

# hope

News for friends of Asha Issue 79 July 2018



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## 02 Batch 2018 (Toppers)



“Last year I was devastated when I was diagnosed with pulmonary TB, but Asha was always there by my side. I scored 94.75% which helped me secure a seat in the prestigious Miranda House. I will always be thankful to Asha.”

– **Simpal** (Mayapuri slum community)



“Finally, dreams are turning into reality. Today, I am very happy as I got into Ram Lal Anand College where I will pursue Bachelors in Hindi Journalism. I want to thank the Asha family, without them things would not have been easy”.

– **Nikki** (Peelikothi, Mayapuri slum community)



“I was encouraged and inspired at every step by the Asha team and ambassadors. I am glad to get admission to college. My mother could not believe that I made it in the first list itself”.

– **Shivani** (Sawda slum community)



“Lady Shri Ram is a dream for every student. I am glad that I have this opportunity and will always work hard to keep my spirits high”.

– **Deepmala** (Bhairav Mandir, Anna Nagar slum community)

**Asha is a community health and development society dedicated to improving the lives of slum dwellers in Delhi.**

Find us at:

[asha-india.org](http://asha-india.org)

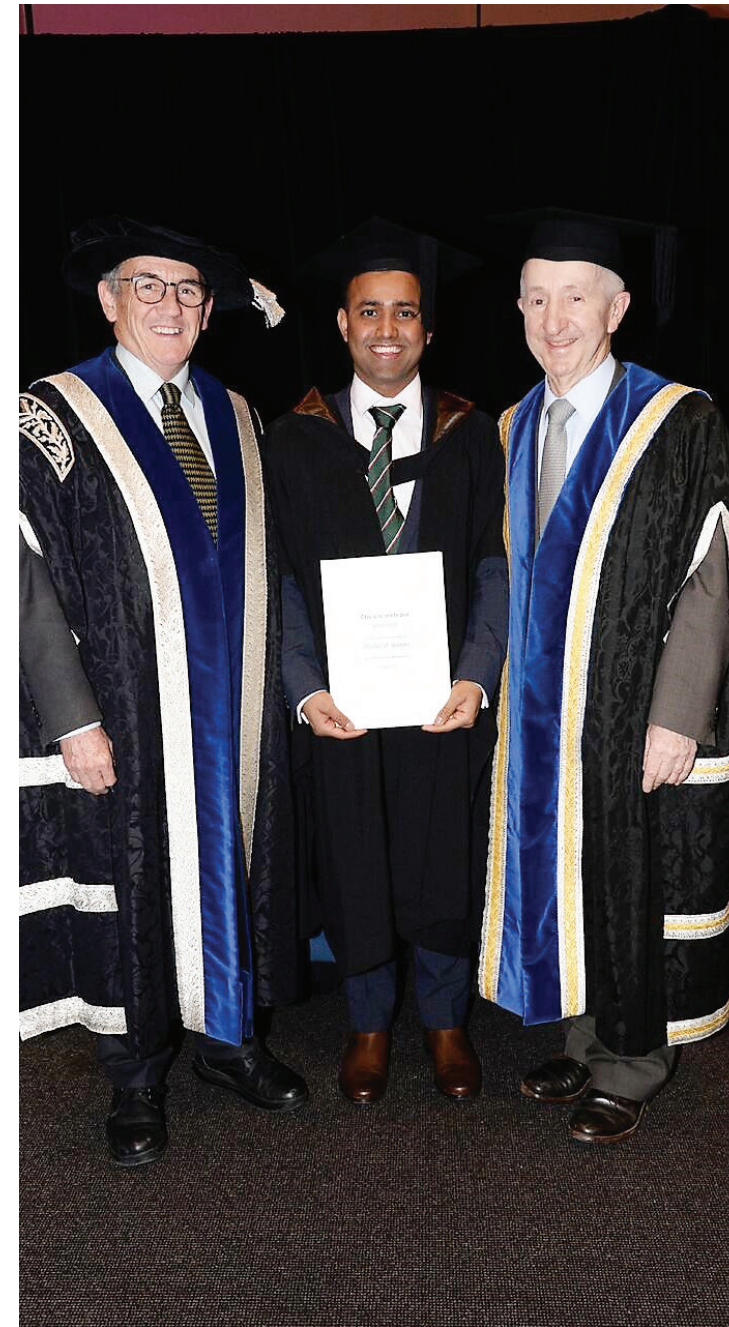
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## 03 Spotlight



### A Journey from skid row to skyscrapers

One of Asha’s biggest milestones was marked on 27th July 2018: the first boy from the slums of Delhi graduated with a Masters in Computer Science from Australia’s top university, The University of Melbourne. Mahinder has become a role model for thousands of young people from the slums of Delhi.

