended support during the Abilympics, as also the many individuals, now need to step up and, as a symbol of their faith in the guiding philosophy of the Abilympics, take forward the aims of employability of disabled persons. They should not rest till disa-

bled persons are equitably employed all over the country. They should spearhead a national movement to create universally enabling designs for their specially-abled compatriots. They should forge long-term partnerships with the disability sector.

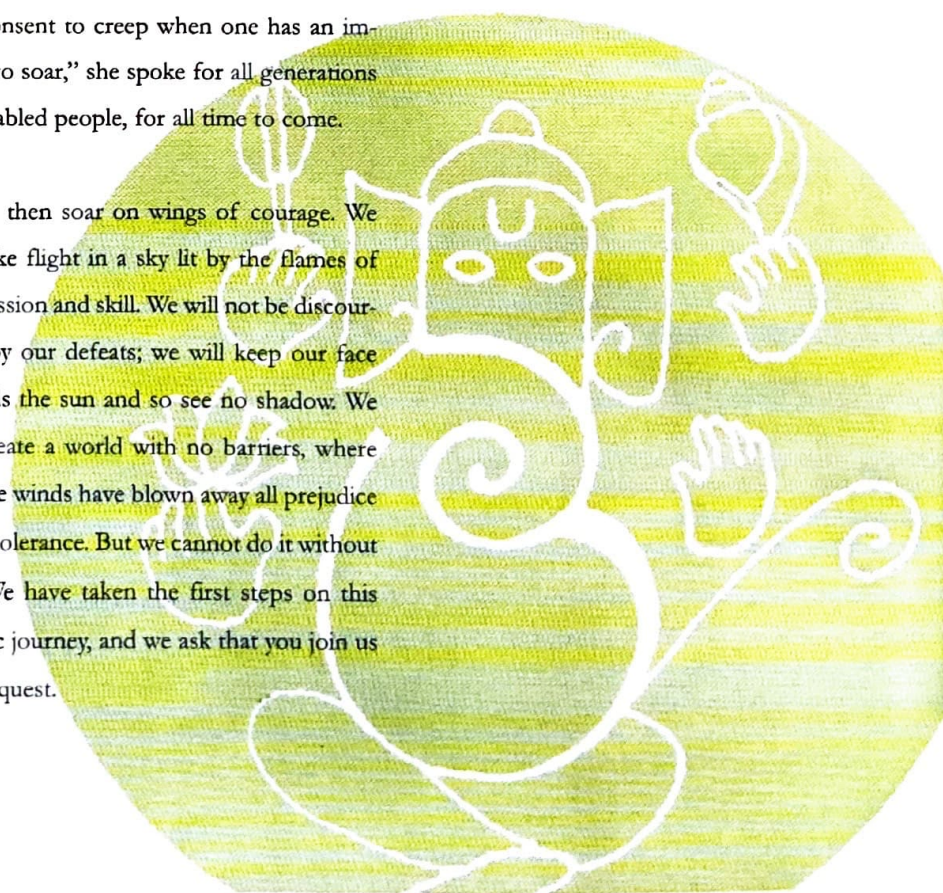
The convergence of resources that the Abilympics enabled should not be allowed to dissipate. When Helen Keller said, "One cannot consent to creep when one has an impulse to soar," she spoke for all generations of disabled people, for all time to come.

Let us then soar on wings of courage. We will take flight in a sky lit by the flames of our passion and skill. We will not be discouraged by our defeats; we will keep our face towards the sun and so see no shadow. We will create a world with no barriers, where the free winds have blown away all prejudice and intolerance. But we cannot do it without you. We have taken the first steps on this historic journey, and we ask that you join us in our quest.

Facing page (far left): A glimpse of the valedictory ceremony (above) and Mr K.C. Pant lighting the lamp (below).

Middle: Participants take time off to relax.

Above: The ramps (the pathway between the stairs and steel barricades) built in the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium to facilitate accessibility.



RECOGNITION

On January 20, 2004, the National Abilympic Association of India organised an award ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, to felicitate the Indian medal-winners of the 6th International Abilympics. We bring you some vignettes from the evening's programme



During the ceremony, specially designed 'Tamra patras' (above) were presented to outstanding supporters as tokens of appreciation.





I am one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.

– Helen Keller



Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's
a Heaven for?

– Robert Browning



We shall draw from the heart of suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival.

