**LIMITING LIMITATIONS**
SAKSHAM ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018

Our presence on

| States | No. of Channel Partners |
|---|---|
| ANDHRA PRADESH | 1 |
| ASSAM | 1 |
| BIHAR | 1 |
| CHHATTISGARH | 1 |
| DELHI | 1 |
| GOA | 1 |
| GUJARAT | 2 |
| HIMACHAL PRADESH | 3 |
| KARNATAKA | 1 |
| KERALA | 2 |
| MADHYA PRADESH | 1 |
| MAHARASHTRA | 3 |
| ODISHA | 1 |
| PUNJAB | 2 |
| RAJASTHAN | 3 |
| TAMIL NADU | 3 |
| UTTAR PRADESH | 4 |
| WEST BENGAL | 1 |
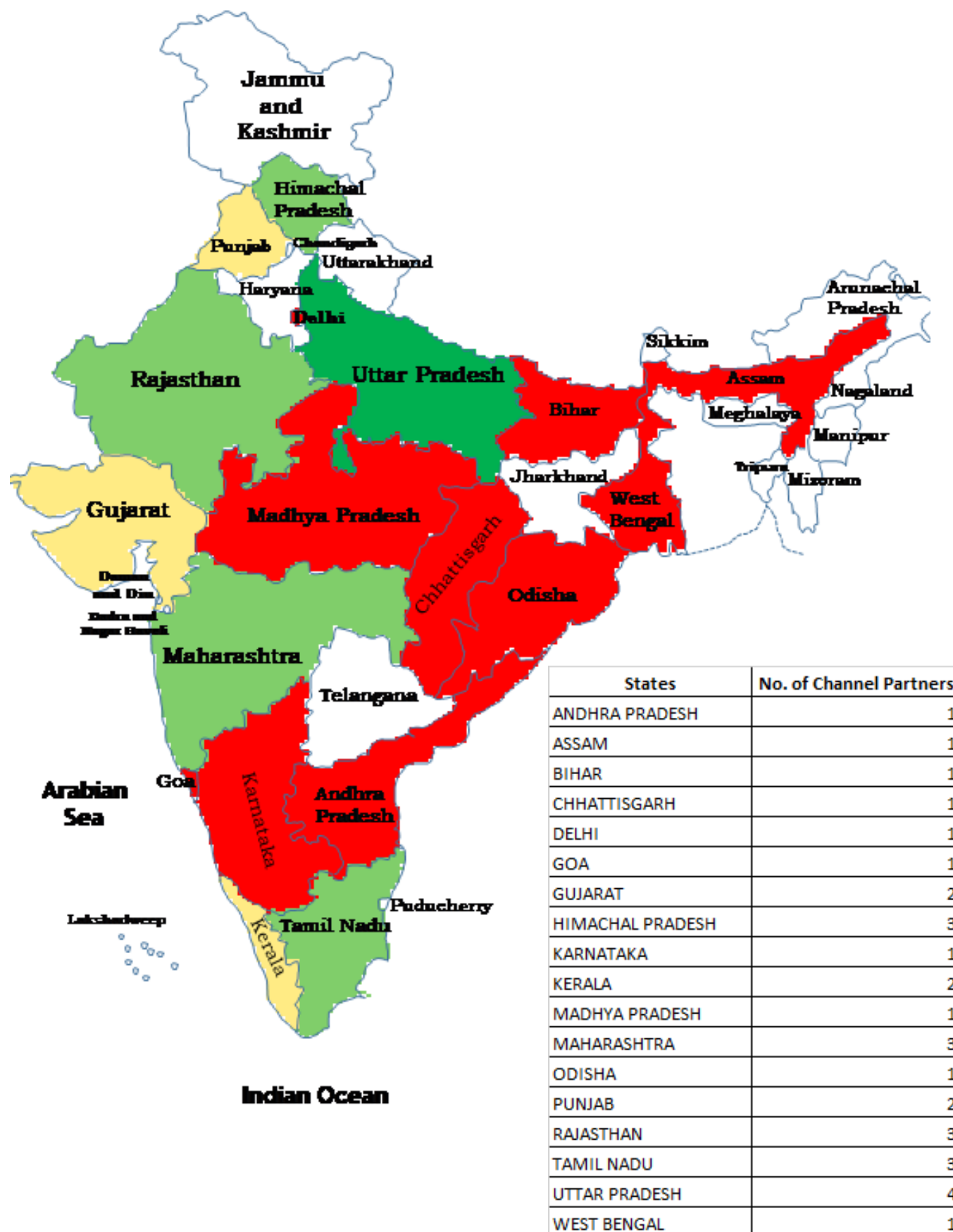
# *I*ntroduction

