

Hope Beyond Uncertainty



**ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21**

At a glance

Sense International India (also known as Sense India) is the only national-level organisation supporting needs-based services which enable children and adults with deafblindness to overcome the challenges they face. Sense India's key objective is to provide information, guidance, support, and training. We are committed to helping persons with deafblindness and multiple disabilities and their families by raising awareness and campaigning for rights, opportunities, and services throughout the nation.

As you know about 95% of what we learn about the world comes through sight and hearing. Children with deafblindness face unique challenges in communication, mobility and accessing information making deafblindness one of the most isolating disabilities.

23
STATES



We have our presence in 23 states of India

OUR REACH

59
PARTNERS



Network of 59 partner NGOs

16,124



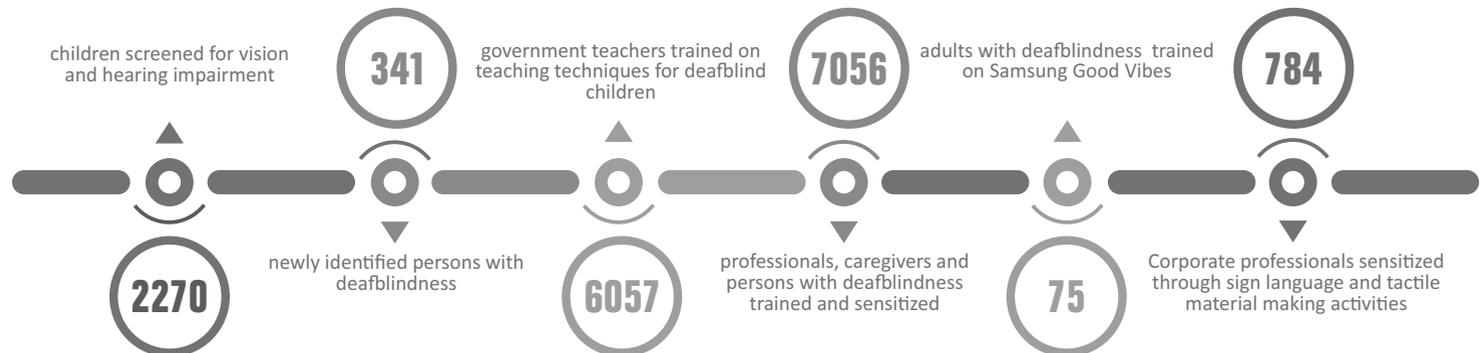
Reaching out to Children and Adults with Deafblindness

63,500+



children with deafblindness included into regular schools in collaboration with SMSA programme

Our **Vision** is of a world in which all children and adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities can be full and active members of society.



From Executive Director's Desk



Helen Keller said- “Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it.” We all are in the same phase of trying to overcome the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. To ensure quality education to children with deafblindness and commitment for human resource development, Sense India initiated WebEd-Deafblind Course. This is the 1st online course on deafblindness in the country, accredited by Rehabilitation Council of India. Leveraging our Consultative Status with UN, we have secured a spot for our Advocacy Officer Shruti to address the 13th session of Conference of State Parties (COSP13) and held

a virtual side event to present the status of deafblind people in India. Our video of Asha has been adjudged as winner and globally acknowledged at UN World Data forum competition.

Apart from screening young babies and reaching out to children and young adults through online sessions, we also distributed ration to deserving families and supported young adults in restarting their income generation activities. During the year, we have also succeeded in compliances with new FCRA rules and the related procedures to ensure that Sense India continues to be a support to deafblind people in the country. I remain grateful to all our donors and supporters who extended the much-needed financial assistance to our work with deafblind people and look forward to your continued patronage in years ahead.

Akhil S. Paul



We won the Project Zero Award for our work towards employment of persons with Deafblindness. The zero Project finds and shares innovative practices and policies that help improve the lives of persons with disabilities.



On 15th December 2020, Sense India was adjudged winner of Mary Glowrey - Liliane Brekelmans (MGLB) Disability Award - 2020 as a role model NGO working for persons with disabilities.



Sense India qualified for Advanced Level Gold Seal Transparency certificate by GuideStar India. The certification indicates high level of accountability and good governance.

