



NABINDIA

Newsletter of the National Association for the Blind, India

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President

Prof. Bhaskar Y. Mehta

Honorary Secretary General

Satya Kumar Singh

Executive Director

Pallavi Kadam

Editor

Nicholas Robinson

Awards and Felicitations

Felicitations of Mr. J. L. Kaul

National Association for the Blind, India felicitated Mr. Jawahar Lal Kaul, Secretary General of All India Confederation of the Blind, New Delhi for completing 50 years of selfless services in the field of blind welfare. This function was held at NAB Head Quarters, Worli Seaface on Sunday, July 30, 2017 where Mr. Kaul was presented with Shawl, Shreefal, Citation and Shield.

Prof. Bhaskar Mehta, President, Mr. S. K. Singh, Honorary Secretary General, Mr. Hemant Takle, Hon. Treasurer and Office Bearers from Mumbai and outside Mumbai, Heads of the Departments of NAB, India were present for the function. Mrs. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director conducted the function. Also there were blind trainees, most of the office bearers were also present HOD's of NAB and employees of NAB. Prof. Mehta welcomed the guests and the audience. He mentioned about the good work being carried out by Mr. Kaul and especially he mentioned he has developed many programmes for the benefit of blind women. Mr. Singh also highlighted how he started AICB a national institution and how he raised donations for the institution. He has never taken any benefits from the institution and he is very simple man. He travels to his office by local Bus for 2 hrs and he is keener for the empowerment of visually challenged persons. Later he was felicitated by the office bearers of NAB India and gave a standing ovation.

Mr. Kaul gave very motivated speech and shared his 50 years of journey in this filed from his childhood till-to-date. It was very encouraging and Mr. Kaul promised us that his expertise can be used by NAB, India whenever required. He also mentioned about the book written by him where he has mentioned about his



Prof. Bhaskar Mehta, President, Shri S.K.Singh, Hon. Secretary General, and Shri P.K. Raut, Executive Council Member, Presenting citation.



Prof. Bhaskar Mehta- President, Shri S.K.Singh- Hon. Secretary General, Shri Hemant Takle- Treasurer, Shri Clarence Gomes- Vice President and Shri P. K. Raut- Executive Council Member, presenting shield

experience which is good to read to the youngsters. Mr. Athalekar gave vote of thanks. He mentioned and requested Mr. kaul to write an autobiography so that the same can be published in the 'Blind Welfare' and other magazines which would be very inspiring. He thanked all the office bearers and the trainees and staff who were present for the event.

NAB, India Departments

NAB Department of Rehabilitation

The 120th batch of Basic Rehabilitation commenced on 2nd January, 2017 with 34 trainees who hail from different parts of India and was in progress till 13th April, 2017.

13th Short Term Course for Teenagers from 17th April to 31st May, 2017:

This Course was conducted for the teenagers who were SSC/HSC appeared/passed. The course contents are similar to the ones on Basic Rehabilitation with thorough knowledge in orientation and mobility. They were also informed about the various concession facilities available to them, guided about the career courses they could opt for in future, etc. This will help them to take suitable decisions for their future. **They were also guided to overcome the problems that they face as a teenager.**

Lectures on important topics like Physiotherapy, Banking, Interview Skills, Safety Measures for Women, Vocational Skills, Entrepreneurship, Employment opportunities, Career Guidance for Self employment, Eye Exercises, etc. were conducted.

Educational and Entertainment Programs:

- A one day workshop on Sex education was conducted by Ms. Nidhi Goyal and her team for the benefit of the students on 28th April, 2017.
- 1 day Workshop on Personality Development by Mr. Rajesh Shukla & Mr. Rajesh Dayal on 11th May, 2017.
- A 2 day workshop on Making of instant items like Mango ice cream, bread kulfi, dhokla etc. by Ms. Krutika Chitre, Ex-trainee on 24th & 25th May, 2017.
- A Karaoke Musical program by Mr. Rajesh Chakradeo & Group on 29th May, 2017.
- A show was organised at Nehru Planetarium on Discovery of India, Galaxy etc. on 30th May, 2017 which kept the trainees thrilled and happy.

Passing out function of this Batch was held on 31st May, 2017. Dr. Ashok Dharia, Giants Group of Chowpatty was the Chief Guest and distributed the certificates & white canes. Ms. Amita Dharia and Ms. Priti Shah, were other dignitaries of the Club who were present on the day. They also donated MP3 players to the students. 36 students successfully completed the training.



121st Batch of Basic Rehabilitation Course from 7th June to 16th September, 2017:

Interviews were conducted for the 121st Batch of Basic Rehabilitation Course and the batch started on 7th June 2017 with 24 trainees.

On 8th June, a video of trainees performing various activities like yoga, physiotherapy, acupressure & massage which are conducted at NAB-DOR was taken by Doordarshan and Sahayadri Vahini channel. The same was telecasted on Saturday 10th June, 2017 at 7.30 AM.