Hailing from a humble background of Ekta Vihar slum community in Delhi, Mahinder was always a bright and intelligent child. He has been an active member of Asha Children’s Association and progressed to be an Asha Ambassador when he joined Bachelor of Information Technology.

His father for the first time was proud while the live streaming of his graduation ceremony was on, and said, “I never thought or applauded Mahinder for any of his achievements till yesterday. These tears rolling down my cheeks today are tears of happiness and I proudly say Mahinder is my son”.

Mahinder won a full scholarship to do his Masters in 2016. Thus started the journey of a slum boy to conquer his dreams overseas. His hard work secured him a two-month paid internship at the Macquarie Group’s Melbourne and Sydney offices respectively over the year 2016 –18 holiday season.

Mahinder’s journey is a powerful message to deprived young people living in poverty. He is a wonderful example of how transformation can occur when young people are provided with the right opportunities, treated fairly and equally. Mentorship is the way to help them realise their dreams.

Dr. Kiran travelled all the way to Australia especially to attend his graduation ceremony. The Chairman of Asha Australia Robert Johanson was also present as a guest speaker, and provided a vivid overview of Asha’s work.

**We congratulate Mahinder Shrivastava on his graduation and wish him the best for the next phase of his life.**



## 04 Spotlight



### Nikki succeeds against the odds!

Nikki, who scored a whopping 94.75% (A+ Grade) in her 12th Board examinations in 2018, is nineteen years old. What makes her achievement worth mentioning is the challenging circumstances she has overcome to emerge as a champion. She is a resident of Peeli Kothi Mayapuri slum colony, infamous for being the largest scrap market in India.

Life became very hard when Nikki lost her father in 2015. This loss not only devastated the family but also drained their finances. A family which had a monthly income of 28 thousand (\$ 409 / £309) per annum, went down to 7 thousand (\$102 / £77.36).

Nikki, who was a brilliant student from her childhood, secured a seat in class IX at the renowned Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya in Delhi, an acclaimed Government school where the brightest students are enrolled.

“The sky is the limit! Never fear to dream”, were the last words of my father. I want to make my father proud and I want to give my mother and siblings a better life”, said Nikki.

Clear and systematic about her career goals, Nikki secured a seat at the prestigious Ram Lal Anand College, Delhi University, as soon as the first admission list was declared. She will pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism & Mass Communication for three years. Thereafter, she plans to specialise in Fashion Journalism.

Nikki states, “The family’s financial crisis would have really demoralised me. But Asha stood by me providing full scholarship”.

## 05 News at a glance



### Dr Kiran Martin met with the High Commissioner of India to Australia

It was a special privilege for Dr Kiran Martin and Mahinder, Asha Graduate to call on the High Commissioner of India to Australia, His Excellency A. M. Gondane at the High Commission of India on 24th July 2018. His Excellency was very happy to hear about the work of Asha and encouraged Dr Kiran to work closely with the Australian Community. He also offered to extend all help and assistance towards the mission of Asha in Australia. **1**

### Diplomatic Missions visit Asha

It was an honour for us to have Mr. H.E Panos, the Ambassador of Greece and Aliko Koutsomitopoulou, the Deputy Chief of Mission visit Asha’s Kanak Durga slum community in the month of May.

Asha also welcomed Mr. Stijn Mols, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Belgium along with his wife Ms. Evy Renap who visited Kanak Durga slum community the following month. These newfound bonds have blossomed as we celebrated our 30th anniversary this year. The brand-new internship partners interacted with the students and members of the children and women’s association as well.

Dr. Kiran expressed her gratitude to the dignitaries for this association.