— Sir Winston Churchill

IRM SHAIR, A THREE-AGE GUY, WITH VISUAL impairment from Pakistan, stood among an informal crowd of participants and organizers of the 8th Athletics in Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium of New Delhi and sang in her melodious voice: *Aankh nahai nahin par pal pal nahin* [I am blind but I am not blind in my heart] "There is no light in the eye but there is no grief in mind. We are no less than anybody in anything." The participants cheered her, the watchers were moved, some with tears in their eyes. But they were not tears of grief or sadness or appreciation. She got a loud cheer as she went out of the stadium. She said: *paake jawan apni himmat o hum chloke hain* [bold and fearless we are, after Himmat is our chloke is our courage]. "Our determination is firm, our aspirations youthful. We will reach the sky with our courage." The song that reverberated in all hearts around

was even more impressive than the imposing val-dictory function where some 250 students with different disabilities sang and danced a massive number representing cultural pageantry of India. The participants had clapped and waved to me, and then I had to go back to my room. I was exhausted and expressed my feelings about the scene at the IGI. Some of the certain fell on the ground, not because of their disabilities, but because of the excitement of the world. This excited others who then next Abilympic all considered then they possessed. I were present at played them out. Some 1500 had won the medals and the venue every day passed off smoothly, an unpleasant surprise. This surely was National Abilymp.

প্রতিবন্ধীদের স্বনির্ভর করে
তোলার লক্ষ্যে এবিলিম্পিক

वि

Social Justice And Empowerment

Abilympics - A road to self-dependence

THE World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 9.5 per cent of all humanity suffers from some form of disability. To lose nearly 10 per cent of the work force to disability can

A Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) has been appointed and is supported by two Deputy Chief Commissioners and necessary staff to monitor the initiatives and developments.

With such statutes the world over, a new era dawned in this sector in disguise of competitive events for persons with disabilities. These are organized to enhance their physical and psychological well-being. Such events also pro-

And Bhanu Vagpure at Indira Gandhi Indoor stadium at 5 p.m. on November 27, 2002.

The winners from Regional Athletics organized in five regions, namely North, South, East and Central India held in November last year shall be taking part in the event.

The candidates who will be selected in the national competitions will get an opportunity to compete with their counterparts from other parts of the country in the 6th International Athletics hosted by India in November 2003.

The **MANAGEMENT** of the

**International
Abilympics
Movement**

India (NAAI) was formed at the behest of the Government of India.

PM opens Olympics for disabled in city

FINANCE MINISTER Alai R. Hart Vigarsen inaugurated the 5th International Able Symposium at the Iceland Golf and Country Club in Reykjavik.



Can and able

PJJA RAWAT

As a result, children are constantly being exposed to a flood of information. Parents in an affluent, middle-class, postmodern society are being challenged to help their children develop the skills to deal with this information. The fact that all these children are being exposed to the same information is the fact that all these children are being exposed to the same information. The fact that all these children are being exposed to the same information is the fact that all these children are being exposed to the same information.

The Abilympics champion the cause of those handicapped individuals who are willing to mobilise their strengths in a competitive environment

vehicles are called as toll roads getting English last protesting. Black printing on label *electronic* assembly and testing. CAD explaining drawing and PC assembly. There is also a kitchen and living with con- crete divided map categories. His *graduate* class, *graduate* budget, *table* and *water* near. While the

Spirited Support For A Skill Festival

Abilympics, which aims to impart vocational training to the differently-abled to make them financially self-reliant, receives all-round support

LAST WORD

BEARING 2,000 participants, the Congress will take part in the week-long International Alliance of the India Gandhi Students in New Delhi. The six-day event will concentrate on enhancing the abilities of youths with disabilities and connecting them into capable and by expanding their social and economic status.

Allylympics is organized every fourth year to promote international friendship through exchange of knowledge and programmes. The competitors are selected to demonstrate the disabled persons' potential and management and help boost their self-esteem and self-confidence to be accepted in the

As the New
Drills Along
communities will
display a wide
variety of skills in
both vocational
and leisure areas
like computer pro-
gramming, design
publishing,
printing, recen-
sals, drum making,
photography, floral
arrangements,
wood carving, cake
decorating, etc.
Said Dr. Go-
dwin, chair commu-
nity. Patricia
von Deschamps,
senior justice and
son, who is also
married. Personal
Assistant
to be responsible
of these children
and help remove
barriers. The
address: the
disabled and helps
with a platform
can present their
world which looks
best.

transport support: Sic Travel, the official travel agency for the event, will take care of the accommodation, transport requirements including airport and various transfers and city sightseeing tours. Subhash Goyal, chairman, Sic Group of Companies, feels that the event is not only for the privileged people, but also for the poor. "It is a huge and we will be

"It's indeed an honour to do something for the physically challenged."