Covid Relief Efforts

Sense India identified many families of children with deafblindness who were suffering owing to loss of livelihoods during ongoing pandemic situation. We responded to this challenging situation as it was necessary for us to reach out to persons with deafblindness and their families. Sense India ensured that essential food and ration items were provided to the families.



Ration Kits:

Sense India ensured that essential ration kits are distributed to deserving families of persons with deafblindness/multiple disabilities in these difficult times. About 1200 needy families of persons with deafblindness and multiple disabilities in 18 states received ration kits during 2020-21.



Reviving Income Generation Activity: Almost 93 adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities received financial support and handholding to rebuild their income generation activity which was affected due to pandemic.



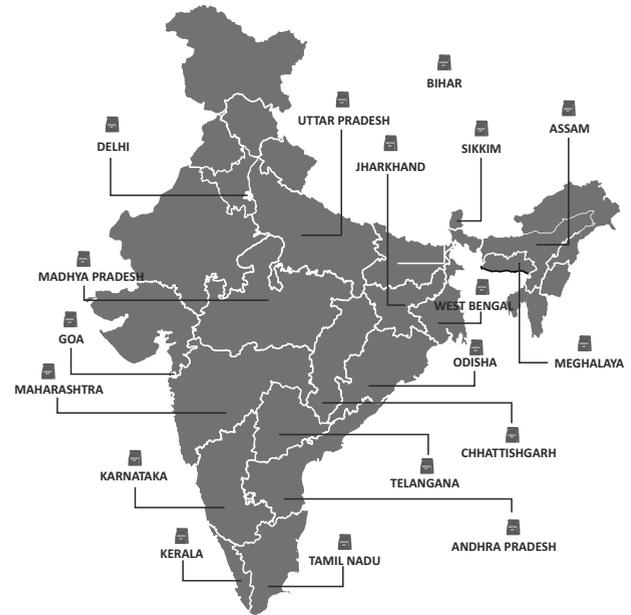
Assistive devices: 33 needy children and young adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities received need-based assistive devices.



Direct Financial support: Around 330 families were provided with financial support to cope up with their loss of livelihood and reduced income during the pandemic.



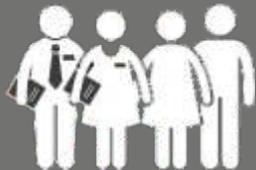
Medicine support: About 122 service users were supported to meet medicinal needs for 3 months.



Unstoppable Education

The lockdown during the pandemic called for new strategy to be adopted to educate children. Sense India switched to online mode of training and the educational sessions helped children continue their planned activities leading to minimal disruption in their learning process. The innovative model of education ensured that parents and rehabilitation team consisting of special educators and therapists got all support and training to coordinate with each other and continue working with children. Parents were guided at each step to prepare their children for online sessions, mobilize Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) for the sessions and conduct the sessions as per the instructions. Communication material in form of videos, photographs, activities guidelines and worksheets in regional languages were shared with the family members. Caregivers also received training in handling behavioural changes in children due to prolonged confinement within house, stress management, recreational activities etc. Regular feedback from parents regarding child performance and participation level assisted the rehabilitation team in reviewing educational plan.

Regular therapy sessions under supervision of therapists reduced chances of physical health deterioration as feared by many parents. Not just mothers but fathers, siblings and grandparents came forward and engaged in online sessions. Online sessions have given confidence to parents and enhanced their skills to work with their children.



4209

Educators, parents and other professionals sensitized on deafblindness and other topics through 17 national webinars



50

Parents and Caregivers trained through three months online course Web Ed. (Db – Parents & Caregiver)

Unstoppable Education



I am **Murli Kirshna**, Special Educator from Uma Manovikas Kendra, Kakinada. The covid-19 lockdown immensely changed our way of teaching. As educators we had to equip ourselves with the latest technology and learn to reach out to the children via the online platform. I learnt from several webinars myself so that I could teach children the activities via calls and videos. I was able to guide parents on effectively using Teaching Learning Materials from available resources at home. During this time children with deafblindness got more opportunities to interact with parents, siblings and learned to socialize. With the help of online guidance and support, students are continuously adapting themselves with new mode of learning from the comfort of their homes.

