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A Fight for Human Dignity

The Thirty-year Journey Of Prayas



PRAYAS - She dared to dream!

Prayas Founder Jatinder Arora's passionate desire and commitment to reach out to the most disadvantaged child and integrate maximum number of special children into the mainstream eventually led to the beginning of Prayas in July 1996. She was determined to help these children lead a dignified life. Armed with her unwavering belief in every child's untapped potential, supported by one Special educator, From a three roomed rented accommodation in Raja Park, Jaipur and 5 children with special needs, she embarked on her journey.



**LATE MISS JATINDER ARORA
FOUNDER, PRAYAS**

Prayas emerged as the first Vocational Institute for intellectually challenged children in Rajasthan with a uniqueness of its own. Recognized by the Social Welfare Department, Government of Rajasthan, it focused on the need for providing special education on the pattern and techniques evolved by the National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, as it endeavoured to develop the skills of intellectually and physically deficient children and prepare them for independent living and mainstreaming.

Prayas owes its early success to the support of many people

- Late Mr. Harjeet Singh, who provided the school space and seed funding
- Mr. R.K. Mohla, who facilitated a Tata Group grant
- Government officials, who helped secure recognition and funding
- Father Augustine of St. Xavier's, who sponsored the staff
- Hotel Rajputana Sheraton and Rajasthali Emporium who showcased children's crafts
- A committed Board of Management that guided the mission with willing Volunteers
- Dr. Sitaraman, Late Dr. R.S. Agarwal, doctors by profession and good advisors for CWSN
- Shri Sanjay Jain, an entrepreneur and handicrafts exporter, who supported the Vocational work
- Miss Rashmi Chandra, a friend, well wisher and good motivator

PRAYAS - The Journey

Vision

Equal opportunities for all

Mission

Our mission is the integration of children, with and without special needs, into mainstream schooling and society by providing education to enable their growth and development towards becoming self-sufficient individuals who can live with dignity.

Objectives

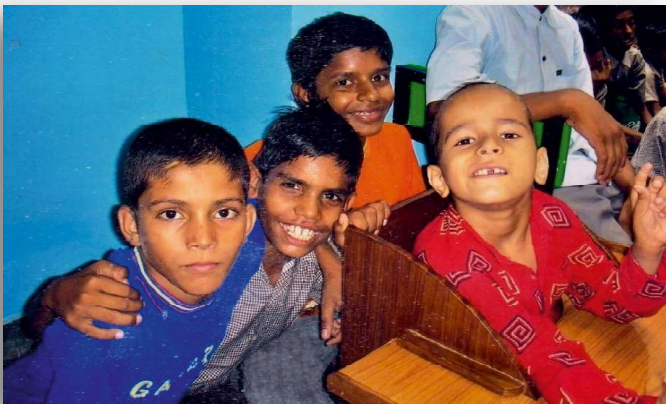
- Provide Inclusive Education (Education for all).
- Enhance skills of CWSN and develop a positive attitude towards self-reliance.
- Provide income-generating projects to enable differently-abled to become economically self-sufficient.
To develop strategies for marketing the products made by the physically and mentally challenged so that their income can be ensured.
- To advocate and network with governmental and non-governmental institutes for child rights.
Women empowerment.
- Community participation in child education.
- To develop a resource centre in accordance with special needs in changing environment.
- To run professional courses under the accreditation of RCI.
- To facilitate inclusion in government-run schools in slums of Jaipur.
- To pursue and help children to continue education for secondary and higher secondary certification.
To provide computer science knowledge for better placement.



1996 - 1997: Challenges and the uphill climb

Prayas began by overcoming immense challenges - working with children struggling even with basic daily tasks, instilling hygiene, and overcoming hostility to earn the trust of their parents. From being labelled as a place for 'paagal' children, it soon came to be recognized as a school for children with intellectual and physical challenges. Vocational training empowered both children and women from nearby slums, while Prayas pioneered opening bank accounts for differently-abled children to secure proceeds attained from promoting their crafts. Alongside education and skill development, community health was strengthened through camps, free medicines, and maternal care guidance, with active parent and community involvement ensuring a lasting impact. In 1997, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust supported Prayas with funds for equipment and furniture.

As the school grew, so did its impact - revealing the vast need and potential among children from underserved communities.



1998 - 2000: Every child deserves Dignity, Opportunity, and Hope

With the support of CRY (Child Relief and You), Prayas opened its second school in 1998 at Fateh Tiba, Jaipur, to serve all non-school going children from under privileged families. Despite stigma and community resistance, Prayas built trust through health camps, counseling, initiating Home-base programs, and pioneered an integrated model, where disadvantaged and mainstream children learned together. Within a year, the school grew from 15 to 60 children, working in 18 slums, offering academics, vocational training, creative arts, and healthcare. Recognized by CRY as a 'Model School', this initiative stands as a testament to Prayas' mission of dignity, inclusion, and opportunity for every child.

Worthy of Mention:

- 12 students including 5 CWSN cleared Grade V exam, scoring 85% (and +) marks.
- Ankur, Niranjana and Pawan clear Grade III exam with commendable scores.
- Jamil, a borderline child, wins gold medal in Drawing & Painting at the Abby Olympics.
- Bilal wins a silver medal in Athletics at the State-level Special Olympics.
- Children showed an aptitude for Classical music and learned to play the Veena
- Activist & Former Union Minister WCDI Mrs. Maneka Gandhi visits Prayas.
- Badminton Champion Prakash Padukone meets CWSN.



Of Dreams Unlimited:

- Mohit (18), a special child dreams of becoming a pilot. Amol (18) wishes to join the police force. Vishas wishes to open a photocopy shop. Sanju, (15) lacks speech but works wonders with his brush.

Healing Touch:

- Jamil (14) was operated for Opponeusplasty of the right thumb, Zakir (7) was operated for lengthening of Tendachilles. Tabassum was operated for cataract and an IOL lens was fitted in her eye. Three children were given the Polypropylene AFO and one was given Floor Reaction Orthosis. Two CWSN were given Limited motion AFO (Ankle Foot Orthosis) and two of them were given Gaiters.



In January 2000, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust sanctioned Rs. 10 lakhs over two years to educate 40 differently-abled children. This period also saw a positive shift in parental attitudes - once viewing disability as a curse, they began to see hope, as children gained independence and even earned from craftwork.

A landmark moment came in July 2000 when Prayas was allotted 836 sq. meters of land at Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur, paving the way to expand schooling and vocational training for more children.



2001 - 2003: *PRAYAS sets down roots!*

The Jhalana Institutional Area school building's foundation stone was laid by the erstwhile Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Ashok Gehlot on 3rd August 2001, along with a donation of Rs. 5 lakhs. Under the guidance of architect Mr. Pratyush from Baroda, a child-friendly, sunlit building was designed with ramps, lift space, a lotus pond, and copper murals by acclaimed artist Mr. Shail Choyal.

Construction began with enthusiasm but soon faced financial hurdles, halting progress for three months. Partial support came from sponsors and corporates, yet funds remained insufficient. A timely appeal to the Japanese Embassy brought hope; after rigorous inspections, they sanctioned over Rs. 26 lakhs, enabling the school's completion in 2003.

Meanwhile, remarkable transformations unfolded. Prayas Integrated School completed 3 years in rented premises, expanding to 90 students (40 CWSN) across 21 slums. Despite challenges, we built an inclusive space where children learned not just literacy, but values, brotherhood, and joy through stories and festivals. Parents gained confidence, the community embraced inclusion, and not a single child dropped out. Academic progress was good. 6 children began computer training. 2 gold medals were won at ABY Olympics 2001 held in Delhi. Prayas got affiliation with NIOS. The parents and community showed a positive shift in attitude, started valuing education and understanding the inclusion of special needs children.



