



# NABINDIA

*Newsletter of the National Association for the Blind, India*

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*Honorary Secretary General*

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**Ms. Tiffany Maria Brar,**  
Trivandrum, Kerala



**Dr. Vijeta Kapur,** Lucknow,  
Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Hemant Takle, President, NAB, India – Mr. Satyakumar Singh, Hon. Secretary General, NAB, India – Prof Bhaskar Mehta, Chair Person, NAB Awards Committee and Ms. Ferzin Alpaiwala were present during the function.

**NAB, India Departments**

## Awards and Felicitation

### Alpaiwala & Neelum Kanga Awards

The National Association for the Blind, India celebrated its 68th Foundation Day on January 19, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. at the Blue Sea Banquet Hall in the premises of the National Association for the Blind, India, 11-12 Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Road, Worli Seaface, Mumbai 400 030. The prestigious Rustom Merwanji Alpaiwala and Neelum Khurshed Kanga Memorial Awards were presented to those who have rendered yeoman service to the Visually Challenged under Voluntary/Professional categories and to those Visually Challenged women who have achieved excellence by way of outstanding performance and contribution.

Shri Sachin Bhau Ahir, Activist & Former Minister, Govt. of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest, Shri Ashok Mahajan, Past Rotary International Director was the Guest of Honour and Shri John Abraham, Ambassador of NAB, India was present for the function. The above Awards were presented by the auspicious hands of the abovesaid dignitaries.

The recipients of the NAB Rustom Merwanji Alpaiwala Memorial Awards under the Professional Category were – Smt. Swaran Suresh Ahuja, Mumbai, Shri Shailendra Kumar Sonkar, Dy. Commissioner (PwD), Uttar Pradesh and in Voluntary Category were – Smt. Sushma Pramod Gupta, Faridabad, Haryana.

The recipients of the Neelum Khurshed Kanga Memorial Awards were Ms. Tiffany Maria Brar, Trivandrum, Kerala and Dr. Vijeta Kapur, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

The Visually Challenged Candidates from Nayan Foundation performed a Cultural Programme which was enjoyed and appreciated by the audience.

#### Professional Category

#### Voluntary Category



Smt. Swaran Suresh Ahuja

Shri Shailendra Kumar Sonkar

Smt. Sushma Pramod Gupta

### Neelum Khurshed Kanga Memorial Awards

Shri Sachin Bhau Ahir, Activist & Former Minister, Govt. of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest, Shri Ashok Mahajan, Past Rotary International Director was the Guest of Honour and Shri John Abraham, Ambassador of NAB, India was present for the function.

### NAB Advocacy

The main objective of the Department of Advocacy is to solve the various issues of Visually Challenged Persons regarding Personal Issues such as Property, Loan, domestic Violence etc., educational Issues related to Admissions, Educational Concessions, and Scribes etc., employment issues such as recruitment of Visually Challenged Persons in various Govt., Offices, Public & Private Sector, and Self Employment etc.

During this period total 41 Visually Challenged Persons issues were attended by the department.

#### IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE:

- Correspondence with Shri Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, Mayor of Mumbai, in connection with employees of BMC, Charter of Demand of Persons with Disability and mainly Hawkers issue, to discuss on Disability Policy for the State of Maharashtra.
- Correspondence with Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways, regarding Hawkers issue. Follow-up with Railways in connection with the problems faced by the visually challenged persons while commuting in Handicapped Compartments.
- Letter to Shri Sudhir Naik, Deputy Municipal Corporation, Mumbai, regarding problems faced by BMC employees and for an appointment.
- Correspondence with GPO regarding delay in receiving Braille letters/posts and foreign Braille Literature posting issues.
- Follow-up with Municipal Hospitals regarding issuance of Disability Certificates.
- Railway D Group Examination: The candidates who had applied for these posts from Mumbai had a big problem of Centres and Scribes, which was solved by us being personally involved and convinced Railway Authorities.

During this period we were assigned Car Rally Event, which went very successful.

