From the President’s Desk

Tamana the institution is now 26 years old, almost as old as the girl after whom it has been named. As the years have passed, we have grown along both ends, the girl and the institute, and both Tamanas today have a standing in society.

All activities that are conducted here at Tamana are based on 7 pillars: Therapy, Vocational, Academics connected with vocational, Self Help skills, Arts (including performing arts), Culture and Sports activities. We treat the students as absolutely normal, in fact better than normal, because they have an unending, unlimited, infinite love in their hearts. We encourage their participation in all sorts of activities possible.

Tamana is a place where there is a fire in the belly of every individual who serves here, whether it is the gardener, cook, bus driver, conductor, teacher, therapist or special educator. It is a mini-society full of love, affection, feelings, dedication, emotions, hard work and growth. I believe it is not structure that makes an institution but it is the people and their mindsets, attitudes, emotions and their willingness to go that extra mile and give their infinite contribution because these students need not just 24 hours but 48 hours of our time.

This newsletter is a mirror of our eventful curriculum and the achievements of these students.

Dr. Shayama Chona

Editor’s Note

Welcome to the Disability and Autism e-News of ‘Tamana’. As the editor of the newsletter, it has been less than a month now since I have been digging up information about the schools and the various activities that the students here have been taking part in. I have been quite amazed to hear the list of achievements of these students and to see the immense potential that they have.

In the following pages I would like to show you what these students are capable of and the kind of talents that they possess.

There is a lot in store for you in this first issue and I assure you that we’ll be back with even more in the next. Hope you enjoy reading!

Vishal Abhyankar
Tamana Fashion Show

The Tamana Fashion Show was organized this year at the Hyatt Regency on 15th November, 2010. The Chief Guest at the function was Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, wife of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Designers Anuradha Raman and Asha & Gautam Gupta specially designed clothes for the students of Tamana, who walked the ramp with much grace and confidence. Famous designers like JJ Valaya, Malini Ramani, Meera and Muzaffar Ali, Payal Jain, Satya Paul and Suneet Verma were also there and walked the ramp along with the students. Tamana Chona also walked the ramp in a very attractive style.

There were many other celebrities present including Governor of Uttarakhand, H.E. Margaret Alva, Barkha Singh (Chairperson, Committee on Women and Child Welfare), Shahnaz Husain (Beautician), Anamika (Singer), Sushma Seth (actor), Shibani Kashyap (Singer), Major General W.S. Chona, Sunil Sethi (President, Fashion Design Council of India) and many others.

Dia Mirza also came to the function to pledge her support for specially abled children.

Indo US Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders


The workshops were organized from 8th to 11th April, 2010 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

It was inaugurated by Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi, and the Guests of Honour included Mr. Deepak Chandra, Chairman, D.P.S. Society, Mrs. Poonam Natarajan, Chairperson, National Trust and Dr. Geraldine Dawson, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks, USA.
Clean Delhi Drive

Tamana students participated in a Clean Delhi Drive in which sites were adopted around each of the three schools of Tamana which include the Autism Centre - School of Hope, Tamana Special School and Nai Disha Vocational Centre. The students enthusiastically went out with their brooms and rags and cleaned out the adopted sites.

This initiative was a part of a citizen’s awareness campaign titled ‘Meri Dilli Meri Yamuna’, launched by Art of Living. The aim of the campaign was to create awareness and ownership among citizens for the Yamuna.

Slogan Writing Competition

The Innerwheel Club of Delhi Vasant Kunj organized a Slogan Writing Competition on ‘Save our Planet Earth’ in which Tamana students won three prizes. The slogans they made went like this:

“Green Revolution
The Best Solution
to Arrest Pollution.”

- Aditya, 1st Prize

“Earth allows us to stand,
Let the Earth stand the way it is.”

- Saumya, 2nd Prize

Mega Art Competition

Sri Kriti School Art Competition was organized in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board and UNICEF. 6,00,000 students from 1500 schools all across Delhi NCR participated in the event. Sharad and Mukandan of Nai Disha won prizes in the competition worth Rs.5000/- and each of them also received a Shield as a token of recognition.

Nature Trail at CM’s house

15 students from the Autism Centre - School of Hope went to the Chief Minister’s residence to meet her and take a Nature Trail Walk in the garden of her house.

Mrs. Sheila Dikshit with the students
Getting Gold at Special Olympics Bharat

Kulachi Hansraj School in New Delhi organized State Level Sports Meet for Special Children called the Special Olympics Bharat from 22nd to 24th September, 2010. Students of Nai Disha participated in the event and won a number of prizes in different sports.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS BHARAT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arsh Khanna</td>
<td>Gold Medal</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madhurya</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jyotsana Kalra</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Skating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niket Niranjan</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
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<td>Sharad</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
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<td>Abhinav Bhatt</td>
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<td>Bocce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanju</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Bocce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Left to Right: Deepak, Jyotsana, Sanju, Arsh, Niket, Sharad and Abhinav.