Eminent visitors to Prayas included Mr. Natwar Singh, MS. Uma Tuli, Mr. Damodar Thanvi, Mr. Sudhir Verma, and Mr. Arvind Mayaram. Prayas children were invited to meet US President Bill Clinton when he visited Jaipur.

Children explored vocational skills - folders, bags, tie-and-dye, candles - while Prayas pressed for policies to secure their dignity. Executive Director Jatinder Arora championed free admissions and represented Prayas at national forums. In 2003, the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust's generous grant of Rs. 39 lakhs gave renewed strength, affirming our mission and fueling our journey of growth and hope.



Worthy of mention:

- Ram Prakash Sharma, once restless and severely challenged, now sits calmly for two hours overcoming his behavioral issues.
- Utkarsh Sharma, a hyperactive child denied admission elsewhere, blossoms into a disciplined child pursuing basic academics.
- Dinesh Kumar (CWSN aged 20 from SOS village), after behaviour management, masters tie-and-dye and starts earning through his skills.



2003 - 2004: *Hope emerges - A new branch - Prayas Amagarh Integrated school!*

Earlier, CWSN in the slums lived in neglect - without schooling, care or dignity, and were dismissed as 'mad' with no hope. Prayas changed that. Beginning with self-help skills and social training, supported by health camps and expert guidance, the children were given a chance to grow. Communities slowly embraced them, sending their children to school. What was once despair became a journey of inclusion, progress, and possibility.

Prayas deepened its community outreach through health camps, eye check ups and cancer screenings, and support for families by having them added to BPL lists (in Amagarh and Amritpiri slums). Growing trust brought more admissions, expanding the strength to 100 and extending services of Home-base therapy. Community groups and PTAs were formed to promote rights, health, education, and discourage child labor, while residents themselves contributed to improving school facilities. Regular support included guidance for disability cards, IQ testing, physiotherapy, and medicines, with six students successfully integrated into mainstream schools. Stitching was added to vocational training alongside agarbatti packing, paper mache, candle making, tie-dye, and paper bag making - earning children Rs. 44,278 in vocational promotion.

In December 2003, Prayas opened its third school in Amagarh slum, serving 30 children (15 CWSN) and engaging women in education, health, hygiene, and encouraging small savings.

Noted Bollywood poet and lyricist Shri Javed Akhtar visited Prayas and spent time with the CWSN.



Worthy of Mention:

- Hearing aids were provided to ten children, and critical surgeries were arranged for those in need.
- Roop Narayan (13), once a street beggar with polio, found shelter and education at Prayas. Today, he is a contractor.
- 8 child laborers were rescued and enrolled in school. Master Mukim, who was earning Rs. 20 a week, joined Prayas and excelled in studies.
- Amol secured a printing press job, while Ankur Bajaj joined his father's business - eight children in total found livelihoods.
- Sunil (CWSN with MD) progressed remarkably - toilet trained, able to chew, reduced drooling, academics and motor skills.
- Mukul Dua, a 13 -year-old CWSN with profound intellectual disability, transformed from tantrums and dependency to toilet training, self-care, following instructions, and learning puzzles.



2004 - 2005: *Building Inclusion one step at a time – Our very own World for Special Needs children*

After Prayas completed eight years, we had a new disability-friendly building in Jhalana, housing classrooms, vocational units, conference hall, and physiotherapy centre. A school bus was donated by Avtaar Virdee Trust (UK), and 30 children continued in Home-Based Therapy, Workshops and symposiums on the Disabilities Act. Access to Justice benefitted 50 participants, while staff and teachers benefited from motivational and excellence programs.

Networking included parent workshops, grassroots orientation, and health camps - where TB cases were identified. In September 2004, we began work at Jaipur's Juvenile Justice Home, linking with welfare bodies and police, simplifying the JJ Act, and striving for safe, abuse-free care, education, skill development, staff sensitization, and child repatriation. Prayas community initiative helped build a toilet in Khadda Basti school, installed a water tank, and sensitized children at Gandhi Upper Primary School on inclusion.

A tiffin centre and milk booth were started at Jhalana Special school, managed by children under guidance of educators. A physiotherapy unit became operational in August 2004, benefitting all branches. The special school shifted to Jhalana, Fateh Tiba school moved to Raja Park. The total strength across all schools (265) and Home-Based program (15) reflected parents' trust and resulted in proactive admissions.

A Child Sponsorship scheme strengthened finances. Vocational training expanded with stitching, cooking, tie-dye, candle and chalk making. Products were marketed at Rajasthali and Rajputana Sheraton, generating income. Twenty-two children now held bank accounts with savings between Rs. 250 and Rs. 21,000.



Worthy of mention:

- Our children excelled at the State Special Olympics in Ajmer, winning 3 gold and 6 silver medals.
- Slow Learners was mainstreamed, and Azharuddin improved academically. Hyder moved from moderate to borderline category.
- Parents of Dipuna and Shahid, who had been pushed into child labor, were convinced to resume the schooling of the children. Work continued through family sensitization and intervention with Kishan, a three-year-old quadriplegic facing neglect.
- 3 disabled sisters from an Azad Nagar BPL family were admitted to Prayas, while parents received counseling on family planning.
- 4 Home-Based program children were mainstreamed to school.



2005 - 2006: *Expanding Horizons of Inclusion!*

Prayas entered a new phase with rising admissions and priority to the needy children. A Foundation Course on Education of Children with Disabilities was launched with MP Bhoj University and RCI, training 40 government teachers. A speech therapist joined Prayas, and workshops for teachers and visits by 100 government school teachers enriched learning.

Amagarh school strength rose to 54, with first-generation learners progressing rapidly. Women and adolescent girls were engaged in vocational and academic training. A new funding partnership with Vibha (USA) strengthened resources. Networking expanded through workshops, international study programs, and organizational development initiatives.

Prayas organized Rajasthan's first Disability Fair, issuing certificates, passes, and conducting tests for thousands. Camps and literacy programs empowered communities, while immunization, family planning, and prenatal care supported survival rights. Academic progress was evident as several CWSN moved to milder categories, and Income-generating initiatives like the tiffin centre thrived, teaching children responsibility and independence, while the milk booth faced a limited demand.

Celebrity visits included an interesting interaction with Lok Sabha ex Speaker Ms. Meira Kumar at Prayas Special school.



Worthy of mention:

- Shift to School: Lekh Raj (once a street beggar), twins Manish & Manisha, and six-year-old Sabiya moved from Home-Based therapy to school after marked improvement.
- Rupal's Journey: From severe behavioral issues and no speech in 2004, she now manages ADL, recites rhymes, reads, writes, and identifies colors.
- CWSN Mohsin was integrated into Class V.
- Rukhsar Bano (Class VIII), represented Rajasthan at a National cultural festival - breaking barriers of an orthodox background.
- Medical Support: Shahid's ear surgery was funded by Prayas; Farhan and Happy responded well to Home-Based interventions.
- Hitesh Raimaini, a child with Downs syndrome, once unable to sit, eat, or speak, was now toilet trained, showed an improvement in his speech and attending school after months of therapy.



Some Glimpses of the First Decade!