### Free eye camp held in Mayapuri

A free eye camp was organized by the very generous, Dr. Jatinder Bhalla, Eye Surgeon, and his team from Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in the month of April. Dr. Bhalla is a part of Asha’s referral system, wherein the critical patients from Asha polyclinic are referred to the renowned doctors, who treat the patients from slums free of cost, as a part of their pro bono services. This camp was organized in Mayapuri, and slum residents from Zakhira and Peeragarhi participated to avail the benefits of this camp. A good turnover of 148 people was seen, out of which 8 patients were further referred to undergo cataract operation. How wonderful of Dr. Bhalla and his team to take up such a noble initiative for the people living in slums. **3**



## 06 News at a glance



### Internship programme 2018 launch at the Australian High Commission

Entering its seventh year, Asha's 2018 Internship programme was formally launched on 25th May 2018 at the Australian High Commission. This is the third consecutive annual launch they have hosted generously. This year, around sixty-five students have been selected for Internships, making it the highest number of internships provided so far in a year. We are glad to have new partners on board that include the Norwegian Embassy, the French Embassy, International Monetary Fund (SARTTAC), the Greece Embassy and the Embassy of Belgium. **4**

### A "Hole in the Wall" project launched in Seelampur community

We are excited to announce our new partnership with SONY India Ltd along with their implementation partner, NIIT Foundation. A "Hole in the Wall" project was inaugurated by Mr. Simon Shimomura- CSR Head - SONY India Ltd at Asha's Seelampur centre on 16th May 2018. The Learning Stations are equipped with more than 500 digital texts books as well as games in English and Hindi, covering subjects like English, Maths, EVS, Social Science, General Science, Computer, Life Skills etc. **5**



## 07 Volunteer diaries



### Two weeks of warmth and kindness in Kanak Durga

**Evelyn Manning,  
Boston USA**

"I spent two weeks volunteering at the Asha centre in Ekta Vihar and Kanak Durga. The warmth of welcome and kindness shown was truly touching. I love the children of Ekta Vihar and of Kanak Durga. The experience of working with the kids was exhilarating and inspirational. They have truly left an imprint on my heart."

### Blessed to have had the opportunity to play a very small part in the larger Asha story

**Medical Elective Team,  
Ireland**

"Our team as we call it the "fantastic five - Ben Johnston, Daniel Nelson, Andrew, Gemma and Emma Johnston" had a wonderful experience here at Asha. Asha provided us with the opportunity to teach children from the Kalkaji slum. The Asha staff were so helpful. We met with Freddy Martin and it was incredible to hear about the bigger picture of all the work Asha is doing across Delhi. Seeing the work of the team has been a true inspiration. We were blessed to have had the opportunity to play a very small part in the larger Asha story. One of the members volunteered at Asha for the second time and is curious to volunteer again."



If you would like to volunteer at Asha, please contact [info@asha-india.org](mailto:info@asha-india.org)

## 08 Transforming lives

### Promoting Education

**AUD\$ 130** – One year of books for one child

**AUD\$ 200** – College preparation for 30 children

**AUD\$ 410** – One year of university tuition for one student

**AUD\$ 810** – One year of entire university expenses for one student

### Promoting Health

**AUD\$ 30** – Vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis for five children

**AUD\$ 80** – Basic health education for 1,000 people

**AUD\$ 130** – Vitamin A supplements to prevent night blindness for 60 children

**AUD\$ 210** – Recovery treatment for 10 TB patients

### Promoting Empowerment

**AUD\$ 22** – Training for 1 Community Health Volunteer

**AUD\$ 60** – Celebration of events and interactive activities

**AUD\$ 120** – Training workshops on infrastructure and environmental improvement

DEAR ALL,

WE AT ASHA ARE GOING GREEN. WE PLAN TO SEND E-COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER [HOPE] FROM OUR NEXT EDITION. KINDLY SHARE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES WITH US, SO THAT WE CAN KEEP YOU POSTED. Our email id – [info@asha-india.org](mailto:info@asha-india.org)

## Asha (Australia)

If you would like to contribute to the lives of poor slum dwellers in Delhi, then you can become a Friend of Asha. Asha (Australia) aids our activities through donations, fundraising events, volunteering opportunities and raising awareness of the work we do.

**For more information, contact:**  
**Mr Richard Leder, National Coordinator,**  
**Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited**  
**(AFOA)**

[info@australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au](mailto:info@australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au)

### Donations

Donations over AUD 2 to Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Overseas Development Gift and Relief Fund (ACN 161 085 650) are tax deductible.

**1. To donate online for tax deductibility,**  
Send your contribution directly to Asha by visiting our website at [asha-india.org/get-involved/donate/australia-donations](http://asha-india.org/get-involved/donate/australia-donations), or visit AFOA website at [www.australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au/donation/](http://www.australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au/donation/)

### 2. To donate by cheque:

Make your cheque payable to “Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited” and mail to:

Mr Richard Leder  
Australian Friends of Asha  
Australia India Institute  
The University of Melbourne, 147-149 Barry Street, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia.

### 3. To make a direct deposit

Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited  
Account No: 147 414 122 | Bank: Bendigo Bank  
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