- On 21st June, the trainees observed YOGA DAY along with the Yoga Instructor, Mr. Sachin Kamble at NAB DOR, on the occasion of International Yoga Day.
- Special practice sessions for yoga day by Mr. Sachin Kamble, Yoga Instructor and English Classes by Ms. Dipti Chandras on Thursdays/Fridays were other highlights of the course.

Physiotherapy:

Regular, practical, clinical practice etc. continued as per schedule. The final examination for the 2nd year students of Batch No. 21 (practical and theory) was conducted from 19th April to 4th May, 2017.

Thereafter, the students were placed for their Internship of 60 days at fixed hospitals.

The new course commenced on 5th June, 2017 with 12 students.

Results of the 2nd year students (Batch No. 20), who appeared in April, 2017 were declared. All the 4 students who appeared passed the examination and 3 out of them secured distinction. All the 3 students of the previous batch No. 19, who had reappeared, also passed the examination.



Acupressure & Massage Course:

A Regular practical and theory lectures were in progress.

Four therapists who were deputed to Omnicom Media group for an Event earned good income for their job.

NAB M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre

The **Talking Book Studios** recorded 95 new titles (English – 20, Hindi – 15, Marathi – 59 and Gujarati - 01). Among these were some popular general interest book titles like: “The Fault In Our Stars” by John Green, “The Famous Five” by Enid Blyton, “Twelve Red Herrings” and “This Was A Man” both by Jeffrey Archer in English; “Masiha The Prophet” by Khalil Gibran, “Looser Kahin Ka” by Pankaj Dubey, “Draupadi Ki Mahabharat” by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and “Sethji” by Shobha De in Hindi; “Bajar” by Mangala Godbole, “Mann Mein Hai Vishwas” by Vishwas Patil, “Ghas Ghei Panduranaga” by Ravindra Bhat and Michael Crichton’s book “State Of Fear” (translated by Dr. Pramod Joglekar) in Marathi.

Other recordings comprised academic books including English medium TYBA as well as books for Banking Examinations; Marathi medium SYBA, TYBA and Navneet Digests for Grade XII in English and Marathi, on members' request. An English book titled “Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016” and seven issues of a Marathi magazine titled 'Bolke Pakshik' were also recorded.

The **Talking Book Library** dispatched by post 4,762 CDs to members and dealt with 1,824 members who visited in person to exchange CDs or get audio books loaded on their mobile phones, MP3 players, I-pods and pen drives. The Library currently has on its shelves 4,946 titles (2,605 - Marathi, 811 - Hindi, 871 - English, 531 - Gujarati and 128 in other languages), which are available for circulation in digital format. The Library membership stood at 2,474 (2,334 individuals and 140 institutions).

NAB Department of Employment

Veer Campaign Graduation Ceremony –The Department regularly organizes Veer Campaign Graduation Training in which Blind Trainees are imparted Pre-employment training, Competitive exam training and On-job training.

VEER 2 Graduation Ceremony was organized for 44 Visually Challenged Candidates by American India Foundation (AIF) on March 23, 2017.

Mr. Manish Kumar, Program Manager–Livelihoods and Ms. Rajvinder Kaur, Programme Associate from AIF were the Guests for the function. The representatives from Veenus Consultancy Services, Ratan Tata Trust and Prayas Gym who have appointed Visually Challenged Persons in their concerns through our Department also attended the function. Mr. A.S. Athalekar and Mrs. Swati Thakurdesai, Hon. Secretaries, NAB, India were also present for the function.



NAB Client Service Department

1. **Self employment to the VI through Sewing machine:** By the courtesy of Lions club of Bombay J. J. Crescent the Department was able to provide a Sewing machine for self employment of a Visually Challenged woman.
2. **Financial Assistance to VI persons:** The Department organized a program on 3rd March, 2017 to provide financial assistance of Rs.1000/- each to 150 visually challenged Hawkers.

The Financial Assistance in the form of coupon was distributed by Prof. Bhaskar Y. Mehta- President, Mr. C.A. Gomes- Vice President, Mr. Satya Kumar Singh- Hon. Sec. General, Mr. A. S. Athalekar & Dr. Vimal Kumar Dengla- Hon. Secretaries, Mr. Vijay Kajrolkar- Trustee & Mrs. Pallavi Kadam- Executive Director, NAB (I).

Similar program was conducted on 4th June, 2017 to provide assistance to 50 Visually Challenged Hawkers.

3. During the period the Department identified 29 new cases from slum, rural and urban Area.



Financial Assistance coupon distribution on 3rd March, 2017, beneficiary receiving assistance from Prof. Bhaskar Mehta, President, NAB (India) **Financial Assistance coupon distribution on 3rd March, 2017, beneficiary receiving assistance from Mr. S. K. Singh, Hon. Secretary General, NAB (India)**

NAB Department of Education

Educational-cum-Recreational Tour to Mount Abu and Ahmedabad

NAB Department of Education organized an educational-cum-recreational tour of visually impaired children studying in Mumbai Integrated Education Programme to Mount Abu from 14-18, April 2017 and Ahmedabad from 18-20, April 2017. 51 V.I. children and 13 V.I. teachers of Mumbai I. E. programme participated in this tour. Dr. Vimal Kumar Dengla, Hon. Secretary, NAB (I) and Principal of NAB Phiroz & Noshir Merwanji Vocational Training Centre for the Visually Handicapped, Mount Abu had made all the arrangements for accommodation, bus for sightseeing, meals and others while on tour in Mount Abu. Blind Persons' Association, Ahmedabad had made similar arrangements at very concessional rates while on tour in Ahmedabad.

