Activities of State Branches

Jagdish Upavan, NAB Gujarat State Branch

Early Intervention, NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch

National Dance Competition, NAB Chandigarh and Punjab State Branch

Cyclothan, NAB (Unit Maharashtra)

World White Cane Day, NAB Goa State Branch

Louis Braille Day, NAB Kerala State Branch

Music Centre, NAB Haryana State Branch
Activities from Tamil Nadu & Kerala State Branch
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Blind Welfare is also published in Braille 

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Donations to NAB, India are eligible for Tax Exemption under Section 80G of Income Tax Act, 1961.
We have great pleasure in presenting this issue of Blind Welfare to the readers. The present issue is a NAB's State Branches issue.

A few days back we had invited articles from all the NAB State/District Branches depicting their initiation, activities, progress made since its inception, etc. We would like to mention that some of NAB State and District Branches responded to our request. We are indeed thankful to them.

This issue contains articles received from NAB State Branches in the States of Chandigarh & Punjab, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Due to paucity of space in this issue, the articles received from District Branches will be included in the next issue. Also we hereby request NAB State/District Branches who have not yet sent their articles to do so now for their inclusion in the next issue.

You will find a regular item, i.e. Goldenly Old, which contains a very good article by Late Shri Suresh C. Ahuja, who happened to be NAB's Executive Director for over 30 years. This article will enlighten the readers where National Association for the Blind, India was 50 years ago. Of course, other regular items like Far and Near, Research & Technology, etc. do not find place in this issue again because of paucity of space.

Archana H. Joshi
Editor – Blind Welfare
This column contains the articles as they appeared in the Blind Welfare August, 1969 issue. This will enable the present readers to understand how progress was made in the welfare activities 50 years back. (Ed.)

National Association for the Blind

By Suresh C. Ahuja

Mr. Suresh C. Ahuja (39), lost his sight while studying in college. He obtained the Master’s degree in politics of the University of Bombay and the Certificate in Social Science and Administration from the London School of Economics. Since 1958 he has been the Executive Officer of the National Association for the Blind. Mr. Ahuja is an Insurance Salesman since 1951 and is appointed Consultant to Hindustan Lever Ltd., on the selection of managerial staff. He is a Vice-President of the Blind Men’s Association and is a member of the Lions Club of Bombay – Ed.

The National Association for the Blind which is a voluntary organization working for the welfare of the blind throughout India, came into existence on January 19, 1952. Intended originally to ensure the implementation of resolutions adopted at the first All India Conference for the Blind held in Bombay in January 1952, it has progressed far beyond its original goals and is today recognized as the most important organization working for the welfare of the blind in India. In addition to providing a common platform to the approximately 150 schools, institutions and associations spread over the country, it has inspired united action and has established several pilot projects.

Aims and objects: The aims and objects of the NAB are as follows:-

1. To look after welfare of the blind in general.

2. To work in harmony with other institutions and associations and persons working for the welfare of the blind in India and to co-ordinate work for the blind on a national basis.

3. To take steps towards prevention and cure of blindness and to start eye clinics and mobile ophthalmic units.

4. To develop facilities for the education, rehabilitation and training of the blind and to help the blind to secure employment in open industry and sheltered workshops.

5. To arrange and organize conference of the blind and of workers for the blind where important problems concerning the blind can be discussed.

6. To establish libraries for the blind and to establish presses for the embossing of Braille literature for the blind.

7. To promote the manufacture of apparatus equipment used in educational, vocational and cultural activities for the blind.

8. To promote the welfare of the blind through any measures necessary including legislation.

Over the past seventeen years much has been achieved. However, a lot yet remains to be done.

Early Years: In the early years, as the Association had to build up its funds before it could take up any large-scale activities, the NAB concentrated mainly on taking up policy matters pertaining to prevention of blindness and the welfare of the blind with the Government of India and the State Governments.

As a result of its efforts, it succeeded in persuading the Government of India to establish a National Advisory Council for the Education of the Handicapped. It took up the question of the employment of the blind with the Government of India and as a result, the Ministry of Labour adopted a scheme for the establishment of Special Employment Offices for the Handicapped throughout India which is being implemented in stages.

It also moved, successfully, several of the Universities to grant special facilities and concessions to blind students.
The NAB continues to move the Central and State Governments on important questions concerning the welfare of the blind. Representatives of the NAB are invited to join consultative and advisory committees by the Government of India and State Governments.

**Recognition:** Realising the need for acceptance by governmental and voluntary agencies, the NAB officials took up early the question of recognition. The NAB is now recognised by the Government of India and the State Government. Voluntary agencies and the public also accept the NAB as a national body working for the welfare of the blind. Most of the schools, institutions and associations for the blind in India are affiliated to the NAB.

The NAB has gained recognition by the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind on which it has full representation. Six members represent India on the General Assembly. The NAB is also recognised by other national and international agencies working for the blind throughout the world. Scholarships and other forms of aid to blind welfare workers and for institutions for the blind in India are, in the main, routed through the NAB. Notable among these is the granting of four scholarships every year by the Perkins School for the Blind, U.S.A., to Indian teachers of the blind.

**Funds:** The funds of the NAB come mainly from voluntary sources. The Finance Raising Committee works round the year organizing shows for which tickets are sold and advertisements collected for a souvenir. Also, it organizes an annual All-India Flag Day. The Committee, consisting mainly of ladies, raises over Rs. 200,000 every year.

To avoid the same sources being tapped by other institutions and associations for the blind in Bombay, an arrangement has been arrived at whereby the FRC-NAB alone approaches the larger commercial firms and charitable trusts. Of the money raised, 50 per cent is distributed among institutions and associations for the blind in Bombay and the balance retained by the NAB for its own use.

Grants for specified purposes and activities are received from the Government of India and several State Governments.

Considerable financial help over the past few years has been received from international agencies including the SRS, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, United States Government; CARE; the American Foundation for Overseas Blind; the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind; The Royal National Institute for the Blind; etc.

**Employment and Placement:** In a country where surplus man-power is available in plenty and where no legislation exists for the employment of the handicapped, finding jobs for the blind is no easy task. Any program of blind welfare work, if it is to be successful, must give top priority to the problem of the employment of the blind.

In 1954 the NAB set up an Employment and Placement Committee. Through the efforts of this Committee, about 400 blind persons have been placed in open industry in and around Bombay so far. The blind, who have been employed in factories, mills, offices, hospitals, etc., have proved that, given the opportunity, they can do a job just as well as their sighted colleagues.

Blind workers placed in open industry go through a three month course of adjustment training in the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit set up by the NAB and followed, in most cases, by a period of work at the Workshop for the Blind or one of the other institutions for the blind prior to placement.

Initially, the NAB had on its staff one placement officer who worked singlehanded for many years. In 1968, with the growing need and appreciation of the problem, the placement service was expanded with the employment of five additional placement officers on the staff of the NAB - three in the city of Bombay and two in Ahmedabad (Gujarat State). It is planned to augment this service further in 1971-72 with the employment of five more placement officers who will be sent out to different industrial centres in the country.
Muncherjee Nowrojee Banajee Industrial Home for the Blind: One of the objects of the NAB is to set up institutions for the blind where the need exists. With this end in view, the M. N. Banajee Industrial Home for the Blind was established in July 1956 at Jogeshwari, Bombay.

The Home offers intensive training to 80 blind adults in canework, basketry, handloom weaving, tailoring, music and Braille.

Braille Press: One of the earliest activities of the NAB has been the publication of books and magazines in Braille. In addition to books of general interest, text books prescribed for schools for the blind in Maharashtra and Gujarat are embossed.

Established in 1958, the NAB Braille Press was recently included in the regional scheme formulated by the Government of India. It now publishes books mainly in Marathi and Gujarati and a few in Hindi and English.

'Blind Welfare': In June 1959, the NAB brought out the first issue of Blind Welfare. As the name signifies, the magazine deals mainly with problems connected with the welfare of the blind.

The magazine is published thrice a year, in addition to the ink-print edition; a Braille edition is also published.

National Society for the Prevention of Blindness: One of the chief aims of the NAB is prevention of preventable blindness and cure of curable blindness. To increase efforts in this direction, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness was established in 1959 with its headquarters at New Delhi.

The Society has initiated a campaign for the prevention of blindness by publishing a series of posters and pamphlets. In conjunction with the NAB, it observed World Health Day on April 7, 1962 the theme for which was 'Preserve Sight - Prevent Blindness'.

The Society received a grant from the SRS, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, United States Government, to conduct a research project 'Early Detection of Visual Defects'. The findings of this research project indicate that visual defects among the general population are higher than expected.