I am **Anishka Salgaonkar**, working as a Special Educator at Caritas Goa. Given the current pandemic situation, we are currently engaged with the online audio and video calling mode of learning. Looking at the bright side, the digital mode of learning has enabled the parents to give more time to children and play a more active role in the learning activities. With more parental involvement in activities, I have seen considerable improvement in children especially in the field of activities of daily living, mobility and motor skills.



115

Paramedical and medical professionals trained through State Level Trainings for Paramedicals and Medical staff.

670

Samagra Shiksha educators trained through State Level Training and Awareness on Deafblindness.

274

Samagra Shiksha educators trained on Curriculum adaptation

628

Educators, CBR workers and NGO officials reached through 5 Regional Training on Deafblindness

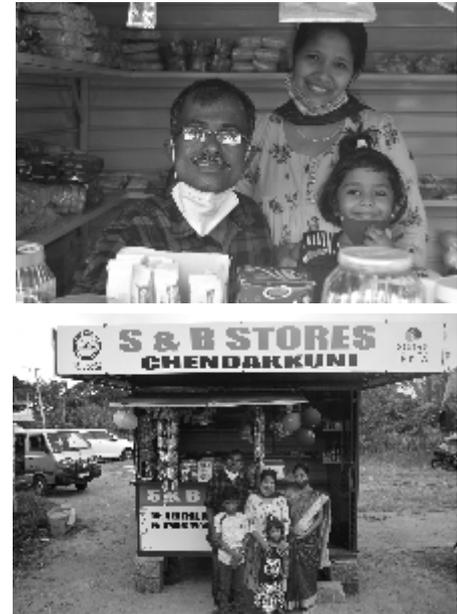
96

Educators and professionals trained through three months online course Web Ed. (Db)

Dreams Come True, Even in a Pandemic

Several adults with deafblindness, who were happily settled, earning their livelihood, faced a huge jolt with lockdown. As they were struggling to make their ends meet, it was important for Sense India to revive their Income Generation Activities.

Senthil Kumar, a 42 years old adult with deafblindness paved a way for himself to interact with people. He was happy that he could support his family by selling books and lottery tickets at public places and He dreamt of a small shop of his own. The lockdown initiated a series of loss all over the country and Senthil who was earning close to INR 7,000/- per month was severely affected. Sense India valued his dream and supported him to set up a small shop along with the training and hand holding required for efficient management of business. We are hopeful that Senthil will continue to run his business well and will be able to provide a decent living to his wife and two children.



15

Adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities were supported to initiate income generation activity. This helped them to start activities such as cattle rearing, poultry, grocery shops, footwear shop, tailoring, and phenyl making.



93

Adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities were supported to revive and rebuild their income generation activity affected during the pandemic

Talking Deafblindness on National and International platforms



Sense India has successfully leveraged its special consultative status at United Nations to get visibility for persons with deafblindness.

United Nations Commission for Social Development – CSocD59 side event on “Social Development of Persons with Deafblindness in South Asia”.

It opened the platform to people with deafblindness from India, Nepal and Bangladesh to talk about their experiences with accessing technology in day to day life. The panelists included adults with deafblindness from these countries.

The moderator, Ishan Chakraborty said, “An attitudinal change along with an infrastructural one must be brought about in the field of technology to ensure its equal access.”

UN Conference of State Parties 13 (COSP 13) side event on “Ensuring Inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness in India”, to understand the exclusionary effect of the pandemic on people with deafblindness and ensure a deafblind-inclusive response in all communication and recovery plans. People with deafblindness and their caregivers came together in a show of solidarity to not exclude them in making public related decisions.



Shrutilata Singh, our Officer-Advocacy said, “On behalf of civil society I want to highlight critical issues of people with deafblindness and the need for their visibility in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developmental Goals.”

- COVID-19 global statement and recommendations for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) including status of persons with deafblindness (PwDb) were globally launched by Common Wealth Network of Children and Youth with Disability (CCYDN) and endorsed by several international agencies including UNICEF and The Common Wealth.

Talking Deafblindness on National and International platforms

➤ A video of Asha Patwal- a fiery and enthusiastic 16 year old person with deafblindness was submitted by Sense International India in the UN World Data Forum video contest called " 1 minute voices of Youth". Asha made an impassioned speech on why people with deafblindness should be included in the upcoming Indian Census 2021. She bagged the second place in the contest. She said, " I believe that better data can impact our lives and change the world for the better."



- National Human Rights commission (NHRC) of India, based on its impact assessment report of Covid on Persons with Disabilities has issued its advisory for central and state governments which includes recommendations for Persons with Deafblindness.
- Sense India is member in the State Planning Commission task force of Chattisgarh state and also represents in Delhi State Advisory Committee to State Disability Commissioner.
- We organised National Webinars to celebrate International Day for Persons with Disabilities (3rd December 2020) and Helen Keller Day (27th June 2020). Both the webinars highlighted the rights of persons with deafblindness and raised awareness about needs and capabilities of people with deafblindness.
- Family networks strengthened to contribute as resource persons in regional meetings. More than 350 networks' members participated in state and regional meetings to share their experience and strengthen their local groups.



41

Senior professionals from India, Nepal and Bangladesh trained through 5 days Online Master Training on Mental Health for Mentors & Senior Professionals



31

Educators and government officials trained on Curriculum Adaptation in Bangladesh



19

Educators including teachers of government schools trained on concept of deafblindness, resource class management and Curriculum Adaptation in Nepal

Our Amazing Supporters

A big thank you to all our supporters who donate funds for our programmes, volunteer at events, contribute to our staff salaries and operating costs to help us do what we do. We wouldn't exist without you.

Individuals

Abhinav Bhardwaj
Ajay Doshi
Amit Bhattacharjee
Amita Bharat Bhate
Balasubrahmanyam Achanta
Bandana Joseph
Birendra Saraf
Dnyanesh Gajanan Mankar
Eileen Madhukar Hirwale
Harsha H R
Indira Culshaw
Jayesh Shah
Manish Govind Punjabi
Nalini Z Mehta
Ramesh Krishnan
Roopak V Vaidya
Sam Baman Balsara
Sameer Jagdish Parikh
Sivakumaran M
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Vaibhav Jain
Venkatesh Narayanan Chakravarty
Vikram Lal

Monthly Donors

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Avinash Dighe
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Guru Prasad Mugeraya
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Prabhu Sai Uday Kiran Kairam
Rama Naga Anjaneya Kumar Kuncham
Ramesh Rathod
Ripunjoy Gohain
Sachin Goled
Seethalakshmi S
Somshekhar
Sumit Shankar Sinha
Tapas Mohanty
Umashankar B M
Varun Dev Shanker
Vivek Khabya
Vivek Madhwal
Xerxes Rao

Endowment Funds

Ajay Khanna Endowment Fund
Kumud & Vasant Joshi Endowment Fund
Paul Suryavanshi Endowment Fund
Sadashiv and Sarashwati Prasad Endowment Fund
Sugandha Endowment Fund

Corporates, Trust and Foundations

ABIL Infraprojects Private Limited
Adobe Systems India Pvt. Ltd
Asha For Education
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
Bahar Infocons Pvt Ltd
Bai Freny Darab Pader Charitable Trust
Bajaj Auto Ltd.

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Nextgen Project Management Systems Private Limited
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Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Sarla Mohanlal Dhruva Charitable Trust
Sense International
Shamdasani Foundation
Swear Healthcare Private Limited
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Catholic Health Association Of India
The Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd
The Hans Foundation
Top Boy Limited
Trupti Dalal Charitable Trust
United Way of Bengaluru
United Way of Mumbai
ZVM Rangoonwala Foundation UK

Note: Random names of donors who have contributed Rs. 10,000 or above. We are delighted to record that we have now more than 20,000 donors.

Financial and Legal Matters

* All figures are in ₹ Lakh

Balance Sheet	As on March 31			
	2021	%	2020	%
Sources of Funds				
Corpus Fund	18.03	3%	18.03	4%
Endowment Funds	29.53	4%	29.29	6%
Trust Fund	345.46	51%	189.55	39%
Grants received in advance	267.63	40%	244.44	51%
Earmarked Funds	14.67	2%		
Total	675.32	100%	481.31	100%
Application of Funds				
Fixed Assets	19.95	3%	20.43	4%
Investment	43.69	6%	25.45	5%
Current Assets	614.26	91%	458.22	95%
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions	(2.58)	0%	(22.79)	(5%)
Total	675.32	100%	481.31	100%
Income and Expenditure	Year ended March 31			
	2021	%	2020	%
Income				
Rent	0.00	0%	0.15	0%
Interest	17.22	2%	12.25	1%
Donations	182.22	22%	249.58	30%
Programme Grants	632.41	75%	568.90	68%
Other Sources	7.66	1%	1.13	0%
Total Income	839.51	100%	832.01	100%
Expenditure				
Expenditure in respect of properties	4.47	1%	5.92	1%
Establishment Expenses	4.55	1%	5.31	1%
Audit Fees	3.03	0%	3.64	0%
Depreciation	4.94	1%	5.20	1%
Contribution to Charity Commissioner	0.84	0%		
Amount Transferred to Earmarked Funds	14.67	2%		
Expenditure on Objects of the Trust	684.99	95%	717.26	97%
Total Expenditure	717.49	100%	737.32	100%
Excess of Income over Expenditure/(Expenditure over Income)	122.02		94.69	

Receipts	Year ended March 31		Payments	Year ended March 31	
	2021	2020		2021	2020
Opening Balance	419.26	245.18	Acquisition of Fixed Assets	4.45	1.24
Grants & donations	868.10	879.82	Amount spent for the object of the Trust	719.76	719.88
Interest Income	19.89	15.38	Closing Balance	583.04	419.26
Total	1,307.26	1,140.38	Total	1,307.26	1,140.38

* Detailed audited accounts will be available on request

Credibility Alliance Disclosure Norms

Credibility Alliance is an independent organisation established by the NGO sector to promote good governance and the public accountability of NGOs. Sense India is a fully accredited member. Registration No. CA/79/2011 valid till 15.12.2021. For more information refer to: www.credibilityalliance.org

Identity

Legal Information: Sense International (India) is registered as a Public Charitable Trust under Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 Registration No. E/11279 dated 29 March 1997, with Public Trusts Registration Office, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. For general use we use the name 'Sense India'. Sense International (India) is registered u/s 12AA and u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Contact details: Visitors are welcome to the address given on the back page of this report and on our website www.senseindia.org

Bankers: Bank of India, Panchavati branch, ICICI Bank, Drive-In Branch, HDFC Bank, Vejalpur Branch, Panchavati Branch & Vastrapur Branch, Axis Bank, Ashram Road Branch, State Bank of India, New Delhi Main branch and IIM Ahmedabad Branch.

Auditor: CA Kalpen Shah, K Pravinchandra & Associates, 1 Harihar Park Society, Nr. Old High Court Underbridge, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009

Internal Auditor: K C J M & Associates, Jahir Mansuri, D-407, The First, Near Keshawbaug Partyplot, Vastrapur Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Governance

Details of Board Members as on 31 March, 2021

Name	Age	Sex	Position on board	Area of Competency	Meetings attended
Mr. Amit Dholakia	54	M	Chairperson	Management	3/4
Ms. Divya Bhalla	41	F	Member	Communication	2/4
Mr. Rajiv Raturi	62	M	Member	Human Rights	4/4
Ms. Nandini Rawal	63	F	Member	Management	4/4

None of the board members are related to each other. A Board Rotation Policy exists and is practiced.

The Board met Four times in the Financial Year 2020-21 on 4th April 2020, 28th July 2020, 28th November 2020 & 05th March 2021. Minutes of Board meetings were documented and circulated.

Accountability and Transparency

No remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of compensation has been paid since the inception of the organization, to any board member. Travelling and other expenses to attend Board meetings have been: Rs NIL/-.