**Saksham is a not - for - profit organization, established in 2003 by MR. DIPENDER MANOCHA and MS. RUMMI K. SETH. Using their own resources they had set up the Trust, working for the education, rehabilitation and welfare for persons with print disability.**
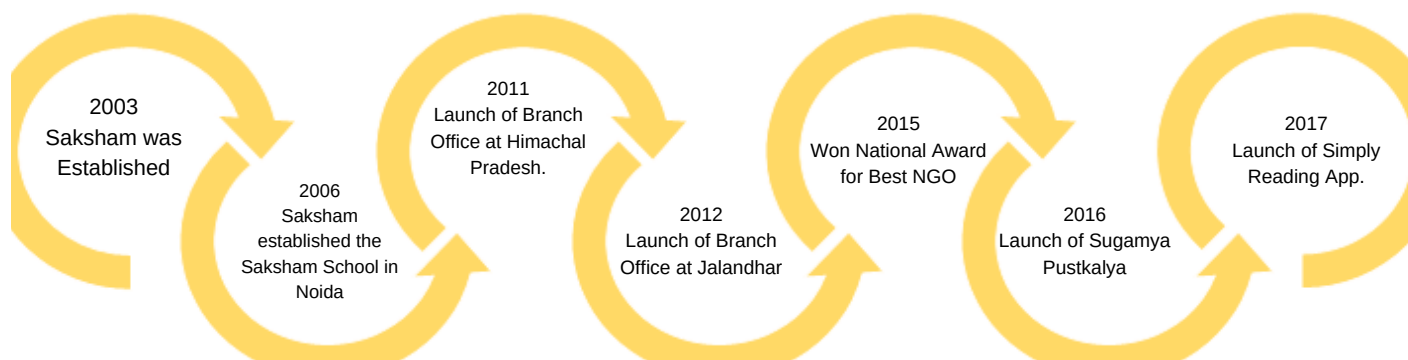
**India has a large population of visually impaired persons with blindness and low vision who cannot read normal print. A range of technological and material support is required to be provided to them for their social, educational and economic mainstreaming. Therefore, Saksham is working rigorously to cater to the educational, mobility and day to day needs of the visually impaired through its various ongoing projects.**

Saksham has a dedicated and capable team, who believe in rising above barriers, thus following its mentor Mr. Dipendra Manocha who has never let his visual impairment come in his way to achieve his targets in life in carrying forward all the activities of Saksham, by striking a balance between his own experiences and available technology, so that the visually impaired persons benefit the maximum from the existing facilities.

## *R*OAD MAP

2003
Saksham was Established

2006
Saksham established the Saksham School in Noida

2011
Launch of Branch Office at Himachal Pradesh.

2012
Launch of Branch Office at Jalandhar

2015
Won National Award for Best NGO

2016
Launch of Sugamya Pustkalya

2017
Launch of Simply Reading App.

# Mission

Empowering communities by creating multiple opportunities for the underprivileged for sustainable social upliftment, thus enabling them to emerge as significant contributors in India's growth story.

# Vision

A sensitized and motivated society that acknowledges the value of interdependence and appreciates the abilities of persons with blindness and multiple disabilities and willingly provides equal opportunities for all.

## Our Goals

As a National Award winning NGO, Saksham has taken up several projects under which it is providing assistive devices and services to the end-users without extra cost. Following this we have some specific goals:

Reach out to children with blindness and multiple disabilities.

Facilitate them with education & prepare them to integrate into mainstream school/vocational rehabilitation for economic independence and eventually with the society.