2006 - 2007: *A Decade of Dignity & Growth - RCI Courses & Opening of Prayas School, Sanganer!*

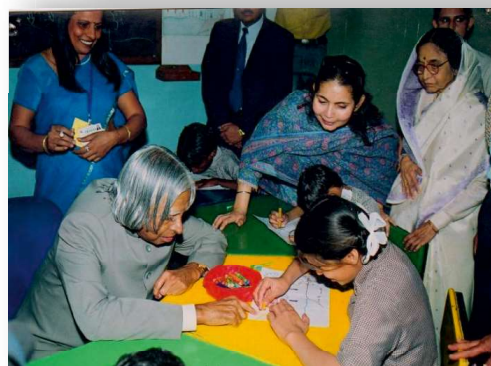
Prayas completed ten years of service, now reaching out to 450 children through schools and Home-Based therapy. 12 CWSN were mainstreamed, 25 cleared NIOS exams this year, and 50 women completed training in stitching. Health camps benefitted 500 people, while dispensaries and non-formal centres in slums offered education, tailoring skills, and advice on maternal care.

To address the shortage of Special Educators, Prayas started the RCI recognized Diploma and Foundation courses in Special Education (ID) at Prayas Jhalana Institutional area campus.

In August 2006, Prayas opened a new Integrated school in Sanganer community, located at a distance of 15 kms from Jaipur city. There were about 4,000 families in this area, most of the people working in the printing and paper making industry. Contaminated water with high iodine and dye content was a problem for all the residents. We enrolled 57 normal children, 7 CWSN children and 3 children in the Home-Based program. This became the fourth school being run by Prayas. 3 full time teachers were engaged in the school.

Networking grew through visits by international delegates, UNESCO conferences, and the formation of Sabal Adhikar Manch, which successfully advocated to raise disabled persons' pensions.

The highlight came on 30th March 2007, when President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam visited Prayas, interacted warmly with children, released awareness materials, and invited 50 students to Rashtrapati Bhawan. His words affirmed the cheerful resilience of the children and the commitment of Prayas.



Today, Prayas continues to nurture overall development - education, arts, sports, and vocational training, while carrying forward its mission of dignity and inclusion.

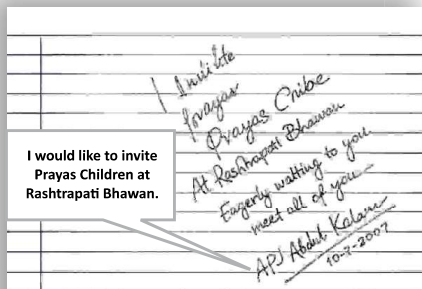
Worthy of mention:

- Four students (Firoz Bano, Rukhsar, Tabassum, Lata) were mainstreamed to Saraswati Girls School. Jamil, a CWSN, began working in a bookstore.
- Farhan, once unable to move, now sits independently and walks with support after two years of intervention.
- Izhar (9), wrote a poem 'If I were water' in hindi. An English translation of his essay, was appreciated by President Dr. Kalam.
- 43 children (24 from Raja Park, 14 from Amagarh and 5 from Jhalana) were preparing to appear for the NIOS examinations in this year. 6 of them were slow learners.



Historic moment: Jatinder Arora accompanying Prayas children to Rashtrapati Bhawan!

A personal invitation by erstwhile President Dr. APJ Kalam and the subsequent Visit!



President APJ Abdul Kalam's invitation for Prayas Children to Rashtrapati Bhawan.



2007 - 2008: Recognition through Service

The year began with annual examinations, with 43 children appearing for NIOS Level A, B, and C. During school holidays, teachers engaged in community visits and prepared materials for the next session. Surveys registered newborns, processed BPL and pension applications, and supported pregnant women with immunization. A tailoring course for women was launched in Amagarh, while water and sewage issues in Shiv Shankar Colony were raised with authorities.

Prayas organized workshops on disability awareness. On 8th May 2007, 57 children and 16 teachers visited Rashtrapati Bhawan at the invitation of President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Recognition followed as Prayas was nominated SNAC (State Nodal Agency Centre) for the National Trust, enabling advocacy for pensions and social security for disabled children. Miss Jatinder Arora was also nominated to the State Resource Committee on Education.

Vocational training expanded with a shelter workshop and a flour grinding unit, while advocacy pushed for government purchases of products made by intellectually challenged children. Awareness and disability camps across districts benefitted thousands, with strong



support from local the administration. New partnerships with ASHA for Education strengthened resources, and visits from dignitaries further validated Prayas work. This period was marked by innovation, recognition, and a deeper community impact.

Worthy of mention:

- Three students - Shahjahan, Rubina, and Shabnam rejoined school after parents prioritized education over housework.
- Anis, 10-year-old son of a rickshaw puller, left tailoring work (earning Rs. 10 per week) and, along with his sister, joined Prayas.
- Four special children from Prayas competed in the State -level Special Olympics and won medals.
Azharuddin - Gold medal, Mohit Ansari - Silver medal, Moin Khan - Bronze medal
- Surbhi, a 5 -year-old hemiplegic in the Home-Based program, progressed from being unable to sit up to joining school in November and responding well to teachers.
- Four children (aged 8 - 12) working in an embroidery factory at Ramganj were counseled to join school.



2008 – 2009: *Grassroot Initiatives*

At the grassroot level, early identification of CWSN is important. Timely intervention can bring remarkable improvement in their condition. In May 2008, with the support of the District Collector, 8 Awareness and Disability Camps were organized in Barmer district. These efforts helped us reach 1,031 persons in the Jaipur district and 783 in Barmer district. 6 Aastha cards were issued, 63 pregnant women were counseled, 501 persons received medical assistance through health camps, three vasectomy operations were conducted, and 117 birth certificates were issued.

April marked the beginning of the annual examinations, where all children performed well academically. The CWSN showed significant progress compared to their earlier levels, and are now reciting poems, telling stories, drawing, solving numerical problems, reading and writing alphabets in English. 26 children, including 12 boys and 14 girls, prepared for the NIOS examinations, while 4 children appeared for the Class VIII board examinations. During the summer vacations, 20 children joined computer classes, further expanding their skills.

Community outreach activities continued with enthusiasm, spreading awareness about government schemes for the disabled and poor, hygiene, sanitation, types of disabilities, education, and child rights. Three community meetings of Sabal Adhikar Manch were held in April, with the Education Minister, Mr. Kalicharan Saraf, attending the meeting on education and employment for the disabled at Ghat Gate, Jaipur, on 13th April. The Home-Based program also grew steadily, with the number of children enrolled reaching thirty-eight, reflecting the expanding impact of our initiatives.



Worthy of Mention:

- Feroz Khan, a slow learner, now confidently writes essays, reads, solves numericals, excels in EVS, GK, and vocational work.
- CWSN Faizal (10), from struggling with eating and basics has moved to ADL independency, academic basics and social skills.
- Lata, is a first-generation learner, physically disabled with speech difficulties. Her father is a hawker. She had secured 72% in Class VIII, and is presently in Grade XI. She is undergoing treatment for lung problems, yet continues to perform meritoriously.



2009-2010: A Beacon of Hope for Inclusive Education – Govt. school Intervention

At Prayas, we recognize that many causes of disability such as poor nutrition and hygiene, lack of vaccination, inadequate health and maternity care, and limited awareness are preventable. Our approach addresses these issues while promoting integrated education as an innovative alternative to segregation. By enrolling more children in school, ensuring regular attendance, we have seen a significant interest in academics and extra curricular activities. 11 children appeared for Level B and C examinations, while 5 boys and 3 girls sat for the Class VIII exams. Over the years, eighteen students who passed Class VIII from Prayas Integrated School have been successfully mainstreamed into government and other schools for higher studies, with financial support provided to those in need.



Our community outreach continues with dedication. 60 pregnant women were counseled, and 5 women opted for family planning operations. A milestone was the launch of a Single window facility for IQ Certificates, DCs and Scholarships, supported by the District Collector. Capacity-building workshops for teachers focused on speech therapy and physiotherapy, while parents of CWSN attended seminars on positive attitudes and child development.

