

**BLIND PERSONS' ASSOCIATION,
MUMBAI**

[Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, (No. 1581 of 1947-48), Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 (No. F-114(E), & Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (No. 083780467)

C/o. National Association for the Blind, Rustom Aplaiwalla Complex
124/127, Cotton Depot, Near Reay Road Rly. Station (East),
Cottongreen, MUMBAI-400 033

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

Blind Persons' Association, (B P A) Mumbai is a voluntary charitable organization working since October 1947 for the betterment of blind individuals residing in Mumbai and its suburbs, including adjoining districts namely, Thane, Palghar and Raigad, with focus on the needs of non-institutionalized blind persons.

The Executive Council of BPA presents with great pleasure the Annual Report of its activities for the year 2017-18.

MEMBERSHIP

The present strength of members has gone up to 1208 after inclusion of 53 new Life Members. (Here BPA would like to clarify that the benefits are open to all Visually Impaired in and around Mumbai and not limited to its members only)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the year, the Executive Council met 4 times and the Working Committee met 5 times. We are happy to note that the committee members had active participation in the meetings. They gave their valuable suggestions and efficiently undertook the tasks assigned to them.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 70th Annual General Body Meeting of the Association was convened on Saturday, 9th September 2017, at M N B Industrial Home for the Blind, Jogeshwari (West) Mumbai. This was attended by 295 members. In this meeting the triennial election for the period 2017-20 was also conducted. The present Executive Council has taken over the charge subsequent to this election.

ACTIVITIES

BPA has many programmes and schemes like Scholarship and Educational Assistance, Help the Aged, Medical Assistance, Need Based Financial Assistance, House Repair, sale of Aids and Appliances at subsidized cost, Counseling Services, etc. It also organizes functions ,

cultural programmes like Reshimbandh (which is specially meant for visually impaired youth), Hawkers' Day, Foundation Day, Annual picnic, Women's Day etc.

Details of these are as under:

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:

BPA has a Medical Assistance Scheme under which an amount of Rs. 60,178/- was disbursed during the year to 24 beneficiaries. It covers the expenses incurred on clinical tests, treatment of ailments, purchase of medicines, surgery etc. The Association decides the amount of assistance on case-to-case basis on submission of Prescriptions, Bills and Medical Reports. As the medical treatment is getting costlier day by day, the Association has set up a Medical Corpus Fund during the Financial year 2010-11 and as on 31st March 2018, it stands at Rs. 9,77,064/- which include the donations of Rs. 1,10,758/- received during the year 2017-18. We aim to raise this as much as possible and the interest accrued on the same is utilized for the purpose of providing medical assistance to the needy blind people. We are extremely happy to announce that donors and well-wishers, sighted as well as blind, are responding generously to our appeals and we would urge more and more people to come forward and donate for this purpose.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

BPA has two schemes to promote education amongst SIGHTED children of BLIND parents

- Free distribution of school materials for Pre primary & Primary School going children.
- Educational Assistance in the form of Scholarship to the children studying from primary to higher education and vocational training.
- BPA also offers educational Assistance to College Going BLIND students

On 17th June 2017, BPA distributed school materials such as school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencils, notebooks, sharpeners, erasers, scales etc. to the sighted students of blind parents. School bags, water bottles and lunch boxes were sponsored by Basant Agro Tech (India) Ltd and Notebooks were sponsored by Shri. Hitesh Mehta (through the kind courtesy of Mr Purshtakm Patel), who are our regular donors. The Association has spent an amount of Rs. 6,920/- for purchasing other items. 85 sighted children of 55 blind parents benefited by this project.

Scholarship worth Rs.76,900/- was distributed by way of cheques on Saturday 18th November 2017, to 118 sighted children of 85 blind parents.

An amount of Rs.30,200/- was distributed as Scholarships by way of cheques to 25 college-going blind students on 23rd December 2017 at the BPA Office, Cottongreen. During the year we have referred 40 college going blind students to another Charitable Trust namely Samarthnam Trust through Mr Suhas Karnik and the students were awarded higher amounts of scholarships.