Tata Agricultural and Rural Training Centre for the Blind: Work for the blind in India in the past was concentrated in the cities and larger towns. The majority of the blind population of India is, however, to be found in the rural areas. No facilities for their training existed till January 1960 when the Tata Agricultural and Rural Training Centre for the Blind was established to help with the successful rehabilitation of the blind from the rural areas.

The Centre is located on an estate of approximately 240 acres in Phansa, a village by seashore in Gujarat. The House of Tata provided the funds for the purchase of the estate. The Centre offers training in agriculture and rural pursuits to 50 blind persons a year.

TACEB is the largest training centre of its kind in the world and has received world-wide attention. Help for this Centre has been received from many international agencies, viz. the SRS, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, United States Government; the American Foundation for Overseas Blind; the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and CARE.

TACEB also serves as a training centre for instructors from the Afro-Asian countries.

National Academy of Teachers of Blind: There are over a hundred schools and institutions for the blind in India but not many of these schools and institutions have trained teachers. If educational standards in the schools for the blind are to be improved, it is necessary that facilities for training of teachers of the blind be provided.

The National Academy of Teachers of Blind was established with this end in view in 1960 and is the first training centre to conduct courses on an All-India basis. The School for the Blind, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, runs under the joint auspices of the NAB.
and the National Christian Council. The Course extends over a period of one academic year and certificates are awarded to the successful candidates. Eight to ten teachers take the course every year.

NAB-Lions Blind Welfare Library: Thanks to the generosity of the Lions Club of Bombay, a library consisting of books in ink print on all aspects of work for the blind was established in 1960.

The NAB-Lions Blind Welfare Library, which at present consists of about 1,000 books and pamphlets, is already a fund of knowledge proving most useful to teachers and other workers in the field of blind welfare.

Home Teaching: The Home Teaching is a key worker in any programme of blind welfare services which claims to be comprehensive. The first Home Teacher in India was appointed in Bombay by the NAB in 1961.

The duties of the Home Teacher include the locating of blind persons and helping them in their adjustment and rehabilitation, teaching them Braille and different crafts and introducing them to the available welfare services. Many newly blinded persons have found the visits of the Home Teacher most helpful.

In the city of Bombay alone, it is estimated that there are over 5,000 blind persons. It is impossible for one Home Teacher to cover the needs of all these blind people and it is, therefore, hoped to expand the service in the near future.

Workshop for the Blind: Under present conditions, it is not possible to secure jobs in open employment for all blind workers. Again, not all blind persons are suited for placement in open industry under competitive conditions. Sheltered workshops are therefore necessary as they provide the means of employment for a large number of the blind.

The NAB has set up in Bombay the first sheltered workshop for the blind in India. The workshop, which is located in a modern and spacious building at Worli in Bombay, was inaugurated on January 25, 1963. It has three sections – Industrial, Contracts and Light Engineering. It provides work for 100 blind workers. A Dictaphone-Typing Training Course has recently been started.

The Workshop also serves as a demonstration and training centre.

Talking Books: To provide much needed literature for the blind and to supplement the rather small supply of material in Braille available in India, the NAB in 1963, took up the recording of books for the blind on tape in Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and to a limited extent in English. An initial supply of 100 tape players and specialized recording and copying equipment was received as a gift from the VRA (now SRS), Department of Health, Education and Welfare, U.S.A. Further gift consignments have been received and several hundred titles have been recorded during the past six years.

In addition to books of general interest, text books for college students and monthly magazines in Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati are recorded at the Talking Book Studios.

Pheroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind: August 1, 1967 saw the establishment of yet another important service. The Pheroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind, located in a large bungalow in the picturesque hill resort of Mount Abu (Rajasthan) provides adjustment and training in rehabilitation for the newly-blind. A six-month training course covering personal adjustment, community skills, mobility, handwork, elementary light engineering and/or agriculture, helps the newly-blinded adult to face life with renewed confidence.

Scholarships: The NAB gives away a number of scholarships every year to needy and deserving students studying in schools and colleges throughout India. Many students, who would otherwise have been unable to continue their studies, have, as a result of the help received from the NAB, passed the High School Examination and, in some cases, secured B.A. and M.A. degrees. Since
1967, it has been possible to increase considerably the number of scholarships awarded every year, thanks to the generosity of the late Mrs. Navajbai P. Sett who placed in trust an amount of Rs. 300,000, the income from which is utilized by the NAB in the form of scholarships to blind students and grants for apparatus and equipment to institutions for the blind.

State Branches: To promote the development of blind welfare services all over India, the NAB proposes to establish branches in the different states. State Branches have so far been set up in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Future Plans: The plans of the NAB are ambitious and are aimed at providing a complete network of services throughout India for the blind of all age groups and the multiple-handicapped blind. This will of course, take time and will need a much larger quantum of funds than is available at present. Although voluntary donations have been generously available, further expansion will be possible only if substantial Government grants are provided.

The immediate plans of the NAB include the establishment of the NAB-Lions Home for the Aging Blind at Lonavla (Maharashtra) and the NAB Mata Lachhmi Day Nursery for Blind Children at Bombay. A plot of land has been donated to the Mata Lachhmi Trust Building has been offered free of rent to the NAB for the establishment of these two, much needed projects.

Most important of all of course, is the need to consolidate and expand our existing services.

*****
NAB Chandigarh and Punjab State Branch was initiated in early 1990. Dr I.S. Jain, HOD Eye dept, PGI was the first President of the branch. However, nothing much happened on expected lines and the Branch remained almost dysfunctional until 2003 when Mr. Vinod Chadha, our Hon. President took over the reins.

We had too many things to do from scratch – opening of registered bank account, registration of new members of the Executive Council under the Societies Act, registration under the PWD Act, getting three statements of accounts audited to apply for income tax exemption under 80G, registration under clause 12A for seeking charitable status from IT Dept., registration with FCRA and so on.

With the efforts of our President, Mr. Vinod Chadha all these jobs were completed in record time. The branch was able to procure all the registrations stated above even before having completed three years of operation. What’s more we could get 4 rooms at Karuna Sadan for our office and our activities. Time went by and we didn’t even realize that the branch that was started without a bank account now has a 10-seater TATA Sumo vehicle (since 2007), a Mahindra 22-seater bus (since 2007), and Tata Winger 13-seater.

**NOW WE ARE DULY REGISTERED BODY WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

- Societies Registration Act 1860.
- Persons with Disability Act (PWD Act) 2016
- Income Tax Exemption under section 80G & 12A.
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)
- The National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, New Delhi
- Registered with NITI Aayog, Govt. of India
- Registered with Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi

**THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS ARE FUNCTIONAL AT NAB CHANDIGARH & PUNJAB BRANCH**

- **NAB Rehabilitation and Computer Training Centre for the visually challenged at Chandigarh & Punjab.**

  We are running three computer education training programs at the following locations:
  1. Karuna Sadan, Sector-11-B, Chandigarh
  2. Aasha Kiran, Vocational Training Centre for disabled Sector-46 D, Chandigarh
  3. Institute for the Blind, Jamalpur, Ludhiana

  All the courses are totally free for all and no fee whatsoever has been charged from anyone since their inception in 2003.

- **Family Counseling Centre with Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi**

  A Family Counseling Centre is operational since March 2009 at Aasha Kiran Vocational Training Centre, Sector 46 D, Chandigarh where two trained psychologist counsel the disabled and their family members to cope up with the challenges faced due to disability and to create positive thinking and right atmosphere for their growth. More than 100 persons are benefitted from this counselling centre every year.

- **Inclusive Education program for disabled children (IEDC) for 30 students with NAB India.**

  NAB in its 14th year of integrated education for the visually challenged, has on its rolls 30 students who are being taught through 3 special educators in different schools in Chandigarh. This year two units are supported by Education Department NAB, India, Mumbai. We provide free Braille books and all aids and appliances required for their education.

- **Talking book library**

- **Extension Counter of National Institute for the empowerment of persons with visual disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun (Earlier NIVH)**

10 August 2019
- **Saksham Extension Counter**
  
  These facilities are benefiting all visually challenged in Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal, J & K and Punjab. This service is made available at Ludhiana also.

- We are running 2 unit of Visually Impaired Multiple Disability Program (VIMD) supported by Perkins International India, USA under Voice & Vision Program with 15 beneficiaries.

- **Issue Of Letter Of Intent (LoI) To Start Community Radio Station at Jamalpur, Ludhiana**

  - NAB, Chandigarh and Punjab branch is the first NGO in disability sector to have been awarded a letter of intent (LOI) by Ministry of Information and broadcasting to start its own community radio station at 2 rooms allotted to us at Institute for the blind, Ludhiana. This will cater to educational needs of all students as course books of all classes will be taught through the medium of radio to all the visually challenged and others in Punjab. This should be operational in about few months time and the benefit of all the recorded programs will be available to the institute.