#### Other Correspondence:

- Mr. Satya Kumar Singh nominated on ZRUCC Committee (Central Railways) from 01.09.2018 to 31.08.2020
- Mr. Suhas V. Karnik nominated on ZRUCC Committee (Western Railways) from 01.09.2018 to 31.08.2020

**NAB Braille Press**

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

1. Pages Scanned & edited :	9767	<b>Textbooks</b>	<b>Periodicals</b>	<b>G. Books</b>	<b>Language</b>
2. Pages Entered (Data Entry) :	1631	8	20	10	Marathi
3. Braille Volumes Printed :	74520		6	1	English
4. Braille Pages Printed :	37, 87,907		1	11	Hindi
5. Braille Volumes Dispatched :	6180			1	Gujarati
6. Clients attended in person :	224	9	38	18	
7. New Braille Productions :	65				

Some of the general books produced during this period are like :

1. Ek Yogi Ki Atmakatha (8 volumes) (Hindi),
2. Jailer (Hindi),
3. Sai Satcharit (8 Volumes) (Marathi),
4. Dalitanche Baba (Marathi),
5. Garbha Geeta (Hindi),

The Department successfully completed the order received from Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad by supplying Marathi Medium Braille Textbooks from Std I to VIII to 57 districts of Maharashtra state in the month of August 2018.

As usual, the Department has brought out a **Hindi Braille calendar "NAB Dindarshika 2019"** which runs into 92 pages and will be supplied at concessional rate of Rs.40/- only.

**NAB Client Service Department**



**Educational Aid to the Children of VC hawkers**



**Fiber Cane distribution to the aged VCPs**

1. **Educational aid to the children of low income blind persons:** For encouraging the education of children of visually challenged persons from lower income group we had received educational aids for 100 children through Accenture Services Pvt. Ltd. and cash donation from Thadhomal Mushtakram Jotsing Sahani Trust & Lalji Mehrotra foundation which was distributed among the 140 children of 101 blind parents in the form of School bag, educational material lunch box, water bag etc.
2. Lions Club of Mahim donated 2 sewing machines to V. I. persons for initiating the business on 5th October, 2018.
3. **Voice Recorders to the VC students:** By the courtesy of Rotary club of Bombay Peninsula we distributed Voice recorders to 65 VC students for their studies on 10th October, 2018.
4. **Mithai Distribution:** Lion Diveyesh bhai Shah, District Governor of Lions club of District 323/A1 Sponsor Mithai to our 250 visually challenged hawkers on the occasion of 'Diwali Festival' on 5th November, 2018.
5. **Walking Aid distribution to aged VC persons:** Through Rotary club of Bombay Peninsula we had received donation of 300 Fiber Canes which was distributed to 30 aged visually challenged persons (as a token) by the hands of Rotary club Members on 16th November, 2018.

**NAB Department of Education**

**Distribution of Braille Kits**

On the occasion of foundation day, Bank of Baroda had given donation of 20 Braille kits for V. I. children from Mumbai I. E. programme. These were distributed through the hands of Mr. Sanjay Grover, Dy. Gen. Manager, Ms Monita D'costa and Mr. R Das, Chief Managers of the Bank at a function held on July 20, 2018 at NAB Headquarters.

**Visit to Nehru Science Centre by VIC**



In April 2018, Dr. Narendra Joshi and Dr. Milind Vaidya, Principle Investigators & Scientific Officers (Retired) from Tata Institute of Clinical Research had conducted in-house workshop on Science for I. E. teachers of Mumbai. In continuation of this the visit to Nehru Science Centre for V. I. children studying in Std. IX and X was organized on October 6, 2018. In all 47 persons participated in the visit. The children observed the various things by touch. Dr. Joshi explained things to the children by practical. The children observed the types of evaluation, green world, nuclear world, Star & Planet World, Sound, weight, energy, Dinosaur, Different types of lenses, computer, and cameras, etc. The visit was very informative for the students.

**Residential ADL Camp for parents of MDVI Children**



The Department had organized a Residential Camp for parents of Mumbai MDVI children along with their children during November 23-25, 2018 at NAB Headquarters. 10 parents, 10 MDVI children in the age group of 3 to 10 years, 2 siblings and 9 teachers participated in the Camp. Trainees from our TCTVH centre also participated.

The main aim of the camp was to get an opportunity for parents and students to put in to practice the self-help skills which they have acquired through the training and gradually progress towards independent living. The main focus of this Camp was to demonstrate the parents the proper techniques of handling MDVI children especially the different skills, i.e. motor, communication, cognitive, social and daily personal chores, like brushing, toilet training, bathing, dressing, eating, etc. In the afternoon different group games and sessions like team building games for parents was organized. MDVI children prepared greeting cards, and draw pictures with the aim to develop their fine motor skills. Evenings students enjoyed at different parks were they played on Slides, seesaws, swings, sand, etc. Parents gain confidence that they can work independently with their children.

**NAB Department of Employment**

During July 2018 to November 2018, 56 Visually Challenged Candidates registered with the department and 27 have been placed in Open Employment Sector.



**Accenture** – On August 11, 2018 'Community Event' was organized by Accenture Team for our V. I. Candidates at NAB, HO. Nearly 35 Candidates were present. Topics on Personality Development, Interview Techniques, Grooming, and Communication Skills were discussed.

**SEE Change Project** - Interview Techniques Training was conducted by SEE Change Project on October 6, 2018. Total 35 candidates attended.

**AIF Graduation Ceremony** – On October 12, 2018 two of our candidates felicitated by the certificates during 2nd AIF Graduation Ceremony held at Csheshire Home, Mahakali, Andheri.

**Deloitte Impact Day** – One day Workshop on 'Interview Techniques and Ethics' were held on November 22, 2018 by Deloitte. 40 Candidates attended the Workshop.

**Work Centre** - we had supplied Paper Bags/Gel Candles/Diyas/Fancy Paper Bags, Fancy Envelopes etc. to different parties worth Rs. 75,105/-.

**NAB Department of Prevention of Blindness**



**Camp at Alibaug**



**Attended FBL function with Squint Beneficiaries**



Eye screening of children and adults from low socio economic status	3721
Eye check up camps done in Month of July TO November	31
Spectacles provided	2590
Medicines provided	245
Keratoplasties under Project Drishti sponsored by Reliance Foundation	763
Cataract Surgeries	08
Squint	08

**NAB Department of Rehabilitation**



**Cardiac Arrest Training by Saifee Hospital Expert team.**

**Outdoor Mobility Training**

**Learning Carpentry work**

**123rd BATCH OF BASIC REHABILITATION COURSE. (4th June, TO 12th September, 2018)**

**LECTURES:**

Lectures were arranged on important topics like Motivation, Employment, Cancer Prevention, Competitive Exams, and Scope in Self Employment, Marketing Skills, and Activities of Blind Person's Association, Communication Skills, Concessions etc. by internal and external lecturers.

Apart from routine lectures and practical trainings, participating in health oriented activities-like 3 days' Art of living course, entertainment programs, celebrating festivals, and going on visits etc. formed the highlights of the course. On 12th Sept., 2018 the Valedictory function of the batch was held.

**SHORT TERM COURSE ON VOCATIONAL TRADE: 18TH SEPT TO 3RD NOVEMBER, 2018**

**Vocational Trade batch commenced on 18th Sept. 2018, with 20 trainees.** The beneficiaries were taught trades like – making of fancy and gel candles, imitation jewelry, paper bags, chocolates, Popcorn, assembly of electric items, etc.

Trainees celebrated major festivals like Dassera by taking part in the puja and thereafter playing garba, they enjoyed an entertainment program and film show titled "Helicopter Eela".

Lions Club of Byculla donated kitchen utensils at the centre during the October service week. In commemoration with the World White Cane Day program, Rotary Club of Mumbai-Kandivli organized a small function at NAB DOR.

The products of our trainees were exhibited at various exhibitions like Trident Hotel, Bandra, The Taj Hotel, Mumbai, Asus, and Travelex etc. in association with NAB DWE.

At the Valedictory function of the batch was held on 3rd Nov. 2018, Lion Riddish Shah, Chairperson – SFBP & Mr. Raj Wankawala, the President, and Lions Club of Juhu were present. Mr. A. S. Athalekar, Hon. Secretary, NAB, India was also present on the occasion.

**WORLD WHITE CANE DAY EVENT:**

On 15th October, 2018, NAB DOR and other Departments of NAB conducted awareness programs at various traffic junctions in Mumbai.

The first site was Near Braille Press, Worli Seaface at 10 a.m where all the officials from NAB, India, along with Mr. A. S. Athalekar, Hon. Secretary, Ms. Swati Thakurdesai, Hon. Secretary, Ms. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director, NAB, India were present and flagged off the event. A small awareness program with crossing of the roads by the officials and visually challenged persons was held. Thereafter, at: Elphinstone Station, Near India Bulls at 11.30 a.m. and the third site Nr. Regal Cinema, Mumbai at 12.30 p.m. where they flagged off the program at the culminating site. Similar awareness programs were conducted at both places, with tips on helping the blind persons followed by crossing of the roads along with the officials. Sponsorships of T shirts, Caps, snacks, food, white canes etc. were arranged by individual donors. To make the above occasion a success, we receive help from the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, the R.T.O., the Commissioner of Police, B.E.S.T. and other local authorities.

**SHORT TERM COURSE ON ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF VISUALLY CHALLENGED LADIES**

**(12TH NOVEMBER, 2018 TO 29TH DECEMBER, 2018)**

The Ladies Special batch commenced on 12th November, 2018, with 18 female beneficiaries from Varanasi, Nashik, Goa, Bhandara, Nanded, Thane etc.

The main topics like orientation & mobility, communication skills, physical education, home skills, personal grooming etc. were taught. Lectures on Health and Hygiene, Motivation, AIDs, Cancer prevention, Interview Skills, Banking skills, Client service etc. were also conducted. Sessions on Self Defense was conducted by Mr. Ganesh Padyachi, Self Defense Trainer/Speaker. English sessions by Ms. Meghana Billimoria, Volunteer and Yoga sessions by Mr. Sachin Kamble were other highlights.

**PHYSIOTHERAPY & ACUPRESSURE and MASSAGE COURSES:**

Regular lectures and practical's were in progress for both the courses. Semester Exams of 1st and 2nd year students of physiotherapy course was conducted.

On 9th Sept. 2018, a 1 day workshop on cupping therapy was conducted, 30 ex students of Physiotherapy attended, Dr. (Ms) Payal Sarvaiya, Physiotherapist, was the Resource person.

**NAB M. P. Shah All India Talking Book Centre**

The **Talking Book Studios** recorded 81 new titles (English – 18, Hindi – 14 and Marathi – 49). Amongst these were some popular general interest book titles like: "Asli Prachin Lal Kitab" by Acharya Dhananjay Sanyasi, "Nyan Ke Deep Jale" by Swami Ramsukdas, "Lallu" by Ved Prakash Sharma and "Krantiveer Subhash" by Dr. Giriraj Sharan Agrawal in Hindi; "Ashi Paakhare Yeti" by Vijay Tendulkar, "Vapurza" by V. P. Kale, "Ganarjache Por" by Rajendra Joshi, "Chhaya Geet" by Usha Datar and Sudha Murty's book "Paridhi" (translated by Uma Kulkarni) in Marathi.



Academic books viz. English Medium Textbooks for Grade I, VIII, Navneet Digests for Grade X, Law, MCom and textbook for U.P. Board. Also the centre recorded Marathi Medium Textbooks for Grade I and VIII, Navneet Digest for Grade X, FYBA, SYBA, TYBA, MA Pt. II, Law and MPSC. Besides these, 4 issues of the Marathi Magazine – 'Bolke Pakshik' were also recorded.

The **Talking Book Library** dispatched 4,000 CDs by post and dealt with 1,402 members, in person by way of 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 5,401 titles (2,904 - Marathi, 872 - Hindi, 966 - English, 531 - Gujarati and 128 in other languages). The Library membership stood at 2,695 (2,537 individuals and 158 institutions).

Online facility was made available to our Members from November 2018. During this period 22 Members availed the online facility and 75 titles were sent online.

At a function held on 22nd October, 2018 Mr. P.R. Rajagopal, Executive Trustee, Union Bank Social Foundation formally handed over the recordings to the Centre. The Chief Guest presented a symbolic Cheque for recording audio books for the first quarter of the financial year 2018-2019. Along with Executive Trustee, Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, Chief Executive – Union Bank Social Foundation attended the said function. NAB, India Officials – Mr. Satya Kumar Singh, Hon. Secretary General and Mr. A. S. Athalekar, Hon. Secretary were also present.

**NAB Department of Women's Empowerment**

**❖ PROGRAMME & FUNCTIONS :**

- On the completion of 30 years, Tejas Training Center had organized the Satyanarayan Pooja on 18th July, 2018.



**Hairstyle Workshop by Hotel Taj**

- Raksha Bandhan function was held on 26th August, 2018 at Sangam Institute (Colaba). The function was attended by Mr. A. S. Athlekar, Hon-Secretary, NAB India, Mrs. Swati Thakurdesai, Hon-secretary In-Charge, Mrs. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director, NAB, India with Ms. Bharati Athalekar & Ms. Jyoti Chhasatia Committee Members along with five staff & fourteen trainees.

- On 18th August 2018 Accenture Mumbai Team, arranged Games & Snacks for cotton green complex Trainees. About 25 to 30 V. I. Female & male beneficiaries were present.
- Army Ahmednagar MIRC Unit had distributed Dress materials & Sweets to all trainees at Reay Road Premises on 3rd November, 2018 on the occasion of Diwali. Total 53 beneficiaries attended this program.
- Hotel Taj, Hospitality Department had organized a small workshop for DWE-Training Centre trainees on various techniques of towel and napkins folding & Hairstyle on 21st September, 2018.

**Beyond Mumbai**

**NAB Lions Home for the Aging Blind**



**Residents participated in Diwali celebration at Navy Day Program**

**Bhajan Program by Residents**

17.7.2018	Residents participated in Satsang program at Panvel Ashram, Lonavla.
15.8.2018	Independence Day celebrated in the Home & Flag hoisting was done.
25.8.2018	Raksha Bandhan celebrated by Students of V.P.S.School, Lonavla.
13. to 23.9.2018	Ganesh Utsav celebrated in the Home.
28.9.2018	Entertainment program was organized by TATA MOTORS- PIMPRI.
2.10.2018	Music group performed singing program, at Kapol Sanatorium, Lonavla.
14.10.2018	White Cane Day celebrated in the Home, by VPS, Scout, Guild, Group.
16.10.2018	Residents had darshan of Waghjaidevi Temple at Khandala during the Navaratri.
18.10.2018	Dasehara celebrated in the Home.
28.10.2018	Sai Baba Bhajan by group of Times of India, for the residents.
6. to 9.11.2018	Diwali celebration at the Home.
28.10.2018	Residents participated in Navy Day Program at I.N.S.Shivaji, Lonavla.

**NAB Dr. Modak Research and Rehabilitation Centre for Visually Challenged**



**Participants of 'Sarjan...Drishti Palikadache'**

National Association for the Blind (NAB), Dr. Modak Research and Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Challenged has organized "Sarjan....Drishti Palikadache" (Creativity.....Beyond Vision) a workshop for writers who are Visually Challenged. It was organized at Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. The concluding session was on Sunday 17th Feb, 2019.

For this concluding session Mr. Hemant Takle, President of NAB, India, Mr. Sanjay Joshi organizer of this two day workshop, Mrs. Pallavi Kadam, Executive Director, NAB, India Ms. Shahin Shaik, Nashik was present. In his speech Mr. Takle appreciated the support extended by Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik. He also added that this workshop has thrown light on the struggle in to life of persons without vision Mrs. Pallavi Kadam

in her speech said that she is optimistic that from this workshop good writer can be emerged. The coordinator Mr. Sanjay Joshi also expressed his views.

In the morning session editor of Mouj Publication Ms. Monika Gajendragadkar and coordinator Mr. Sanjay Joshi guided the participants about script writing. Ms. Gajendragadkar while interacting, emphasized that the writer should be sensitive about the subject. Mr. Joshi added that writer should be able to think from the reader's perspective.

Poet Mr. Prakash Holkar expressed his views about poetry, elaborating his self experiences. He furtherer explained that nobody can sit, decide & write a poem, it is actually a journey of thoughts which cherish in the mind. Usually conception of thoughts takes place with small spark.

**State Branches**

**Gujarat State Branch**

**RASOTSAV-2018: SHOWCASING TALENT OF DISABLED ON ALL INDIA FLAG DAY FOR THE BLIND.**

A unique gala performances by disabled students, trainees, parents and staff on 15th September, 2018 on the occasion of National Association for the Blind – All India Flag Day for the Blind at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, S.G. Road, Ahmedabad. All students with disabilities from various departments performed dances, songs, fancy dress and fashion shows etc. Each showed his/her own ability and proved that that the disability is not inability.



**Training for Regular Teachers**

The NAB Gujarat Branch have one inclusive school each at MSM-Naaz and Bavla respectively. A total of almost 400 non disabled children and 60 children with disabilities study together in these schools. A training for the regular teachers of these schools were conducted from 4-6 June, 2018.

The teachers underwent stimulation in different disabilities so that they could understand the needs of children with disabilities. They were also given orientatiion about needs of these children, adapting curriculum to suit their needs and also classroom management. The teachers went back empowered and ready towelcome more children with special needs in their classrooms.

**Himachal Pradesh State Branch**

On 15th July 2018 students participated in the cultural program organised by 'Re Imagine'. The students presented an act on "Save girl child and Educate the Girl child"

On 24th Aug, 2018 students celebrated the "Rakhi festival" with the devotees of Brahmakumari on 5th Sep, 2018 we celebrated "Teachers day" at schools.



**Students Performing Drama**

On 14th Sep students participated in sports and grabbed prizes at BCS Shimla. On 14th Nov, 2018 a school the Children's Day was organised different competitions & cultural programmes were organised for this Ms. Krishna Devi, District child welfare officer was chief guest.

**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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