sense International INDIA
Working with deafblind people

TOGETHER WE THRIVE:
Empowering Lives and Fostering Inclusion

Annual Report 2023 - 24

500,000 people in India are deafblind

95% of what we learn is through our sight and hearing. But with absence or impairment of vision as well as hearing, children with deafblindness are unable to communicate even the most basic of needs – such as hunger, thirst or pain. They live in isolation and neglect – being denied the right to medical care, education, social interactions and work that are taken for granted by most of us.

We are on a mission to change that!

27 years ago, armed with a vision of ***a world in which all children and adults with deafblindness can be full and active members of society***, Sense International India, also known as Sense India started its journey with 23 children in 1997.

Today, Sense India is the only national organisation supporting and advocating for children and adults with deafblindness for their better care through early intervention, individualised education and livelihood opportunities. Our work is transforming the lives of more than 80,000 persons with deafblindness from isolation and neglect to interaction, self-esteem and becoming contributing members of the society.

Individuals with deafblindness are at the centre of all we do.

Health

Early Intervention, Mental Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Livelihood

Vocational Training and Income Generation Activity

Education

Special Education and Inclusive Education

Advocacy

Inclusion and Awareness

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the 27th Annual Report of Sense India. Over the past year, we have witnessed remarkable progress in creating a more inclusive world for individuals with deafblindness. From our humble beginnings supporting just 23 children 27 years ago, we are now a nationwide movement reaching those who need us most, thanks to the unwavering support of our partners, funders and advocates.

This year, we have made substantial strides in early intervention, education, livelihood and advocacy. The establishment of our new centre, SPARSH, in Bengaluru marks a pivotal moment in our journey. Together, we are unlocking potential and transforming lives.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we thrive.

Akhil S Paul
Executive Director

Our Nation-wide Impact

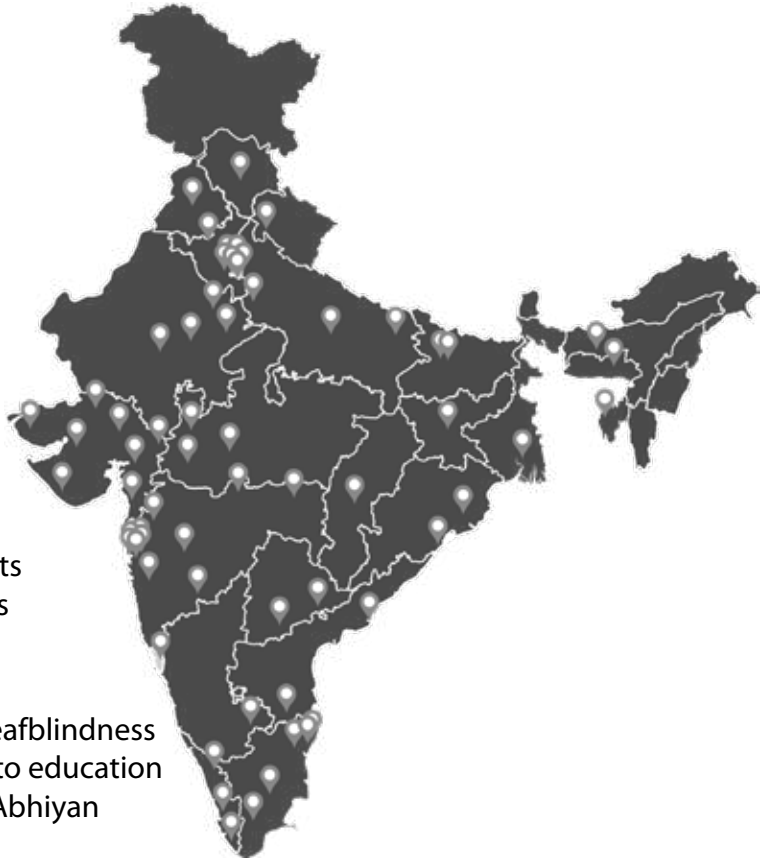
24 States

63 Partners

80,000+ Children and adults reached

17,737 Children and adults are receiving direct services

63,500+ Children with deafblindness have been enabled access to education through Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan programme



2023-24: A Year in Highlights

The highlights showcase the breadth and depth of Sense India's impact over the past year.

TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS, FUNDERS, GOVERNMENT AND CHAMPIONS WE HAVE…

Conducted screening and assessment to identify children with deafblindness

Timely intervention is crucial. At our baby screening centres, specialists conduct thorough screening for new-born babies and children aged 0 to 6. We then develop tailored early intervention strategies that address the unique requirements and severity of sensory impairments for each child.

11 Baby screening units supported by us

5215 Babies screened

333 Children were identified and enrolled in our Early Intervention programme

*I am very happy with my child's progress. Along with education and therapy, she receives medicine and nutrition, which have helped her development. I never imagined seeing her walk on her own—she used to only sit and move using her hips." – **Sushila Rathod, Mother of Laxmi***

Provided customised education

Children with deafblindness aged 6 to 14 learn through our individualized education plans based on detailed assessments. Our team of special educators and therapists for speech, mobility, and physiotherapy work with children at their homes and our centres. This focused, individualized care is instrumental in helping children with deafblindness reach their full potential.

837 Children were identified and enrolled in our programme

1570 Children are receiving services at their homes and centres

344 Children with deafblindness are now going to mainstream schools under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

*"From the time we came to Sense India's partner organisation Caritas, I have been stress-free and seen so much improvement in Paras. Even the doctors are happy with his progress." - **Ranjitha, mother of Paras***

Helped develop skills

Learning a vocational skill empowers deafblind individuals with economic independence and self-assurance. We work closely with parents and family members to customise the training process, pinpoint appropriate skills, and assess job opportunities that match the individual's abilities and interests.

951 Young adults are being trained in diverse vocational skills

26 Vocational Units across India

Sense India, in partnership with multiple organizations, promotes internship opportunities for deafblind adults. This initiative has evolved into a fellowship, culminating in an annual event where deafblind individuals come together to exchange experiences, insights, and knowledge.

Build livelihood

Vocational training by itself is not enough; therefore, we focus on identifying and facilitating income-generating activities for individuals with deafblindness. This includes helping them start their own micro-enterprises in collaboration with their families or helping them secure employment.

218 Young adults are now contributing members of their families

38 Young adults received support to start their own micro enterprise this year

Initiated a new project with the mission to empower 80 young adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities in Delhi and Kerala (Alleppey) by enhancing their employability and vocational skills over a span of two years.

Strengthened professionals, parents and partners through trainings

Children and adults with deafblindness need expert trainers and educators. Our goal is to empower parents, teachers and educators with the necessary skills, expertise and knowledge to effectively support those with deafblindness. We also provide trainings and workshops for parents to ensure their children receive appropriate care from an early stage.

7749 Government teachers, professional, parents and experts trained through various National and International trainings

294 Professionals and parents trained through our Web Education on Deafblindness and Sign Language

1072 Caregivers and professionals trained through hands-on, personalised onsite visits

Deafblindness should never be a barrier. Sense India has initiated a pilot project, 'Sports for Persons with Deafblindness & Multiple Disabilities,' in Ahmedabad with our partner organisation Blind People's Association (BPA). In the first year, we're training 10 master trainers to work with 20 budding sports persons with deafblindness.

Talked about mental health

The children and adults under our care face one of the most challenging disabilities. With the backing of Grand Challenges Canada, Sense India had initiated a unique program to assess, identify, and support individuals aged 10 to 24 with deafblindness, focusing on mental health. We provide training for deafblind adults, parents, and educators to improve communication, conflict resolution, emotional expression, and counselling awareness. This initiative has fostered a constructive change, as parents and educators now feel more at ease discussing mental health issues and engaging actively in the process.