Provide latest assistive devices and technology solutions to people with blindness so that they can continuously upgrade their skills and harness their potentials to lead a better life.

Provide books and other print material in accessible format for the visually impaired persons.

Continuously work towards creating a barrier free environment including the field of entertainment too.

# Our Projects

1. Audio described movies
2. Assistive devices/ technology solution centre
3. Smartcane[NVI] Device
4. Smart kit
5. Digital talking books production (Saksham library)Daisy Forum of India
6. Online library – Sugamya Pustakalya
7. Bookshare India
8. Saksham School (Resource centre)
9. Financial Sponsorship for Education and Interest Free Loa
10. Indo-NVDA software
11. Saktek Foundation

# AUDIO DESCRIPTION OF MOVIES
## Making movies accessible for the visually impaired

*I*t is an interesting and important project undertaken by Saksham Trust for the first time in India for persons with vision impairment. It is a non-commercial venture.

Audio description is an additional narration that translates images or other visual information or non-dialogue portions of film into spoken words so that people who are blind or visually impaired can access, enjoy and learn from works of popular cultural and educational importance. The original track is paused and audio description is inserted between dialogues of the movie.

Under this project, Saksham started with the film "Black" and since then has completed 25 films, which include commercial films, children's films, documentaries and regional films.



# ASSISTIVE DEVICES / TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION CENTRE
## Solving problems related to technology

*S*aksham is working to make technology solutions available to persons with blindness or low vision in affordable cost and in local languages. Our mission is to provide such solutions at the doorsteps of the users without any delays.

We believe that technology should reach the end-users at a single point and at an affordable cost. With this aim, in 2003 Saksham opened a one-stop centre for Aids and Appliances for Persons with Low Vision/ Vision Impairment. We procure aids and appliances from all over the world and the users are able to choose and try out these technologies before purchasing them. Experts at Saksham assist the end users in choosing the right kind of technologies to suit the requirements of every individual. These appliances are made available to the users at the cost at which Saksham acquires them.

Some of the equipment provided by Saksham are Braille watches, Talking watches, Talking thermometer, Talking weighing machine, Sonic Labeler, DAISY audio book players, besides technology solutions for computers and Talking software for mobile phones.

# SMARTCANE-TM DEVICE
## An electronic travel aid for persons with blindness

S martcane device is an electronic travel aid for persons with blindness jointly developed by IIT Delhi, Saksham and Phoenix Medical Systems with the support of Wellcome Trust, UK.

It fits on a normal white cane and informs the user about the presence of obstacles from knee to head height within a distance of 3 meters. It was released in March 2014.

In addition, Saksham and IIT started working on a 3 year joint-project funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK. The idea was to create a network of partner organizations and trainers to ensure that the device is available even in the remotest part of the country along with quality training. We believe it will enable the users to start their journey of safe and independent mobility without the fear of collisions with unknown obstacles.





# SMARTKIT | INDEPENDENT LIVING WITHOUT SEEING
## A combination of smart phone and smartcane

B lindness leads to limitations in mobility as well as access to books and communications. Further, affordability is a big hindrance along with lack of easy well-configured solutions and inadequate information and support.

To overcome these challenge, Saksham has introduced Smart kits – a combination of smartphone and smartcane. These kits are provided to persons with blindness at subsidized rates. The beneficiaries train with the necessary technical support including installation of necessary applications and configuring the smartphones under this project.

Smart phone and Smartcane are two technologies that can completely change the lives of persons with blindness. Smartcane offers independent and safe mobility with dignity and smart phone provides the users with the capability to be independent in reading and communications.

# DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS PRODUCTION (SAKSHAM LIBRARY)
## Making print accessible for the blind

**R**eading is one of the major challenges faced by persons with print disability. Many Visually Impaired persons in India do not have access to reading materials.

To overcome this issue, Saksham played a pioneering role in making reading materials in accessible formats and started the Digital Library for persons with print disabilities so that they can access such materials in real time just like their sighted counterparts. In this regard, the talking books and magazines proved to be very important means for bringing the printed world to the visually impaired.

