



Raised Lines Foundation team at the Model School, NIEPVD, Dehradun

NEW HORIZONS

June 2025

Dear Readers, We have important news for you. The second quarter has been busy with several activities that will significantly impact the lives of visually impaired students. This quarter has encouraged us to push beyond and unlock projects that are new to us. We are delighted to share these milestones with you and look forward to your continued support.

RLF Wins HCLTech Grant to Make Education Inclusive

We're proud to share that **Raised Lines Foundation has been awarded the prestigious HCLTech Grant**, a major milestone in our mission to make education inclusive for visually impaired students.

Our winning proposal focuses on reaching 5,200+ students across 12 districts in 3 states with tactile STEM resources, training special educators, and setting up Resource Hubs for long-term impact. Selected from over 13,900 applicants, this ₹5 crore grant (spread over 4 years) marks our first-ever application—a win that strengthens our vision of inclusive and accessible education for all.

What's in this Newsletter:

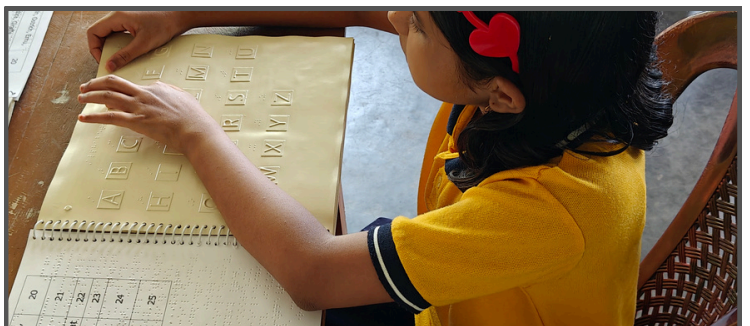
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Touch, Learn & Shine with Vision Aid

Name of School	No. of Books & Provided	No. of Students Trained	No. of Teachers Trained
Louis Braille Memorial School, Kolkata	276	60	10
Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Kolkata	504	107	31
Guwahati Blind School, Guwahati	221	49	8
Sreemanta Sankar Mission Blind School, Nagaon	209	46	14
Model School, NIEPVD, Dehradun	884	200	20
Total	2094	462	83

Under our ongoing collaboration with Vision Aid, the Touch, Learn and Shine program has reached 5 special schools for the blind across West Bengal, Assam, and Uttarakhand in last 3 months. So far, **we've distributed 2,094 tactile books and kits** and **trained 462 students** and **83 educators** at schools. This is a year-long project with a projection to reach and provide access to 18 special schools for the blind across India.

Teachers shared that tactile resources made abstract concepts easier to teach, while students expressed excitement at being able to explore subjects in a whole new way. A teacher from Guwahati Blind School said, "As a Math teacher, I've found the Geometry Kit to be incredibly beneficial for my students. With its support, **they can now understand and independently perform constructions, which simplifies my teaching and enhances their understanding of Mathematics.**"



Images of Training sessions from the schools covered in TLS Program

Training Educators on Inclusive STEM Education

As part of our long-term partnership, we participated in a **specialised training workshop conducted by Vision Empower on 22 & 23 May**, aimed at sensitising educators about the use of tactile resources. Educators participated from all across India and explored:

1. Hands-on use of tactile diagrams and STEM kits.
2. Inclusive teaching strategies for science and math.
3. Best practices to support Children with Visual Impairments (CwVIs).

This training marks a step forward in building a stronger, more inclusive ecosystem for visually impaired students.



A Visually Impaired (VI) teacher learning how to use DIY Tactile Graph Kit with the help of another teacher.



A Visually Impaired individual tracing a condensation diagram with another VI individual

RLF at Tactile Reading & Graphics Conference, Amsterdam

We're honoured that **Professor M. Balakrishnan**, Chairman of Raised Lines Foundation, **represented us at the Tactile Reading and Graphics Conference 2025 in Amsterdam**. He **showcased RLF's innovations around tactile learning and inclusive education** on a global stage. Reinforcing our commitment to developing impactful, accessible solutions for the visually impaired.

