



Divya Jyoti  
Disabled  
Development  
Society

## Newsletter – January 2026



# Greetings for the New Year



Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

Warm greetings and our very best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Joy-filled New Year 2026!

As we step into the new year, we're happy to share that our work at Divya Jyoti has continued with steady momentum and unwavering dedication. We remain deeply committed to supporting children and adults with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, and multiple disabilities—carrying forward our mission with the same passion and care.

## Daycare Activities

As in previous years, Divya Jyoti has continued to provide comprehensive education along with vocational and life-skills training to our students. These programs are designed not only to enhance skills but also to promote dignity, confidence, and independence.

During this period, we introduced several new handicraft activities, including the preparation of washing powder, phenyl oil, women's garments, eco-friendly marketing bags, incense sticks, and sindoor powder. While we attempted to produce marketing bags and incense sticks for export, we eventually discontinued these items due to the absence of a sustainable market.

More recently, we introduced the production of red sindoor powder, traditionally worn by married women, packed in attractive wooden cubes. These are now being sold through wholesalers in Varanasi. Alongside these new initiatives, the production of newspaper bags has continued successfully, as there remains a regular and reliable market for them. Students involved in handicraft production continue to receive monthly monetary incentives in recognition of their efforts and contribution.



## Mud Pot Candles

The production and sale of mud pot candles showed encouraging growth during the years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025. Building on earlier experiences, we introduced new designs and improved the overall appearance of the candles. These candles were marketed primarily through schools across Varanasi, where they were well received.

Encouraged by this positive response, we plan to further expand candle production in 2026. With improved designs and increasing demand, we hope this activity will generate greater income opportunities for our students while strengthening the sustainability of our vocational programs.



# Community Based Rehabilitation



Community-based rehabilitation remains a vital part of Divya Jyoti's mission. Our staff regularly visit children and adults with disabilities in their homes, where they provide physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and emotional support.

In addition, whenever families with persons with disabilities approach Divya Jyoti for assistance, we provide guidance and counselling related to admissions, therapy, or access to welfare schemes. Wherever possible, we help families connect with government programs and other non-governmental organizations so that they can receive appropriate support.

During this period, three individuals—Ruksana, Arti, and Soni—who were earlier part of our community-based rehabilitation program, were admitted into our day care education and vocational training center.

# Inclusive Employment at Divya Jyoti

- Divya Jyoti strongly believes in inclusion, not only for students but also in employment. During this period, Manit Rai, a woman with a physical disability who walks with the help of assistive devices, joined Divya Jyoti as a staff assistant. She has valuable experience in handicraft production and now supports students in learning new vocational skills. Every day, she travels nearly 20 kilometers from her village by auto-rickshaw, bringing her two children to school in the city before reporting to work. Her husband also lives with a physical disability and is currently unemployed.
- Another inspiring addition to our team is Mahuwas Das, a woman with rickets resulting in severe bowing of her legs. Due to weak bones, she faces a high risk of fractures if she falls. Married with two grown children, she had previously worked as a domestic helper, washing dishes in nearby homes. With her husband having no regular employment, she approached Divya Jyoti seeking work. We welcomed her into our team, where she now assists staff with various daily activities and contributes meaningfully to the center.



- Ruksana is a young woman with a physical disability and no independent mobility. She had attended the Divya Jyoti day care center several years ago, with her father bringing her daily. Unfortunately, following the sudden death of her father due to a heart attack, she was unable to continue coming to the center.
- Recognizing her potential and determination, our team remained in regular contact with her through the community-based rehabilitation program. While at home, she learned tailoring skills. We felt that her abilities could be meaningfully developed further if she rejoined Divya Jyoti. With support from the government, we were able to arrange an auto-rickshaw for her daily transport, enabling her to attend the center independently. Today, Ruksana actively contributes by stitching garments and supporting vocational activities.

## Public Events

- In 2025, World Disability Day was celebrated on 6 December, a weekend, allowing greater community participation. In both years, the events emphasized inclusion, joy, and shared celebration between children with and without disabilities.
- Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January 2025. Independence Day was observed on 15 August 2025, with Dr. Rajender, Ward Councilor, attending as Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated Divya Jyoti's humanitarian service and dedication to supporting persons with disabilities.



## Food Relief and Health Services

- In August 2025, severe flooding in Varanasi affected many families living along the banks of the River Ganga. With the support of Dr. Rajender and government officials, Divya Jyoti organized the distribution of flood relief materials. Essential groceries and hygiene items were provided to families of children attending our day care center and those under community-based rehabilitation.
- Health care initiatives also formed an important part of our work. In October 2025, Mr. Jean Piera and his team of acupuncturists visited Divya Jyoti and conducted thorough medical check-ups for all students and community beneficiaries. Ayurvedic medicines were provided to those suffering from various ailments.
- In December 2025, specialist doctors conducted free eye and dental check-up camps at our center. Students and community beneficiaries were examined, and those requiring further care are now receiving treatment at clinics.

## Administrative and other updates

- FCRA: Divya Jyoti's registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was renewed for another five years. Following this renewal, the Ministry of Home Affairs instructed us to submit regular documentation regarding foreign donations and visits by international supporters. We fully comply with these requirements, ensuring transparency and accountability in all our operations.



# Thank You for Being With Us



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all donors, well-wishers, volunteers, staff, and friends—both in India and abroad—who continue to stand with us. Your trust and support enable us to bring dignity, care, and opportunity into the lives of persons with disabilities.

Regards,  
J Savari Nathan  
Secretary  
Divya Jyoti Disabled Development Society.



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