A landmark achievement came on January 4th, 2010. Prayas received permission from the Dept. of Primary Education, Govt. of Rajasthan, to intervene in 12 government primary schools. This initiative allowed us to facilitate integrated education, improve teacher-student ratios (which varied between 1:48 and 1:100), and ensure that no child is deprived of free education up to the age of 14. Through these efforts, Prayas continued to strengthen inclusion and raise educational standards for all.

Worthy of mention:

Shahid, a CWSN won a silver medal in a Drawing Competition organized by the Indian Council for Child Welfare. Nazmeen, a student of Class VII got her poem published in Rajasthan Patrika, a leading Indian daily newspaper.

2010 - 2011 *Strengthening Community Engagement*

We worked towards the successful implementation of our plan of facilitating inclusion in 12 government schools across Jaipur's slums. This brought a visible change, as parents shifted their children from private to government schools, after witnessing the dedication of Prayas special educators; government teachers became more punctual and adopted Prayas' teaching modules; children received basic study material, engaged in physical training and moral lessons, and inculcated habits of hygiene, and responsibility. Community members took ownership of keeping school areas clean, and participated in SMCs. Parents were encouraged to visit schools, send girls regularly, and seek certification for CWSN. Women were motivated towards family planning, and communities began addressing their civic issues.

Prayas' own schools continued with equal enthusiasm. In the community, 84 non-school-going children were identified for follow-up, 93 birth certificates issued, 25 pregnant women counseled, and 2 family planning operations conducted. four women (Shikariyon ka Mohalla) started earning from tailoring. 20 CWSN have been successfully integrated in regular schools, 11 adults placed in jobs, 4 first-generation learners pursuing Class X in regular schools. 20 students received computer education.

Worthy of mention:

- Roopnarayan (CWSN secured 75.83%), Pinky Sharma, Arvind, and Firoza cleared class X. eleven children are supported for higher studies. Rohit (Harijan B), Chinky (Dhanka B), Vishal (Jawahar Nagar), Aayna (BKM), Kasim (Govind Nagar), Deepak (Hida ki Mori), Sana (Eidgah B), and Fareen (Dargah Pmd.), have shown after Prayas' intervention. Lata and Iqbal, passed Grade XII in Commerce and Arts streams. After graduation, both secured employment at Deutsche Bank's back office.



2011 - 2012: *Expanding Reach*

Prayas was now serving 3,390 children through its projects. Identifying non-school-going children remained a priority, with 577 children and 72 special needs children listed and shared with the Education Department for admission. In Govindnagar, the community itself contributed ₹75,000 to build a shed for school classrooms.

Teacher training workshops covered topics like innovative methods of teaching science and mathematics, the PWD Act 1995, teaching slow learners, understanding disabilities, child rights, and community engagement. In Shiv Shankar Colony, nearly all school going age children now attend school; women have shown interest in basic education; child labor was reduced in Cheeton ka Mohalla; gambling was discouraged (through counselling) in Amarnath ki Bagichi; tailoring classes began in Jagannath Shah ka Rasta. Sixteen children received BCs and DCs, 33 pregnant women were counseled, and 6 got tubectomy done.



Worthy of mention:

- Academically, 4 students joined Class IX in other schools . Prayas is supporting one of them by sponsoring the school fees . Asif and Nazmeen's poetry was published in the newspaper, while Divya, Gulnaz, and Jubair of Raja Park school stood out for their commitment and participation in co-curricular activities.
- Asif (13, Hearing impaired): Identified in 2010 survey; once mischievous and uninterested in school. Now in Class II, attends regularly, asks for homework, and received a hearing aid through Prayas and Star Key Foundation.
- Vishnu (14, Multiple disability): Initially bound at home, fully dependent on his mother. After eight months of therapy in the Home-Based program, he can perform daily activities, stand, walk short distances, and is now enrolled at Prayas Raja Park school.
- Ameeruddin, Arshad, Sameer, Ritu, Fareen, Kajal: Taught their parents to write names and addresses.
- Md. Zoaid, Arbaaz, Kasim, Ameeruddin, Sachin made commendable progress.

2012 - 2013: *Of Transformative Journeys*

Prayas continued to serve 3,398 children through its four centers and with Home - Based program and Government school interventions. Recognition was also granted this year to Amagarh and Sanganer schools by the Education Department. Our work extended across 33 Raja Park slums and 12 government school slums, motivating families from conservative and economically backward backgrounds to actively participate in their children's progress. The annual survey covered 5,181 families, counseling 132 pregnant women, issuing 35 birth and 30 disability certificates, and mainstreaming seven Class VIII children to Class IX in regular schools.

Prayas also identified 577 children and 72 special needs children for admission to government schools. Community meetings and awareness rallies encouraged civic participation, leading to tangible outcomes such as Khadda Basti securing a municipal sweeper and the Jaipur Development Authority building a shed outside the Eidgaah school. Sessions on community participation, RTE, and teaching strategies for children with disabilities had a visible impact, with government teachers now proactively including CWSN in regular classes even without the presence of Prayas educators. A three-day workshop on Inclusive Education was attended by 26 government teachers and Prayas educators.

Worthy of mention:

- Arshad teaches his mother and helps at the store. Amreen has overcome hyperactivity, now writing A–Z and naming colors and fruits. Mahesh moved from severe behavior issues to proudly writing numbers. Durgesh



manages daily living, counts, and recognizes the world around him. Sohail, once disruptive, now attends school, writes his name, and solves simple sums.

- Sunny (Dhanka B) blossoms socially, recognizing numbers, vowels, fruits, animals, and money. Shehjaad, Saniya, Faiz, Nazmeen, and Moin (Amagarh branch) show steady progress. And the proud milestone of mainstreaming - Amir I, Amir II, Faizurruddin, Islam Khan, Ram Babu, Deepak, Ajeet, Abdullah Badar, and Faiza Alam have enrolled in government schools, carrying hope and dignity forward.



IQBAL (ID) worked in Deutsche Bank's back office and then at Prayas as a receptionist.
 JUNAID (ID), REHNUMA (HI), VARSHA (CP) are appearing for NIOS - Open school examinations
 SUNIL (CP) runs a STD Booth and works as store keeper in Rungta Hospital Jaipur.
 ROOPNARAYAN (CP), street beggar brought up in Prayas is a Receptionist in Marudhar Bank

Ignited Lives - Doing us Proud

Jubair (B Tech), Prayas Integrated School Alumni is Assistant Manager at Shri Ram Insurance Company Sitapura, Jaipur



Manish, Prayas Integrated School Alumni is now enrolled in the Indian Army.



Gunjan, Prayas Integrated school Alumni, a third year student at Nursing College Ajmer.

2013 - 2014: *From Service to Strength*

In 17 years, Prayas stands tall as Rajasthan's first Integrated school. 597 children have benefited directly and 2,811 indirectly through various programs. Inclusive education remains the core approach, building confidence in children and restoring hope among parents. Activities such as school trips, debates, creativity competitions, and even a student-run Big Bazaar foster learning and creativity. International collaboration added value, with Dutch delegates painting classrooms and building a library bookshelf. Community empowerment continues through counseling pregnant women, street plays on liquor and tobacco awareness, and Bal Club activities encouraging children to shape their future. Advocacy with SSA and the Education Department has strengthened infrastructural support in government schools.

Teacher training remains a priority. Workshops in this period have focused on behavior management, innovative teaching methods, use of assistive devices, parent participation, and inclusion of PWD in poverty alleviation programs. Observations and recommendations after a pedagogy study by Ms. Jayshree

Ganapathy from Delhi in February 2014, as part of assessment and work evaluation were very helpful.