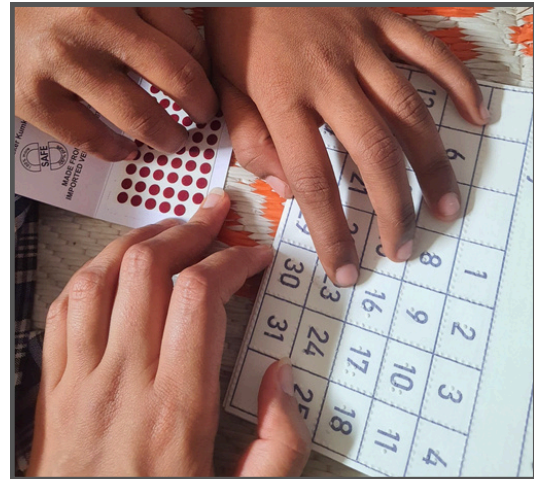


Empowering Girls With Accessible Menstrual Tracking

We also produced the **Menstrual Tracker**, a component of the **MHM (Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management) Kit**, which was created by NCAHT, IIT Delhi. The purpose of this kit is to provide hands-on training that equips adolescent girls with visual impairments with the knowledge and skills to manage menstruation independently. The calendar included in the kit is **designed to help girls learn how to track their menstrual cycle**. It has been used in training sessions conducted at the National Federation of the Blind, Maharashtra, and Jagriti School for the Blind in Alandi, Pune, on the 24th and 25th of April.



Inclusive and accessible menstrual tracker



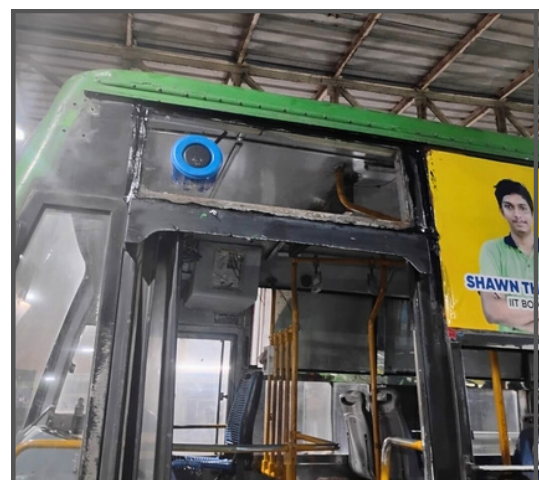
A student understanding the use case of a menstrual tracker and placing "Bindi" on the dates.

Onboard Project Progress

The Onboard project has entered a crucial implementation phase, with installation work progressing rapidly in both Mysore and Bangalore.

- **Mysore:** System has been installed in over 180 buses, 70+ buses currently live.
- **Bangalore:** Already reached 125 buses, of which over 100 are now operational.

Field trials in Mysore involve 4 user groups, each comprising a **visually impaired commuter and a sighted volunteer, testing the system in real-life conditions**. These trials have **led to over 150 independent boardings**, providing valuable insights. Trials in Bangalore are scheduled to commence shortly.