Staff Remuneration - per month:

CEO's Remuneration:-Rs. 1,93,079/-. Remuneration of three next highest paid staff members: Rs 1,33,986/-, Rs.1,18,699/- and Rs.1,16,126/- Remuneration of the lowest paid staff member Rs. 9,591/- (as on 31st March 2021)

Distribution of staff (as on 31st March 2021)

Slab of monthly gross salary (in Rs.) plus benefits paid to staff	Male	Female	Total
<5,000	0	0	0
5,000 - 10,000	0	1	1
10,000 - 25,000	2	7	9
25,000 - 50,000	4	11	15
50,000 - 100,000	6	1	7
100,000 >	3	1	4
TOTAL	15	21	36

Distribution of staff (as on 31st March 2020)

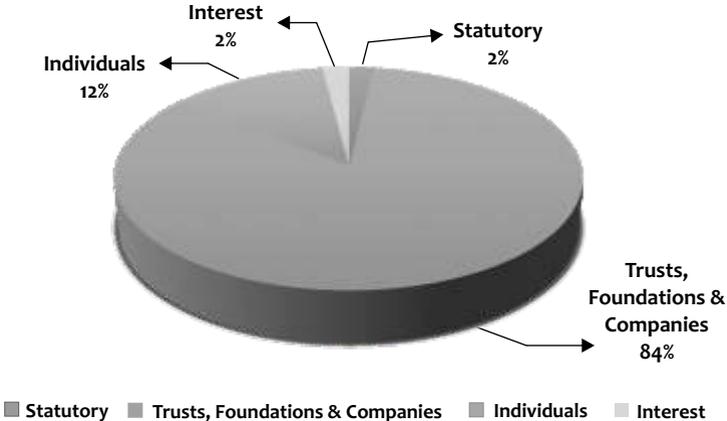
Gender	Paid (Full Time)	Paid (Part Time)	Paid (Consultants)	Unpaid (Volunteers)	Paid (Volunteers)
Male	15	0	0	0	0
Female	20	1	0	2	0

Travel Costs

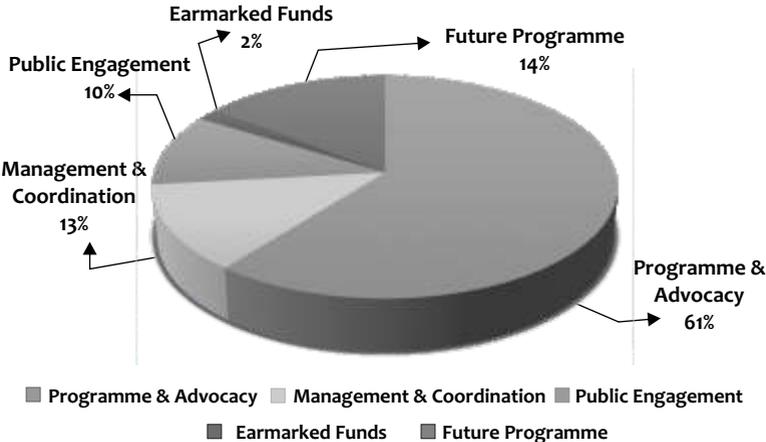
National travel for staff to visit programme and projects throughout India: Rs. 1,63,681/-
International Travel for staff sponsored through Sense International and other sources Rs. 1,30,932/-

Sr.	Name of employee	Country Name	Purpose of travel	Amount
1	Akhil Paul	Nepal	Monitoring & Evaluation	28371
2	Uttam Kumar	Nepal	Monitoring & Evaluation	29845
3	Sachin Rizal	Nepal	Monitoring & Evaluation	35837
4	Vardan Sengar	Nepal	Monitoring & Evaluation	36879
	TOTAL			130932

Money In 2020-21



Money Out 2020-21





Optimism is the faith that
leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without
hope and confidence.

- *Helen Keller*

To support people with
deafblindness, scan QR code



All donations enjoy 50% exemption from
Income Tax u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

To receive this report in another format such as Braille, Large Print, CD or Audiotape

Please contact us: Sense International India, 2nd Floor Anshjan Mandal Campus, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015

Phone: +91 79 26301282 Email: info@senseintindia.org Website: www.senseintindia.org

Note:

- We at Sense India print our annual report in black and white. This helps us to partially understand and present our work from the perspective of people with deafblindness.
- Sense India is going green, and to support this initiative, we have sent to most of our donors an e-version of the annual report. Download yours from our website.