The recording of print books is done in Digital Access Information System, known as DAISY. It is a unique navigational system through which a reader can easily access the material chapter-wise, section-wise, subsection-wise and page-wise. These books include:

- · Textbooks, fiction and non-fiction books in English, Hindi and other regional languages.
- · All University and NCERT textbooks from 9th to 12th standard curriculum.

Digital talking books are produced on CDs that can be read on mp3 players, mobile phones and computers. The membership of the Saksham library is free. You can get our membership by contacting us through phone or email. Saksham also helps users to get membership in Sugamya Pustakalaya. For more details contact library@saksham.org

Saksham is one of the largest producers of Accessible digital content in India.

# ONLINE LIBRARY – SUGAMYA PUSTAKALAYA
## An online library of accessible version of books

**S**ugamya Pustakalaya (an online library) is the aggregator of accessible versions of books available in India. This online library for persons with print disabilities was dedicated to the nation on August 24, 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan.

It is a joint effort of the Government of India, the DAISY Forum of India and the corporate support. The President of the Daisy Forum of India, Mr. Dipendra Manocha, was instrumental in working with the Government of India for this project.

It is poised to become the largest collection of books in accessible formats

(in DAISY, EPUB and BRF format) in India and is a one-stop resource catering to the reading requirements of persons with print disabilities. The files downloaded from the library can be read on computers, mobile phones, tablets and dedicated eBook readers. In addition, 'Readers Digest' magazine has also been introduced in the library. Anyone can visit the Sugamya Pustakalaya website and checkout the collection of books. The user account details are required only when content is to be downloaded.

For more information see the Welcome Getting Started, FAQ and Accessibility Help pages on the Sugamya Pustakalaya website – www.sugamyapustakalaya.in.

# RESOURCE CENTRE (SAKSHAM SCHOOL)
## Customized programme for special children

**S**aksham provides sponsorship to blind students pursuing higher studies in universities and covers the cost of their education and hostel fees.

In addition, interest free loans are provided to persons with blindness and low vision for the purchase of laptops, net-books and mobile phones with softwares that enable them to do their studies and other related reading and writing activities.

# Indo- NVDA Software
## A screen reading software

**I**NDO NVDA is a screen reading software which is a customized VERSION of NVDA for Indian languages. Indo NVDA includes 14 Nuance vocalizer and Eloquence voices in 10 different languages (Indian English, British English, American English, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi).

The software is designed to make computers accessible for visually impaired persons in all parts of the country. The DVD of the software includes Itools, a self-learning tutorial package from Enable India. It is yet another tep towards empowering persons with blindness in collaboration with Enable India and reaffirms our vision of limiting limitations

# SAKTEK FOUNDATION
## A Not-For-Profit Sales Company

**S**aktek Foundation, a section 8 company was established with the sole purpose of relieving the poor from the clutches of expensive and unaffordable solutions, which are often inaccessible to them and do not always reach the remote parts of the country.

The Foundation works towards ensuring that all, irrespective of their social background, are provided affordable solutions and thereby strengthens their education and empowerment. It aims at building partnerships that bring together resources, expertise and vision and works with organizations across India to identify issues, find answers, and drive change. We also provide capacity building and training for users to effectively use assistive technology.

## Achievements of Saktek

- We have been able to provide (DAISY Player) reading device to 4000 visually impaired persons PAN India for their education. Within 2 years of the inception of the company we have been able to reach out to more than 3000 beneficiaries across the country through Government donations.
- Blind student all across the nation can make use of this device to their maximum advantage as it can read books in 7 languages.

# RESOURCE CENTRE (SAKSHAM SCHOOL)
## Customized programme for special children

# PICTURE GALLARY

# BOOKSHARE INDIA PROJECT

*B*ook Share India is a joint project of BookShare.org of Benetech, USA and three organizations in India. Saksham Trust is the partner organization of Benetech and offers Book Share India services in the North, East and North-Eastern States of India.

Book Share India is an online library of documents that can be downloaded and read using a computer or a mobile phone. It is a unique concept whereby persons with blindness themselves produce these materials. Bookshare works as a coordinator and facilitator to collect all such materials and makes these available to everyone in the country who cannot read normal printed text.