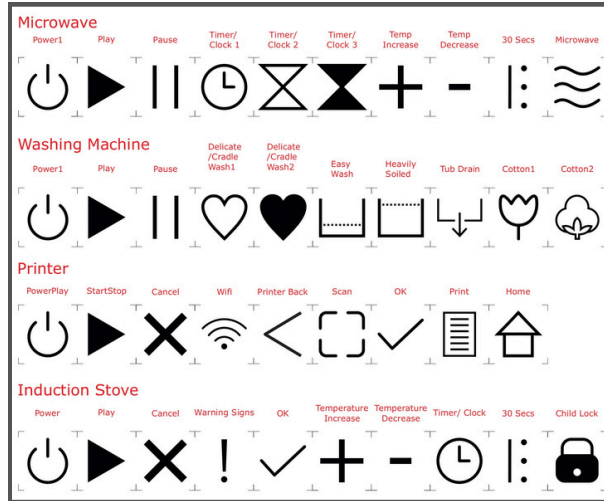


Accessible Signage & Icons for Visually Impaired Persons

We developed **12 tactile signages for key locations** like Entry, Exit, Floor Names, Room Names, etc at the NCAHT, IIT Delhi. We also **created 120 tactile icons for everyday appliances**—including Microwave, Washing Machine, Switchboard, Printer, Lift, and more—to promote independent living. All signage and icons were produced using **high-precision Roland printing technology**.



Accessible and Inclusive
Room Name Sign



Accessible and Inclusive Icons for different machines

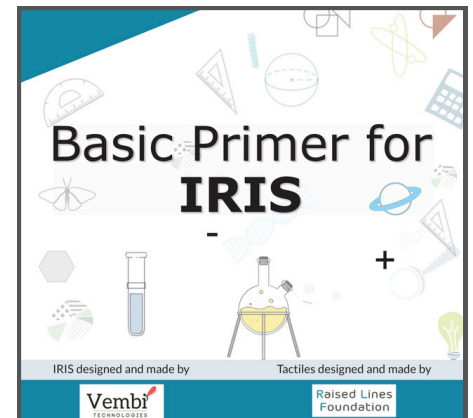


Accessible and Inclusive
Washroom Sign

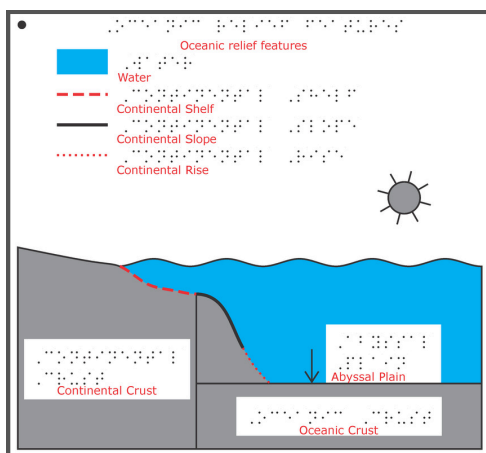
Basic Primer for IRIS

To support early tactile learning, we've developed a Basic Primer for IRIS, **an introductory book that teaches visually impaired students how to explore and interpret tactile diagrams**. Whether teachers, special educators, or parents, can use this guide to familiarise students with the conventions and types of tactile graphics.

The primer is further **supported by detailed audio descriptions in multiple Indian languages**, ensuring a multilingual, inclusive learning experience.



The Ocean's Wonders: A Tactile Adventure



We recently developed a visually immersive tactile book titled ***"The Ocean's Wonders"* for the Accessibility Research Centre (ARC), IIT Madras**.

The book has 13 tactile illustrations, including:

- World Map of Oceans
- Coral Polyp Anatomy
- Ocean Relief Features
- Deep-Sea Creatures
- Evolution of Coral Reefs

Raised Lines Foundation (RLF)

RLF is a not for profit startup from IIT Delhi with the sole mission of empowering persons with visual impairment and enabling them to pursue subjects and careers of their choice.

What we do - Support education and independent mobility

- Design & produce **tactile books** covering all children's books to curriculum books.
- Convert handwritten, printed & digital **documents into accessible formats**.
- Manufacture **teaching-learning aids** & **educational accessible games**.
- Conduct **teacher training & student training programs** on the use of tactile learning aids.
- Special focus on content related to **STEM education**
- **OnBoard** - independent bus boarding solution for the visually impaired.

Connect with Us

If you know any person with visual impairment, or an organisation or school who may benefit from our solutions

or

If you want to support persons with visual impairment,
please connect with us:

rlf@raisedlines.org, **+91-8929669336**

To know more about our work, please visit our website:

www.raisedlines.org

To donate for our cause

