

## **Where Sight fails, Might wields**

### **Commendable achievement by Shri Gopal Biswas, Telephone Operator, GAD of KoPT**

Shri Gopal Biswas was born with critical visual impairment in a poor family of West Bengal. However, unlike other mortals who would meekly submit to the vicissitudes of fate, Shri Biswas was of a person of different make. His mother's relentless efforts helped him secure admission in a blind school in 1978 at Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission from where he cleared his Madhyamik Examination in 1987, securing 66% marks, with letter marks in two subjects. Being exceptionally gifted and having ears tuned to the strains of music, Shri Biswas cleared the courses of Guitar, Mouth Organ and Flute while obtaining a Diploma in Junior Tabla in 1984. Recipient of various awards / prizes by dint of his participation in the events of 'Tabla' and 'Guitar' in the Block Yuva Utsav competition, Shri Biswas also had distinctive performances in rendition of the Mouth Organ and Tabla in such prestigious programmes as 'Radio Yubabani' and 'Galpa Dadur Ashar', organized by Akash Vani, Kolkata.





Shri Biswas joined KoPT's Marine Department in 1989 in the clerical cadre. However, constrained by visual impairment, Shri Biswas had considered it expedient to switch over his job for making himself more useful to the organisation. After successfully clearing the course of 'Telephone Operator' he was subsequently elevated to the post of 'Telephone Operator' in Administration Department of KoPT in 2000. Meanwhile, in 2003, he was selected for State Award by 'Child & Women Welfare Department' from the category of Physically Handicapped Persons. The pursuance of higher education had all along been a latent dream quietly nurtured by Shri Biswas. The opportunity presented itself in 2011 when, almost serendipitously, while undergoing a Computer Training Course at Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission, the prospects of pursuing higher education through IGNOU inspired him. Obtaining requisite approval from his department, Shri Biswas cracked the admission test of IGNOU in 2011 and with computer-aided technology, cleared the Bachelor of Arts exam with English as Major and secured 52.26%.

Shri Biswas has shown a rare ability of diligence and punctuality while discharging his official responsibilities, his radiant face always exuding charm, courtesy and an easy affability. He has not let his physical disability stymie his potential for attainment of higher professional excellence. KoPT salutes his spirit and stands beside him in his ongoing endeavours of enrichment.