Thus under the educational programme, the Association spent a total amount of Rs.1,14,020/- during the year.

BPA-BPCL SCHOLARSHIP

During the academic year 2017-18, Scholarships worth Rs. 2,50,000/- were given to 20 sighted school and college going wards of blind parents. Courtesy of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.(BPCL) Our sincere thanks to BPCL for their consistent support to our cause.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Under this scheme, BPA offers partial financial assistance to needy blind persons to acquire household articles such as Cots, Mattresses, Gas connections, Cupboards, Kitchen Racks, Utensils etc. BPA also provides financial assistance to needy blind persons to meet unforeseen expenditure caused by fire, flood, building collapse, sudden death of earning member of the family etc. Total assistance of Rs 24,500/- was disbursed to 15 clients during the year.

HOUSE REPAIR

BPA extends a helping hand to the needy blind persons residing in hutments and dilapidated dwelling units, to get their houses repaired. The help is given in the form of building materials. The total assistance of Rs.34,000/- were provided to 17 beneficiaries in the year under review.

HELP THE AGED SCHEME

Under this scheme we give Rs. 500/- per month per person, to financially poor blind persons who have reached the age of 60 or older to meet part of their expenses for medicines, grocery, toiletries, clothes etc. This aid is provided at their doorsteps, which builds up good rapport with them. During the year, 22 males and 15 females were assisted to the tune of Rs.2,18,500/-. During the year an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- was received as a donation through Mrs Najoo D Mehta, from Mr Antia Senior partner of Mulla & Mulla Cragie Blunt &

Co. Advocates and Notaries, out of the Will of Miss Piloo Nadir Garda. The Association wish to keep on record its sincere thanks to Mrs Mehta and Mr Antia for their sincere efforts to get this donation.

EQUIPMENT BANK

Last several years BPA has been running Equipment Bank for the blind. This is a unique scheme of its kind in Maharashtra. Special aids and appliances such as White Canes, Chess Boards, Playing Cards, Writing Slates, Signature Guides, Weighing Scales etc. are made available at highly subsidized cost to needy clients. During the year the materials worth Rs. 7,645/- were supplied to 75 poor and needy blind persons.,

BPA THACKERSEY FUND FOR THE REHABILITATION & EMPOWERMENT OF BLIND WOMEN

BPA has established this benevolent fund for rehabilitation of blind women with kind courtesy of Thackersey Charitable Trust. During the year, 2017-18 blind women were assisted in their hour of need under our various schemes to the tune of Rs 2,24,150/-. (The details of expenses are reflected in the Audited Accounts).

REFERRAL SERVICE

Although BPA has been running many schemes to help the clients, at times it is not possible to give the assistance fully, due to paucity of funds and our limitations in some areas. Under these circumstances, BPA refers its needy clients to various Sources / Agencies / Hospitals etc. for assistance as per their requirements.

During this year we have referred 40 visually impaired college going students to Samarthanam Charitable Trust, for Scholarships and they were benefitted.

PERFUMERY TRAINING PROGRAMME:

CPL Aromas conducted Smell Capacity Test survey amongst Visually Impaired Persons. Thereafter, BPA and CPL Aroma decided to train selected candidates for training programme in perfumery. Department of Cosmetics and Perfumery of KET's V.G.Vaze College, Mulund held a training programme for the fifth batch of 3 candidates in the year 2017-18.

Two candidates who completed training successfully in the past year were provided placements during the year 2017-18.

Cancer Detection Camp:

The Association in collaboration with Indian Cancer Society, had conducted a Cancer Detection Camp for blind women, on 22nd April, 2017, from 9.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at Smt Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Dadar, Mumbai. Though 70 blind women had registered earlier, only 32 women participated in the Camp. A team of doctors under Dr Roomani Srivastava and their assistants from Indian Cancer Society had conducted the camp. The reports received from Indian Cancer Society in sealed envelopes were distributed to the concerned persons.

