

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASHA SCHOOL, JHANSI
FOR THE YR 2022-23

1. **Introduction.**

(a) **Background.** Asha Schools, a welfare initiative for special children of Army personnel were established under the aegis of AWWA in the year 1991. The schools have been mandated to provide education, care and rehabilitation to the wards of service personnel, ex-servicemen and civilians. Asha School, Jhansi was inaugurated on 04 Sep 1992 and has been functioning under the aegis of Army, since then. The School is registered with the State and Central Govt, National Trust (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

(b) **Vision.** Vision of the school is to ensure overall development of differently abled children with a view to make them self-reliant and contributing members of the society.

(c) **Curriculum.** The school provides special education, therapy, vocational training, sports, excursions and cultural activities, catering to specific needs of children as per their disabilities. The curriculum is based on the pattern promulgated by National Institute for Differently Abled Persons. In addition, day time meal and school bus facilities are also provided to the children. As on date, 28 students are enrolled in the school.

(d) **Disabilities Handled.** Following challenges/ disabilities are managed at the School: -

- (i) Intellectual Disability (ID).
- (ii) Cerebral Palsy (CP).
- (iii) Speech and Language Disabilities.
- (iv) Hearing Impairment (HI).
- (v) Learning Disability.
- (vi) Autism.
- (vii) Down Syndrome (DS).
- (viii) Visual Impaired (VI).

2. **Facilities.** Major facilities are listed out as follows:-

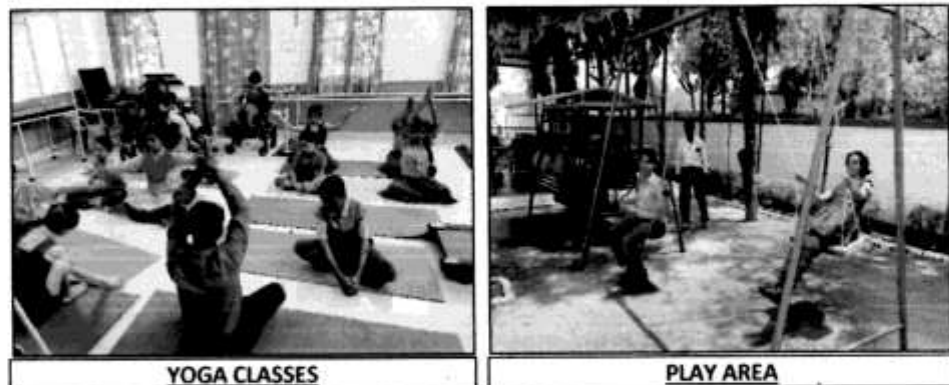
(a) **Special Education.** Special education is an essential component of the curriculum and aims at imparting basic conceptual, cognitive, communication and mathematical skills to help children achieve a degree of self-sufficiency. School has well equipped classrooms for the same.



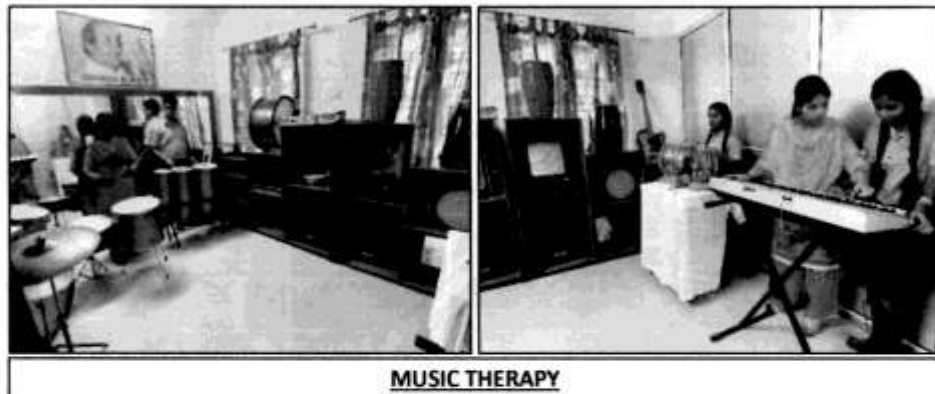
(b) **Physiotherapy.** Physiotherapy is administered to the children by qualified physiotherapists on a regular basis. The school has collaborated with Medical College, Jhansi wherein interns and therapists pay regular visits. A well equipped physiotherapy gym is available for the children.



(c) **Outdoor and Physical Training.** Yoga and outdoor sports activities are a part of daily curriculum to increase the strength, stamina and flexibility of students. It also provides great opportunity to administer group therapy sessions to the students.