984 Children and young adults with deafblindness screened, assessed and receiving intervention for mental health issues

31 Children and young adults with deafblindness were receiving counselling

570 Adults with deafblindness, special educators, parents/caregivers and CBR workers trained in identifying and addressing mental health issues

Build a community of support

We have created three national networks: Udaan for adults with deafblindness, Prayaas for parents and Abhi-Prerna for special educators. These networks promote peer support and the exchange of experiences, allowing us to extend our reach to more children in need. Currently, Sense India provides support to 22 local parent groups throughout India.

3566 Members are connected through our national networks for deafblind adults, teachers and parents

1050 Network members from 23 States participated in 1 national, 5 Regional and 14 State Network Meetings

Alice William, an Udaan member won Miss International 2023 in Special Model Category.

Advocated for inclusion

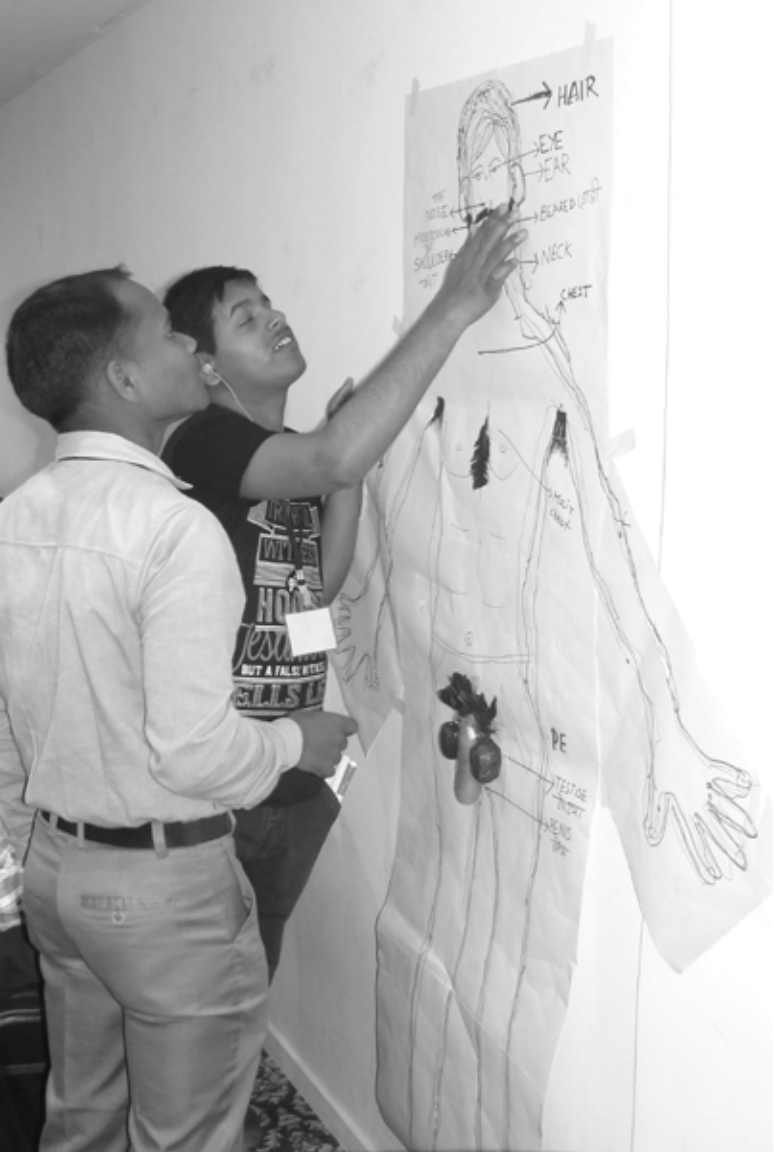
We reached out to various government bodies to raise awareness about deafblindness and to address important issues, including the need for proper certification, equitable disability pensions, inclusion in the National Census, access to election and UDID cards, voting rights and the provision of inclusive education for children with deafblindness. For the first-time home-voting was facilitated for deafblind adults in Chhattisgarh by State Election Commission.