MTNL Perfect Health Mela: Gold Medals again

Heart Care Foundation of India along with various departments of Delhi Government organized the 17th MTNL Perfect Health Mela from 23rd to 31st October, 2010 at NDMC Ground, Laxmibai Nagar, New Delhi. The purpose of the Mela was to create awareness about health for people from all sections of society.

Students of Tamana were invited to dance at the inauguration of the Mela. The organizers of the event liked the performance of the students so much that they called them again to dance the next day and also honoured them by giving them Gold Medals.

**Gold Medal Recipients:**

Nanu, Tej Kiran, Deepak Taneja, Anur Chaddha, Madhurya, Ashish, Deepak Rautela, Niket Niranjan, Dhruv and Sushant.

‘Give a Book’ Campaign

‘International Education Week’ is celebrated every year by the United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF) which is a bi-national organization promoting mutual understanding between India and US nationals through educational exchange of exceptional scholars, professionals and students.

As a part of the International Education Week, USIEF came together with Tamana to launch the idea of “Give a Book” Campaign. The aim of the campaign was to increase the number of books in the library of Tamana. The staff of USIEF voluntarily donated books so that students who were deprived of reading material earlier may now get an opportunity to read more books. The campaign also aimed at encouraging and developing reading habits among the students.

On 18th November, 2010 the USIEF staff visited Nai Disha where the students performed a cultural show for the visitors.
**Shera** comes visiting

**Commonwealth Games 2010**
Mascot **Shera** came to meet the students of Tamana on 30th September, 2010. Shera spent a couple of hours with the students and the students loved the mascot of this year’s Commonwealth Games that were held in New Delhi.

**Airtel Delhi Half Marathon**

Students of Tamana participated in the Delhi Half Marathon organized by Airtel on 21st November, 2010. The special students fell behind no one when it came to running on the track and enthusiastically completed the marathon, showing their sporting attitude.

**Dancing in Dilli Haat at Shilpotsav**

**Shilpotsav** was an exhibition of products made by special children. It was organized by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation at Dilli Haat. Students of Tamana performed a special dance on the closing ceremony of Shilpotsav on 28th October, 2010. They danced on the song ‘Awara Bhanware’ and the dancers included Nanu, Anjali, Jyotsana, Ashish, Deepak, Madhurya, Somya and Anur Chaddha.

**Shoobh Arts Competition**

Tamana in association with Shoobh Group organised all India Shoobh Arts Competition on the occasion of Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010. The title of the competition was ‘My Dream Sport’ and was open for special needs students between ages 5-20 years.

To view the paintings, visit the Photo Gallery on our website: www.tamanafordisability.org

**Diwali Mela**

Diwali Melas are organized every year in all the three schools wherein parents of the students studying in the schools are invited. This year’s Diwali Melas displayed products such as diyas, pottery items, paper bags (made of paper recycled in the Tamana Recycling unit), jewellery items and other products made by the students themselves.
Danish Interns learning social work at Tamana

Dennis and Anja, who are doing a three and a half years Bachelor’s Degree in Paedagog from Denmark have joined Tamana as interns for six months. Paedagog is a form of social work in Denmark. Besides assisting the teachers in classroom activities, Dennis and Anja teach motor skills and computer skills to the students. Anja also teaches Math to Priya, one of the students at the Tamana Special School while Dennis teaches both Math and English to Nyutsa, who also studies there.

Both Dennis and Anja feel that they are getting a great opportunity here to practice what they have been taught in school.

Workshop: Motivation Building

Supriya Malik, who is a Consultant Psychologist at the Autism Centre - School of Hope, conducted a workshop on building motivation of the teachers at the school on 19th August, 2010. It was a self-reflective workshop carried out to increase teachers’ motivation and performance and make sure that they were up to date with current education practices in the world.

“The workshop helped the teachers understand that there are challenges in every workplace and solutions to those challenges have to be found, after which the challenges actually become ladders to greater satisfaction and growth in your professional life,” Supriya said. Supriya Malik has done her M.Sc. in Developmental Psychology from Lancaster University, U.K. and is an RDI Certified Consultant.

About us

Tamana is an non-governmental organization for Disability providing services for autism and multiple disabilities. In Special Consultative Status with United Nation’s Economic and Social Council.

Our Schools

Autism Centre - School of Hope
Tamana Special School
Nai Disha Vocational Centre
Tamana Kindergarten - Pre-school for the underprivileged.

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