- **Free Day Care Training Program with The National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India** - On top of getting a Govt. certificate for completion of training of a day care associate, a stipend of Rs 3000/- and Rs 5000/- is paid to the trainees of primary and advanced courses.

- **Niramaya Insurance Scheme for Disabled with The National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India**

  Under this scheme affordable Health Insurance cover of up to Rupees one lakh is provided to PwDs.

- **NAB Chandigarh & Punjab Branch Gets 3 Acre Land On Lease In Mohali For Developing A World Class Institute For The Blind And Eye Care Medical Centre.**

  - We are pleased to inform you that Government of Punjab has now allotted us 3 acres of land in Mohali on the main highway from PGI to Kurali on 33 years lease for the purpose of setting up a World Class Institute for the Blind and Eye Care Medical centre for the visually challenged. This project for education and vocational training will benefit about 1000 visually challenged.

    - The other part of Project will provide eye care to at least 1500 persons every month for an unlimited period of time with the number of beneficiaries increasing every year. This eye care unit will provide timely relief to thousands of persons thus helping them save their vision. Once fully operational, this Institute will impact the lives of thousands of children, families, educators and professionals every year and provide resources, training and advocacy to improve the lives of the thousands of children without access to education due to blindness.

We are regularly celebrating Louis Braille Day and International White Cane Day every year.

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**Awards/Recognition achieved:**

- **Awarded Commendation Certificate by Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare as President, National Association for the Blind in June, 2010.**

- **NAB declared best NGO 2013 by Cheshire Homes. Award presented by the then Union Railway Minister, Shri Pawan Bansal.**

- **Commendation Certificate-2014 awarded by Chandigarh Administration Department of Social Welfare to our Hon. President as Honorary Director, of Aasha Kiran.**

- **One of our students Prerna, was awarded with National Award under the category “Outstanding Creative Child with Disability” by Honorable Vice President of India Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu on 3rd December, 2018.**

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National Association for the Blind, Goa State Branch was established in the year 1983 with the help of NAB, India, Mumbai. The founder President being Mrs. Marion D'Souza who with the help of a few friends ran the Association without an office for almost 10 years and with minimum funds and limited activities for the visually challenged.

By the year 1993 more members roped into the Committee and decided to have an office and a resource center in order to expand the activities of NAB, Goa. As a result we were able to obtain dilapidated school building at St. Cruz which was patched up to serve as an office for NAB Goa. At Mapusa with the help of Kamat Constructions we purchased two flats to begin a Resource Center there. It is 36 years now since NAB Goa has been catering to all round development of the visually impaired in the state of Goa, with limited resources at our disposal. With just a handful of volunteers we have been able to reach out to quite a number of visually impaired in the field of education, Vocational training and employment.

Activities Carried:

1. Established boarding facility: for 30 visually impaired students, both school going and college. This boarding facility has given a quantum jump improvement in the standard of education. This is because the students get more study time and attention from the teachers. It also gives better nourishment or balanced food which otherwise they could not get in their homes. Most of these students are competing with the sighted children in regular school and securing 1st class and distinctions. Besides their regular studies they are given training in computers, music, theatre, sports, housekeeping, etc.

2. Established computer centre: This provides computer training, not only for those having boarding facility but also to others from different parts of Goa.

3. Established music and singing centre: Wherein the children are given voice training in singing. The children also get theatre training as well. Both the computer and music centre are headed by a visually impaired.

4. Integrated Education Programme: From 1990 till date NAB Goa is following the Integrated Education Programme. Earlier we had 5 itinerant teachers and at present we have 8 itinerant teachers. This programme was earlier supported by NAB India, and even now they are supporting us by providing financial assistance and the necessary help required.

5. Multi Handicapped Programme: NAB Goa has started a new venture called Multi Handicapped Programme to cater Multi Disabled Visually Impaired Children (MDVI). Two teachers have been trained for the purpose. They visit the homes and orient parents on how to deal and cope with the children. The teachers offer guidance to parents and children. At present we have one teacher with 6 MDVI students.

6. Vocational Training Programme: The elder visually impaired persons are given training on
vocational trades based on market demand. Goa being a tourist state, paper bags both of newspapers and quality papers, crafts like knitting, cowls, wire baskets, caps, scarf, candles and diya paintings are made by the visually impaired persons and sold to starred hotels, malls and super centers and exhibitions in various parts of Goa.

7. **Employment:** The visually impaired are self employed or employed directly in the Institutions. In the last ten years 75 are self employed and 40 employed in the hotels, Banks, Private Institutions & Government Bodies.

8. **Counseling:** Twice a month counseling is done for the children.

9. **Other Activities:**
   a) Picnics: At least 2 picnics are organized yearly.
   b) Boat Cruise
   c) Photography Camp
   d) Fashion Show
   e) White Cane Day
   f) Elocution and Quiz competition
   g) Chess competition
   h) Medical & Ophthalmic check-ups.
   i) Study Camps before the Exams.
   j) Sports
   k) Theatre
   l) Baking
   m) Swimming
   n) Chess
   o) Yoga
   p) Orientation & Mobility
   q) Gymnastics
   r) Dance Training
   s) Crafts and beadwork
   t) Exhibitions
   u) Toastmasters training

**Beneficiaries:**

1. Boarding Facility : 30
2. Computer Centre : 50
3. Music & Singing : 20
4. Multi-handicapped Project : 06
5. Vocational Training Programme : 2000
6. Employment : 115

**Highlights:**

1. Joseph Pereira received the 12th **Piloo Dorab Khambatta Memorial Award** for the outstanding Self Employed Blind entrepreneur for the year 2005 from NAB, India & he was also felicitated for Kadam Bada Do by Disha Charitable Trust, Goa.

2. **Konkani Drama ‘KASHANV’ was organized** by Mr. Vincent Monteiro (Totally Blind) with the adult Blind in various parts of Goa.

3. A **Jazz Musical Show** was organized by a volunteer Mr. Armando Gonsalves as a fund raising programme for NAB, Goa.

4. Three English plays and three Konkani Plays- in 2007 ‘Importance of being Earnest’, “One on One” in 2011 “Club Desire” in 2015, Nachuia Kumpasar in 2016 “K Sera Sera” in 2017 and Miranda House in 2019 were staged. These plays were put up to raise funds.

5. NAB, Goa celebrated its **Silver Jubilee** in 2007 starting with Inaugural function held at Kala Academy. The Chief Guest was Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa, Mr. Pratap Singh Rane & Guest of Honour, Mr J. P. Singh, the then Chief Secretary of Goa.

6. As part of the Silver Jubilee Year we organized many functions throughout the year. The valedictory function was held on 10th February 2008 to mark the end of Silver Jubilee Celebration Function at Fort Aguada Beach Resort, followed by dinner. The function was attended by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa, the Chief Secretary and other officials of Government of Goa, & important dignitaries from the State of Goa.

7. Mr. Julio D’Cunha, totally blind student has released CDs on **Devotional Songs** sung by himself.

8. Mr. Peter Dias secured **Gold Medal in National Abilimpics** held at New Delhi for Waste Reuse. And also secured a Bronze Medal with a cash prize of Rs.50, 000.00 at the Sixth International Abilimpics held at New Delhi for Waste Reuse.

9. Teachers were felicitated and awarded:
   a) Our senior most Teacher, Mrs. Leena Prabhu, was selected by NAB, India to represent India in Hongkong for Mobility Conference in the year 2006 and State Award in 2007.
   b) President of NAB, Goa State Branch Mr. Rozendo Mendonsa was honored with Goa State Award by...
10. **AWARD**:

a) National Association for the Blind, Goa State Branch, received an award from Mandovi Parivar as Best Institution on 15th August 2014 on the occasion of Independence Day.

b) National Association for the Blind, Goa State Branch, received an award from RDXGOA as “Adarsh Goencar Award 2016” on 4th April 2016 at Neo Majestic – Porvorim, Goa.

c) Ms. Shephen Sheikh from Rotary Club of Porvorim felicitated the teachers and staff for appreciating the work done in this field.

d) Sumera Khan achieved twice awards of “Best Topic Speaker” from Goa YMCA Toastmasters Club on 14th August 2019 and 18th September 2019.

e) Mr. Mahadev Sawant received award for “Best Disabled Employee Award” on 19th December 2018.

11. Every year the students from NAB received Scholarships from Marutirai Trust in Academics.

12. For the past fifteen years our students and adults participated in RYLA Camp organized by the Rotary Club of Panjim Reveira for the Visually Impaired persons of Maharashtra and Goa in the capital city of Panjim.


14. One of our visually impaired adults is managing “Safe Drinking Water Stall” in Miramar.

15. A residential house was built by NAB with the help of well wishers in Usgao for Mr. Paulo Mascarenhas (Totally Blind). Previously Paulo and his family were staying in a hut with thatched roof which was located just below the high tension electrical lines, which was very dangerous.