Worthy of mention:

- Rukhsaar (9, CP): Now manages her ADL and eats independently, uses a walker
- Saif Ali (12, Down syndrome): Initially restless; now toilet trained, works on academics and art
- Ibrahim (8, MD): Previously destructive; now stands with help, socially active, recites poems, recognizes vowels, colors & numbers.
- Mohit: Once naughty and abusive is now disciplined; his mother (counselled by us passed Class X), is an Anganwadi teacher.

- Akib (6, moderate MR): Initially silent and inactive; now speaks, participates in group activities, performs ADL, identifies objects
- Aasma (14): Academically strong, promotes eco-awareness by encouraging use of paper/cloth bags, inspires peers.
- Rubina: Vocational trainee; learned stitching, now earns independently .
- Sumaiya Bano & Aafreen: Showed improvement and moved to Anganwadi/government school.
- Preeti Singh, Manish, Sachin, Mehraj, Sohail: Notable progress at Amagarh school.
- Three CWSN (Abdul Bilal, Junaid) are in Class IX, X
- Firoz, Chanda, Yasmeen, Rekha, Zeenat, Firdaus are in Class IX.



2014 - 2015: *Eighteen Years of Inclusive Growth*

Over eighteen years, Prayas has become a recognized authority in disability management and inclusive education, serving 3,986 families and reaching out to over 3,000 children through schools, government interventions, Home-Based therapy, vocational training, and community programs. Four Prayas schools and interventions in twelve government schools continue to bridge gaps between normal and special needs children, supported by individualized education plans and therapy.

Community empowerment remains central. 218 non-school-going children and 4 CWSN were admitted to government schools; 11 profound category children joined Home-Based therapy; 250 Aadhaar, 4 Aastha, and 47 Disability cards were issued; 40 women attended vocational classes; 50 children opened savings accounts for scholarships. Awareness was spread through 8 community meetings and 5 rallies on topics like disability, education, cleanliness, and nutrition.

Highlights included Princess Diya Kumari's visit and an invitation to City Palace health camps benefiting hundreds, and workshops on learning disabilities and study skills with renowned experts. Community members partnered with Prayas in cleanliness drives and advocacy for school infrastructure. Support from Deutsche Bank since 2009 has strengthened resources, from books and equipment to hearing aids and vocational materials, ensuring underprivileged and differently - abled children continue to benefit from quality education.



Here is an overview of the students in our different schools and projects.

	REGULAR STUDENTS	CWSN	TOTAL
JHALANA	-	107	107
RAJA PARK	89	49	138
AMAGARH	106	37	143
SANGANER	123	16	139
HOME-BASED	-	029	29
GOVT. SCHOOLS	1088	31	1119
Admitted after identification in survey	218	4	222



12th February 2015: Lightning strikes Prayas!

The year 2015 started tragically with the passing away of our Founder and Executive Director, Miss Jatinder Arora, on 12th February 2015. She was the guiding spirit of Prayas. Under her compassionate leadership, Prayas grew into a major institution with one special school, three integrated schools, and numerous programs for marginalized children. Respected across the disability and development sector, she inspired countless milestones and touched many lives. Though deeply missed, all of us at Prayas remain committed to carrying forward her vision and fulfilling her cherished dream of inclusion and dignity for every child.

Honours attained by Miss Jatinder in her lifetime

- Received the State Award for Social Worker from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of Rajasthan, India on 3 December 2010 (World Disability Day).
- Prayas (under her stewardship) was the State Nodal Agency Centre (Rajasthan) for the National Trust, Govt. of India for three and a half years.
- She was invited for all 4 rounds of consultation for discussions on the amendments in Persons with Disability Act, 1995.



- Former Honourable President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited Prayas on 30 March 2007 and blessed the children. He presented a set of books authored by him. The children and teachers were invited by him to the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on 8 May 2007.
- Former President of U.S.A., Mr. Bill Clinton, during his second visit to Jaipur specially expressed his desire to meet our differently-able children before his departure from India. He spent an hour interacting with them.
- The Third Millennium Foundation of New York selected Ms. Jatinder Arora to participate in the Centre for Tolerance Education (ICTE)'s International Guest Program in the summer of 2007 in New York. This program gives recognition and support for committed, emerging leaders, doing outstanding innovative and courageous work to improve the life in their community.
- Ms. Jatinder Arora, visited Japan to participate in a study program organized by F.W.E.A.P. as an Indian delegate, nominated by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.
- Ms. Jatinder Arora, received the Acharya Vinoba Bhave National Volunteer Award in 2001.



2015 - 2016: Some people make you believe in Angels!

Life has to move on and Prayas continued its work in the same spirit of dedication now under the stewardship of Shri R. K. Mohla. In April a Leadership Team of Deutsche Bank visited Prayas. 'Enormously touching experience, more beautiful than the Taj Mahal' and very inspiring and meaningful' are some of the phrases they used to describe their visit and interaction with the children at Jhalana school. 8th May 2015 saw Bollywood's leading Music Director and singer Mr. Shekhar Ravjiani in Prayas Special school at Jhalana. His words were - 'God dwells in these children. I got all the love that I wanted from them. They are pure souls with eyes that smile with innocence and can make the hardest of hearts melt.' Referring to the dedication of Miss Jatinder, he said: 'Some people make you believe in angels - beautiful and kind souls who dedicate their lives towards the betterment of others.'



During summer surveys, 3,723 families were approached; 9 pregnant women were guided to hospitals. 7 Raja Park students were mainstreamed into Class IX, with Prayas supporting fees for continued education. Communities now approach Prayas for early intervention, and parents actively participate in their children's development. In July - August, students and other delegates from a Netherlands based Global Exploration group visited Prayas to study our methodology for teaching children with special needs.

A workshop on 'Teacher's Training in Inclusive Education' was organised by Prayas in September. Mrs Sudha Vohra and Dr Shabam Aggarwal spoke of the paradigm shift in perception of disabled children – earlier it was the charity-based approach, then the medical remedial approach, then the social and finally the rights-based approach.

This period ended on a sad note. Mrs Surinder Kaur, mother of our founder Miss Jatinder Arora departed for her heavenly abode. To honor Miss Jatinder Arora's legacy, the Jatinder Arora Academic Awards were launched in February 2016, recognizing outstanding students from each Prayas school with a trophy, certificate, and cash prize.

Worthy of Mention:

- Jameel a Prayas student is employed at Reliance Fresh.
- Junaid, Armana, Alisha, Fiza and Varsha Parewa were the proud recipients of the Jatinder Arora Academic Awards.
- Chanda, Omprakash, Arshad, and Mansoor are studying in Geeta Bajaj Bal Mandir with the financial help of Prayas and dreaming of good jobs and a good future. Education of children for all their families used to be a far-fetched dream.



DATE	NAME & ADDRESS OF THE VISITOR	COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS
		This experience has been enormously touching. We have been visiting the breathtakingly beautiful Taj Mahal. But this experience and what the people of PRAYAS do for the Jaipur community and its children in need is just topping our visit to Jaipur. Please take comfort in our visit and what Deutsche Bank is doing and you will grow even more than the most beautiful building in the world. This is truly <i>WOW</i> BEAUTY! Congratulations on a wonderful staff. ⁸ Harleen De Clercq (D.B.V.S.A) 27/1/15

Some Glimpses of the Second Decade!





2016 - 2017: Moving On – Milestones in progress

The 21st year marked a milestone for Prayas, offering a moment to reflect on challenges and achievements while planning ahead with renewed dedication. Prayas has grown into a respected grassroots NGO, nurturing children with education, values, and confidence. We focus on skill development and inclusive education, helping children move from dependency to independence with dignity and stability. With the support of partners, friends, and well-wishers, Prayas continues its mission to overcome barriers and create meaningful lives for children with special needs.