Bookshare, the largest international online library for persons with print disabilities is also integrated into Sugamya Pustakalaya. All the titles available in Bookshare library for India can be searched and downloaded through Sugamya Pustakalaya.

# RESOURCE CENTRE (SAKSHAM SCHOOL)
## Customized programme for special children

*S*aksham established the Saksham School in Noida in the year 2006 with 5 children. It is a resource centre, which works for the education, rehabilitation and empowerment of children with visual impairment, deaf-blindness and multiple disabilities.

The centre has experienced special educators, speech therapists, occupational therapists and functional assessment and sensory stimulations rooms. Children from 0 to 20 years of age are given admission and older children are provided resource support.

Children with multiple disabilities require special training, additional attention and specialized education. Most of them cannot be integrated in mainstream institutions. However, providing them with support services, such as accessible reading materials, regular counseling and guidance for parents is a need of the hour. For us, it is a matter of pride that one student [NV1] of Saksham School has been integrated in a mainstream school in Noida.

# THE DIFFERENT PROJECTS AT SAKSHAM RESOURCE CENTRE

- Infant to Toddler Programme
- Pre-Integration Programme
- Integrated Education Programme
- Computer training
- Pre-vocational programme for non-academic children
- Multi-sensory impaired/Deafblind Training Programme
- Training in Orientation/Mobility, Sensory Integration, Communication, Daily Living Skills
- Capacity building, parent guidance and counselling programme
- Adult Rehabilitation Programme
- Self-Employment opportunity

# Our Initiative

Helpline Desk – A dedicated team of professionals provides support services and training for accessing smart phones and other technologies to persons with visual impairment. Phone lines are dedicated to finding specific solutions for user queries related to blindness and it's challenges.
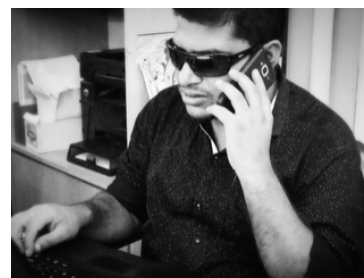




Informal Education (Learning through Fun) – Saksham believes that education and fun learning should be accessible for all. In this regard, it recognizes the important role that the sense of touch can play for children with visual impairment and deaf-blindness. It strengthens their learning by providing opportunities for them to explore objects using a variety of textures and other sensory materials. Under the project, 6 replicas of historical monuments have been created that allow students to learn better by using their sensory touch.

Simply Reading' Application - An application for reading EPUB books compatible with screen reading software. It is the only Android application in India for reading books, which connects to online accessible libraries, and allows books to be read on connected Braille display in all major Indian languages. Through the application, the user can be connected to SUGAMYA PUSTKALAYA directly.
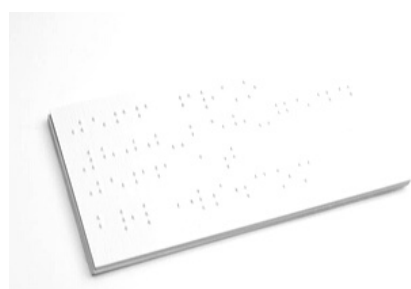




Accessible visiting cards (in Braille): Saksham offers this unique service of making visiting cards accessible for visually impaired persons. Braille is printed on plastic stickers and then pasted on the visiting card. It is yet another attempt of Saksham towards an inclusive society.

Anubhav Gallery - Anubhav is a special tactile gallery that aims to expand access for all visitors, particularly visitors with disabilities. It has on display 22 tactile replicas of museum objects, carefully chosen from the vast collection of the National Museum by its curators representing 5000 years of Indian art. Under the UNESCO and National Museum Project, Saksham helped in making the gallery accessible for the Visually Impaired with Audio and Tactile Output.