Places visited in and around Mount Abu included Arbuda Devi Temple, Nakki Lake, Gurushikhar, Dilwada Temple etc. The places visited in Ahmedabad are BPA campus, Kankaria Lake, Akshardham, Ambaji Temple, Sabarmati Ashram, etc.

The children unanimously chose that their most memorable experiences were the visits to:

1. Gurushikhar and Dilwada Temple in Mount Abu
2. Akshardham and Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad

The total expenditure for the tour was around Rs.1,56,232/, which was entirely met through earmarked donations and contributions from participants putting no financial liability on NAB, India.



Student experiencing the glyptic



On the Way to Gurushikhar



Para-professional Training Course

The Department conducted Para-professional training course at NAB Worli Seaface during May 2-31, 2017. There were 11 (one male and 10 female) participants comprising 4 parents of V. I. children, 3 special teachers and 4 volunteers. The content as usual included all theoretical and practical aspects relating to education of V. I., L.V. and MDVI children, interviews of eminent blind persons and visits to NAB Departments and other blind welfare organizations.

Functional Training Course on Education of V. I. children for In-services Un-trained Itinerant Teachers of I. E. programmes supported by NAB (I).

The Department conducted one month Functional Training Course on Education of V. I. children during May 2 to June 3, 2017 at NAB Worli Seaface for in-service /newly recruited un-trained itinerant teachers of I. E. programmes supported by the Department in different parts of the country. Altogether there were 17 participants (13 male and 4 female) from 6 implementing agencies from 4 States including 3 local participants from Mumbai. The course content included lectures on various aspects of education of V. I., L.V. and MDVI children, practical training in Braille, O & M, use of special devices, material preparation etc. and visits to different Departments of NAB (I) including home visits to Mumbai I. E. programme. Two weekly tests comprising both theory and practical were conducted on Saturdays and Sundays. The final exam comprising 40 marks each of theory and practical were conducted at the end of the course. 16 Resource persons (mostly NAB officials) were the faculties in conducting this course.

Workshop for Teachers of MDVI on Preparation of Low Cost Assistive Devices for MDVIC

Mrs. Kashmira Medhekar, Physiotherapist from U.K. conducted a four day Workshop on preparation of low cost assistive devices for MDVI children for teachers of MDVI programme supported by NAB, India during May 26-29, 2017 between 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m at NAB Worli Seaface, Mumbai. The workshop was conducted from. In all 9 teachers (4 from Mumbai MDVIC, one each from NAB Odisha State Branch, SEWA, Nayagarh, R.B.R, Viklang Sewa Samiti, Varanasi and Lucknow) participated in the course. The theme of the workshop was to prepare low cost materials such as chairs for CP children, standing Frame, corner Chair, standing and sitting board, various basic shapes etc. by using carton boxes and papers. She taught the teachers how to make it and while preparing the same how to take measurements, viz. length and height of the seat, top, back, flat surface, etc. Teachers enjoyed the workshop.



Educators learning to prepare chairs, standing frames

Training Course for enhancing skills of Maths of Teachers in Math and Science

The Department is conducted a training course for enhancing skills in Maths and Science for in-service itinerant teachers from the State of U.P. at NAB Worli Seaface during May 29-June 9, 2017. In all 15 teachers from 3 implementing agencies participated in the course.

Felicitation for V.I. students of Mumbai I. E. programme who successfully passed SSC in 2017

39 visually impaired children of Mumbai I. E. Programme comprising 22 boys and 17 girls appeared for the SSC examinations held in March 2017 and passed successfully. These included 24 youngsters who had discontinued their education due to onset of blindness or ill-health and appeared for SSC as private candidates by filling up Form No.17.

Yagnik Vadhel, a totally blind boy from Yashodhan High School, Goregaon (East) secured 93.8% marks was the topper in SSC Board Exam. He was followed by Miss Simram Joshi with 86% and Daksh Dave with 83.2%. Mayank Savaria appeared as private candidate (Form No. 17) and secured 83.8%. Two students Miss Kavya Hari secured 94.2% and Suyog Savale secured 84% from CBSE Board. Master Gaurav Singh, a deaf-blind boy also secured 65% marks in SSC Board exam. Altogether there were 11 distinctions and 19 children obtained a first class.

NAB Department of Education felicitated all the above students in a special function held on June 22, 2017 at 11.15 a.m. at NAB Worli Seaface. Mrs. Vijaya Vad, Marathi Writer and Ex-principal of Udaynchal High School, Vikhroli and Mrs. Manali Dixit, News Reader of Mumbai Doordarshan presided over the function. As last year Mrs. Vinita Parikh, a well-wisher, sponsored snacks and tea for the students.



The beneficiary with the sewing machine.