55+ Government officials sensitised in 14 States across India

2574 Individuals with deafblindness are availing government benefits like disability pension, Niramaya Health Insurance, assistive devices, bus pass, railway pass among others

96 Deafblind adults exercised their right to vote in 3 states

At the International Purple Festival in Goa, Sense India raised awareness and sensitized key officials from DEPwD, Skill Development and the Goa state. Our Deafblind Ambassador, Ms. Shrutilata Singh, participated in panel discussions alongside Udaan network members, addressing the challenges encountered by Persons with Disabilities in areas such as education, health, gender, technology and mobility.



Broached a taboo subject - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Sense India has integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education into all training programs for adults with deafblindness. Thanks to the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), we have now initiated a pilot program addressing SRH for adolescents with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. Our focus is on breaking barriers and providing sex education, training, and information to adults with deafblindness, teachers, and caregivers to promote responsible and healthy behaviour. We aim to help them understand their sexuality and advocate for their rights.

480 Girls and adults with deafblindness, special educators, parents, caregivers and CBR workers received training on SRH

3 Sexual and reproductive health accessible training manuals made

Created new experiences – Deafblind Experience Zone

Deafblind Experience Zone is a first-hand experience aimed at raising awareness and sensitising people towards one of the most distinct and underrepresented disability, deafblindness. This specially designed activity gave our participants a glimpse into the unique needs of people with deafblindness, and the abilities of the senses.

1300 People visited and gained insight into the needs and abilities of persons with disabilities

"It was wonderful. For once at least I could step into my children's shoes." – ***Shampa Roy***

"It was a much needed experience to understand the daily challenges of those with Deafblindness and how they navigate their space." – ***Mansi Aggarwal***

Engaged with volunteers

Volunteers from different corporates have transformed the learning experience for children with deafblindness by making it engaging, enjoyable, and accessible by crafting tactile learning materials, pre-braille books, sensory boxes and mobility aids.

6208 Volunteers engaged

15 Corporates

1592+ Materials created

Rallied for a cause – Messengers On Cycles

We proudly held the 10th edition of Messengers on Cycles in association with Finolex Pipes & Fittings and Mukul Madhav Foundation. The event, flagged off by Gujarat's honourable Chief Minister, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, saw over 800 champions, including individuals with disabilities, participating in a 15km cycle ride and 5km walk through the vibrant streets of Ahmedabad, raising awareness and celebrating the resilience of individuals with deafblindness.

Began a new chapter in Sense India's journey of deafblindness

On December 8, 2023, Sri Das Suryavamshi, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in Karnataka, officially opened our first direct service in Bengaluru. The SPARSH Centre is equipped to provide specialised services to children and adults with deafblindness like screening and assessment, early intervention, special education, home-based intervention, parents/caregiver counselling, vision therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility among others.

21 Children and adults are receiving services in our Sparsh Centre

*"Before coming to the SPARSH Centre, Syed didn't receive the support he needed. Now, he is learning braille and abacus, and his progress in physiotherapy has been incredible. We are so happy with the services here." - **Ashraf Unisia, Syed's mother***

Launched our coffee table book and short film

On the 8th of March, we unveiled Sense India's coffee table book 'Senses Lost and Found', featuring stories of trials and triumphs of individuals with deafblindness. We also premiered our short film 'We Too Exist', which highlights Sense India's impactful journey, at 'An evening with Sense India' in Mumbai. The book and film was launched by Ms Amruta Fadnavis, a prominent social activist, banker, actress, and singer along with Mr Sunil Sheth, a prominent lawyer and philanthropist; Mr Amith Dholakia, Chair of Sense India; and Mr Akhil Paul, Executive Director of Sense India.

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

Hashim Kathawala
Roopak Vasant Vaidya
Vedantika Puri
Yeshwanth Mabukal Kini
Reeta S Puri
Bhavna A Shah
Tushar Arvind Mavani
Perviz Bommy Lashkari
Vijay Gohil
Sudhir S Shanbhag
Joji Thomas
Shyam Anil Divan
Aditya Nayak Bantwal
N K Agrwal
Umakant Patel
Kalpesh Dalal
Kalyan Kumar Banerjee
Vikas khemani
Prayaag Kasundra
Jayanti Prasad Khaitan
Sivakumaran Meenakshisunderam
Sarosh Nariman Contractor
Sandeepa Moparthi
B C BALASUBRAMANIAN
Pradyuman Trivedi
Venkatesh N Chakravarty
Sandhya Londhe
Abhishek Saxena
Prasad Parthasarthy
Muthu Sankar
Kundavi
Venkateshprasad
Preetham
B. V. S. R Murty
Ketan Patel
Mihir Safi
Kalpesh Dalal
Samir JitendraKumar Khatri
Brahmadesam Canthadai Balasubramanian
Mojindar Narayanarao Keshavarao
Mohan N S
Miriam J E Contractor
Narayana Prasad Athreya
Pooran Krishna Bansal
Kalpesh Babubhai Dalal
Venkatesh Narayanan Chakravarty
Indira Krupavathi Culshaw
K Sankar Muthu
Krishan Kumar Maheshwari
Sandhya Abhay Londhe
Vincent Bhatt
Usha Subramanyam G
V Krishnasami Bharathi
Preetham Solomon
Ananda Ramesh
Juzer M Vasi
Chanda J Jog
Bella Rajendra Joshi
Jalpa Sameer Parikh
Aleem Adatia
Sushil Golcha
Jhansi Rani
Amar Mahta
Yogesh Patel

Monthly Donors

Abdul Rehman Desai
Ankit Gandhi
Anupam G Gupta
Avinash Dighe
Bhanu Chaudhary
Pushpita Hati
Cyrus Naval Daruwalla
Guru Prasad Mugeraya
Jai Kapoor
Kanchan Khabya
Kiran Wadagavi
Kirubakaran Kalimuthu
Kumar Abhishek
Kunal Rathod
Manishbhai Gupta
Manjunatha M
Mayank Saxena
Mohan Baburao Magdum
Murthy S
Nikita Bisht
Prabhu Sai Uday Kiran Kairam
Rama Naga Anjaneya Kumar Kuncham
Ramesh Rathod
Ripunjoy Gohain
Roshan Daniel
Sachin Goled
Santosh Sethy
Seethalakshmi S
Sumit Shankar Sinha
Tapas Mohanty
Varun Dev Shanker
Vivek Khabya
Vivek Madhwal
Xerxes Rao

Endowment Fund

Paul Suryavanshi Endowment Fund
Sadashiv And Saraswati Prasad Endowment Fund
Ajay Khanna Fund
Sugandh Endowment Fund
Kumud & Vasant Joshi Endowment Fund
The Nozer & Burjish Memorial Endowment Fund
Tulsi Projects Pvt. Ltd.

Corporates, Trusts and Foundations

Adobe Sytems India Pvt. Ltd.
Alchemy Capital Management Pvt. Ltd.
Azim Premji Foundation
Bahar Infocons Pvt. Ltd.
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
C H Robinson Worldwide Freight India Pvt. Ltd.
C U Shah Charitable Trust
CAF America
Canada Fund For Local Initiatives (CFLI)
Cisco India
DMCC Speciality Chemicals Limited
Edelgive Foundation
Gail (India) Limited
Give Foundation Inc.
Grand Challenges Canada
Hawpar Pvt. Ltd.
Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd.
J K Dholakia Charitable Trust
Kamal India Foundation
Kamal Udwadia Foundation
Microsoft Research Lab India Pvt. Ltd.
Mukul Madhav Foundation
Nelumbo Foundation
Oracle
Sense International, UK
Shell India
U. K. Paints India Pvt. Ltd.
VMware Software India Pvt. Ltd.
Estate Of Ram Gopaldas Keswani
K Pravinchandra and Associates
Hemkunt Agro Care Pvt. Ltd.
Standard Industries Ltd.
Kryolan Cosmetics India Pvt. Ltd.
Intercon Investment & Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Seiko Investments Pvt. Ltd.
Malviya Charitable Trust
Shree Naman Developers Pvt. Ltd.
Yatayat Corporation Of India
Purab Textile
G D Saraf Charitable Trust
Bai Freny Darab Pader Charitable Trust
Parbhudas Kishordas Tobacco Products Pvt. Ltd.
Smt Menaben Kanjibhai Patel Memorial Trust
Finolex Pipes & Fittings
Shapoorji Pallonji & Co Pvt. Ltd.
The Tinplate Company India Ltd.
Impressico Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Ramco Steels Pvt. Ltd.
Quarkxpress Publishing R and D India Pvt. Ltd.
Aira Controls
Dharamtar Motor Service Petroleum Products

Financials and Legal Matters

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	As on March 31			
	2024	%	2023	%
Sorces of Funds				
Corpus Fund	18.03	2%	18.03	2%
Endowment Funds	30.61	3%	31.16	3%
Trust Fund	850.44	71%	658.05	67%
Grants received in advance	185.02	15%	180.87	18%
Earmarked Funds	115.00	10%	100.00	10%
Total	**1,199.10**	**100%**	**988.10**	**100%**
Application of Funds				
Fixed Assets	49.61	4%	27.17	3%
Investment	65.09	5%	60.05	6%
Current Assets	1072.45	89%	852.43	86%
Grant Receivable	11.94	1%	48.83	5%
Less:Current Liabilities and Provisions	(0.00)	0%	(0.38)	0%
Total	**1,199.10**	**100%**	**988.10**	**100%**

Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Year ended March 31			
	2024	%	2023	%
Income				
Interest	39.38	3%	30.82	3%
Donations	288.51	21%	212.86	18%
Programme Grants	1052.01	76%	906.87	79%
Other Sources	0.40	0%	1.89	0%
Total Income	**1380.30**	**100%**	**1152.43**	**100%**
Expenditure				
Expenditure in respect of properties	22.45	2%	9.88	1%
Establishment Expenses	8.10	1%	7.05	1%
Audit Fees	6.83	1%	4.34	0%
Depreciation	10.89	1%	7.10	1%
Amount transferred to Earmarked Fund	15.00	1%		
Expenditure on Objects of the Trust	1185.86	95%	973.48	97%
Total Expenditure	**1249.14**	**100%**	**1001.85**	**100%**
Excess of Income over Expenditure/(Expenditure over Income)	131.17		150.58	

Receipts and Payments

Receipts	Year ended March 31		Payments	Year ended March 31	
	2024	2023		2024	2023
Opening Balance	831.34	811.91	Acquisition of Fixed Assets	33.34	7.67
Grants & donations	1,439.58	1,008.40	Amount spent for the object of the Trust	1227.07	1010.35
Interest Income	39.64	29.05	Closing Balance	1050.15	831.34
Total	**2310.56**	**1849.36**	**Total**	**2310.56**	**1,849.36**

* All figures above are in ▯ Lakh.
Detailed audited accounts 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. 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.in

Bankers: Bank of India, Panchvati branch; ICICI Bank, Drive-In branch ; HDFC Bank, Vejalpur and Panchvati branch; Axis Bank, Ashram Road Branch; State Bank of India, New Delhi Main branch and IIM Ahmedabad Branch; Yes Bank, Shastri Nagar Branch

Auditors: CA Kalpen Shah, K Pravinchandra & Associates, 1 Harihar Park Society, Nr. Old High Court Underbridge, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009 and CA Jahir Mansuri, KCJM & Associates, The First, Near Keshawbaug Party Plot, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015

Governance

Details of Board Members: (as on March 31, 2024)

Name	Age	Sex	Position on Board	Area of Competency	Meetings Attended
Mr. Amit Dholakia	58	M	Chairperson	Management	4/4
Ms. Divya Bhalla	45	F	Member	Communication	0/4
Mr. Rajiv Raturi	65	M	Member	Human Rights	4/4
Ms. Nandini Rawal	65	F	Member	Management	4/4

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
- To find out more about deafblindness and our work,
- To be a volunteer or support us in any way,

Please contact us:
Head Office: Sense International India, 2nd Floor Andhjan Mandal Campus, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015
Bengaluru Office: 435, Kasturi Nagar Main Rd, Gurijiya Gutta, East of NGEF Layout, Bennigana Halli, Bengaluru 560 043
Delhi Office: 2nd Floor, Admin Block, NAB Delhi Campus,R K Puram, Sector 5, New Delhi 110 022

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 persons with deafblindness.
- Sense India is going green, and to support this initiative, we have sent an e-version of the annual report to most of our donors .

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 2023 - 24 on 27th June 2023, 30th September 2023, 31st January 2024 and 28th March 2024. 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 organisation, to any board member. Traveling and other expenses to attend board meetings have been: Rs 0/-.

Staff Remuneration - per month:
CEO's Remuneration: Rs 2,25,000/-. Remuneration of next three highest paid staff members: Rs 2,00,000/- ,Rs.2,00,000/- and Rs.1,61,353/- . Remuneration of the lowest paid staff member Rs 13,251/- (as on 31st March 2024)

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	0	0
10,000 - 25,000	5	5	10
25,000 - 50,000	8	13	21
50,000 - 100,000	4	6	10
100,000 >	6	0	6
TOTAL	**15**	**23**	**38**

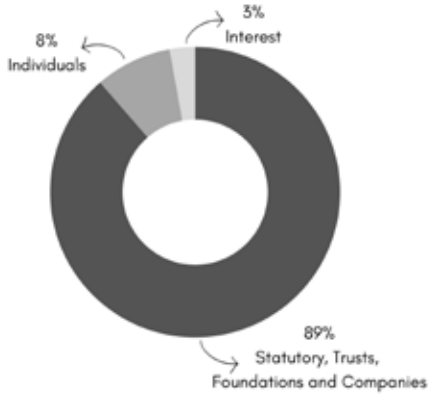
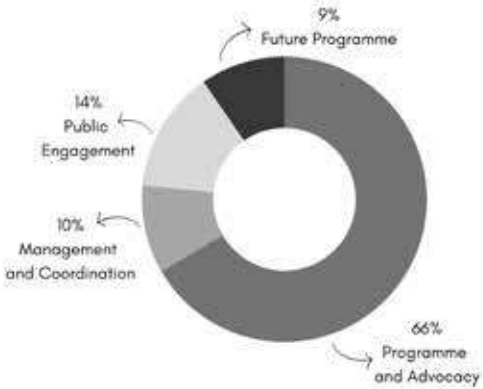
Gender	Paid (Full Time)	Paid (Part Time)	Paid (Consultants)	Unpaid (Volunteers)
Male	23	0	0	0
Female	23	1	3	0

Travel Costs

National travel for staff to visit programmes and projects throughout India: Rs Rs. Rs. 34,04,703/-
International Travel for staff sponsored through Sense International and other sources: Rs. 5,51,580/-

Sr.	Name of employee	Country Name	Purpose of travel	Amount
1	Akhil Paul	Bangladesh	Monitoring & Evaluation	43,671.00
2	Sachin Rizal	Nepal & Bangladesh	Onsite Training & Training on DB	1,00,815.00
3	P. Srinivasan	Bangladesh	Onsite Training & Training on DB	70,092.00
4	Uttam Kumar	Nepal & Bangladesh	Monitoring & Evaluation, Training & capacity Building & Director's meeting	1,08,475.00
5	Tanmita Dutta	Bangladesh	Monitoring & Evaluation	36,353.00
6	Priya Gupta	Canada	Seminar/Conference	1,92,174.00
	TOTAL			**5,51,580.00**

Money In 2023-24 (in %)



Money Out 2023-24 (in %)