- This year [NV1] 6 new students were integrated in three different schools in class 1, 4 and 6.
- The integrated children were part of a research being conducted by the R&D Department of Xavier's Centre for Research for Visually Challenged. The team is testing various geometry tools available for the visually impaired developed by different agencies to assess their efficacy.
- Saksham's teachers conducted surveys at anganwadis, slums and hospitals in Noida and East Delhi to identify children with visual impairment who are left out of the education system and informed the parents of the facilities provided at Saksham.
- Children pursing education through the Open School were registered with NIOS.
- A new initiative to give total home-based support to families who cannot bring their children to the centre for varied reasons was initiated.
- 15 children from the junior classes and 6 teachers of junior academic group and early intervention group went to visit the rail museum. The visit was sponsored by Metlife and the children had fun and enjoyed the train ride.
- Saksham school celebrated its "Annual Sports Day", which was supported by METLIFE and HANS Foundation. The fantastic turnout of the parents and the pleasant weather were a perfect boost for the students. Students entered into the spirit of the occasion in a grand way with the oath being administered by the special guest of the day, CEO of METLIFE. The founder, Rummi ma'am and the Principal, Brij ma'am saluted the impressive march past of the students. It was an enthusiastic moment for all. All students participated in the sports event and were also joined by the volunteers of METLIFE during their practices and on the day of the event.
- Callipers were ordered and made for Tanushree, who had developed a deformity in her legs due to various deficiencies caused by malnutrition. She was also provided with a walker to help her walk independently.
- A plantation and cleaning activity was undertaken on the theme "Swacchta hi Sewa" on the initiative of Tech Mahindra foundation. The children also participated in another plantation activity at a village organised by HCL.
- Integrated children and teachers went to Fiserv to celebrate the JOY OF GIVING day.
- Saksham organized Diwali stalls at the American Embassy School.
- 2 teachers attended a one-day Conference on Rights of Persons with Disabilities at Amity University.
- 15 of our children participated in a Car Rally where the navigators were visually impaired. The event was sponsored by Media Tek. 5 of our students were navigators and guided the drivers. Hariom, was the navigator won the second prize.
- An educational activity was organized where the children visited the planetarium. It allowed children to relate to the information they had read in their books about planets, the zodiac formations etc.
- Pushpa Madhawal, special educator at Saksham went to Indonesia to participate in the 3rd Wadah Global Gathering. She presented the work done by Saksham for the empowerment of persons with visual impairment and other associated disabilities.

- 13,57,520 audio-books have been made available for download in 8 languages. The Sugamya Pustakalaya provides books primarily in DAISY, EPUB and BRF formats.
- We have completed 4200 daisy books for distribution in Hindi, English and other regional languages, which include educational, fiction, non-fiction genres etc.
- Around 710 individual members have been registered under Saksham's 'Book share' project.
- Our digital talking books reach out to more than 1867 end users.
- Saksham's loan scheme has benefitted 123 persons with visual impairment.
- More than 15000 Smart Cane devices were distributed under the National and International dissemination project.
- Funds were raised for 770 Smart Cane devices and the kits have been delivered to the beneficiaries from different regions across India along with training.
- SmartCaneTM device has been made available for online purchase as well as donation on one of India's biggest online shopping portal, 'Snap deal' (http://www.snapdeal.com/offers/smartcane).
- More than 90 assistive technology products have been made available at significantly lower prices as compared to what is available in the international market.
- Saksham's second product, 'Electronic Braille Display' is currently under development and is expected to be launched in a year's time.
- A Computer Training was organized in collaboration with HCL, which also introduced subsidized Netbooks loaded with a screen reading software.

# Our Founder Managing Trustee, Mr. Dipendra Manocha is the Recipient of the following awards:

- National Award by government of India for contribution towards Community development in the area of disability in 2005.
- Recipient of the President's Award by Former President Dr. Abdul Kalam IN 2005
- IIM Lucknow, Lakshmipat Singhania National Leadership Award 2008 given by the President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patel on 12th February 2008.
- CNN IBN Network 18 Super Idol Award in 2010.
- Sitaram Jindal Foundation Award in 2012.
- The NCPEDP Universal Design Award was given for his contribution towards making information accessible to the print impaired in 2012.
- Selected as Ashoka Fellow and recognized as a Social Entrepreneur.