The beneficiary with the sewing machine.

Beyond Mumbai

NAB Lions Home for the Aging Blind

A new initiative has been taken by the NAB Lions Home for the Aging Blind. The centre has started a project of Vermi-Compost with the assistance from the Somaiya College, Mumbai. The side effects on the fertility of the land for using artificial fertilizers have been proved. The world has since been reverting to the natural forming. Considering the advantage of location of the Lions Home for the Aging Blind the project would prove very useful and profitable in the due course of time.

Other Activities apart from regular training and manufacturing:

On 1st April, 2017, Bhajan group of the Home performed Bhajan program at the Bunglow of Mr. Mukundshet on Old Khandala, Road, Khandala.

On 9.5.2017, Music group performed Music program at Kapol Sanatorium, Lonavla.

On 20.5.2017, Residents participated in Bhajan program at Thombrewadi, Lonavla.

All residents visited to Durga Temple, at Karla, on 4.6.2017, for Darshan & Special Lunch.

On 13th & 20th June, 2017, residents performed singing program, at Kapol, Lonavla.

On 28.6.2017, all residents visited Prakash Ashram, Lonavla, for Satsang & Special Lunch.



NAB Centre for Blind Women

1. Around 19 were supported in getting admission in the first year of graduation in various Delhi University affiliated colleges.
2. Around 8 Intensive Career counseling workshops were conducted to orient these girls about available courses of study, their future scope, facilities for VI at Delhi University in order to equip them to make smart choices for the subjects to be studied.
3. 15 were helped to get disability certificates from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi

New Initiatives:

A new extension Centre has been started in East Delhi, in collaboration with an organization named NBYA to train VI boys in garment manufacturing for future placement in the industries in their premises from June 21, 2017.

Training workshops for self-employment:

1. Workshop on Detergent Making from 14th to 18th March, 2017
2. Workshop on Soap making from 27th March to 2nd April 2017
3. Workshop on Gulal making through Flower petals in June 2017

Employments and Internships:

1. Muzzamil Husain a VI trainee trained in Garments packaging has completed his month long internship at Pee Empro Faridabad in the cutting & layering department and was employed from March 2017.
2. Munna an intern from the Centre has been employed in the garment export house that he was interning with. Due to his good performance and positive work attitude he was employed with Pee Empro in May 2017.

State Branches

Goa State Branch

WORKSHOP ON POTTERY AND PAPER CRAFT:

On 7th April 2017, the children were taught the art of pottery and paper craft. They made different items out of clay and paper.



SPORTS AND SWIMMING CAMP

On 11th April 2017, Festive Camp for the Blind was conducted by Special Olympics Bharat in Collaboration with the National Association for the Blind, Goa state Branch. It was conducted at Santa Cruz Sports ground by Special Olympics Bharat headed by Mr. Victor Vaz on 11th April 2017 from 8.30 am onwards. The children were taken to shallow pool, where the lady instructors showed them how to walk in the water and to bubble under water. The experience was great. All the children enjoyed a lot. Many of them learnt the techniques very fast.



Run for the Blind:

NAB and Sussegado Runners had organised a beach run for the Visually Impaired children on 9th April 2017 on Miramar Beach at 6.30 a.m. This run had been supported by Panaji Connect, Pai Kane Group and ACES.

Picnic:

On 8th April 2017, the children were taken for a picnic at O Pascador Hotel, Dona Paula.

Heal Your Life Workshop:

On 10th April 2017 a one day workshop was organised by Mr. Angad Singh on "Heal your Life" which was conducted by Shilpa & Geeta. The children enjoyed all the activities which were conducted by them.

Kerala State Branch

Music Therapy for Visually Challenged Persons

The branch provides special training to the Visually Challenged Persons through Music Therapy.

We have talented singers among our trainees. We started regular music class for such persons with the leadership of competent music teacher Ms. Mary Sonia. Music has proved to have much therapeutic value particularly to those who suffer various disabilities. Persons attending the music class are seen to be more relaxed while taking part in the program and their confidence level advances when they get trained properly. There is the added advantage that a professional music troop is being developed and they can perform before various audiences.

The usual activities and meetings were continued during the first three months of the year 2017-18. With the financial support of Rs. 6,91,000/- recently received from HARISH & BINA SHAH FOUNDATION we could initiate some new projects for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons, particularly the Visually Challenged, in the Training & Rehabilitation Centre at NAB Kerala H.O. at Thiruvananthapuram are Audio Recording and Editing Course, Lotion and Cleaning Materials, Furniture repairing works, Envelope making, Cotton Carry Bags, Curtains and Pillow Covers Making and Music Therapy Voice of NAB Kerala



Adv. Nandu Venu & Mr. G. Saju is giving guidance in Recording Making Paper Envelopes



Ms. Lekshmi Giridhar, Mr. G. Saju and Ms. Annie Joseph leading the Troop Music Therapy the Voice of NAB Kerala

Jammu & Kashmir State Branch

Skill Development Camp

3rd skill development camp was organized by NAB J&K at State office, near BSNL Exchange, Pattan, Baramulla, J&K, from 06th to 12th August 2017. 45 visually impaired (VI) Children in the age group of 8-16 years attended this camp.