Two decades reflect the growth of Prayas from a school with 5 CWSN to a movement for hope, education, and inclusion with four branches for special education, vocational training and Classroom education upto Grade VIII. Our focus remains on being a catalyst for change, convincing families, and promoting equal opportunities for all. Computer Training when integrated in the school time table has proved to be an effective learning tool for over 275 Prayas students. The Internet expands their learning environment beyond the classroom and gives them access to vast information and resources.



The workshops organized at Prayas focus on enhancing the awareness about children and persons with disabilities, teaching basic rules for intervention and guidance in dealing with different forms of disability. Two workshops were organized this year -Integrating Therapy with School Activities (conducted by Mrs. Sudha Vohra, Mrs Jayashree Ganapati and Mr. Soumen Kumar) and Pre Academic Skills for Children with Intellectual Disability (conducted by Dr. Preeti Verma and Dr. Sujata Bhan from SNDTWU, Mumbai).

Worthy of Mention;

- Roop Narayan (CP), a street beggar is today a graduate, settling down to a family life shortly.
- Mohit Kaushik, after passing Class X (NIOS), has become an entrepreneur with a packaging machine at home!
- Heena, Yasmin, Nisha, Simran, Noor Jehan , first generation learners from Prayas are preparing for Graduation.
- Pinky is doing her MA and also taking private tuitions.
- Ajay has reached his final year of Engineering and Jubair is in 2nd Year of Engineering.
- Shahrukh and Premprakash, are leading a near normal life, working as apprentices in a motor servicing workshop .
- Nineteen children, after clearing Class VIII from Prayas have been given financial support for higher studies.



AJAY: Engineering Graduate



2017 - 2018: *The Ripple effect of Education*

Often, a random incident awakens us to a larger calling. For Prayas, what began as a small effort to support underprivileged, specially abled children grew into a movement that transforms lives. This year, we engaged in the education of over 700 children. Our work in community schools reached more than 3,000 children. Despite policy changes slowing progress, we secured permission to expand into five more schools with 26 CWSN, while preparing government special educators to take over our role for sustainability.

In India's slums, generations remain trapped in poverty and illiteracy. Prayas chose to break this cycle. Education is empowerment - the great equalizer and a powerful tool for progress. By opening classroom doors to all children, especially girls, we help them break free from poverty and step into a brighter future. The Home-Based program, as old as the organization itself, continues to bring satisfaction - 22 children once confined at home now attend school with walkers or independently. Capacity-building workshops were also held on teaching methods including Project, Play Way, Montessori, Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment, VAKT, Special and Inclusive Education.



Worthy of Mention:

- Prayas was awarded the ZEE Excellence award by State Minister for SJE, Shri Chaturvedi.
- Junaid, Varsha, Rehnuma and Md. Bilal have cleared Class XII and Class X (NIOS).
- Widowed at 27, Chand Khan, mother of four Prayas students, faced poverty and despair. With Prayas' support, she educated her children and trained to become a cab driver with Woman Cab. Resilience can break cycles of poverty and can empower.
- Ridhi, Suhana, Fiza, Mohammed Bilal, Kajal and Israa were the proud awardees of the JAA Awards for the year.
- Twenty Five children have been supported for higher studies and 500 community women trained so far in Tailoring and 255 Special Educators passed out of the Prayas Resource Centre.

2018 - 2019: *The Sky is all yours!*

Disability rarely gets main stream attention, but when a child with special needs, working against all odds, overcomes the disability to go to school, to move towards some sort of independent living, then it becomes a story - the story of Prayas! We use visual, auditory or tactile cues in teaching, because having the right cues in an environment can make the difference between participation and non-participation for them. This was another satisfying year at Prayas. Our schools are doing well, our engagement in government schools is encouraging and we continue to strive and provide a life of dignity and hope to the children whose parents have reposed their faith in us. 7336 families were surveyed for new admissions. At Prayas we are very sensitive to the child's need of being accepted and included. The transition from home to school is unnerving. But our teachers are encouraging and empathetic and under their able guidance, the children blossom, and their confidence grows exponentially. We value interdependence. If we work together, we can achieve more. By supporting individual choices and working together we can make a difference.

At the official level, Prayas has always tried to influence policy and legislation that promotes inclusion, through continuous sharing of survey data on disability, information dissemination, pushing for appointment of more special educators in government schools, and sensitizing the government officials on day to day challenges faced by CWSN. We closely interact and network with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan of the Education Department for this .

The Continued Education Program of Prayas in its 6th year supported 15 children in Class IX. Prayas special needs children, who are weak in academics and growing in age are engaged in income generating vocational skills (embroidery, tie and dye, paper mache classes, and Prayas Tiffin Centre) to prepare them for independent living.



Worthy of Mention

- Ramesh (CWSN) in Prayas since 2004, after training in kitchen tasks is working in F&B section, Lemon Tree Group Hotel Red Fox, Jaipur
- Junaid and Varsha (CP) are pursuing graduation from Kota Open University . Gulapsha (HI) has cleared Class XII (NIOS).
- Mahenoor, radiates joy despite early hardships . Since joining Prayas - physiotherapy helped her stand upright with a walker. Good in academics, she participates in assembly and group activities and is steadily moving toward inclusion in a regular classroom.
- Paras, Gunjan, Fiza, Adhira, Amit, Junaid, Bilal, Wafa are the proud awardees of the JAA Awards for the year .



MAHENOOR walks erect with her Walker



JUNAID- VARSHA (CP): 2nd yr. Graduation



DEVENDRA - SUDARSHAN- Delivering Tiffins at PRAYAS Tiffin Centre

2019 - 2020: *Breaking Barriers, Building Futures*

Education remains one of the most powerful tools to break cycles of discrimination and poverty faced by underprivileged and disabled children. Yet, many are denied access because parents undervalue schooling, and even those who enroll risk dropping out. For CWSN, the path to independent living is especially challenging.

These realities have been key learnings in our 24-year journey in Disability and Inclusive Education. They remind us that barriers are real, but so are opportunities to innovate and adapt. Each challenge has pushed us to rethink our approach and evolve with changing circumstances. Motivated by these experiences, Prayas continues to act differently - designing programs that respond to the needs of children and communities, ensuring education remains a force for empowerment, inclusion, and hope.

Towards the end of 2020, with the onset of the Covid pandemic, Prayas schools and activities slowed down, leaving children's education most affected. Its massive spread in the densely populated areas we serve, combined with the irregularity of attendance in schools, impacted Prayas strongly. The future was uncertain, and unfortunately, the children (621 regular + 288 CWSN + 22 Slow Learners) associated directly with Prayas and their education were among those most deeply impacted.



DEVENDRA & ABHISHEK - INTERNS at HOTEL LALIT, JPR.

Worthy of Mention

- Devendra and Abhishek (CWSN) are two inspiring examples of exposure to vocational training. Years of working patiently with them ultimately helped in mainstreaming them in the Food and Beverages section of Hotel Lalit, Jaipur. Their smiling faces and innocent grins are all the reward we need!

2020 – 21: *Resilience in the face of Crisis*

Covid disturbed the world order. Could any child have imagined asking – 'When will schools reopen? I'm missing my school and friends'. This was the largest disruption of education in history, deeply affecting learners, teachers, and especially our pre-primary, secondary, and vocational sections. The prolonged lockdowns brought fear and anxiety, with psycho-social and mental health concerns for children and parents - issues our psychologists continue to address.

For Prayas, with its limited means and the financial vulnerability of the children and their families, the challenge was even greater. No computers, no internet, just one smart phone in some families was the reality. So online schooling was no option for us. We faced a stark choice: bow our heads in prayer, weather the storm, and wait for the sun to return - or fight back and take this as an opportunity to move differently. We chose the second path.