SUNSHIN SOLAR
Chennai, TN, India

important challenged blind. It is challenging the world.

As blindness will provide a place for the physically challenged people to move forward, it must be given a significant place in the society. Mr. Meenakshi is intended to be a part of this movement will be chosen as the official blindness partner for the event.

According to the Indian Airlines Air-India and Indian Airlines have announced a 25 per cent discount for the cross-country wheelchair-bound people to provide free drinks to all the participants in five days. And IPII Sunshin Solar Foundation is offering border free buses to the participants. Chairman Chartered Bank is providing 500 jackets for the participants and ICICI Bank is sponsoring the sports kit and Mahabharat Mahabharat will be providing the transport for the participants.


The Abilympics event generated widespread media interest, and press coverage included the English media as well as Indian vernacular and foreign publications.

پیس تو داتحصاری کی ایک راہ

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इस अनोखे
ओलंपिक में भाग
लेगे विकलांग

आपका मत क्या है? क्या आप इसे एक अच्छा फिल्म मानते हैं? क्या आप इसे एक बुरा फिल्म मानते हैं? क्या आप इसे एक अच्छा फिल्म मानते हैं? क्या आप इसे एक बुरा फिल्म मानते हैं?



"It's indeed an honour to do something for the physically challenged."

SUBHASH GOEL
Chairman, SIC group

Althougous will provide a primary barrier, the primary study for the foundation, it may not be enough to prevent the spread of the epidemic. The foundation will be a part of the study, and the study will be a part of the foundation. The study will be a part of the foundation, and the foundation will be a part of the study.

Templeton Media Services

NEW DISC, NOVEMBER 24
The ability to do things, otherwise by routine, in absence of either a limb or seem an absolute must. Symmetry is all about.

Derived from Ability and Olympics, the Abilitylympics, which began here today, is a showcase of abilities that evoke wonder. Take for instance the ability to visualize lines of colors to dye beautiful patterns on cloth, this when one is visually impaired.

If this leaves you spellbound, there is more. Of the 131 participants training in the Capitol for the 6th International Abilitylympics, there isn't a single one who fails to antsy with his or her future.

Despite being paralysed, Ela, a 21-year-old from Surat, is a self-employed artisan who has even won an award for her embroidery work. Ela, who cannot hold the needle with her hands, uses her toes to weave dreams on cloth.

Earning her livelihood through sheer hard work, Ela wants the government to help her to set up a small outlet and a workshop where she can turn the fire

Like Elsa, there is a tie and dye artist from Pune, who having mastered the art is today a tyro of the art form. Bhupai, who was learning the art when his eyesight started dimming, is today visually impaired, but his imagination is as vibrant as the colours he picks with his mind's eye.

These special creatures, part of the Indian constellation, are known as the "Seven Sisters."



Schoolchildren performing at the 6th Abilitympics, which was inaugurated
Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Capitol on Monday. Tribune Photo Mur

They will also showcase their skills in embroidery, speed and accuracy, greeting card designing, modelling with plasticine and cartooning, among others, in the categories of children's events.

Special educators vouch for the abilities of their students and claim that they are comparable to their counterparts in the more developed nations. A case in point being Rajesh Mahanada from Orissa who is mentally challenged but won a gold medal for the country in the last Special Olympics held in Japan.

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विकलांगों के व्यावसायिक कौशल की प्रतियोगिता

अ धीरे-धीरे के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा का निर्माण किया जायेगा। इससे पहले, विधान के अनुसार भारतीय संसद के दोनों सदनों के बीच समन्वय, सहयोग और समन्वय के लिए एक समन्वय समिति का गठन किया जायेगा।

भाषा से होते हैं। इन दोनों में भारत के अनेकानेक जने
 चीन, जापान, इटली, अमेरिका और यहाँ
 कर्मिल हैं। इन अधिवासीजनों में कंप्यूटर विज्ञान
 करने बनाने पोस्टर बनाना, फोटोग्राफी, सि
 गनकी का काम, कुर्की, छायाई, इतिहास का काम
 चीनी में तरह-तरह के यन्त्रान् बनाने वगैरी
 योगिताई होयन है। यन्त्रों के लिए कंप्यूटर
 यन्त्रों, कर्तुन एवं फोटिङ काई बनाने की
 पोखिलाई होती। ये अधिवासीजनों हिन्दी के इतिहा
 इन्टरनेट यन्त्रों में अधिवासीजनों की।