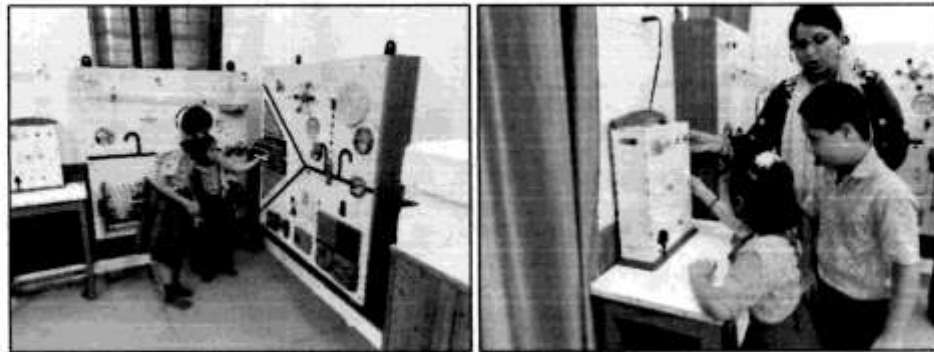
(d) **Music Therapy.** A well qualified music teacher imparts music training to the students as an essential part of their curriculum. Music and dance are utilised for recreational and therapeutic purposes.

**MUSIC THERAPY**

(e) **Vocational Training.** A well equipped VTC exists to impart vocational training to the students. Candle making, card making, paper bag making, soap making, sublimation printing and basic tailoring skills are taught to the children as part of vocational training.

**REFURBISHED VTC****CANDLE MAKING****SUBLIMATION PRINTING****MAKING DESIGNS FOR GIFT WRAPPING SHEETS**

(f) **Occupational cum Sensory Therapy.** A facility has recently been established to provide Occupational Therapy to the students. It includes a number of activities and equipment targeting specific sensory systems for individual students. It also includes multidevice occupational therapy table for small group sessions targeting fine motor activities.



SENSORY ROOM



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

(g) **Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Training.** A well equipped facility has been established to provide training in activities of daily living and personal skills. Various apparatus in the ADL room provide training on self care, that help students to become independent. It primarily caters to activities in the following areas :-

- (i) Bed time routine activities.
- (ii) Handling of various objects like taps and switch boards in the house.
- (iii) Brushing, dressing, grooming.
- (iv) Feeding, to include setting up and arranging table ware Taking care of personal items like hearing aids, glasses, orthotics etc.



BED MAKING

**FEEDING****DRESSING AND GROOMING**

(h) **Mock Sales Counter.** A mock sales counter equipped with bar code scanner, billing machine and inventory management software has been created in the VTC. It is being utilised to train students as sales counter assistants at retail outlets.

**MOCK SALES COUNTER**

(j) **Speech Therapy.** A well equipped speech therapy facility was established in the school last year. It has been upgraded to include advanced versions of 'Dr Speech' softwares. Computer tablets with preinstalled speech therapy apps, such as 'AWAZ' and 'Jellow' have been purchased and are being utilised for speech therapy as well as in day to day teaching.

**TABLETS AND PC WITH SPEECH THERAPY SOFTWARE**

(k) **Hydrotherapy.** The hydrotherapy facility setup in the school consists of a Hubbard tank, that allows body immersion. Apart from providing therapeutic exercises to children with locomotor disabilities it also provides rich sensory experience for children with autism and down syndrome.



(l) **Smart Class Room and Interaction Room.** School has a Smart Classroom equipped with interactive teaching aids to assist in their learning. In addition, there is an Interaction Room which is used for counseling/ interaction between parents and teachers. The facilities are being used for conduct of online workshops and interaction.



(m) **Day-time Meals.** School provides day time meals to the students. A well equipped kitchen and dinning hall exists.



3. **Initiatives for Self-Reliance.** Asha School continuously strives to usher students towards self-reliance. Key initiatives undertaken in this regard are highlighted below :-

(a) **Employment of Former Students.** Continuing with commitment of School of ushering students into self-reliance, Mr Jay Sen, a former student was appointed as Assistant at Vocational Training Centre in the School in the month of Jan 2020. Jay Sen, a hearing impaired has attained good vocational skills during his tenure as the student. He is working with enthusiasm in the new capacity. He has also been instrumental in helping to train other students in prevocational skills.

(b) **VTC Merchandise.** As part of Vocational Training, the students make variety of merchandise, which have received wide clientele and appreciation. The items are sold through Sabrang Shop at REWA Shopping Complex and are also placed at all guest rooms of the station. Efforts continue to increase the sales. Exclusive sale stalls of these items have been set on numerous occasions, like Women's and AWWA Day celebrations.



SOAP MAKING



CANDLE MAKING



MOCK SALES COUNTER



BASIC TAILORING



ASHA CARD MAKING



PAPER BAG MAKING

(c) **AWWA Mela.** Stall of Asha School products was established during recent AWWA Day Mela at Babina on 21 Aug 22. The products were very well subscribed by visitors.