16. Our school going children participated in All Goa Fancy Dress Competition, on Independence Day organized by an NGO. Five of our children got 1st and 2nd prizes out of 150 participants.

17. Ms. Stacy Rodrigues partially sighted held an Art Exhibition of her paintings on 16th March 2018, at Kala Academy at Panjim.

18. Celebrations of all religious festivals like Christmas, Diwali, Eid, Teachers Day and Children’s day.

19. Master. Saish Paryekar has received a consolation prize and a trophy for Chess.

**SPORTS:**

**Judo:** Our 3 children Mohammad, Shabeena & Swami were taken to Delhi for Judo. Mohammad and Shabeena won Silver Medals.

**FASHION SHOW:**

On 11th November 2011, the children of NAB participated in a Fashion Show organized by Rotary Club of Mapusa.

At present NAB, Goa is catering to about 200 visually impaired in Goa. Out of the 200 visually impaired 53 of them are studying in regular schools and are following the Integrated Education Programme. We have employed 8 Itinerant Teachers [specialized teachers] to coach the students in their studies and to bring about the overall development in them, and one teacher for Multi handicapped who visits the residence of the students and train these children. During the past 12 years we have been able to enroll more of them in the schools. Around 20 of them have already been able to pass the SSC exams. 10 of them have successfully completed the Higher Secondary Exams. Braille notes, enlarged print text books, visiting the home and school, special study camps, taped notes are being provided to make studying enjoyable and easy for these students.

The second major activities NAB Goa branch is to provide vocational training to the Adults, realizing that they should be skilled and efficient in order to become self sufficient. A number of vocational camps were organized at our Resource Center and were trained in following activities.

1. Orientation and Mobility training to help them to move about freely in society with safety and confidence.

2. Chalk-making, chair-caning, paper bags, candle making, hanger making, making shawls, foot massaging etc.

3. Besides, the visually impaired were encouraged to learn computers, stenography, telephone operating and Braille.
As a result of vocational training during the past 10 years, 10 visually impaired have been employed of which 7 are self-employed, one of them is doing very well and are able to employ other visually impaired with them. It is our wish and desire that all of them could be gainfully employed.

4. **Sports and Cultural Activities**: All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. The visually impaired are talented persons, hence NAB Goa gives many opportunities to the visually impaired to exhibit their talents. Singing, dance and drama are very much part of their life and activities. Two theatre workshops were conducted for them and they were able to perform on stage at Kala Academy on two occasions and were invited at several places in Goa to perform. The visually impaired are encouraged to learn musical instruments and quite few of them play guitar, violin, mouth organ and flute. The visually impaired have taken part in sport competitions like cricket, chess and athletics. One of our student is a gold medalist at the National Abilympics for west region and a bronze medalist at the International Abilympics

5. **Awareness Programmes**: NAB Goa conducts several awareness programmes

In order to spread awareness about the visual impairment, Camps for the visually impaired are conducted to train them in life skills. Meetings are held with the parents of the visually impaired, Heads of schools, colleges and teachers. Meetings are held with Anganwadi workers to help us to identify the visually challenged in the remote areas. Occasions like World White Cane Day, Flag Day are used to create awareness among the general public.

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NAB Gujarat State Branch

Dr. Nitin Sumant Shah, President

The National Association for the Blind, Gujarat State Branch (NAB GSB) has taken the lead in offering all services for the education, training and employment of the blind to the remotest corners of the State of Gujarat. I have been handling the reins of the NAB Gujarat Branch for the past 3 years and I am happy that our dynamic and dedicated district branches are spread in 24 districts. Our Branches conduct programmes on education, sports and dramatics at different locations throughout the year and come together every quarter for the Executive Committee Meeting at the NAB Gujarat Head Quarters or at other Branch locations. On becoming President, I donated Rs. 1 lakh to every district branch from the Heart Foundation and Research Institute funds. I have also decided to pay a visit to every branch in the near future. I have also decided to institute an Award in memory of my beloved mother Smt. Chandrikaben Sumant Shah.

Jagdish Upvan

Jagdish Kashibhai Patel was born with 20/20 vision on 5th September, 1928 in Borsad in Kheda District of Gujarat. At the age of 8 years, he lost his eye sight due to meningitis. He studied at the Behala School in Kolkata and then went on to the Victoria Memorial School in Mumbai where he completed a course in Physiotherapy. He set up his own medico massage clinic and earned a reputation as a Physiotherapist with magic fingers. He founded the Blind Men’s Association in 1950 (now renamed as Blind People’s Association) and other associated Trusts like NAB Gujarat Branch, National Adult Training Centre. Among his first initiatives include a School for adult blind in Gujarat and eventually a Braille transcription project by prisoners of Sabarmati jail, adding cross disabilities in a vocational training Workshop, centres of excellence at the district level and community based rehabilitation programmes. He focused on professional management, team work and networking. He was awarded the Padmashree by Government of India, the Golden Award by Help Age International and many other national and international awards. His partner in progress remained his wife Bhadraben Satia who helped to nurture and provide solid support to the growth of Blind Men’s Association and the associated Trusts.

All Trusts paid tribute to Jagdish bhai on the occasion of his 20th death anniversary by inaugurating a special sensory garden called “Jagdish Upvan” in the campus. The Upvan was inaugurated by Jagdishbhai’s sister Smt. Daksha Manmatbhai Patel in the presence of Mr. Sudhir Patel, Mrs. Shubhlata Ramesh Patel, Mr. Sanjay Patel & other family members. Mrs. Bhadra Satia’s family members were also present on this occasion. The school students sang Bhajans in Jagdishbhai’s memories. A blood donation drive was also held and 25 blind students donated blood.

NAB Gujarat State Branch award Functions:

NAB Gujarat state branch organizes very special award function every year with the support of district branches. This award function is real tribute and recognition to great personalities such as;

1) Late Shri Bhikhabhai Chimanlal Shah
2) Late Padmshri Dr. Jagdishbhai Patel
3) Late Shri Mukund bhai Vadilal Gandhi

This year NAB Gujarat State Branch organized award function on 5th August 2018 at Raj Bhawan, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Honorable Governor of Gujarat, Shri O.P.N. Kohli was the Chief Guest and Prof. Bhaskar Mehta, the then President, NAB India; Mr. S.K. Singh, Hon. Secretary General NAB India; Dr. Bhushan Punani Treasurer, NAB Gujarat State Branch were Guests of Honour.

His Excellency, The Honorable Governor of Gujarat State addressed the gathering and said that he was happy to give such awards to people with visual impairment. The following were recipients of the awards in different categories.
Recipients of Shri Bikhabhai Smruti Paritoshik:
1. Mr. Khimjibhai L. Patel
2. Mr. Shashibhai R. Vadhar

Recipients of Padmshri Jagdishbhai Patel Pragnachakshu Pratibha Paritoshik:
1. Mr. Bhupendrabhai Tripathi
2. Ms. Shudhaben Patel Pragna

Recipients of Shri Mukundbhai Gandhi Stri Shakti Award:
1. Ms. Aarohi H Parmar
2. Ms. Shrutilata Singh

Mr. Praful Vyas who is a voluntary worker in Dhoraji area was felicitated on the occasion on his 60th birthday.

EVENTS HOSTED BY DISTRICT BRANCHES:
- NAB Dahod and Panchmahal District Branch organized the State Level Chess Competition of Special Khel Mahakumbh at Dahod on 23-25 December, 2018.
- NAB Bhuj District Branch organized a State Level Athletic Meet of the Blind as a part of Khel Mahakumbh in Gujarat at Bhuj on 16-17 December, 2018 in which approximately 550 male and female athletes participated.
- State Level Blind Boys Cricket Tournament was organized at Valsad on 21-22 December, 2018 as a part of Khel Mahakumbh where 128 blind boys participated.
- State Level Blind Girls Cricket Tournament was organized at Surendranagar on 14-15 December, 2018 as a part of Khel Mahakumbh where 128 blind girls participated.
- on 19 August 2018 Gujarat Vocal Music Competition was organized by NAB Bhuj and NAB GSB, in this competition 200 competitors participated. Youth and Cultural Department supported the event.
- State Level Braille Reading, was organized at Sanand on 6 January, 2019 where 78 individuals participated from 18 blind school of the Gujarat.
- State Level Poetry Recitation was organized at Sanand on 6 January, 2019 where 14 blind poets participated.

All the District Branches of the NAB Gujarat State Branch have emerged as the lead NGO in their respective districts. The common programmes of all branches are:
- Organizing Khel Mahakumbh at district level
- Inclusive education of children with disabilities at secondary level
- Day care centres
- Providing resource facilities to children with disabilities
- Organizing events like drama, chess, cricket, athletics
- Self-employment support
- Scholarships to students
- Distribution of assistive devices

NAB DISTRICT BRANCHES MEETING
The NAB District Branches meeting and NAB Gujarat State Branch EC meeting were hosted by NAB Surendranagar District Branch at Patdi on 30 June, 2018. Mr. Kanubhai Gadhvi was a very generous host and impressed the people with his warmth. The meeting also consisted of a session on the newly enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

NAB INDIA STATE BRANCHES CONFERENCE-2019
Mr. Ranchhod Soni, Mr. Tarak Luhar and Mr. Arkesh Patel attended State Branch Conference-2019 of NAB India at Chennai, Tamilnadu on 27 Feb-4 March’19. Mr. Ranchod Soni presented a Paper on - Inclusion in the manufacturing sector and consumer products i.e. user friendly mobile and electronic products & Inclusion in financial services. Mr. Tarak Luhar made a presentation on Inclusion in Sports and Cultural Organizations. Prof. Bhaskar Mehta, Immediate Past President of NAB was also present during the seminar.

NAB SAVINAY SAMMALIT PATHSHALA
The NAB GSB has succeeded in integrating the special children in the mainstream schools with the non-disabled children. This primary school started enrolling children with disabilities as well as non-disabled children who come from lowest socio-economic strata of society, orphans and
marginalized groups. This school has enrolled around 200 children. All the children from villages are provided transport services, uniform and shoes and education. This school is emerging as a very successful experiment indeed.

The focus of these Inclusive Schools (Sammalit Pathshala) is to create an enabling environment in the school where all facilities are accessible, teachers are qualified to handle such children, and there is special support and resource material available as per needs of children with special needs.

The uniqueness of this school is friendly environment for the disabled, accessible material and infrastructure, qualified teachers that would facilitate effective education of such children. As these children are studying with non-disabled children, it promotes their inclusion and acceptance by non-disabled children.

Another uniqueness of the school is its registration with the Department of Primary Education as a regular school like any other school. Thus these schools would be monitored and evaluated by the Department of Primary Education like any other school; the children would be able to join this school from any other school or join this school after leaving any other school. Once a student leaves this school, he or she is eligible to join any other school across the country. The School Leaving Certificate would have validity for joining any other school across the country.

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

Gujarat Branch organized unique gala performances by disabled students, trainees and parents & staff on 15 September 2018 on the occasion of “All India Flag Day for the Blind” at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, S.G. Road, Ahmedabad. Like every year this programme was sponsored by Mr. Upendrabhai Shah of Shah Investors Home Limited.

The Chief Guests of this programme were Ms. Neha Kumari (IAS), Assistant Collector of Ahmedabad, Mr. P.K. Jha, Zonal General Manager of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Mr. Hemantbhai Dabhi on behalf of Ramdev Food Products Pvt.Ltd.,

Blind and disabled students and trainees from the Schools, Workshops, Vocational Training and Day Care Centres performed - dances, songs, fancy dress and fashion shows. Each student showed his/her own ability and proved that their disability is not inability. The drama performed by blind students made people laugh out loud and the other dances made people hold their breath in wonder. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, who turned 60 in October, was felicitated on this occasion along with 10 other personnel who retired.

**TRAINING FOR REGULAR TEACHERS**

Training for the regular teachers of the Bavla and Naaz inclusive schools was conducted from 4-6 June, 2018 at the BPA campus. The teachers underwent simulation in different disabilities so that they could understand and appreciate the needs of children with disabilities. They were also given orientation about needs of these children, adapting curriculum to suit their needs and also classroom management. The teachers went back empowered and ready to welcome more children with special needs in their classrooms.

**CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Mrs. Anjaliben Vijay bhai Rupani, wife of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijaybhai Rupani inaugurated the function as Chief Guest on 3 December, 2018 and distributed assistive and self - employment oriented devices worth Rs. 3 lakhs which were made available support of Dr. Nitin Shah, Chairperson of Heart Foundation & Research Institute and President of NAB Gujarat State Branch. Respected Rajmata of Palitana Smt. Soniaba, her son and Ms. Rajika Kacheria also graced the occasion along with Shri Piyush bhai Desai, President of BPA and Mr. Kintu Shah, Swabhiman Group.

**NAB GUJARAT BRANCH WEBSITE:**

NAB Gujarat has developed its own website www.nabgujarat.org. The activities of State Branch, District Branch and Taluka Branches shall be uploaded on this site. This site shall also provide soft copies of all the laws, policies, notifications, Executive Orders, Circulars etc pertaining to disability sector. This site shall also provide copies of all important judgment pertaining to disability areas.

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National Association for the Blind, Haryana State Branch, Faridabad came into existence in 1980 with an aim to dissolve and minimize the stigma attached with the blindness by providing opportunities to the visually impaired to become useful and contributing members of the society. Thereby, making them self reliant so that they do not buckle under or wallow in despair and self pity. Ever since, the Association has grown from strength to strength with every passing year. Presently, the Association is running a total number of 13 projects comprising result oriented training programmes to enable the visually impaired to meet life head on and accept its challenges with a smile.

1. **INTEGRATED EDUCATION PROGRAMME:**

The Programme was instituted in the year 1986 with a view to afford an opportunity to Visually Impaired children to get education in normal schools with other normal children through mode of Integrated Education. In this, the children follow the normal school Curriculum and share the same platform with other sighted children and take part in the school activities. Our Itinerant Teachers who visit these schools and residence of these children to teach the relevant subjects in Braille Script. This mode of education instills confidence and prepares the Visually Impaired children for a better future.

2. **NETRA JYOTI SURAKSHA PROGRAMME:**

The very fact that 'Eyesight is Valuable', needs no further elaboration. This programme was started in the year 1992 with the objective to control deterioration of eyesight of those school-going children who come from poor family background. These poor children can ill afford consultation and related treatment prescribed by Ophthalmologists. So our trained staff visits the schools and shortlists the students who according to their opinion are in need of eye treatment and spectacles as prescribed, are provided towards which a token money of Rs.30/- is charged from the student and the balance cost is shared by the Association. The Association provides medicines required for treatment free of cost.

3. **HOME SCIENCE TEACHING PROGRAMME:**

This programme was started in the year 1990 with the aim to provide training to Visually Impaired girls in routine household chores. The duration of training is 6 months during which girls are taught cooking, washing, stitching, knitting, housekeeping, dressing and personality development. The training makes them independent and confident to become a good housewife. The Association provides free food, hostel accommodation and medical facilities.
4. **Typing Cum Shorthand Training Programme:**

A Typing cum Shorthand Training Programme is conducted for those Visually Impaired candidates who have received education up to Secondary level. This programme was started in the year 1997 and is for one year duration. Comprehensive training is imparted in Shorthand, fixing of paper in Braille Machine, knowledge of compared word, short forms, group signs and phrases etc. With practice, students do comfortably achieve speed up to 60 words per minute in Shorthand. The training gives tremendous confidence to the students and enables them to explore job opportunities. Apart from free training, free boarding and lodging is provided to the students.

5. **Vocational Training:**

Vocationalisation is the need of the hour as it increases the employment opportunity of the candidates. This programme was started in the year 1993 for those uneducated and visually impaired who are living in remote villages in Haryana State and come from weaker section of the society. The duration of this programme is 6 months during which extensive training is provided in furniture canning, basket, candles and chalk making etc. After the training the student can get the good employment opportunities in Govt. and Private Sector, besides self-employment with small capital at their doorstep. The trainees are provided free boarding and lodging.

6. **Marriage Cell:**

NAB Faridabad firmly believe in the institution of marriage and hence strongly feel that eligible blind males and females should also be brought together and encouraged to join hands in marriage. This way we help them to become confident and prepare them to lead married life like any other normal couple. For this we are able to muster financial support from our patrons and well wishers who assist out of the goodness of their heart. This cell became functional in the year 1982 and we have solemnized near about 45 marriages till date. Last year one marriage solemnized of blind couple in NAB.

7. **Braille Aid Bank:**

We started Braille Aid Bank in the year 1980 with an objective to make available necessary utility, educational and sports items to the needy. The idea is to arrange and provide the best quality products at affordable cost on no profit no loss basis. Items which are not locally available are arranged from different manufacturers all over India and sold, just like Folding Stick, Cricket Balls, Needle Threader, Chessboards, Playing Cards, Braille Paper and Learning Device, Sign guards and other items of daily use for the visually impaired.

8. **Braille and Recorded Library:**

We started the concept of Braille and Recorded Library in 1980 with a view to encourage and motivate the visually impaired to develop the habit of reading. We maintain a vast collection of books on a variety of topics, educational, technical, short stories, novels, religious, health guides etc. We endeavor to make them think that in spite of the impairment they too can enjoy and learn as much as other more fortunate people. We also maintain a mobile library, which caters to the needs of those who are unable to utilize the facilities of the premises library. The required books are provided at their doorstep and any assistance required is given then and there.

9. **Help an Aged Blind:**

Our Association has launched Help an Aged Blind Programme. This programme is being conducted for those Visually Impaired male/female who are 60 years and above of age and do not have permanent shelter over their heads and either been abandoned by their kith and kin or even their own children. Sponsorship is sought through local donors who are committed to the cause of welfare of an aged blind and are willing to donate a sum of Rs.6000/- annually.

The amount is distributed in cash and kind. Items of daily use as per their need and desire are made available quarterly. This programme has met with tremendous success during a short period, which has given us impetus to work more in this regard.
10. COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAMME:

Computer literacy has become the need for today and we consider that Visually Impaired do not lag behind in this respect and should be afforded all the opportunities to learn this technology. Proficiency in Information Technology has also become a market requirement and employers look for trained individuals in this field. Keeping ourselves abreast with the changing need, we started Computer Training Programme for the visually impaired in 2006. The programme is open to those persons who have qualified Senior School Certificate. At a time 15-25 candidates are granted admission. The duration is six months, in which training is imparted on basic knowledge, M.S. Word, M.S. Excel, Power Point and Internet. At the end of programme, a test is carried out to judge the proficiency of the candidates and certificates issued accordingly. Besides free of charge training, the Association provides free boarding and lodging to the trainees. Boys and girls are housed in separated hostels.

11. REHABILITATION CELL:

Even after providing requisite training, medical and financial assistance etc., rehabilitation of visually impaired remains a major task with our Association. The Cell came into existence in the year 1980 and ever since then our Association has been making an all out effort for their proper settlement in life. Assistance is provided for locating proper accommodation, getting gas and telephone connections and arrangement of free railway passes. Our Association has rendered such assistance to so many people so far.

12. EARLY PREPARATION CENTRE:

The centre was started in April 2009 with an aim to prepare the young children with blindness for their mainstreaming. Children are trained in the optimum use of their other senses such as touch, taste, hearing and smell. Simultaneously, mechanism of Braille learning, use of Taylor frame, techniques of indoor and outdoor mobility, age appropriate social skills, and required activities of daily living are also taught by involving the parents also. All the children are day scholars who are provided with pick up and drop facility without any charge. All stated educational services are imparted by our qualified teachers. Presently a total of 15-20 children between the age group of 4-10 years are benefitting from this programme.

13. MUSIC CENTRE:

Today, Music is gaining popularity and momentum all over the world. It is a vocation which has taken a place of gainful employment and is quite remunerative. Keeping this in view, we started a music centre in our premises wherein we teach vocal as well as instrumental music to the visually impaired children. Classes of two hours duration are held regularly under the guidance of a trained music teacher. Children are getting this training and have shown great enthusiasm in learning this art.

SHORT TERM COURSES CONDUCTED:

MEDITATION CAMP: National Association for the Blind, Haryana state Branch Organized a one day Meditation Camp supported by NIVH Dehradun on 22.08.2018.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES: National Association for the Blind, Haryana state Branch, Organized Nagesh Cricket Trophy for the Blind, T-20 Cricket Tournament- India Vs Sri Lanka held on 22 October 2018 at Nahar Singh Stadium Faridabad.

YOGA DAY: National Association for the Blind, Haryana state Branch, celebrated the Yoga day on 21.06.2018 with trainees and staff.

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NAB Kerala State Branch

Josey Joseph
Hon. General Secretary & General Executive Officer

National Association for the Blind, Kerala State Branch (NAB Kerala) started functioning in the year 1962, with initiative from H.G. the Late Benedict Mor Gregorios, then Arch Bishop of Thiruvananthapuram. Ever since, NAB Kerala has been actively involved in Welfare Activities for the Visually Challenged and Persons with other Disabilities including Multiple Disabilities. Quite a large number of welfare projects in different parts of Kerala have been undertaken for the benefit of Visually Challenged numbering around sixty thousand so far.

In the early stages, NAB Kerala used to conduct eye camps, arrange cataract operations and cornea transplantations, provide ophthalmic treatments, distribute spectacles etc. for the needy and downtrodden.

At present, NAB Kerala is running a Training & Rehabilitation Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. The activities in this Centre include Vocational Training, Mobility Training, Teaching Braille Reading and Writing, Computer Education, Music Training, Operation of Low Vision Centre etc. for the benefit of Vision Impaired Persons. Caring Children with Multiple Disabilities like Deaf-Blindness, Care and Therapy for Physical and Mental Illnesses and for Vision Impaired and Hearing Impaired, Life Insurance Coverage for 700 Vision Impaired Persons joining with LIC of India etc. are some of the other major activities of NAB Kerala. Preparation of Text Books and other printed matter in Audio Format, Membership in Book Share Library etc. have also been undertaken by NAB Kerala. Around 50 – 60 Trainees and other Disabled Persons are attending the Training Centre regularly.

In the rural areas also, NAB Kerala is carrying out several welfare projects for the benefit of Persons with various Disabilities. Earlier NAB Kerala could cover some of the rural areas in Alapuzha, Ernakulam and Palakkadu Districts of Kerala State, with its welfare activities. It is the aim of NAB to cover rural areas of the entire State in a phased manner.

The Rural Project now under way is in the Nemom Block of Thiruvananthapuram District. The project involves identification of people with disabilities, particularly children from poor financial background, and providing food, health care and financial support according to their needs. Preliminary studies indicate that in the seven Grama Panchayats included in Nemom Block there are more than 2000 persons with different kinds of disabilities, majority of them children and a good number belonging to BPL category. These people are to be brought to camps to be arranged and given Medical and Therapeutic care. Children among them who are not attending schools are to be encouraged to pursue their education. One such project was successfully carried out in Vamanapuram Block Panchayat Area in Thiruvananthapuram District itself, during the past six-year period. For the rural projects NAB Kerala has received financial support from M/s. Care & Share Charitable Trust, USA.

The Computer Learning Centre run by NAB Kerala is financially supported by Amway India Enterprises Ltd. For the other programs being carried out in the Training and Rehabilitation Centre, some financial support was received earlier from M/s. Harish & Bina Shah Foundation, Mumbai, arranged by NAB India.

Construction of Golden Jubilee Building

In the initial stages NAB Kerala was functioning from rented premises. Later on, with support from Life Members and other Well-wishers, an old building was bought which was later renovated with financial support from Service Organizations like Y’s Men International. The Training & Rehabilitation Centre of NAB Kerala has been functioning in these premises utilizing also the space on the rooftop of the old and dilapidated garage building. Acute scarcity of space has been hampering many of the welfare activities. Steps leading to the premises from the road were very steep causing lot of inconvenience to the disabled persons. To provide a ramp approach with easy gradient was practically impossible. Considering the need for additional...
space and disabled-friendly access it was planned to construct a new building in the land available in the front-side, as an extension to the old building, with provision for an elevator. The plan for the proposed new extension was prepared in 2011-12 with intention to take up the construction as part of the Golden Jubilee Projects. However, due to poor financial position it could not be taken up then. Now with increased activities the need for more space became grave and it was inevitable that the proposed extension was constructed. So the work was started in May 2019 with target to complete it by February 2020. The new building will have adequate space, a ramp access from the road and an elevator which are essential to make it user friendly for the Disabled. This project has been estimated to cost around Rs. 100,00,000/-. NAB Kerala has approached several Organizations and Individuals seeking financial support for completing the Construction Project.

There are proposals for expansion of the ongoing activities and some new welfare projects, under active consideration of NAB Kerala, some of which have been presented for CSR Funding of Corporate Bodies.

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National Association for the Blind (Unit Maharashtra)  
Mr. Rameshwar Kalantri, President

NAB Unit Maharashtra State branch came into being in 1984 with initiative of Shri Deokisanji Sarda, Hemant Takle and Ashok Bang. With its modest beginning, now, after almost 30 epochal years, it has become a formidable N.G.O. giving all round services to our visually impaired and physically disabled brothers and sisters through our district branches in the state of Maharashtra. The welfare services, ethics, culture, devotion, volume and sincerity with which NAB (Unit Maharashtra) is working has been noticed and recognized by the society, State and Central Govt. as well as other renowned social agencies and NGOs in the country. I am happy to explain the activities currently being carried out in Maharashtra state branch from Nasik. I would also be glad to unfold our future plans and projects which would be implemented and operational in the near future.

MAHANAB SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND: Started in 1988 with just one girl, now has 85 visually impaired girls in our residential school. Social welfare department had made the school grantable for only 40 girls. However, after consistent efforts and follow up, the license is granted for 65 girls. In addition to academic excellence, our girls have been awarded the first prize in interstate dance competitions held at Kolkata and Madurai. Three years in succession, our school has secured the top award and rated first in state level drama competitions. They have also received the first prize in state level “Rope Malkhamb” competition.

VIJAY MERCHANT MEMORIAL WORKSHOP: In addition to the routine and conventional activities like chalk, broom, file and candle making, the visually impaired adult persons are now encouraged and trained to take up massage, plumbing and computer courses. So far, 16 massagers and 14 plumbers have been trained and employed at various locations. Plumbers are authorized and licensed by Municipal Corporation. 40 computer operators have successfully completed MSCIT course. One of our blind students Mr. Vaibhav Puranik stood first in the MSCIT exam which was common for sighted and blind persons.

DISTRICT BRANCHES: With our 18 district branches and one activity centre, we have been able to provide our services to almost all the visually impaired persons who are living in rural or remote places. Our Sangli, Satara, Latur, Nasik and Chipuli district branches have their own eye hospitals. Sangali’s eye hospital managed by Dr. Ramchandra Pathak is rated as the best NAB eye hospital in the state of Maharashtra.

Dr. Pathak is also a recipient of Alpaiwala award for his selfless devotion in the field. Some of the district branches have their own blind schools which are shaping the future of visually impaired children in their areas.

MAHANAB TRAINING CENTRE: Following training programmes are conducted with regular intervals in NAB (Unit Maharashtra)

1) Foundation course of RCI.
2) C.R.E. course of RCI.
3) Bridge course of RCI.
4) Diploma in Education S.E. (V.I.) course.
5) Several other short term training programmes are conducted regularly.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (C.B.R.) PROJECT: Sponsored by Christoffel Blind Mission (CBM) Germany and Andheri Hilfe Bonn E.V. Germany, 17 C.B.R. programmes were implemented in the entire state of Maharashtra during 1992 to 1998. Normal villagers were trained to improve their existing small businesses. Village community was convinced about the importance of this project and was encouraged to participate in giving social, medical and educational support to visually impaired persons. About 5367 persons have been benefitted through this project.

A.D.I.P. SCHEME: We are the nodal agency in Maharashtra appointed by Central Govt. since 1992 for distribution of aids and appliances to visually impaired, mentally retarded, hearing impaired and with other disabilities. Cost of the aids and appliances is completely funded by the Central Govt.

24 August 2019

Mr. Rameshwar Kalantri, President
DEAF BLIND / MULTIPLE DISABILITY PROJECT: The sphere of activities was expanded by adding new and more challenging welfare task of deaf-blind in the year 1999 with the financial and technical assistance from Sense international India, Ahmedabad. Other than Mumbai, Nasik is the only place where NAB (Unit Maharashtra) is handling this project with great success. Starting with just one M.R. child, today there are 85 children who are deaf, blind or with multiple disabilities and are being looked after, trained and groomed according to their individual intellectual grasp and physical capacity. Fully convinced about our performance, capacity and ability to handle this project, Sense international India requested us to start similar activity in our Nagpur, Sholapur, Dhule, Ahemadnagar (Shrirampur) district branches and also in Malegaon taluka of Nasik district. The success was properly taken cognizance by other funding agencies and Rangoonwala Foundation India Trust came forward to extend the financial assistance to run this project effectively at these locations.

SENSORY GARDEN: First of its kind in Maharashtra and second in India, a uniquely designed “Sensory Garden” with financial assistance from National Trust, New Delhi, is created in Nasik in the year 2009 for the visually impaired, Deafblind and multiple disabled children who are able to touch, feel, sense, smell and analyze while moving in this intricately designed garden. Equipped with a mini amphitheatre and play equipments, it has also become a place of recreation for them. It is a model garden which will shortly be replicated in other districts in the state.

STATE LEARNING CENTRE: In the year 2012, posing their full trust in NAB (Unit Maharashtra), Sense International India chose NAB (Unit Maharashtra) to take the responsibility and work as the “State Learning Centre” funded by UK aid for “Early Intervention” and “Vocational Training” for the VI and with multiple disabled children.

DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL EDUCATION – D.Ed. S.E. (V.I.) COURSE: In order to overcome the ever bothering paucity of trained teachers for the visually impaired and for the persons with multiple disabilities, Diploma in special education for visually impaired, D.Ed. S.E. (V.I.) course was started in the year 2008 under the auspices of Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi. Five batches have already been graduated successfully. Almost all the successful students have been employed.


EDUCATION: We have given special emphasis on education of our visually impaired children. All possible opportunities are created for their education which will help them start their own business enterprise or get into a suitable employment. It should also help them earn their own bread and live life with dignity.

DISTRIBUTION OF C.D. PLAYERS: In order to facilitate the visually impaired students to understand their syllabus easily, every year C.D. Players are distributed to them free of cost. Those who require, C.D.s are also given to them. These C.D.s contain syllabus of T.Y./D.Ed./B.Ed./MPSC and UPSC. They also contain academic books like text books, guides, Rapidex English grammar, biographies, reference books, novels, poems etc.

SCHOLARSHIPS: To motivate the students and extend financial assistance, every year scholarships are given to deserving visually impaired college and school going students in the state of Maharashtra.

DISTRICT BASED INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROJECT: Sight Savers International selected NAB (Unit Maharashtra) in 2010 to carry out their District Based Educational programme in Amaravati district in Maharashtra State. We found 71 children with VI., L.V., and M.D.VI. They were given Brailers, Braille kits, C.P. chairs, low vision kits. Low vision assessment camp was also organised in the area with the help of Sight Savers, NAB and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

BRAILLE LIBRARY: With financial support of Rotary Club of Nasik (west), we have started a Braille library. This unique library is equipped with all sorts of extracurricular books such as reference books, biographies, stories etc. and is open for all the visually impaired persons in Maharashtra free of cost.
MOBILE BLIND SCHOOL: “Vidya Vrikshah” of Chennai has carefully selected NAB (Unit Maharashtra) to initiate their project of “Mobile Blind School.” The concept is to reach out to the remotest tribal areas, locate the blind children and persuade them to learn Braille. To facilitate this work, Vidya Vrikshah has given us three wheelers free of cost to reach out to the beneficiaries. Currently, this project is going on in Nasik and Ahmednagar districts. So far, approximately 35 blind persons have been benefitted.

STATE LEVEL ADARSHA SHIKSHAK PURASKAR: This project was started in 1997 and is being implemented every year. The selection of the awardees is done carefully by the expert team engaged in educational field. Awards are earmarked in four categories

1) Three best school teachers and one best college professor teaching the visually impaired children.

2) Graduate students-any number

3) Students securing 1st rank in 10th and 12th std and

4) Any ideal institution imparting education to the visually impaired students. These awards are always distributed by the vice chancellor of any university.

COMPUTER LAB: “Arnet India” is a Government of India (Ministry of Information and Technology) undertaking which has given us 10 computers, one Braille printer and software, facilitating visually impaired children to operate the computer independently. The sight gives us the sense of immense pleasure and achievement to watch our visually impaired child using computer swiftly and independently, the thing which is predominantly dominated by the sighted persons so far.

SELF HELP GROUP (SHG): In 2011-12, NAB (Unit Maharashtra) has been recognized and declared as the authorized study centre for Self Help Group under the auspices of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nasik. It is a 6 month certificate course which, after completion, entitles the student to appear for the degree course. The basic concept is to empower the visually impaired and physically disabled persons particularly women and help them start their own enterprise or get a suitable employment. So far, about 80 persons from Nasik, Sangli, Satara and Ratnagiri have been benefitted.

ANNEXATION: We have just completed the construction work of 20000 sq. feet and substantially extended the area of the existing infrastructure. The new annexation will accommodate all our future projects out of which “Chandrabhagabai Narsingdas Chandak Multiple Disability Centre” has already been inaugurated on 1st August 2014 by the hands of Hon. Minister Shri Shivajirao Moghe.

MEMORABLE EVENTS: SPORTS: State level sports of visually impaired persons were organized in Sholapur district branch in 1994, Aurangabad in 1997, Nasik in 1999, Jalgaon in 2008 and again in Sholapur in 2013. There was overwhelming response from all the participating districts as well as from the spectators. In December 2014, we had state level sports meet for the visually impaired and persons with multiple disabilities, with full financial support from the Maharashtra State Govt. We had also organized interstate Cricket matches in Dec. 2013 at Nasik. States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Goa had participated with Gujarat taking away the winner trophy. A chess competition was also held on various occasions.