Besides various daily living skills the children were also taught to identify various shapes, using Taylor Frame and Abacus for arithmetic operations etc.

During the camp a rally was conducted on 10th August at Srinagar to create social awareness about the abilities of Visually Impaired. The rally reached the press colony in Srinagar where our Visually Impaired Children interacted with the reporters and journalists of Srinagar Times, Tamil-e-Irshad, GK etc. and shared their views. This event was published in all the Newspapers of Jammu & Kashmir, Radio and TV channels like ETV- Urdu, Gulistan and others.

On 11th August the children were taken for a visit various local places, social institutes and market places like Railway Station, Banks Police Stations, Court, Dairy Form, Poultry form and Shopping mall.

On 12th of August the children were taken for a trip to Gulmarg, Baba Reshi and Tangmerg. The children enjoyed the trip and were singing songs and danced during the trip. A few children gave speech in different topics related to their education and other activities.



Reports for December Issue

NAB, India Departments

NAB Department of Rehabilitation

121st BATCH OF BASIC REHABILITATION COURSE

The 121st Batch of 3 1/2 months course in Basic Rehabilitation Course commenced on 7th June, 2017 with 24 trainees from all over India and continued till 15th September, 2017.

HEALTH & ENTERTAINMENT

A 3 days program on Art of living, a dental camp by Ms. Tejal Rajgor & Group of Doctors at NAB DOR and a Dental camp at NAB HEAD OFFICE were the health oriented programs conducted during this period.

Trainees celebrated festivals like Raksha Bandhan, Independence day, Dahi handi and a Ganesh puja with great enthusiasm at NAB DOR. They also got an opportunity to attend an Orchestra program at Damodar Hall.

On 13th September 2017 the trainees were taken for an outing to Great Escape Water Park, Virar, Mumbai.

On 15th September, 2017 the Valedictory function of the batch was held. SHRI RAJEN DESAI, PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY SEAFACE CHARITIES TRUST was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Other dignitaries of the Club and officials of NAB were also present. Certificates to trainees, prizes for winners of various competitions, M.N. Chhatrapati award to overall best performers of the batch, white canes, gifts etc. were distributed during the function. The magazine in Braille – NANDADEEP was also released. 18 out of 24 successfully completed the course.

Other Activities:

On 3rd July, 2017 - Mr. Sudesh Bandekar, visually challenged person, visited and interacted with the trainees to gain their views, regarding a survey on BrailleMe Device which is an E-Braille being explored by M/s. INNOVISION TECH.

On 12th July, 2017 a Dark Room project and practice for the visitors from Ingram Micro India Pvt. Ltd. was arranged at Head Office.

Ms. Pradnya Upadhye, Director & HOD and Ms. Bharati Shah, Communication Skills Instructor/Teacher, visited Delhi to attend the "Consultation Meet on Safety And Security of Women in Public Places" organized by NIPCCD, New Delhi from 28th to 29th August, 2017.

1 1/2 MONTHS SHORT TERM COURSE ON VOCATIONAL TRADE:

New Vocational Trade batch commenced on 19th September 2017 with 16 trainees.

The trades taught included – making of fancy and gel candles, jewellery, paper bags, chocolates, popcorn, assembly of electric items, etc. A two days workshop on making of Dhokla & fast food items by Ms. Kritika Chitre and making of jams, juices, etc. by Mr. B. N. Khatri, nutrition specialist was also organized.

Trainees also celebrated major festivals like Dassera and Diwali. They also attended the MATA KI CHOWKI program at Blue Sea Hotel organized by Varuna Jani.

Various service oriented clubs like Lions, Lioness, Rotary Clubs etc. observed October Service Week by donating items needed at the Centre like White canes, Special lunch, etc.



Assembly of electric gadgets, Making of fancy candles Vocational Trade

Commemorating the World White Cane Day, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Kandivli West, conducted a small function on 7th Saturday, 2017 at NAB DOR and handed over few White canes in kind and cash.

On October 10, 2017, the products of our trainees were exhibited at Trident Hotel, Bandra. This helped the trainees to have an idea on the marketing and sale of products made by them. Lecture on Marketing Skills by Mr. Ajinkya Potdar, an expert in the field was organized

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

WORLD WHITE CANE DAY:

The World White Cane day was observed on 16th October 2017 (as 15th October was a Sunday) at select traffic junctions as per the details shown below:

The first program was flagged off by SHRI ASHISH VAIDYA, Regional Corporate Affairs Manager South & West, Amway India at Worli Seaface, Near Head Office at 10.30 am. Other officials from AMWAY, Shri Jignesh Mehta, Shri Tushar Mahajan and officials from NAB (I) like Ms. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director, and HODs - Ms. Pradnya Upadhye, Ms. Archana Joshi, Mr. N. Robinson and staff of the Departments were present. White canes were distributed by officials of AMWAY. A short awareness program, with crossing of roads by the officials and visually challenged persons of NAB, India was conducted. A representative from Doordarshan was present to cover the event.