STUDENTS MAKING PRODUCTS



AWWA MELA STALL

4. **Infrastructure Upgradations.** Upgradations of infrastructure and facilities remain at the core of our efforts and is a continuous process. Following recent endeavours undertaken are highlighted :-

(a) **Refurbishment of Classrooms.** Rewiring, repainting and replacement of windows of the classrooms was undertaken recently. Improved classrooms have enhanced the learning experience of the students. Refurbishment of the furniture has enhanced the aesthetics and comfort of students.



REFURBISHED CLASSROOMS WITH NEW FURNITURE

(b) **Reroofing.** Reroofing and false ceiling of the classrooms complex was carried out recently. A major project, it has enhanced the ease and comfort of students.



BEFORE



AFTER

(c) **Covered Assembly Area and Pathway.** Construction of covered daily assembly, activity area and provision of covered pathways have been recently completed.



ASSEMBLY AREA



PATHWAY

(d) **Solar Power Plant.** A 5 KW stand alone Solar Power Plant has been established in the school under CSR projects. The plant caters for electricity needs of the school and is a useful environmental initiative.



5 KW SOLAR POWER PLANT

5. **Achievements.** Students of Asha School, Jhansi have continuously strived to work hard. Their outstanding achievements in recent years are highlighted :-

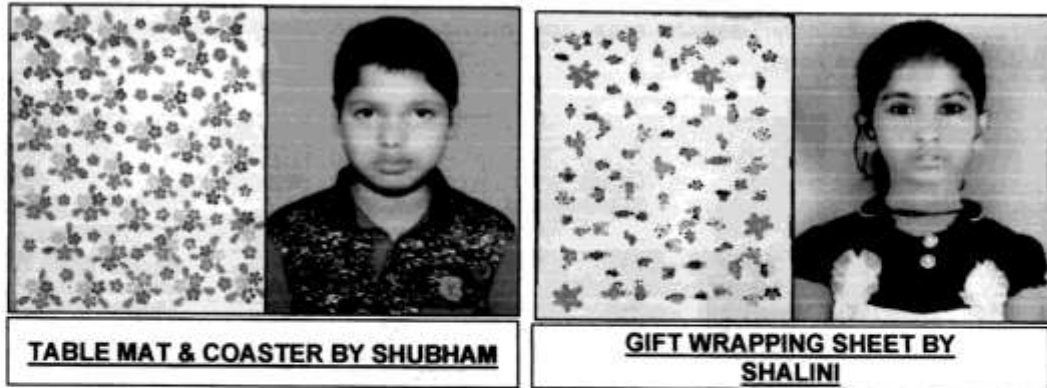
(a) **Asha Card Designs - 2021.** It was a matter of great pride for Asha School Jhansi, when the students made an almost clean sweep in the category of greeting card and gift wrapping sheet designs selected by AWWA. Four designs made by students of Asha School, Jhansi were selected.



**GIFT WRAPPING SHEET BY
ALIYA BANO**



PAPER BAG DESIGN BY MUSKAN



(b) **AWWA Award of Excellence by Central AWWA.** Master Aska Raj and Master Shubham Ojha were selected for award of Excellence by Central AWWA in the special children category in the years 2020 and 2021, respectively. They have shown great flair for drawing, painting and are doing exceptionally well in academics as well.



(c) **AWWA Award of Excellence by Southern Command.** In the year 2021, three young achievers of the School were given cash prizes and certificates by Southern Command for their brilliant performance.



(d) **Asha Cards - 2022.** It is a matter of great pride for the school, that the Asha Card designed and painted by Shubham Kumar Ojha has been selected by Central AWWA in the category of Asha greeting cards, for the year 2022.

**ASHA CARD DESIGN****MASTER SHUBHAM KUMAR OJHA**

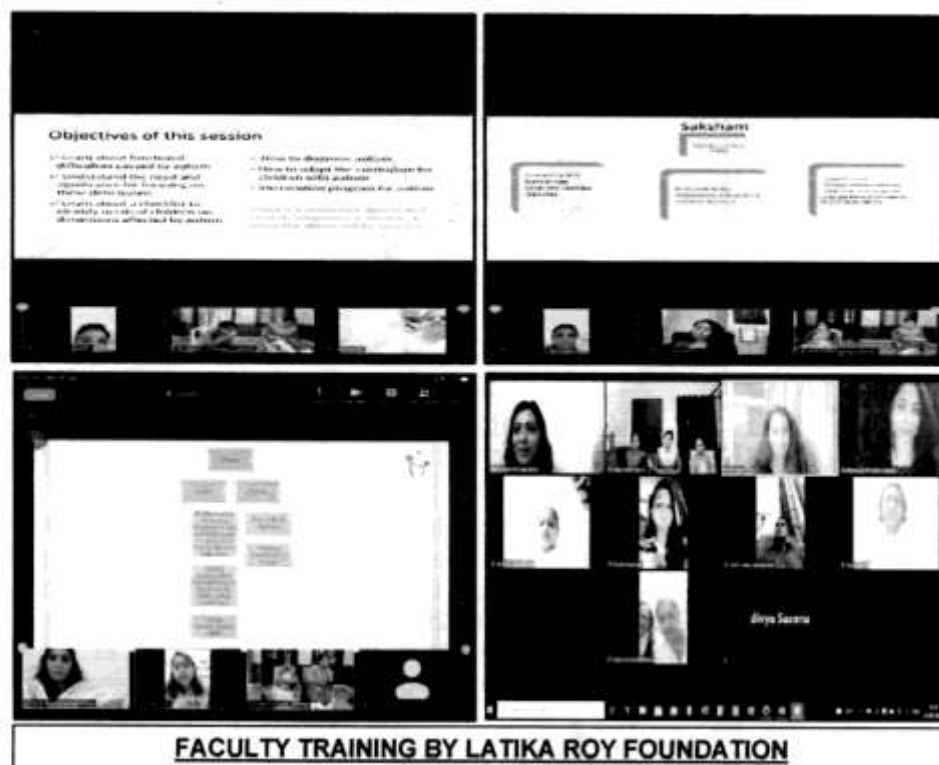
(e) **Felicitation.** The children and faculty of Asha School Jhansi have continued to work hard. To acknowledge the hard work of the students, Mrs Minnie Misra, Chairperson FWO, White Tiger Division, felicitated Miss Aditi Baghel and Miss Muskan on the occasion of AWWA Day 2022. Miss Aditi Baghel has shown special flare in poem recitation and her hard work has been exemplary in the past year. Miss Muskan, her card and Gift wrapping sheet designs were selected twice in a row in 2020 and 2021.

**FELICITATION BY MRS MINNIE MISRA, CHAIRPERSON FWO,
WHITE TIGER DIVISION**

6. **Miscellaneous Activities.**

(a) **Standardisation of Asha School Curriculum.** In the past one year, initiatives undertaken in this regard are highlighted below :-

(i) **Review of Functioning.** Review of functioning of Army Asha Schools was initiated by AWWA in collaboration with Latika Roy Foundation (LRF) in Jun 2021. The process started with a meeting chaired by Mrs Veena Naravane, President AWWA setting out the agenda. It was followed by online discussions with Principal, Therapist, Special Educators and Parents and submission of detailed compendium on functioning of the school. Thereafter, a six module faculty training programme was rolled out in the month of Jul 2021. Various schools were grouped into clusters, each headed by a lead school, which were directly trained by LRF, who in turn trained the faculties of other schools within the clusters. All modules were completed by December last year.



(ii) **Implementation.** Based on the review, guidelines to redesign the curriculum were suggested by LRF. Asha School Jhansi, proactively implemented the guidelines and remodeled the training curriculum.

(iii) **Training of Faculty on New Curriculum.** Over the past few months new teaching staff has been recruited in the school. In house lectures and interactive sessions were conducted for the teachers by Principal Asha School, to familiarise them with the new curriculum and Latika Roy Foundation (LRF) guidelines. In addition, two teachers attended training at FDR, Delhi in the month of May 2022.



(b) **Physical Workshop on Early Identification and Intervention for Developmental Disabilities.** A Workshop was conducted for Special Educators of Asha Schools at FDR, Delhi by National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disability (NIEPID) from 04 May to 06 May 22. The agenda of the meet was discussion about the Early Identification and Intervention for Developmental

Disabilities. The workshop was attended by two special educators of Asha School Jhansi, Mrs Akanksha Chaturvedi and Mr Ravi Prakash.



PHYSICAL WORKSHOP AT FDRC, DELHI

(c) **FDRC Workshop for Principals.** The workshop for training of Asha School Principals was conducted by FDRC in Delhi from 27 Jun to 01 Jul 22. The training was attended by Principal. The workshop mainly focused on implementation of the standardised curriculum according to LRF guidelines and building a roadmap to achieve the proposed objectives.



PRINCIPAL'S WORKSHOP AT FDRC, DELHI

(d) **Google Meet for Parents.** A webinar on 'Home Management in Physiotherapy' was conducted for parents of children studying in Asha School, Jhansi on 18 Nov 2022 by Mrs Kotteshwari. Speaker talked about how home physiotherapy can help in relieving pain & relaxing of muscles which enhances child mobility. Home physiotherapy is the most effective way to manage relief of pain from problems such as spasms and spasticity. 11 parents and teaching staff of school participated in this webinar.





