



Newsletter
February 2025

INDIA
Former Students of the
School for the Blind

*Dear Friends and
Supporters,*



At the 60th anniversary celebration of the School for the Blind in Cooch Behar, India, we met, among others, two of the school's former students, Jaideb Das Baishnab and Kalpana Pal. They had traveled all the way from Mumbai (Bombay) in the west, where they now live, to Cooch Behar in the east to attend the boarding school's anniversary. Jaideb was born totally blind, and his wife Kalpana is severely visually impaired. One of them comes from the neighboring state of Assam, and the other from a village near Cooch Behar. As soon as we met, they exclaimed with great gratitude:

*Without the School for the Blind
we would have been zero, nothing
at all!*

Jaideb had a talent for working with his hands, while Kalpana was more inclined toward intellectual pursuits. They fell in love, and after graduating, they asked the school administration for permission to marry, and the



school arranged the wedding. After further education, both secured jobs with Air India at the international airport in Mumbai. Jaideb worked with airplane seats, and Kalpana with finances. They have two children, a son and a daughter, both of whom are sighted. Their son, Rahul, plays football and, in 2010, as a 13-year-old, he went to Gothenburg to participate in the Gothia Cup. Now, 15 years later, football is still a major part of his life. Like her parents, their daughter is now employed at Air India. Jaideb has recently retired.

It is truly wonderful to hear how much the School for the Blind has meant to this family. They love their old school and visit it as often as they can. And they are just a few of the many students who have received basic education at the School for the Blind and had their lives transformed as a result. It is heartening that since 2010, SB Foundation has been able to provide the school with regular monthly financial support, a commitment unique to the foundation.

SB Foundation thanks everyone who supports the School for the Blind
via us on the board, *Arne, Elisabeth, Gloria, Lena, Roger*

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