**As a National Award winning NGO, Saksham has taken up several projects under which it is providing assistive devices and services to the end-users without extra cost.**
**Following this we have some specific goals:**

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- Facilitate them with education & prepare them to integrate into mainstream school/vocational rehabilitation for economic independence and eventually with the society.
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- Provide books and other print material in accessible format for the visually impaired persons.
- Continuously work towards creating a barrier free environment including the field of entertainment too.
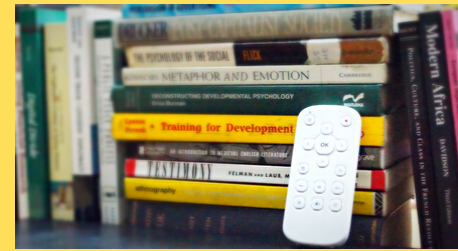
# THIS YEARS HIGHLIGHTS

## Launch of Indo- NVDA

An updated version of screen reading software has been launched this year to make it more accessible in local Indian languages.

## Received Peak Dadhichi Award

An updated version of screen reading software has been launched this year to make it more accessible in local Indian languages.

## Introduced Evo- E5 Daisy Player

Saksham launched Saksham EVO - E5 an enhanced and updated version of EVO series to make the device more accessible for visually impaired people.

## Organized the first ever Digitization Marathon

A " Marathon Digitization Session " in Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi was organized on Wednesday, November 29th 2017 from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm 10 hours run.

## Screening of Dangal

The screening of the audio described movie Dangal was organized in collaboration with UNESCO and Directorate of Films, Government of India at Shri Fort Auditorium. The screening was attended by 1200 visually impaired and hearing impaired

## Musical Night with Hans Raj Hans

A Fundraising musical event with the Sufi singer Hans Raj Hans was organized by Saksham Punjab in collaboration with HMV College Jalandhar Punjab.

## Screening of audio described movies at IFFI

In the 48th year of IFFI which also has a section on 'Accessible India' under which two films 'Secret Superstar' and 'Hindi Medium' audio described by Saksham was screened for the Visual and hearing impaired.

## Training at Railways

Saksham conducted training in mobility and information technology at the northern railway headquarters Baroda House for their visually impaired/low vision staff. The training majorly focused on the use of smartcane, NVDA, and smartphone

## Saksham Team Building

Saksham team went for a fun outing at Country Inn Manesar Gurgaon to strengthen the staff bonding and to spend some fun time with the team

# *T*HIS YEARS HIGHLIGHTS







## Residential Computer Training

An in-house computer training program was conducted by Saksham for the bunch of visually impaired girls in Faridabad. The main aim of the program was to empower them through technology.

## Training PAN India

Saksham conducted training in mobility and information technology at the northern railway headquarters Baroda House for their visually impaired/low vision staff. The training majorly focused on the use of smartcane, NVDA, and smartphone
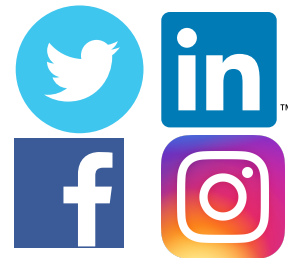
## Screening of Gandhi in Jharkhand

Audio described movie with subtitles was screened for Visually challenged and hearing impaired youngsters in Kadma, Jamshedpur in July 2017.





## 15 Years of Saksham

Saksham completed its 15 years on 14 February 2018. The team had received good wishes and the blessings from all over the country through social media.

## Saksham's Visibility on social networking sites

Saksham is actively posting it's activities on social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We make sure to keep our followers updated.

*S*aksham was fortunate to receive continuous support from donors throughout the year. Our Sincere Gratitude to:

- The Hans Foundation
- Tech Mahindra
- Phoenix Medical Sytems
- Oxigen
- Wipo
- ONGC
- Wadha Foundation
- Quota International
- HCL Foundation
- Global Relief Initiative
- Indian Oil
- UNESCO
- Eastern International Hotels
- Avon Cycles
- Amway
- Fiserv
- Indian Institute of Technology
- Seth Ramji Dass Foundation
- MetLife
- Group of Friends
- Concern India Friends
- Media Tech
- LIC



And to all

**OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS**