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FROM CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Members of the AYJNISHD(D) Family,

I am delighted to present the second quarter edition of the NINAD Newsletter (April-June 2026), highlighting the significant milestones, achievements, and initiatives undertaken by our Institute and its Regional Centres. AYJNISHD(D) continues its unwavering commitment towards empowering persons with speech and hearing disabilities through quality education, clinical services, research, innovation, skill development, and community outreach. This quarter commenced with a landmark collaboration on World Autism Awareness Day, when AYJNISHD(D) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ridlan AI Foundation to promote Artificial Intelligence-based accessible solutions for persons with disabilities. This partnership marks an important step towards integrating technology with rehabilitation services and strengthening inclusive development.

Our Institute proudly celebrated the 136th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, reaffirming our commitment to equality, social justice, and the transformative power of education. During this period, AYJNISHD(D) also received national recognition through the MANAN Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award, reflecting our sustained efforts in promoting inclusive education and rehabilitation services. The Institute continued to encourage creativity, innovation and holistic development through various academic and co-curricular activities, including the Quilling Workshop, CDEIC Summer Camp, awareness programmes, and participation in national cultural events for deaf students. Our Regional Centres also achieved remarkable success through employment initiatives, awareness campaigns, and academic excellence, further strengthening our outreach across the country. We were honoured by the visits of several distinguished dignitaries, including Shri P. C. Mohan, Hon'ble Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Shri Girish C. Hosur, Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Their appreciation and guidance reaffirm our collective efforts towards delivering accessible, quality, and people-centric services. AYJNISHD(D) also observed important national and international occasions such as World Environment Day and the 12th International Day of Yoga, promoting environmental responsibility, health, wellness, and inclusion. These celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from our students, staff, parents, and community members, reflecting the spirit of unity and collective responsibility.

As we continue our journey towards excellence, I sincerely appreciate the dedication and hard work of our faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and all stakeholders whose unwavering support has contributed to the Institute's continued progress. Together, we shall continue to strengthen our efforts in education, rehabilitation, research, innovation, and inclusive development, ensuring that every person with disability receives opportunities to lead a life of dignity, independence, and empowerment.

(Dr. Suman Kumar)

Director & Chief Editor

Signing of MoU with Ridlan AI Foundation on World Autism Day

On 1st April 2026, AYJNISHD(D) signed an MoU celebrating World Autism Day with Ridlan AI Foundation to leverage AI for improving accessibility, safety and support for Persons with Disabilities. This collaboration will introduce smart QR-based ID systems, AI powered communication tools and scalable nationwide solutions- aiming to impact over 10 million lives across India.



Job Fair at RC Kolkata

A Campus Interview & Job Fair was organised by AYJNISHD(D) RC Kolkata in collaboration with Samarthanam Trusts for the disabled, on 19th March 2026. 12 prospective employers including Indigo, Ques Corp, Randstad, ISS DTSS, Reliance Smart Bazar, Reliance Trends, Acsive HR, Varun Beverages, Atypical Advantages, BlueDart and Mervice Infotech. A total of 252 candidates appeared for the interview, out of which 37 candidates were selected for various posts during the recruitment drive on the date, and later 82 candidates were also selected.



Commemorating the 136th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

AYJNISHD(D), and its regional centres commemorate 136th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar – 14th April 2026. The occasion honoured the eminent social reformer, visionary, leader and chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The programme commenced with a floral tribute and candle lighting ceremony symbolizing respect and gratitude towards Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. At the headquarters, Dr. Gayatri Ahuja, Reader/ HOD,

Department of Education addressed the gathering highlighting three key lessons from Babasaheb's life. First, Power of Education; second, importance of advocacy and awareness of our rights; third, value of collaboration and working together. She reminded us to take pride in our Constitution and called upon to pledge and follow his principles and work as a team.



Manan DEI award

AYJNISHD(D)-RC Noida has been awarded prestigious Manan Diversity Equity Inclusivity Conclave Award for Institutional Excellence. The award was presented on 18th April 2026. The recognition highlights AYJNISHD(D)'s unwavering dedication and significant contributions over the past 39 years in serving persons with speech and hearing disabilities. The institute has consistently worked towards empowering individuals through quality clinical services, human resource development, education and community outreach programs. This award reaffirms the institutes commitment to promoting diversity, equity and inclusivity, while continuing to act as a beacon of support for individuals with disabilities.



National Cultural Fest for Deaf

Ms. Jasmin Aktar, Ms. Pramila Sahu and Ms. Sasmita Lima, students studying DTISL Courses at AYJNISHD (D), RC Janla selected by Odisha Foundation of Deaf women, Bhubaneswar participated in the 6th National Cultural Festival for Deaf women at Chandigarh from 16th to 18th April 2026 and their team won 1st prize in dance, 2nd prize in drama and 2nd prize in bridal mehendi.



Quilling Workshop

AYJNISHD(D) Mumbai A colourful and creative day at the quilling workshop conducted by Ms. Smita M Patil and organized by the Department of Education, AYJNISHD (D), Mumbai on 9th May 2026 from 10:00 AM to 1.00 PM. More than 84 participants, including staff, parents, students and children, enthusiastically explored the beautiful art of quilling with creativity, fun, learning and joyful participation together.



CDEIC Summer Camp

CDEIC of AYJNISHD (D), Mumbai organized summer camp for children with disabilities and an engagement programme for parents from 4th May to 9th May 2025. All days were filled with fun and excitement. Each day included prayers and meditation yoga, memory enhancement activity, creative activity, ADL activities, fun game, story time & rhyme time. Parent engagement programme included activities like use of AI for creating learning material, crochet skills. Motivational movie 'Sitare Zameen Par' was shown and conducted yoga session.



Short Film Making- CAPD

As part of Speech & Hearing Awareness Month (May), AYJNISHD (D) RC, Kolkata participated in the short film making competition with its entry "The Quit Struggle: CAPD- The Invisible Challenge, raising awareness about Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) and its often unnoticed communication challenges. The Institute is proud to share that the film won best short film award. Heartiest congratulations to Ms. Abhilasha Singh, Ms. Daksha Asthana, and Mr. Jyotiprasad Behura (BASLP 3rd year) for their creativity and dedication, and sincere appreciation to faculty members.

Dr. Preeti Sahu, Dr. Indranil Chatterjee, and Mr. Arghya Poullick for their valuable guidance and support.



Visit of Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon. Union Minister at RC Kolkata

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, visited AYJNISHD(D), RC Kolkata on 25th May 2026. Shri Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi, accompanied the Hon'ble Minister during the visit.

Dr. Indranil Chatterjee, Lecturer (Speech & Hearing), welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and the Joint Secretary on behalf of the Institute,

During the visit, the Hon'ble Minister reviewed the activities and services of the Institute and appreciated the efforts of the regional centre towards the empowerment and rehabilitation of divyangjan.



The air-conditioned Speech & Language Therapy Unit was inaugurated by Shri Rajeev Sharma, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, MSJE. The State-of-the-Art facility will significantly strengthen the Institute's capacity to provide advanced speech and language therapy services and comprehensive rehabilitation support to persons with speech and hearing disabilities.



Visit of Shri. P. C. Mohan, Hon. Chairperson, and Members of Parliamentary Standing Committee of Social Justice and Empowerment at AYJNISHD (D)

AYJNISHD(D) Mumbai, had the privilege of hosting Shri. P.C.Mohan, Hon'ble Chairperson, and Members of the Standing

Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2025-26) during their study visit on 3rd June 2026. The dignitaries were welcomed by Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD (D), and senior officials of the Institute. The visit commenced with a tree plantation ceremony, followed by a presentation highlighting the Institute's achievements, academic and clinical services, research initiatives, capacity-building programmes and outreach activities. During the visit, Shri P.C.Mohan released two institute publications: 'Growing Together', developed by Mrs. Punam Mhatre, CDEIC Coordinator & Dr. Suni Mathew, In Charge CDEIC for parents of children with disabilities and 'Communication Linguistic Assessment Protocol in Bangla for Right Hemisphere Disorders' developed by DR. Suman Kumar, Director. The delegation visited and reviewed various facilities of the Institute, interacted with beneficiaries, and gained first-hand insights into the services being provided for persons with disabilities. A major highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the renovated Audiological Wing of the Institute, aimed at strengthening and expanding the diagnostic and other rehabilitation services. The Hon'ble Chairperson and Members appreciated the institute's contribution towards the empowerment, education, rehabilitation, and inclusion of persons with disabilities and lauded its efforts in delivering accessible and quality services across the country.



Celebration of World Environment Day on 5th June 2026

AYJNISHD (D) Mumbai and its Regional Centres celebrated the World Environment Day on 5th June 2026 with various activities.

The staff and students planted saplings, organised talk on the importance of protecting the environment through storytelling and visual aids, the children were introduced to simple concepts like planting trees, saving water, and keeping the surroundings clean. Children with hearing impairment participated in hands-on activities such as planting saplings, watering plants, and making colourful drawings. The event aimed to instil love and respect for nature among young minds while promoting environmental awareness in a fun and engaging manner.

The teachers guided and encouraged the children throughout the activities, creating a supportive and nurturing environment. The event was a beautiful blend of learning and play, successfully fostering environmental awareness at an early age and reflecting the center's commitment to holistic child development.

World environment day teaches us that a healthy environment is essential for healthy life. We must respect nature and use natural resources wisely.



Visit of Shri. Girish C Hosur, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, MSJE at AYJNISHD(D)

Shri Girish C Hosur, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, MSJE, visited AYJNISHD (D), Mumbai, on 12th June 2026. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Executive Council of AYJNISHD(D).

Dr.Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD (D), extended a warm welcome and felicitated Shri Girish C. Hosur during his visit to the Institute. As part of the visit, the Joint Secretary toured CDEIC, Department of Audiology, Department of Speech Language Pathology, Department of Psychology, Department of Education, OESD, IDC, Library and under- construction hostel building. The Joint Secretary also inaugurated the Tele-Rehabilitation and Voice Recording Room, marking a significant step towards strengthening advanced diagnostic and rehabilitative services at the Institute.



Street play (Nukkad Natak)

As part of Aphasia Awareness Month 2026, AYJNISHD, RC, Kolkata organized a street play (Nukkad Natak) on the theme "Early Identification and Intervention" on 8th June 2026. The street play was presented by the students of the BASLP programme across the campuses of AYJNISHD RC, NIEPID, RC and NILD Kolkata. Through this engaging and informative performance, awareness was created among visitors, clients, parents, caregivers, and persons with disabilities regarding the importance of early identification and timely intervention in communication disorders, including aphasia. The initiative facilitated greater understanding of speech, language, and hearing-related challenges and the benefits of early rehabilitation services.



International Yoga Day celebration

The 12th International Day of Yoga(2026) was celebrated at all centres. At AYJNISHD (D), Mumbai, the programme was held in collaboration with New Age Institute, Vile Parle under the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing' at Juhu beach.

The event was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 1,400 participants, including 50 divyang individuals, promoting the spirit of inclusion and wellness for all.

The staff members and students of the Institute, actively contributed to the successful conduct of the event. The celebration reinforced AYJNISHD(D)'s continued commitment to promoting an inclusive society where health, wellness and participation are accessible to all, in line with the vision of the Government of India and the objectives of the International Day of Yoga.



Visit of Dr.Manik G. Gursal, Secretary, Divyang Kalyan at AYJNISHD (D)

Dr. Manik G. Gursal, Secretary, Divyang Kalyan, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai, visited AYJNISHD (D), on 6th July 2026. Dr. Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD (D), extended a warm welcome and felicitated Dr. Manik G. Gursal during his visit to the institute.

As part of the visit, the Secretary toured Department of Audiology, Department of Speech and language pathology and CDEIC. Secretary appreciated the dedicated efforts of AYJNISHD(D) in delivering comprehensive clinical, academic and community-based services to persons with disabilities. He encouraged the Institute to continue strengthening its outreach, research and capacity building programs, thereby contributing to the vision of an inclusive society.



Signing of MoU with Ksham Innovation Pvt. Ltd.

AYJNISHD(D) Mumbai and Ksham Innovation Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the clinical validation, research and development of next generation assistive technologies for persons with hearing impairment. The collaboration will focus on conducting clinical trials and research, validating innovation

hearing-assistive products and developing an affordable and accessible hearing-care ecosystem in India. The partnership is expected to strengthen the development of user-centred technologies and support their effective application in clinical and rehabilitation settings.

The MoU was signed by Dr.Suman Kumar, Director, AYJNISHD (D), Mumbai and Mr.Pratik Raghuvanshi, Ksham Innovation Private Limited, in the presence of Dr. Shivraj Bhimte, Head, Department of Audiology, AYJNISHD (D), and Mr. Grisham Sharma, Ksham Innovation Private Limited.



Divyang Rozgar Mela

AYJNISHD(D) Mumbai in collaboration with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Mumbai, organized a Divyang Rozgar Mela/ Job Fair on 16th July 2026 at Swami Muktanand Sabhagruha,, Kurla (East), Mumbai.

Of the 253 registered Divyangjan with locomotor disability, hearing impairment, visual impairment, and dwarfism, 133 candidates attended and appeared for interviews. A total of 15 employers, including BPCL, BigBasket, Sutherland, Blue Dart, Qness Corp Ltd, Amazon, Indigo, Hitachi, Westside, Burger King and others participated in the recruitment drive.

The event provided candidates with an opportunity to interact with employers and explore suitable employment options. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the respective employers for further recruitment and joining formalities.



Outreach Activity: New born Hearing Screening at Bhabha Hospital

As part of its ongoing outreach and early intervention services, AYJNISHD Mumbai is conducting Newborn Hearing Screening (NBHS) at Bhabha Hospital, Bandra, Mumbai, every Monday and Friday.

The programme focuses on the early identification of hearing impairment in newborn babies, enabling timely referral, diagnosis and intervention. Newborns delivered at the hospital are screened using appropriate hearing screening procedures. Babies who do not pass the initial screening are advised for rescreening and further audiological evaluation, as required.

The initiative plays an important role in promoting early detection and timely management of childhood hearing loss, thereby supporting better speech, language, communication and overall developmental outcomes.

Through regular outreach services at Bhabha Hospital, AYJNISHD Mumbai continues to strengthen awareness and access to newborn hearing screening and early intervention services among families and the community.



SUCCESS STORIES...

22 Years. 22 Milestones of Sound and Strength

22 years since the beginning of his cochlear implant journey in 2004. From his first steps towards hearing to becoming a confident and independent individual, Pranav's journey reflects the power of technology, timely intervention, family support, and determination.

In his words, "This journey was not just about hearing sounds; it was about finding my voice, my independence, and a whole new way to experience life." His story is a celebration of the family, doctors, audiologists, teachers, and rehabilitation professionals who supported him along the way—and an inspiring reminder that with the right support and determination, possibilities can become achievements.



Meet our bright and talented girl, zainab

Ms. Zainab began her journey with AYJNISHD(D), Mumbai, in 2011. With the guidance and support of the Institute and its dedicated team, she underwent cochlear implant surgery in 2013. Since then, she has continued to receive support and guidance from the Institute throughout her developmental and educational journey. Zainab and her parents fondly recall the constant cooperation, care, and encouragement extended by the staff of AYJNISHD(D). They deeply appreciate the services and support provided by the Institute, which have played an important role in her journey. Today, Zainab's achievements stand as an inspiring example of how timely intervention, appropriate technology, continuous support, and determination can open new possibilities for children with hearing disabilities. Her journey reflects the impact of early intervention and the importance of sustained family and professional support. AYJNISHD(D) takes immense pride in Zainab's accomplishments and wishes her continued success and a bright, fulfilling, and limitless future.

