



# PROJECT PRAKASH CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (Registration No. 1, 418)

## OUR VISION

**All lives lived to their full potential.**

## OUR MISSION

**Transforming the lives of individuals with various disabilities by providing treatments, helping their socio-economic and educational rehabilitation, and undertaking scientific research to understand causes and develop better therapies**

Project Prakash Charitable Trust (PPCT) was formed on August 8, 2018 by Dr. Pawan Sinha, an overseas citizen (OCI Card Holder) of India who is a professor in the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, MIT, USA, Dr. Tapan Kumar Gandhi, Associate Professor in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi and Dr. Purna Tewari, MD Pathology from Institute of Medical Studies-BHU. Presently, she is working as Senior Resident in Department of Pathology, AIIMS, Patna.

PPCT was created with the goal of addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, especially, those who are visually impaired. India is home to nearly a third of the planet's 1.3 million blind children. Most children stay untreated due to scant medical facilities and the belief that beyond the first few years, interventions are futile. This lack of treatment has devastating consequences. Over 90% of the affected children are unable to obtain an education and fewer than 50% survive to adulthood. More than 80% are unemployed as adults. For blind girls, the outlook is even direr. 75% of girls with disabilities suffer physical or sexual abuse. The reason for children's poor access to ophthalmic facilities is the profound imbalance in the latter's distribution. Most hospitals are located in India's major urban centers. Over 70% of the population, however, lives in remote villages, effectively cut off from modern medical care. Poverty, ignorance and lack of simple diagnostic tools in rural areas deprive children of the chance of early treatment. There is a clear humanitarian need for treatment and increasing awareness of childhood blindness.

## OBJECTS

- a) **To collaborate with appropriate organization or organizations for diagnosis and treatment of individuals with disabilities and/or socio-economic backwardness, and their socio-economic and educational rehabilitation.**
- b) **To undertake scientific research with the goal of understanding the prospects and process of recovery after extended disability, and translating this understanding to better therapies and public health policies.**
- c) **Build network and solidarity with individuals and organizations who work for the cause of alleviation of disabilities, their rehabilitation and promote and carry out scientific research to explore and understand the process of recovery.**
- d) **To assist and collaborate with any governmental or non-governmental organization in planning for treatment of disabilities, their socio-economic and educational rehabilitation and for research.**
- e) **To undertake research and other assignments in any aspect of disability treatment and rehabilitation.**
- f) **To undertake and implement projects or programs in prevention and treatment of disabilities, socio-economic and educational development of disabled individuals and associated research.**
- g) **To participate in and to foster co-operation with state, national and international institutions and associations with similar purpose and to represent nationally and internationally scientific / humanitarian work of the Trust.**

- h) To acquire property such as office premises, as well as other necessary equipment and infrastructure for the establishment and institutionalization of the Trust to work towards achieving its aims and objectives.
- i) To raise funds through various means to further the Trust's goals and objectives and to execute all those activities which shall promote all or any of the aims of the Trust.
- j) To utilize the income or property of the Trust towards the promotion and fulfillment of the objectives set forth in this DEED of TRUST.
- k) All the income earnings of the Trust, properties whether moveable or immovable shall be solely utilized for the promotion of the aims and objectives of the Trust as set forth in the memorandum of association and no profit thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividends, bonus profits or in any manner whatsoever to the present and past member of the trust or to any person claiming through any or more of the present or past members. No member of Trust shall have any personal claim on any moveable or immovable properties of the Trust or make any profit, whatsoever by virtue of his membership.

PPCT works towards spreading awareness and prevention of blindness, by organizing free eye screening camps and providing high quality medical care. Additionally, with the help of its committed and well-trained volunteers, PPCT identifies children with disabilities who lack access to educational facilities and links them to organizations/institutions that can address their unmet needs.



### Project-Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises

In the month of April, 2019 Project Prakash Charitable Trust initiated a Project- "Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises" in the district of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh (U.P.), India. The objective of this project was to establish two Prakash Vision Centres (PVCs) that could serve the basic eye care needs of people mainly residing in rural and semi-urban areas of Gorakhpur.

The provision of these services while being embedded in the communities, also presents opportunities from many perspectives, including facilitating research, epidemiological analyses, livelihood generation and, public health improvement. In the month of October, 2019 PPCT established two Prakash Vision Centres (PVCs) in Brahmpur and Pali blocks of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The inauguration ceremonies were held on 21st and 22nd October, 2019 respectively. These vision centres have been established under the auspices of the project "Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises" with support from the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University, and Harvard Global Research Support Centre in India. These Vision Centres are well-equipped with all the modern ophthalmic equipment and each vision centre has been staffed with a Receptionist/Attendant and a qualified Optometrist. The optometrists have undergone a one-month specialized training program at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH), New Delhi. The PVCs have designated space for optometric screening as well as a waiting area for patients and the attendants accompanying them and have also been provided with computer systems to collect and maintain patients' data in secure digital form.