'संविधान' को कहा है। १९५१ में उस समय
 पूर्व में 'अन्ध' अर्थात् एंग्लो-भारतीय को एंग्लो-भारतीय
 द शिरोधार्य है। विद्वत्समों को अत्यन्त महत्त्व
 के शैक्षणिक का अभाव न हुआ किन्तु। यह अन्ध
 समूह। यद्यु द्वा। १९५१ में विद्वत्समों का यह च
 कि। यह के द शिरोधार्य है किन्तु न। द्वा। १९५१
 किन्तु नहीं के अत्यन्त महत्त्व के अभाव न हुआ
 द शिरोधार्य है किन्तु न। द्वा। १९५१

मयोजन का
 विकलांगों
 त्वसायिक
 एवं श्रमदाता

कठोरे सुविचारित विचारों का अनुशासन कठोरे प्रभावशाली (कठोर) और प्रतिक्रियाशील में भाग लेने का साधन।

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ಗುರುವಾರ, ದಿನಾಂಕ ೨೬-೧೨-೨೦೦೨

[illegible]

Celebr

The Sixth International Abilitylympics has been described "as heroic as the Olympics, more uplifting than the Games and as



unimpairedly handicapped, the hearing impaired and the visually challenged. The company endorses the stand that employing disabled persons is not philanthropy, but a realisation that these people are a part of our society and need understanding and support, not our charity or misplaced compassion. Even NTPC has come forward to employ disabled persons.

પરજ્ઞા પરી પાડવા સક્ષમ છે : ડૉ. ઉમા તુલસી

સુવર્ણ, તા. ૧૪
ભારત સરકારના પર્યાવરણ અને
ડીસેબીલીટી કમિશનરે આપેલું માર્ગદર્શન

ભારત સરકારના પર્સનલ અને

[illegible][illegible]

THE sobriquet of a whiz kid would easily fit

16-year-old Deepak Ghosh. He is a budding drummer, a creative painter, a computer expert and an award-winning student at school. Like Deepak, Madhuri too is an over achiever.

She has been honoured with the Outstanding Calcuttan award for her achievements. She holds a Bachelors degree in commerce and a diploma in computers. Apart from the academic feats she is a painter whose reputation is growing fast.

Besides a love for the arts, Deepak and Ishwari have something else in common:



Madhuri displaying her special skill of foot pointing

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of our generous supporters. They gave unstintingly of their time, effort and finances. Without their help, we would have been hard put to make a success of the 6th International Abilympics.

Names are in alphabetical order

GOVERNMENT

- Airports Authority of India
- All India Radio
- Defence Research and Development Organisation
- Delhi Police
- District Rehabilitation Centres
- Doordarshan
- Government of NCT, Delhi
- Indian Army, Navy and Air Force
- Indian Tourism Development Corporation
- Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Railways
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- National Cadet Corps
- National Trust
- Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
- Rehabilitation Council of India
- Sports Authority of India
- Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

CORPORATES

- ABN Amro Bank
- Ajanta Offset Ltd
- Bharti Telecom

- Dainik Bhaskar
- Delhi Blue Pottery
- Frito Lay India Ltd
- GIVE Foundation
- HPS Foundation
- IBM (International Business Machines)
- ICICI
- Indian Oil
- Mahindra & Mahindra
- MDV Papier, Germany
- Pepsi Foods Ltd
- Reebok India Ltd
- Standard Chartered Bank
- Taj Group of Hotels

ORGANISATIONS/INSTITUTIONS

- Action Aid
- Akshay Pratishthan
- All India Federation for Blind
- Amarjyoti Charitable Trust
- Anuj Parti Photo Studio
- Apeejay Institute of Design
- Bajaj Institute of Learning and Management
- Bal Kalyan Sanstha, Pune
- Balwant Rai Mehta Vidyalaya
- Blind Peoples' Association of India, Ahmedabad
- Blind Relief Association
- Botwinnik Chess Academy, Russian Centre of Science and Culture
- College of Art
- Disha, Vadodara
- Facet
- Greater Kailash Lions Service Foundation
- IIT, Roorkee
- Ikebana International
- India Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Kolkata
- Indian Spinal Injury Centre
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- Institute of Home Economics
- Janarth, Aurangabad

- Jewellery Design and Technology Institute
- Lady Irwin College
- Laxman Public School
- Lions Club International, District 321-A3
- Max Health Care
- Mira Bai Polytechnic
- National Association for the Blind
- National Institute of Design
- National Institute of Information Technology
- Nehru Homeopathic Medical College
- Rotary Club of Delhi
- Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, Bhubaneswar
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...and many others.