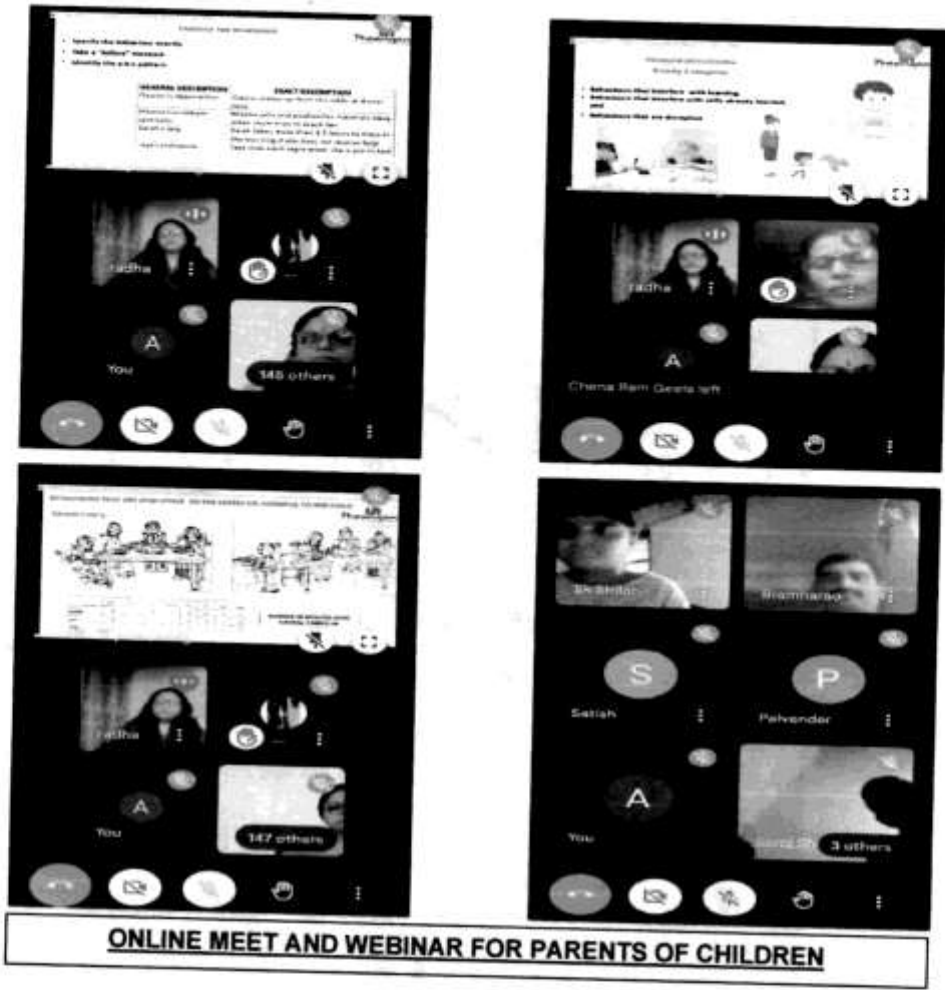
ONLINE MEET AND WEBINAR ON HOME MGT IN PHYSIOTHERAPY

(e) **Donation of Educational Items Under CSR Activity.** On 18 Nov 22, **Max Life Rakshak**, a subsidiary of Max Life Insurance Company distributed educational items to special students of Asha School, Jhansi. The support extended includes School bags and stationery for each student. Students and the complete staff of Asha School expressed their deepest gratitude to the insurance company.



DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL BAGS AND STATIONERY

(f) **Google Meet for Parents.** A Google Meet was conducted for parents of children studying in Asha School on 26 Nov 2022 by Mrs Radha Tandaon. Topic was '**Behaviour Issues in Children with Disability**'. Speaker talked about the behaviour issues among the children and how to deal it. Types of behaviour issues, emotions and motivation of a child were also discussed. 10 parents and teaching staff of school participated in this webinar.