Prayas adopted the digital mode of teaching, ensuring that learning was not confined to the classroom but reached children in their homes. Our biggest challenge was to prevent education from becoming regressive. This meant adapting regular programs, rethinking strategies, and reshaping methods of execution - all while keeping in mind the priorities, limitations, and strained resources of our beneficiaries. We redesigned programs, trained teachers, and created lesson videos with individual follow-ups. Despite the pandemic's impact, it gave us an opportunity to empower teachers, enhance their skills, and strengthen resilience in the face of adversity.

Sustainability and a steady flow of resources are essential for executing projects. We recognized the need to integrate sustainability principles into ongoing work and empower communities locally. Yet, in a society where livelihood challenges take precedence, finding committed (persons) willing to spare time for community work was difficult. Restrictions on fundraising activities also impacted our partners' ability to support us fully. Prayas has a long experience in encountering barriers, working against odds, and refusing to give up hope. We know there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our children remained our greatest source of impetus and motivation, reminding us why we must continue moving forward.



2021 - 22: *Hope Beyond Barriers*

During the unprecedented Covid crisis, schools closed and special needs children - mostly from underprivileged families in cramped city housing - were left vulnerable. Parents faced immense stress, compounded by livelihood struggles, crowded living conditions, behavioral challenges, and children's physical dependence. Learning gaps risked regression, while community setbacks included infections from ignored quarantine rules and halted employment opportunities.

Despite these challenges, Prayas continued its support:

- Parent guidance and regular dialogue on safety and well-being
- Structured routines to help families manage daily goals
- Learning aids, video lessons, YouTube content for smartphones
- Physiotherapy support with demonstrations for parents
- Health initiatives like supplements and checkups
- Documentation help to access government schemes



The operational priority was keeping CWSN connected to schooling, while supporting families. Small groups of weaker children received individual guidance under safety protocols. Parents were coached to follow home routines and use smartphone videos to reinforce learning. Teachers converted lessons up to Class VIII into simple shareable videos, adapting methods and following up through calls or individual sessions. For teacher training, online workshops prepared them to design effective worksheets for assessment. For Physiotherapy, child-specific materials and exercise videos enabled parents to continue therapy at home. Gradually, teachers returned individually to school, maintaining safety measures to assist children with limited smartphone access. Even though offline classes were officially started at Prayas in February 2022, attendance was irregular and erratic. Families had migrated and bringing everyone back to the new normal was a daunting task. Signs of reduced funding emerged, and Prayas quickly adapted to the changing circumstances. The Amagarh branch was merged with the Raja Park branch. Younger children were admitted to nearby schools, while others were provided transport to attend the Raja Park branch.

2022-23: *Phoenix Reborn*

Like the mythical bird that rises from its ashes, *Prayas* has emerged stronger from the trials of Covid. Each challenge became a spark, igniting new initiatives - digital platforms, vocational programs, woman's empowerment, and disability inclusion. The Phoenix symbolizes not just survival, but transformation: a rebirth into greater strength, vision, and purpose.

Facing financial constraints, sustainability became essential. Prayas shifted the Raja Park school to its self-owned Jhalana building, reducing rental costs and ensuring stability. To optimize resources, the Special and Integrated Schools began operating in two shifts - a creative solution that saved costs, while maintaining quality education. These measures reflect resilience and innovation, showing that sustainability is not about cutting back, but reimagining possibilities, ensuring every child continues to receive inclusive schooling. From recovering after Covid, each impactful initiative reflects our collective spirit.



In 2022, Prayas lost our former Secretary, Shri R.K. Mohla. He had been a steadfast pillar, guiding Prayas after the passing away of Miss Jatinder Arora. A disciplinarian with deep empathy, his contributions were invaluable. To honor his legacy, the R.K. Mohla Sports Trophy was instituted.

After the visionary leadership of Jatinder Arora and Shri Mohla, the Prayas torch continued to burn brightly, with a seamless transition ensuring its mission carried forward. Prayas had welcomed a refreshed Executive Board the previous year in 2021, blending familiar pillars with new faces. The team led by Chairperson Dr. Manoj Bhatt brings strong energy and dedication, committed to keeping the Prayas legacy alive, while guiding Prayas toward a thriving future.

Worthy of Mention

- The Raja Dulhe Rai Award for outstanding social contribution was conferred to Prayas at City Palace, Jaipur.
- Mid-Day Meals launched in collaboration with Akshay Patra for daily nutrition. Community Surveys covering 10,000 families to identify needs and CWSN. Bakery Unit vocational training started. Participation in Special Olympics was started with 11 children winning medals.
- Infrastructure Expansion with new storey construction and plans for RCI B.Ed. Special Education (ID) course.



2023-24: *Wings of Growth*

Dreams demand more than aspiration. Keeping the legacy alive and continuing with all the projects, required innovation, resourcefulness, and unwavering adherence to our ethos. By consolidating schools, optimizing resources, and reclaiming space for new programs, Prayas concentrated on sustainability and innovation, ensuring that every initiative contributed to long-term growth and inclusion. Fundraising efforts were expanded to sustain and scale programs, while the invaluable time and expertise of volunteers, well-wishers, and friends were acknowledged as vital to the organization's progress.

Infrastructure was optimized by creating an additional floor and new spaces for consolidation and growth, including the replacement of the old lift with a modern, disability-friendly one. Academic expansion continued with the launch of the RCI-recognized B.Ed. program in Special Education (Intellectual Disability).

Internally, a strong senior team was nurtured to harness collective wisdom, foster clarity, and strengthen team spirit. Staff were encouraged to overcome technophobia and adopt digital tools, while the Teachers Versatility program was scaled to make every teacher a disability manager.

Community engagement remained central. Disability knowledge dissemination was expanded among government teachers, while advocacy efforts urged the state to sensitize medical doctors - often the first point of contact for parents of children with disabilities.



Alongside these structural efforts, equal emphasis was placed on holistic development through sports, Yoga and music, giving children exposure on various platforms to showcase their talents.

Worthy of Mention:

- Tobacco addiction: Once addicted to gutkha, Anam resisted learning. With games, fun-learning, and parental counselling, she has overcome this. Today she plays with peers, counts, recognizes vowels, manages ADL, and helps classmates.
- My first pencil: At 11, Sunil held a pencil for the first time. Starting from zero academics, persistent teaching with flash cards and charts built his foundation. He now writes Hindi letters, counts to 100, adds numbers, and forms two-letter words.
- From bed to school: Bedridden with CP + ID, Tanvi gained independence through therapy, mobility aids, and family support. She now receives a government pension, attends school, and has passed Class V, moving confidently to Class VI.



2024-25: Pathways of Commitment

The Prayas journey, though challenging, has been deeply rewarding, because our approach remains child-centric and focused on mainstream goals. The RCI division now has a strong faculty, preparing for the 3rd B. Ed SE (ID) and 19th D. Ed SE (IDD) batches, while collaborating with the State Education Department on a disability management training module for government teachers. We continue to encourage technical upskilling and innovative solutions.

Sports have greatly supported the physical, social, and emotional growth of our students. CWSN enjoy fitness and teamwork, and this year they participated in the School Sports event, Wipro Marathon, and won 8 medals at the Inter-school meet organized by Disha. Alfez, Dimple Soni, and Bilal excelled in their performances.



Fairs and exhibitions showcased vocational skills, with proceeds reinvested in training. Workshops remain vital and 31 workshops were organized. Our survey of 11,719 families identified 173 out-of-school children; 163 were admitted to schools. Of 14 CWSN, 3 over-aged were guided to schemes, 2 joined Prayas, 8 entered Government schools, and 1 a private school.