## OUR TRUSTEES

### Dr. Tapan Kumar Gandhi, Chairman of Board of Trustees



Dr. Tapan Kumar Gandhi is currently working as Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Delhi, and is also a research affiliate of MIT, USA. He obtained his Ph.D. from IIT Delhi in Biomedical Engineering and conducted postdoctoral work at MIT. Dr. Gandhi was also an INSPIRE Faculty in the engineering & technology category of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. He has three patents and three technology transfers to Ministry of Social Justice, Govt. of India. He serves as expert member in various research committees of the Government of India as well as a reviewer for many journals like IEEE, Elsevier, and Springer etc. He is also the recipient of Platinum Jubilee YOUNG SCIENTIST Award 2015 by National Academy of Science in INDIA.

### Dr. Pawan Sinha, Vice-Chairman of Board of Trustees



Pawan Sinha is an overseas citizen of India. He is a tenured professor of vision and computational neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT. He received his undergraduate degree in computer science from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi and his Masters and doctoral degrees in Artificial Intelligence from the Department of Computer Science at MIT. Prof. Sinha's research interests span neuroscience, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and public health. Prof. Sinha founded Project Prakash in 2005 with the twin objectives of providing treatment to children with severe visual impairments and also understanding mechanisms of learning and plasticity in the brain. This project

has provided insights into several fundamental questions about brain function (even some that had remained open for the past three centuries) while also transforming the lives of many blind children by bringing them the gift of sight. Prof. Sinha is a recipient of the Pisart Vision Award from the Lighthouse Guild, the inaugural Asia Game Changers Award, the PECASE – US Government's highest award for young scientists, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship in Neuroscience, the John Merck Scholars Award for research on developmental disorders, the Jephtha and Emily Wade Award for creative research, the Troland Award from the National Academies, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Delhi, and the Oberdorfer Award from the ARVO Foundation. His laboratory's research has appeared in several leading scientific journals. Prof. Sinha has served on the program committees for prominent scientific conferences on object and face recognition and is currently a member of the editorial board of ACM's Journal of Applied Perception. Prof. Sinha was named a Global Indus Technovator, and was also inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the world's smallest reproduction of a printed book.

### Dr. Purna Tewari, Member of Board of Trustee



Dr. Purna Tewari is an MD Pathology from Institute of Medical Studies-BHU. Presently, she is working as Senior Resident in Department of Pathology, AIIMS, Patna. Her work has focused on the provision of medical care to the rural and financially weaker sections of Indian society. She is also working on incorporating cutting-edge AI technology for facilitating medical diagnosis.

### Ajay Kumar Chawariya, Executive Director



Ajay Kumar Chawariya has strategic implementation and operational responsibility for PPCT's programs and staff. He has over 10 years of experience in implementing and managing national and international projects in the field of education, health and disability. He has supported non-profits organizations for welfare administration and human resource management. Prior to joining Project Prakash Charitable Trust, Ajay worked with The Blind Relief Association, Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre, Dr. Reddy's Foundation, Public Health Resource Society, SEED CSR, and Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi. He has done Masters in Social Work (MSW), from Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi.

### LEGAL STATUS OF PROJECT PRAKASH CHARITABLE TRUST

- Non-Profit Organization registered with the sub-registrar's office (West District, New Delhi) under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (Registration No. 1,418).
- Registered Office: F-324, F/F, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018.
- Registered with Income Tax Department Govt. of India:
  - o Permanent Account Number (PAN): AADTP8340B
  - o Tax Deduction & Collection Account Number (TAN): DELP28998E
- Registered with Niti Aayog, Government of India, through NGO DARPAN: Unique ID: DL/2018/0210244.
- PPCT has also applied for the certification under 12A and 80G (for tax exemption).

### DONATIONS

For donations via online bank transfers – NEFT/RTGS

Bank Name	Axis Bank
Bank Branch	Daryaganj, Delhi
Bank Address	18, Netaji Subash Marg, Daryaganj, New Delhi – 110002
Account Name	Project Prakash Charitable Trust
Account Number	918020099019576 (Current Account)
IFSC Code:	UTIB0000279

For donations via cheque:

Please make cheques in favor of "Project Prakash Charitable Trust" and mail to the head office (address below).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

*Registered / Head Office:*

### Project Prakash Charitable Trust

F-324, F/F, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018

*Branch Office:*

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