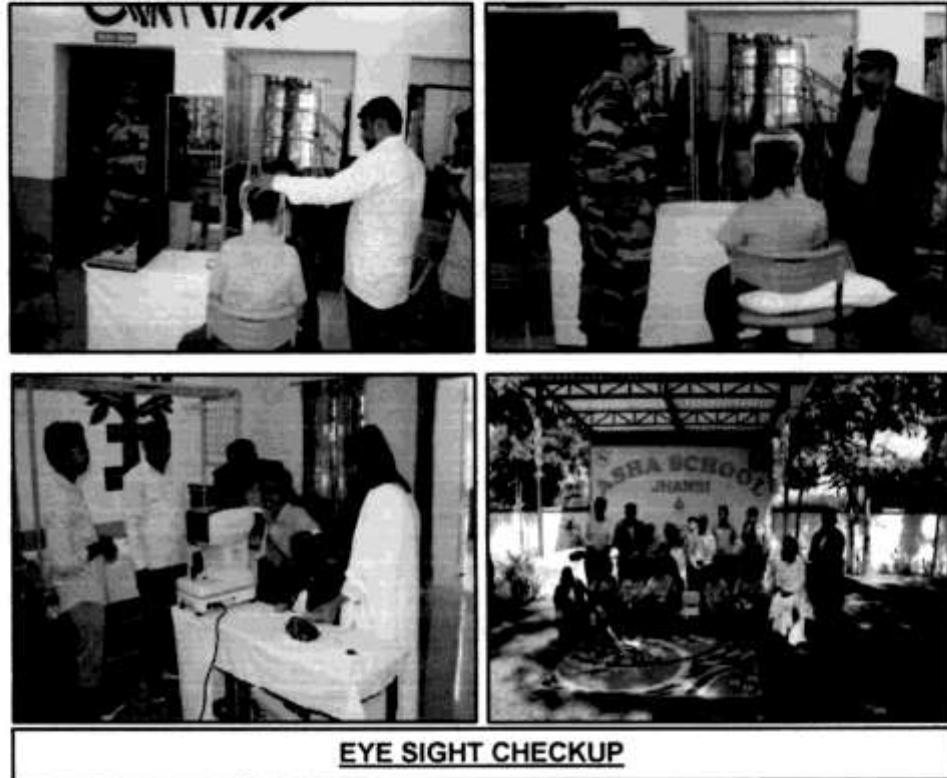
ONLINE MEET AND WEBINAR FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN

(g) **Medical Check-up.** Medical assessment is a key component and basis for preparation of the IEP. Same has been carried out recently by Medical Officer. Regular medical and dental check-up as a means to improve health of the students is also being ensured.



MEDICAL AND DENTAL CHECK-UP

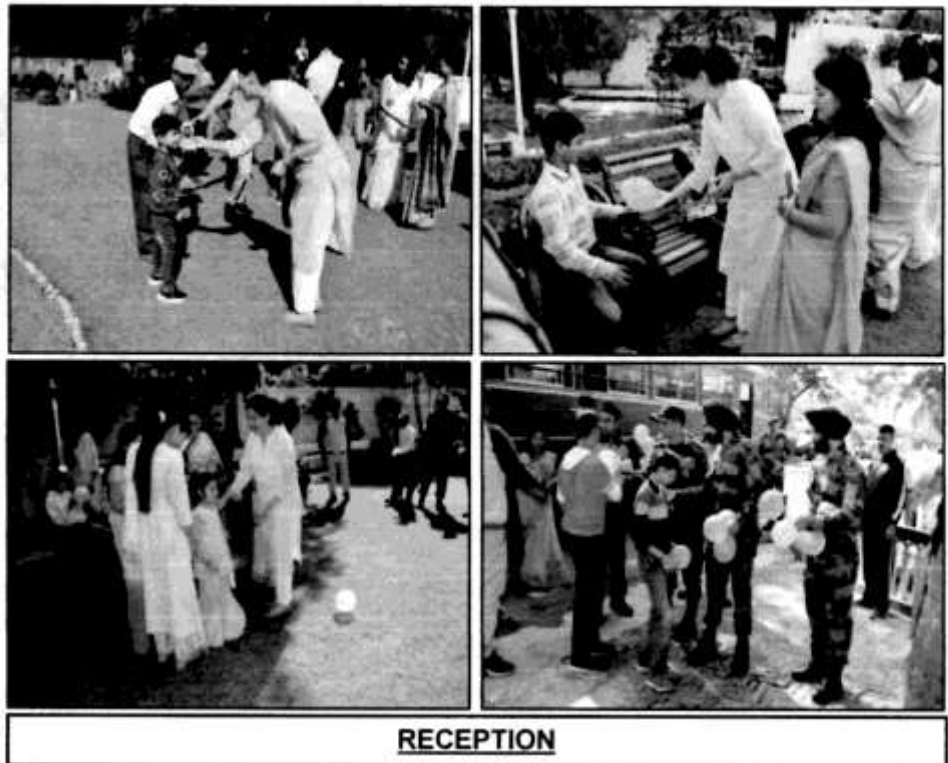
(h) **General Health & Eye Checkup.** Health of students has always been a priority at Asha School, Jhansi. With the aim to keep the students healthy, an eye checkup was organised at Asha school, Jhansi under the aegis of Regiment Maj JS Rathore, Regiment Medical Officer alongwith Mr. Sameer, owner of New Mirror Optician, Jhansi carried out eye sight test of the students. Beside eye test, Regiment Medical Officer discussed the current health status of each child in detail with the principal which was also shared with the parents of the children through teaching staff. A total of twenty-five students underwent this health & eye sight checkup.



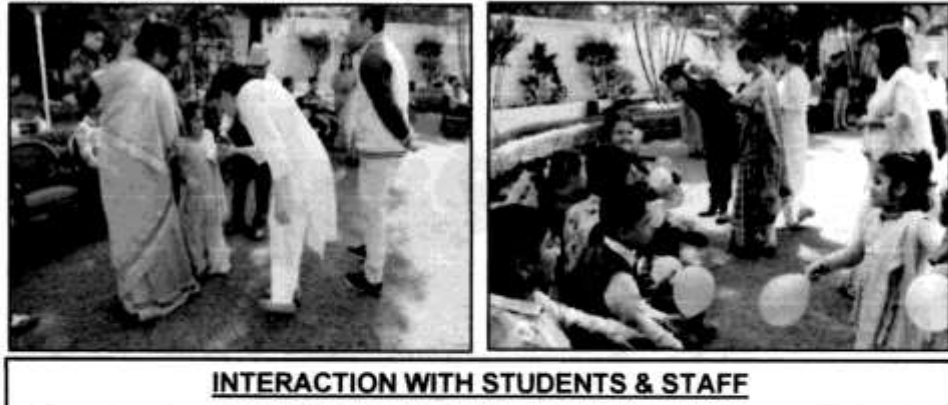
10. **Celebrations.** Celebrations are a part of co-curricular activities conducted in the school regularly. Recent activities are highlighted in the photographs below :-

(a) **Children's day Celebration at Sinhasan : 14 Nov 2022.** Every year on birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, Children's Day is celebrated. He had great love for children and was fond of spending his time with young kids. Children affectionately referred to him as Chacha Nehru. The children & complete staff of Asha School, Jhansi, were invited by General Officer Commanding at his residence to celebrate children's day. A str of 16 special children & nine staff including teachers participated in the celebrations enthusiastically. The sequence of events conducted were as under :-

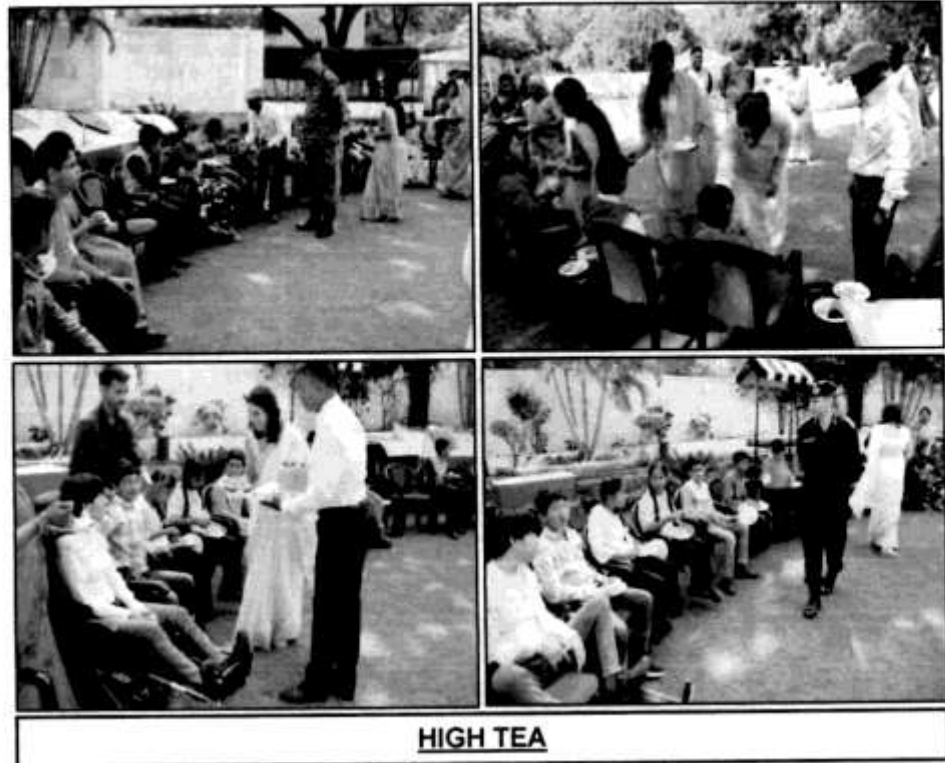
(i) **Reception.** Maj Gen DG Misra and Mrs Minnie Misra, Chairperson FWO received the students at Sinhasan.



(ii) **Interaction with Students & Staff.** General Officer Commanding and first lady interacted with the students and teachers. The importance of Children's day was highlighted to the students.



