



Sightsavers

Insight

How your support is making a difference | October 2019



When you lose one sense, other senses become more active. During the visit, I narrated stories behind the history of these iconic places to the kids. How far the sea goes to the horizon, as they smile brightly, feel the sand under their feet, probably for the first time, and the sound of waves lapping on the shore. This feeling is something which we cannot put into words. The visually challenged are often seen as separate citizens of the society. The message that we are trying to convey through this initiative is that of social acceptance and inclusion along with creating an environment that is supportive for the learning of children with any form of disability.

- Kabir Bedi, Honorary Brand Ambassador Sightsavers India

BREAKING BARRIERS WITH KABIR BEDI



Through the eyes of Kabir Bedi

It was at Juhu Beach where Kabir Bedi experienced the sea for the first time, and it is at this sandy stretch of Mumbai that he will introduce six visually impaired teenagers from various states of India to the Arabian Sea. As honorary brand ambassador of Sightsavers India, a global development organisation working in India to eliminate avoidable blindness since 1966, the veteran actor will support the Breaking Barriers - Bombay with Kabir Bedi initiative, where he will accompany the children to iconic locations in the

city and narrate the view to them. "When you lose one sense, other senses become more acute. I will be telling the partially and wholly blind kids how far the sea goes to the horizon, as they feel the sand under their feet, and the sound of waves lapping on the shore. The visually challenged are often seen as separate citizens of society. The theme we are pursuing is that of inclusion," Bedi told this diarist. Also on the itinerary are the Gateway of India and the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, where Bedi will share with the children the stories behind their construction.

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Sightsavers works in India towards social inclusion and inclusive education, along with their other initiatives. To support the initiative, Mr. Kabir Bedi, the Honorary Brand Ambassador of Sightsavers India took around six visually impaired teenager kids to iconic venues in Mumbai on 13th September 2019. They experienced the city through Kabir Bedi's voice and their understanding of what they make of the mighty sea and the historic structures.

The young bright visually impaired kids have already been breaking stereotypes by attending regular government schools with the support they receive under Sightsavers' Inclusive Education programme. Sightsavers along with its honorary brand ambassador and internationally acclaimed actor Kabir Bedi took a journey in the cosmopolitan city of Mumbai, by breaking barriers with blind children who've travelled from far-flung areas of India. The kids went to see the iconic Gateway of India with Mr. Bedi and also heard nuggets of history from him on the Taj Mahal Hotel and Gateway of India. Thereafter, they went to Xavier's Resource Center for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) to learn about technological innovations for the visually impaired. The kids really enjoyed using the devices meant for the visually impaired.

Sightsavers India has been Great Place to Work-Certified™. Great Place to Work® Institute certification is considered as the gold standard for defining great workplaces across business, academia and government organizations. It reflects a high-performance and high-trust culture within the organisation.



Sightsavers wishes you and your family a happy and prosperous Diwali. A heartfelt thank you and blessings from the many millions we have been able to serve with your support.



JUDO STAR OF INDIA



19-year-old Sarita is visually impaired and belongs to Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. In 2014, Sarita was given Braille and ICT Based training under Sightsavers' Inclusive Education Programme. She later participated in a Self- Defence Instructor Training organised by Sightsavers which would eventually transform her life.

In 2018, Sarita participated at the 6th National Blind and Deaf Judo Championship and she returned with the Bronze Medal. A year later, she won Silver Medal at the 7th National Blind Judo Championship.

Playing for India was a dream for Sarita since she started to learn Judo. This dream turned into reality when Sarita made everyone proud by winning Bronze Medal at the 2019 Commonwealth Judo Championship for Visually Impaired in Walsall West Midlands, England.

“ It's only after you've stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow and transform. ”

January - August 2019



32,18,875
Number of Eye Screenings



1,62,900
Sight Restoration Surgeries



3,03,024
Spectacles Distributed



13,48,459
Number of People Refracted

Sightsavers has launched a petition calling for disability rights to be upheld by the United Nations and its member states.

The petition is part of Sightsavers' **Equal World** campaign, which aims to ensure that one billion people with disabilities around the world can claim their rights and participate fully in society.

Find out more: <https://campaigning.sightsavers.org/>

EQUAL WORLD PETITION



I call on the government of India to make all public places fully accessible by 2025 (as requested in the national Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016).

In India since 1966, Sightsavers works to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for disabled people.

If you need further details, please contact Sightsavers at 45, 2nd floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase 3, New Delhi - 110020
Phone: +91 9871955533; Email: supportusindia@sightsavers.org, Visit: www.sightsaversindia.in, Toll Free at 1800 419 6250

Donation cheques should be in favour of 'Sightsavers'.

All donations to Sightsavers are eligible for 50% tax exemption under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act

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