Worthy of mention

- Shivani's acceptance: Once kept hidden due to the fear of social stigma, Shivani's parents resisted evaluation. With counselling, she joined school, overcame behavioural challenges, now has all documents, benefits from programs, and socializes with confidence.
- Riyazuddin's progress: Bedridden with cerebral palsy, Riyazuddin gained strength through therapy and parental support. He now stands with the support of a wall, attends school, and interacts socially with confidence.

- Alfez's hope: Withdrawn and struggling with daily tasks, Alfez thrived at Prayas through individualized plans. He now dances, draws, assists in vocational training, excels in sports, and supports classmates.
- Vivek Kumar & Md. Zakki (Special), Shivani & Pankaj (Govt. School), Md. Hasnain (Integrated), Himanshu & Rahul Sharma (PISER) and Special Educators Ram Singh and Manyata have been the proud winners of the 'Sankalpa Diwas' Trophy and awards.
- Our Senior Faculty member Ms. Sathya received an award from Rotary International on Women's Day' to celebrate 'THE POWER OF SHE'.



2025-26: Empowering Every Child - A Year of Inclusion, Learning, and Joy

The year 2025-26 was a vibrant chapter in Prayas' journey of dignity and inclusion. It began with exam results and a new academic session, followed by creative celebrations like Autism Day and Earth Day. Community surveys reached over 1,000 homes, identifying out-of-school children, while athletes excelled at the State level Special Olympics Bharat in Gujarat. Cultural events - Foundation Day, Independence Day, and the Rajasthan Runway Festival were celebrated and reflected unity and joy.

Learning and outreach deepened through Workshops with Guidance for monitoring child development sessions, National Sports Day, and cleanliness drives on Gandhi Jayanti. Festivals such as Dandiya, Diwali, and the Children's Fair showcased teamwork and celebration, while educational visits to the Albert Hall Museum, City Palace, Ajmer, and Pushkar expanded horizons. December marked World Disability Day and school exchanges, reinforcing inclusion. The new year welcomed international collaborations with teams from New York University, Finland, and Australia, for enriching civic sense, sustainability, and AI learning. January-February sparkled with Basant Panchami, Republic Day, Traffic Awareness, and Sports Day. March ended with educational tours and diploma practicals, which affirmed holistic education. Across its Special School, Integrated School, and PISER division, Prayas empowered children through therapy, vocational training, and inclusive pedagogy.

Padma Bhushan Shri D.R. Mehta kindly donated Wheel chairs and assistive devices to Prayas special needs children. Our children have also been offered free physiotherapy access in the state of art Physiotherapy centre at Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sewa Samiti.



In 2026, Prayas proudly marks 30 years of teamwork, innovation, and growth - a milestone of hope, courage, and transformation. With families, educators, and partners as pillars, Prayas remains committed to reaching out to the last child, embracing digital transformation, and preparing students for a future shaped by inclusion and technology.

Worthy of mention

- Sporting Triumph Chhavi Meena, evolved from a shy child to a National/ State level Special Olympics athlete, winning medals with confidence.
- As a young student in Raja Park branch, Halima's resilience takes her from self growth to graduation and is now pursuing Spl. B.Ed.
- Steps of Courage - Ankit Patidar's smile reflects his progress from isolation to inclusion through patient guidance.
- Faizal overcomes disability to win National/ State level Special Olympics Athletics medals, proving that belief builds strength.
- Afraz Ali's journey from isolation to independence shows care that transforms lives.
- Himanshu Verma turns behavioural challenges into sporting success, and is preparing for Special Olympics.
- Dimple's rise from rejection to medals and skills training shows that determination builds self-reliance.



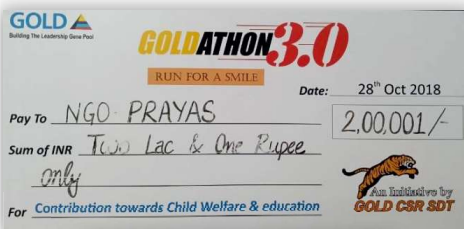
The Future Beckons!

55



Some Glimpses of the Third Decade!



















अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकलांग दिवस पर कार्यक्रम आयोजित

विकलांगता को डिसेबल नहीं, डिफरेंस-एबल कहें



जवाहर सर्कल पर कार्यक्रम का आयोजन थीम: दिव्यांगता समावेश को बढ़ावा



जयपुर @ पत्रिका प्रयास संस्था ने विश्व दिव्यांगता दिवस के अवसर पर जवाहर सर्कल स्थित पत्रिका गेट पर विशेष कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। इस वर्ष की थीम सामाजिक प्रगति को बढ़ाने के लिए दिव्यांगता समावेशन को बढ़ावा देना रही। मुख्य अतिथि टॉफिक डौसीपी सुमित मेहरड़ा ने रेली का झंडी दिखाकर रवाना किया। रेली में दिव्यांग और सामान्य बच्चों, शिक्षार्थियों तथा स्टाफ ने भाग लिया। प्रयास की निदेशक सध्या संगीथर ने बताया कि कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियां जैसे नुक्कड़ नाटक, नृत्य और विशेष सुरक्षा से संबंधित प्रदर्शन भी हुए। जागरूकता फैलाने के उद्देश्य से कम्यूनिटी टीम की ओर से रेली भी निकाली गई।



Patrons of PRAYAS in 2026



**Rtd. Justice
N.K. Jain**



**Rtd. Justice
Jainendra Ranka**



**Shri. N.K. Gupta,
Managalam Realty**



**Shri Sandeep Sharma
Entrepreneur**

Keeping The Mission Alive: Executive Board Members of PRAYAS in 2026



Dr. Manoj Bhatt
Rtd. IPS. Ex-DGP, Raj
CHAIRPERSON



Shri D.D. Goel
Rtd. IPS. Ex-DG, Raj
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Shri Devesh Bansal
Senior Advocate
SECRETARY



Shri G.S. Puri
Corporate Consultant
JOINT SECRETARY



Shri Sanjay Jain
Entrepreneur
TREASURER



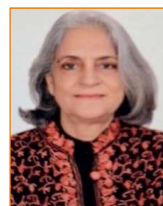
Shri Shail Choyal
Internationally Acclaimed Artist
FOUNDER MEMBER



Miss Rashmi Chandra
Social Worker
MEMBER



Mrs. Seema Singh
Social Worker
MEMBER



Mrs. Sujata Verma
Social Worker
MEMBER



Shri Surendra Gupta
Chartered Accountant
MEMBER

Together We carry the Torch : Staff Members of PRAYAS in 2026



Mrs. Kalapana Mehta
Principal Director



Mrs. Sathya Sengathir
Director



R1 (Sitting L-R): MS. SAVITRI PAREEK, MS BEENA SHARMA, MR. OMPRAKASH BISHNOI, MR. UDAY BHAN SINGH YADAV, MR. BHOOPENDRA SINGH JAT, MS. PINKY SHARMA, MS. RINA KUMARI, MS. JYOTI YADAV, MS. PRITI SHARMA

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We are extremely thankful to all the dedicated Executive Board members, Governing Council members, Senior Staff, Teachers, Special Educators, Resource persons, Guest faculty, and supporting staff, whose unwavering commitment has helped Prayas reach its current status. We are also thankful to all those who have supported the children of Prayas in cash, kind, and spirit in the past and present. You can extend support to the children in many ways – Donation, Sponsorship of fees, uniforms, books, mid-day meals, promoting inclusion, celebrating your happy moments with them, spreading cheer by engaging in fun-filled activities, supporting vocational initiatives or just being there for them! Donations to Prayas are covered under 80G Exemption of Income Tax for Indian donors. 'Friends of Prayas' is a Whatsapp Group of Prayas well wishers and friends. We share regular updates about Prayas' activities, events, progress, and celebrations.



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