Thereafter, the team of NAB officials from NAB – Department of Rehabilitation, Mahalaxmi proceeded to the site Near Elphinstone Station Junction, India Bulls at 11.30 a.m. After the initial awareness program, the event continued with tips on helping the blind persons while crossing the roads, was demonstrated along with the officials.

The culminating program was conducted Near Regal Cinema, Mumbai at 12.30 p.m. where a group of officials from Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai headed by Ms. Annissa Rodrigues and other important dignitaries joined the officials from NAB (I). The program was flagged off and similar awareness program was conducted there with visually challenged persons crossing the roads along with officials from Taj Mahal Palace and NAB (I).

The T-shirts, caps and other accessories were donated by AMWAY and snacks by TAJ GROUP.

PHYSIOTHERAPY & ACUPRESSURE and MASSAGE COURSES:

Regular lectures and practical were in progress.

On 5th June, 2017, the new batch of Physiotherapy (2017-2019) commenced in which 12 students were admitted.

Results of the 2nd year students, who appeared in April, 2017 were declared. All the 4 students who appeared passed the examination and 3 out of them secured distinction. Three ex-students who re-appeared also passed.

Through the kind assistance of one of our donors the OPD Session were recently renovated and started functioning again from 10th August, 2017. A camp was organized.

Acupressure & Massage Course:

The new Batch commenced on 1st August, 2017 with 6 students. Regular practical and theory lectures were in progress.

NAB M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre

The **Talking Book Studios** recorded 134 new titles (English – 32, Hindi – 11 and Marathi – 91).

Other recordings comprised of academic books viz. Text books for Grade VII, IX and XII (both English and Marathi Medium), books for Civil Service Examinations, Banking, Music book (Hindi), MPSC (Marathi), Law Books in English recommended by the Government Law College, Mumbai. Besides, 16 issues of the Marathi Magazine – 'Bolke Pakshik' were also recorded.

The Library currently has 5,151 titles on its shelves (2,749 - Marathi, 833 - Hindi, 910 - English, 531 - Gujarati and 128 in other languages), which are available for circulation in digital format. The Library membership stood at 2,539 (2,392 individuals and 147 institutions).

Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, CEO, Social Foundation, Union Bank of India (UBI) was present for the function held on August 23, 2017 at the NAB M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre and he formally handed over books recorded during April-July 2017, to the Honorary Secretaries of the Association - Mr. Vimal Kumar Dengla and Mr. A. S. Athalekar. Union Bank has sponsored for the recordings during the financial year 2017-18.



On 23rd August, 2017 Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, CEO, Social Foundation, UBI formally handed over to the Centre, the recordings completed during April-July 2017 to the Hon. Secretaries - Dr. Vimal Kumar Dengla and Mr. A. S. Athalekar of NAB, India.



The Marathi Magazine – "Bolke Pakshik", was released by Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, CEO, Social Foundation, Union Bank of India (UBI). (Seen from left to right) Hon. Secretaries - Mr. A. S. Athalekar and Dr. Vimal Kumar Dengla of NAB, India; Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, CEO, Social Foundation, Union Bank of India; Mr. S. K. Singh, Hon. Secretary General; Mr. Harinder Kumar Malik, Vice President and Mrs. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director, NAB, India.

On completion of a year, 24 issues were recorded of the Marathi Magazine – "Bolke Pakshik", which was released by Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, CEO, Social Foundation, Union Bank of India (UBI)

NAB Department of Employment

During July 2017 to October 2017, 60 Visually Challenged Candidates registered with the department and 24 have been placed in Open Employment Sector.

On September 13, 2017 FIFA U17 World Cup Football Trophy was brought to NAB Centre by Cocoa-Cola. Football Team of National Sports Club of the Blind was invited to attend function. Mr. Satya Kumar Singh, Hon. Secretary General, NAB, India, Mr. Harinder Kumar Malik, Vice President, NAB, India, Ms. Varuna Jain, Hon. Treasurer, NAB, India and Ms. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director, NAB, India attended the function. Our Officials assisted the Event.

Work Centre - During this period the centre had supplied Paper Bags/ Gel Candles/ Diyas/ Fancy Paper Bags, Fancy Envelopes etc. worth Rs. 44,605/- to different parties. The department also participated in various Exhibitions for awareness and sale.

NAB Client Service Department

- Educational aid to the children of poor blind persons:** By the courtesy of Thadhomal Mushtakram Jotsing Sahani Trust, Lalji Mehrotra foundation, Mrs. Sarita Bahirsheth & donors we were able to provide Educational Aid to the school going children of our Visually Impaired Hawkers studying in 5th std. to 12th std. This project benefited 140 children of 101 blind parents.
- Our department attended the Mount Marry Fair at Bandra, Mumbai with our services on wheels i.e. "Mobile Library Van" from 10th September to 17th September, 2017.

- Lions Service Week:** By the courtesy of Lions Club of Bombay Central & Lions club of Mahim, Mumbai we were able to provide self-employment & aid to the visually challenged persons. The details are 4 Sewing Machines, 20 Audible Balls and 30 Folding Canes.



Educational aid distribution



Mobile Van at Mount Mary Fair, Bandra, Mumbai



Presenting Sewing Machine to a Visually Impaired Client during October Service Week

NAB Department of Education

Residential camp for V. I. children (Nursery to Std. V) of I. E. programme
NAB Department of Education organized a three day Residential Camp for visually impaired children studying in Nursery to Std. V (Age group 3 to 10 years) of Mumbai I. E. Programme along with their mothers at Usgaon Dongari, Near Virar during October 30 – November 2, 2017. In all 37 persons (18 V. I. children, 12 Mothers and 7 children) participated in the camp.

The main emphasis was to teach the students' skills needed for daily routine, sensory training, mobility, to explore the nature and learn from it and age appropriate environmental studies. This camp was organized for students and for their parents. During these sessions mothers followed the techniques, the way of instructions, pace of learning of the child, etc. which helped the parents to understand their children better. On the last day, the group visited Vajreshwari and Ganeshpuri temples. Children played in the river. In Vajreshwari the students observed hot water ponds. In the evening children attended gathering in Ashram Shala for girls. Both the girls and our V.I. children participated in cultural programme. Next morning children attended the flag hoisting ceremony of Ashram Shala, which takes place every day in the Ashram.

Residential Camp for MDVI Children

NAB Department of Education organized a three day Residential Camp for C.P. Children, and their parents at Sobati Parent's Association's Wada Centre, Dist. Thane during October 31 – November 2, 2017. In all 31 persons (MDVI Children and their parents) participated in the camp.

On the first day, educators briefed the mothers about the camp. In the camp, morning sessions were devoted to the activities of daily living. Each student was allotted to specific educator and the educator demonstrated the activities such as brushing, bathing of the child, etc. During these sessions mothers followed the techniques, the way of instructions, pace of learning of the child, etc. which helped the parents to understand their child better.

Adventure camp

32 MS Outdoors from Mumbai organized a one day Adventure camp for the visually impaired children on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at MNB Industrial Home for the Blind, Jogeshwari, Mumbai. In all 50 children of I. E. Programme from Mumbai City and its outskirts participated in the camp.

This was another novel venture. The activities conducted in the camp were Commando Bridge, Burma Bridge, Bamboo Bridge, Spider Net, Slack Line, Rapping, Rope Climbing, River Crossing, etc.

With these practical the concept of thrilling adventure activities were clear in the mind of V. I. children. It helped to boost their confidence that they can be at par with sighted peers and overcome any hurdle. This type of activities helps blind person to develop their personality. The response from the children and their parents was overwhelming. The students opined that the time was very short and requested to keep the duration of such camps be not less than two days in future.

This camp was sponsored by Mr. Mahiboob Mujawar of 32 MS Outdoors and the MNB Industrial Home for the Blind had given their ground free of cost for organizing the camp and thus there was no financial liability on NAB, India. The 32 MS Outdoors made all the arrangements and also mobilize volunteers to escort the children during the adventure activities. We are grateful to Mr. Mujawar and his team for their support.

NAB Braille Press

The work executed by the Braille Press during the reporting period can be summarized as under:

1. Pages Scanned & edited	4912
2. Pages Entered (Data Entry):	1735
3. Braille Volumes Printed:	42,730
4. Braille Pages Printed:	29,27,439
5. Braille Volumes Dispatched:	240
6. Clients attended in person:	157
7. New Braille Productions:	37

Some of the general books produced during this period are:

1. Prabhudaya Jivan (Hindi)
2. Ni-Shakt Vyakti Adhikar Adhinyam-2016 (Hindi).

The Department successfully completed the order received from Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad by supplying Marathi Medium Braille Textbooks from Std I to Std VIII to 57 districts (44 Zilla Parishad Offices and 13 Municipal Corporation Offices) of Maharashtra state in the month of August 2017, i.e. 13917 copies running into 26,45,920 pages under MPSP Project 2017-2018.

NAB Advocacy

• BLINDNESS CERTIFICATE:

Due to the persistent efforts taken by NAB Advocacy Department with the concerned authorities, now visually challenged persons can also obtain the Blindness Certificate from hospitals like :-

J. J. Hospital at Byculla, KEM Hospital at Parel, LokmanyaTilak Hospital at Sion, Nair Hospital at Mumbai Central, Cooper Hospital, at Vile Parle and Rajawadi Hospital, Ghatkopar (as per their area of residence). Earlier its availability was restricted only to J. J. Hospital at Byculla.

• RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON HAWKING NEAR RAILWAY STATIONS AND NEARBY AREAS:

NAB had attended the two meetings held at Dadar and Santacruz, by different organizations working for the disabled. NAB had also organised a meeting with the hawkers in the presence of Mr. S. K. Singh, Hon. Secretary General and would be following up with the relevant authorities like the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai etc. to get the issue resolved early.

• RBI MATTER:

NAB filed a Writ petition against RBI regarding the problems faced by visually challenged in identifying some latest notes issued by them (Rs.200/-, Rs.50/- etc). RBI officials assured that they would try to find out some solutions in this regard.

An appeal was also made to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Dr. Urjit Patel, Governor of RBI to make Indian Currency Notes easily identifiable for the visually challenged citizens.

Beyond Mumbai

NAB Lions Home for the Aging Blind

1) OCTOBER-2017

- a) On 15th October 2017 White Cane Day was celebrated by Indian Scout & Guide Fellowship, Lonavala Guild.
- b) Diwali was celebrated in the Home from 18th October 17 to 21st October 17. Blind residents enjoyed various sweets, Special Lunch and fireworks. Lighting was done on the main building during the Diwali.

2) NOVEMBER-2017

- a) Blind Artist Music Group from Mumbai performed a musical event for our residents on 7.11.2017.
- b) N.A.B. - Khandala Music group performed a musical event at Kapol sanatorium, Lonavala on 7.11.2017 & 26.11.2017.
- c) On 18.11.17 our residents attended a Lecture on Braille at Lonavala, which was organized by Indian Scout & Guide Fellowship (Guild)



Lighting and Fireworks at home during Diwali



Blind Artist Music Group from Mumbai performing a musical event for the residents



Residents enjoying musical event by Blind Artist Music Group from Mumbai

State Branches

Chandigarh Branch

1. PREVIEW SCREENING OF AUDIO DESCRIBED DANGAL MOVIE FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED ON ZEE CINEMA 12TH AUG, 2017

Zee TV had associated with the Branch to show 25 minutes preview of Dangal movie to the visually challenged persons and persons with hearing impairment. The function was held at Aasha Kiran in Sector 46 D, Chandigarh.

2. CYCLE RALLY BY VISUALLY CHALLENGED ON WHITE CANE DAY ON 14TH OCTOBER 2017

The Branch celebrated International White Cane day this year on 14th October, 2017 in a very unique way by holding the first ever tandem cycle rally for the visually challenged. 20 tandem cycles having arrangement of 2 drivers were procured for the purpose.

The cycle rally was organised from UT Guest House to Rock Garden and back. Shri. Tejinder Singh Luthra, DGP, UT, Chandigarh was the Chief Guest on this event and flagged off the rally.



News as appeared in a local daily about Bicycle Rally at Chandigarh

Kerala Branch

I. Computer Learning Centre - Supported by Amway India Enterprises Pvt Ltd, Mumbai

The Computer Learning Centre of NAB Kerala is providing Computer Education to 45 visually challenged persons in a systematic manner presently.

Monthly Medical Camps and other Welfare Activities in Rural Areas – Care & Share Charitable Trust, USA

Welfare activities undertaken by NAB Kerala in the Rural Areas in 2006-07, with financial support from Care & Share Charitable Trust, USA, are being continued. Beneficiaries are visually challenged children and children suffering from various other disabilities, belonging to BPL category. As part of this project a Medical Camp was conducted at Palode on 5th August, 350-400 children were given therapy in this camp. Financial assistances, totaling Rs.43840, were given to vision impaired children belonging to BPL category, in July Rs. 6630 to 16 Children, in August Rs. 23,550 to 29 Children, in September Rs. 7030 to 17 Children and in October Rs. 6630 to 16 Children.



Financial Assistance gifted by Dr. Thomas Koilparampil, Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum to Visually Impaired person Mr. Nataraj and Mr. Gokul.



Mr. Josey Joseph, Honorary General Secretary & General Executive Officer, NAB Kerala and Ms. Annie Joseph, Care Taker, NAB Kerala are also present.

II. Training and Rehabilitation Programs

The following activities were continued in the Training and Rehabilitation Centre of NAB Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.

1. Audio Recording and Editing – Partly Supported by NAB India, HARISH & BINA SHAH FOUNDATION, MUMBAI



Inauguration of the Project by Pro. John Kurian, President, NAB Kerala



Applying Therapy at the Camp Site



Maharashtra Unit, Nashik

- Aids & Appliances for reading and writing was given to Anirudha Mulgund, Aged 7 years.
- Representative of 8 NAB District Branches and Adv. Bhausaheb Gambhire from NAB Unit Maharashtra attended Advocacy Workshop arranged by NAB India.
- Commissioner of Disabilities visited NAB Workshop, Nashik and appreciated its activities.
- Rajkumar Badole, Minister of Social Welfare, Maharashtra State visited the Exhibition of articles made by the Blind students and appreciated the same.
- Mr.Sharad Nagpure,Project Incharge of NAB Deaf Blind Project and Mrs.Varsha Jadhav attended National Training on Capacity Building arranged by Sense International India at Ahmadabad.
- Mr.Valmik Patil, coordinator of D.Ed. Special Course attended Training on Capacity Building at Ahmadabad arranged by the Sense International India.
- NAB Unit Maharashtra arranged Personality Development Workshop for Blind girls in higher education with the help of Aurangabad District Branch and UDIS forum Coimbatore.



Donations to NAB, India are eligible for Tax Exemption under Section 80G of Income Tax Act, 1961.

Readers interested in availing the Newsletter in E-format may please send us their E-mail ID

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