BLIND WELFARE CONFERENCE: In order to have constructive debates, interactions, exchange of information, we held a state level blind welfare conference at Nasik in Oct. 2010. The response and its outcome were beyond our expectation. The conference was so successful that Gujarat state took the leaf out of our book and declared to organize a similar meet at Valsad in the following year.
WEST ZONE CONFERENCE: Meticulously planned, a west zone conference consisting the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa was organized in January 2012 at Nasik. The overwhelming participation from all the five states was so encouraging that everyone felt that this conference should have been extended further on the third day instead of limiting it to two days. In addition to the district branches of all the five states, dignitaries from NAB India, BPA Ahmedabad and PBMA Pune also attended the conference. Some of the major issues and proposals were discussed and presented to the state governments for the welfare of the visually impaired. For NAB (Unit Maharashtra), this conference proved to be a milestone of big success.

BADHATE KADAM: With a view to create public awareness about persons with mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, multiple disabilities, National Trust organizes a public rally every year. On 22nd Nov. 2009, such rally was organized in Nasik and Mrs. Poonam Natrajan, chairperson of National Trust attended the same.

CREDITS: NAB (Unit Maharashtra) has recently been felicitated by Social Justice Minister Shri Shivajirao Moghe, in Amaravati by conferring us with Shau Phule Ambedkar Award and a cheque of Rs.15,00,000/-. It is a highest honour NAB (Unit Maharashtra) has received so far. It is also a testimony of our commitment of service in the field of blind welfare.

We have been issued a certificate by Credibility Alliance under desirable norms. Under recommendation by National Committee for promotion of social and economic welfare, finance ministry of the Govt. of India has accorded us a “35 AC” certificate of Income Tax act.

Certificate by National Trust

Certificate of appreciation from Impact India Foundation.

Magnum Award by the Magnum Foundation of Nagpur.

FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS: With massive infrastructure available with us, we cannot sit with complacency. We have many projects on cards and soon they will be implemented. We are keen to bring in latest technology and modernize our service activities to make the life of our visually impaired and disable persons comfortable and bring them in the main stream of the society. Following are few of the projects which will roll out before long.

B.Ed. REGULAR: Talk and correspondence is in offing with Pune University for its affiliation to start this course in Nasik. Pune University is positive on the issue. It could be finalized anytime in the near future. Low vision Centre, Audiometric room, Gym and Therapy room, Massage Centre, Talking Book Library, Respite Centre and Braille Press are some of the future projects which we envisage to start shortly.

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NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch
Dipti Bhatia, Chief Executive Officer

National Association for the Blind, Tamil Nadu State Branch (NAB – TNSB) started in a small way by Mr. Joseph Royappa and a group of dedicated volunteers in 1961, is the first state branch of NAB India. NAB - TNSB is registered under Indian Societies Registration Act 1860 (Act XXI 1860) S.No. 40 of 1961 dated 25th April 1961. The NAB Tamil Nadu State Branch has expanded its parameters from year to year.

At present the services of the NAB – TNSB encompass areas ranging from early identification of blindness to education and inclusion through different programmes. With a thrust on people in and from the semi rural/rural areas.

INTERVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

Coordinating eye care services in and out of Chennai,

Training in Orientation & Mobility and Daily Living skills

Early intervention

Inclusion through the creation of a resource room at a regular private school

Training in Vocational and Life skills

Computer Education

Community Based Rehabilitation

Life Enrichment Through Leisure Activities

Milestones:

EYE CARE

The Eye Care services are 2 – pronged, consisting of

1. Dissemination of information regarding the causes of blindness and its prevention. In rural areas, people are given inputs on nutrition and hygiene, the damage caused by home remedies, and the importance of immediately medical attention when necessary. Conducting visual assessments, arranging for treatment and providing assistive/corrective devices.

Regular Eye Camps are held in rural areas in coordination with Hospital, Porur. Persons with eye problems are identified through a door survey method. Free screening by Ophthalmologists for blindness, vision problems and eye ailments covers people of all ages from infants to the very old. Wherever necessary, spectacles and medicines are provided by the NAB - TNSB. In cases of cataract surgery, the hospitals take charge of the patients and bear the entire cost of the operation. Follow up is also done. People who are identified as having visual impairments are taught orientation, mobility and daily living skills. At least 100 persons in 3-4 villages benefit from each eye camp.

2. Eye screening is periodically carried out in schools as necessary

Early Intervention (0-5 age group)

This program is very important because it involves training the child in such a way that he achieves the same milestone as his sighted peers as early as possible paving the way for inclusion. It gives the much needed support to the parent's at the most crucial time for the family and the child. The program was started in 2008. Initially only the totally blind and children with low vision were admitted to the program. There are no services for children with multiple disabilities in the area. So services are now offered to children with vision and additional disabilities also.

The Process

• Training the totally blind child to effectively use his/her other senses-touch, hearing, smell and taste.

• Vision training for a child with low vision to use his/her residual vision.

• Training all children in mobility and self-care, social and communication skills.

• Training and counseling of parent

• Facilitating a smooth transition to regular schools.
Education

NAB - TNSB promotes education through inclusive education, supporting special schools with resource persons and teaching learning materials and providing scholarships. Inclusive education is one of the earliest steps to allow children with and without disabilities to learn and grow together. This way they learn to recognize the similarities between each other and respect the differences.

NAB - TNSB works towards its goals of inclusion by securing admission for visually impaired students in mainstream schools. NAB - TNSB had been working in the IEDC program till today, the branch uses its rich experience in Sethu Bhaskara Matriculation School. The organization has been working here for more than 10 years. A resource room was set up in 2009. Here specific needs of students like Braille, Mobility training etc are fulfilled.

The role of the special educators is to impart Braille, Mobility and Activity of daily living skills and social skills, Organizing teaching learning materials, Organizing scribes, Guiding parents, Acquiring Braille kits, and other equipments, scholarships and concessions. Identifying and nurturing extracurricular activities.

Ensuring participation of students in co-curricular activities. Training mainstream teachers and peers. Mainstream teachers and special educators collaborate together to ensure success of the students. This model gives an opportunity for disabled and non-disabled children to grow and learn together.

Other education activities:

- Appointing teachers in government school in Salem through parents teachers association initiated by NAB - TNSB.
- Providing scholarships for students
- Promoting early reading supported by Chetna Trust, an organization working on early braille literacy.
- Enhancing reading and creativity through starting a project in 2019 with Katha On Ratha a reading program that focuses on language development and creativity through stories.
- Conducting month long summer camps for students who have completed 12th grade with the objective of Exposure to different careers and basic computer training Communication skills.
- Meeting personalities from different fields.

Vocational training and employment:

NAB - TNSB focused from its inception on vocational training and employment especially for individuals who had lesser access to education.

In 1987 seven grounds and 1080 square feet of land were purchased at Madhavaram and the Orientation & Mobility Training Centre was constructed in 1990 with the financial aid given by the Madras Round Table No.1. Thanks to the generous donation by the Government of Japan, NAB was able to build a residential Vocational Training Centre for the Visually Impaired and inaugurate it on 7th March 2000, as there was demand for re-caners and telephone operators. So the branch started with these two courses. As the scope widened courses were offered in music, book binding, making paper bags, candles and palm leaf products, cycle repair, and massage. Basic computer course with certificate form – was introduced on demand from the students.

NAB - TNSB is working towards forming groups that can work on livelihood activities. The branch also works with private companies to secure jobs.

Acquiring Life Skills through Extra Curricular Activities

With intensive training in orientation and mobility
the trainees are able to move about independently and interact with people outside the hostel premises.

Outdoor recreation which includes games like volleyball and athletics build up team spirit as well as a friendly competitive spirit. Trainees represent NAB at the Sports events for the disabled and win prizes.

Indoor games like Chess, hone mental skills.

**LIFE ENRICHMENT THROUGH LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

The National Association for the Blind organizes 2 major sports events every year for persons with visual impairment.

These activities offer enjoyment as well as mental stimulation. They are:-

**Annual Car Rally for the Blind**

The car rally is unique in that it brings together the disabled and non disabled. It is truly one of the most inclusive sports events. The navigator and the driver are mutually dependant. The navigator has to read out the instructions which are in Braille for the driver to follow the rally route. Each team member contributes according to his abilities.

With the navigator and the driver having a common goal, their interaction over two days during the dummy rally and the actual event gives rise to a camaraderie which often develops into friendship. The rally helps the persons with visual impairment to build contacts. It also gives an opportunity for the sighted person to get to know a person with visual impairment.

The car rally for the blind makes the visually impaired feel needed, not merely people with needs.

**Annual State Level Open Chess Tournament for the Blind**

National Association for the Blind (TNSB) conducts a Chess Tournament for the Visually Impaired which attracts 50 – 60 participants from all over Tamil Nadu. Professionally organized, the game is played over 2 days according to Swiss System. The NAB arranges for the boarding and lodging of all the participants. The visually impaired are eager to pit their skills against sighted opponents and NAB hopes for fulfill their wish.

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Activities from Gujarat, Goa & Haryana State Branch
Activities from Maharashtra & Chandigarh State Branch