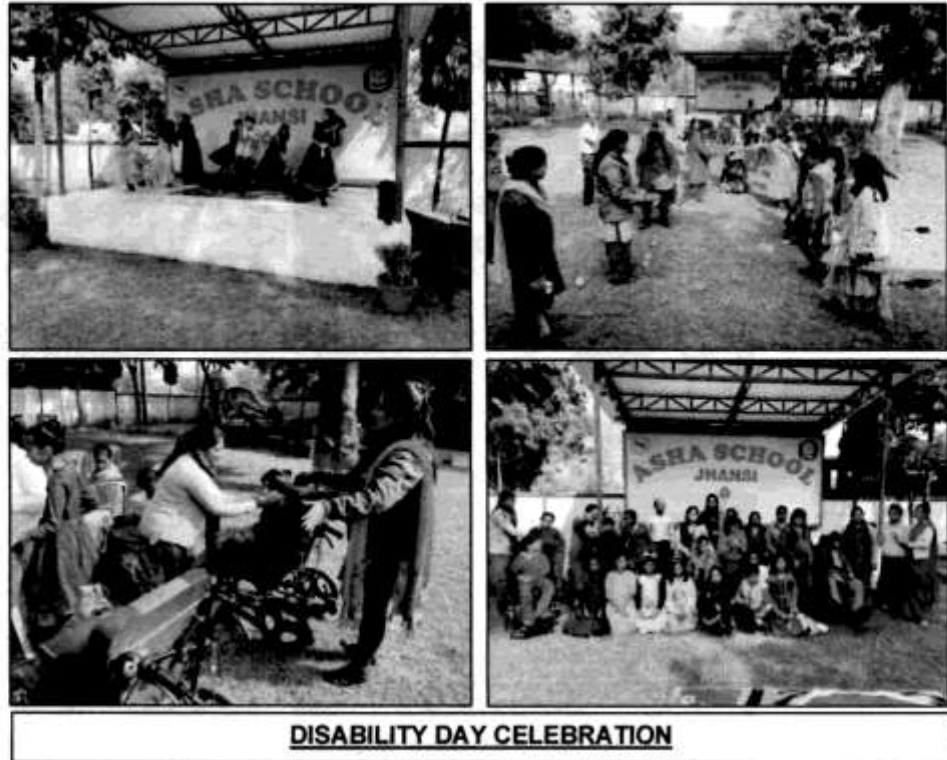
(iii) **High Tea.** A high tea was organised for the students and the teachers to felicitate them on this momentous occasion.

**HIGH TEA**

(b) **Birthday Celebration.** Birthday celebrations add fun to the everyday routine of children in school. The cake cutting and sweet distribution is much awaited by the students on such days.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

(c) **Disability Day Celebrations.** Disability day was celebrated on 02 Dec 2022 at Asha School, Jhansi. Theme for the international Day of people with Disability was "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality." A group of APS, Jhansi students also visited Asha School and celebrated the day with special children. They ate, danced and had fun together. In which events like games & various competitions were conducted for the children.



DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATION

(d) **Christmas Celebration.** Christmas Day was celebrated on 23 Dec 2022 at Asha School Jhansi. A Musical programme was presented by students followed by cake cutting and distribution of chocolates & balloons by Santa Claus. Students of Asha School enjoyed the programme.



CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION



BAISAKHI CELEBRATION



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



**RAKSHA BANDHAN
CELEBRATION**



JANAMASHTMI CELEBRATION



**INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION**



**GANESH CHATURTHI
CELEBRATION**

11. **Visits.** Various visits to the school during the past one year are as under :-

(a) **Chairperson FWO.** Mrs Minnie Misra, Chairperson FWO, visited and reviewed the functioning of the school on 09 Sep 2022. On the occasion, she inaugurated occupational therapy cum activities of Daily Living (ADL) facility and Mock Sales Counter in VTC for training of students as sales counter assistants.



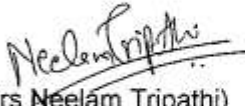
VISIT OF MRS MINNIE MISRA, CHAIRPERSON FWO

(b) **Visit of Mrs Chandni Shinghal, Zonal President AWWA.** Mrs Chandni Shinghal Zonal President Awwa, 21 Corps, visited Asha School, Jhansi on 27 Sep 22. She was briefed by Mrs Parul Dogra, Principal about the functioning and achievements of the school. She complimented the teachers and students for their achievements, despite difficulties faced due to COVID. She also felicitated the students who were selected for Southern Command and Central AWWA awards. Her inputs regarding the therapies and rehabilitation of students, especially after they leave school, have been very valuable.



VISIT OF MRS CHANDNI SHINGHAL ZONAL PRESIDENT AWWA

12. **Conclusion.** The management faculty and support staff of Asha School, Jhansi is working tirelessly with a definite vision to make the special children self-reliant and useful members of society. Consistent efforts in this direction have resulted in betterment of the students in a number of aspects and enriching their lives.


(Mrs Neelam Tripathi)
Principal
Asha School, Jhansi