HAWKERS' DAY:

The 7th Hawkers' Day was celebrated on Saturday, 6th May 2017, at Kedarnath School, Nehru Nagar, Kurla (East) from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. About 90 people had participated in this function. Lion Deepak Rohra, Trustee of the School was the Chief Guest. Four hawkers viz. Mr. Abdul Kalyanwala, Mr. Nivruti Tigote, Ms Sangita Pujari and Ms Vijaya Tarpia, were felicitated at the hands of the Chief Guest. The persons actively participated in cultural activities such as singing etc. All the participants were served with snacks and a common gift was also given while leaving the premises. The gifts were sponsored by Mr Nitesh Shah and the snacks were sponsored by Mr Kanaram Purhit, Mr Hiranman Shinde and Ms. Sampada Shevde. Mr Amar Sunkersett had also given a donation for this programme. Association kept on record its sincere thanks to all the donors.

Work Shop by Ms Nidhi Goyal:

Ms Nidhi Goyal, Program Director, Sexuality and Disability, Point of View, had organized a workshop on Saturday, the 22nd July 2017, at the B P A Office, Cottongreen, Mumbai. The workshop was arranged for about 30 blind young college going girls. Due to heavy rain some of the students could not attend the Workshop. 20 visually challenged girls had attended the same. The workshop was divided into 3 sessions namely body literacy, relationship and marriage, violence and abuse. The workshop was very much informative for the teenage girls. The entire expenses on lunch was sponsored by Ms Goyal. The Association thanked Ms Goyal for her dedication and willingness for conducting such workshops and sponsoring the expenses.

Reshimbandh Programme:

This year the fifth Reshimbandh Programme was conducted on Saturday, the 12th August 2017, at Smt Kamala Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Dadar (East), Mumbai. The object of the programme is to give a chance to the visually challenged youngsters to exhibit their talents in cultural programmes on the stage. Total 75 persons including office bearers had attended the function. The function was

inaugurated at the hands of the President, Mr Suhas Karnik. Mr Ketan Kothari delivered a lecture on "Rights of Persons with Disability Act, (R P W D Act)2016". The lecture was very informative and the participants were very much impressed. Thereafter the light music (Sugam Gayan) competition started. Mr. Mohan Morascar and Mr Pramod Kambli were the judges for the competition. Total 10 persons had participated in the competition. A nominal fee of Rs. 30/- was collected from each member who participated in the competition. The cash prizes of Rs. 1,000/- (First), Rs. 700/- (Second), Rs. 500/- (third) and Rs. 200/- (consolation) were won by Ms Triveni Shinde, Ms. Reshma Naik, Ms. Priyanka Nanware and Ms. Ashwini Gaikwad, respectively. The prizes were distributed at the hands of the judges. Thereafter an entertainment orchestra programme was conducted by Mr Kiran Kadm and party.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr Vijay Gujar and the programme concluded with the National anthem at around 7.00 p.m.

The participants were provided snacks sponsored by Mr Radhe Radhe of M/s Basant Agro Tech (India) Ltd. The Association kept on records their sincere thanks to Mr Radhe Radhe for his sponsorship and Mrs Ketki V Devchake for her donation of Rs. 1,000/- through Mrs Savita Zende.

FOUNDATION DAY

The 70th Foundation Day of the Association was celebrated on 11th November 2017, at Smt Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Dadasaheb Phalke Road, Dadar (East), Mumbai, from 3.00 p.m. onwards. Total about 115 people participated in the function, including Office Bearers and staff members.

Mr Mohammed Raza (Member of Executive Council) of the Association welcomed the members and introduced Ms Neha Sharad, a poetess and a prominent actress and daughter of famous poet Shri Sharad Joshi. Thereafter Mr Raza recited some self composed poems and Mr Harshad Jadhav, Joint secretary, recited the poems written by Shri Vijay Soawane. Mr Raju Singh also recited some of his self composed poems. Afterwards Ms Neha Sharad recited some of the self composed poems and poems composed by her late father Shri Sharad Joshi. Members were delighted and appreciated her for sparing here valuable time and attending the function. She was kind enough to attend the entire function including the award presentation ceremony.

Thereafter the Padmashree Dr Rajendra T Vyas Memorial Award presentation ceremony started. This award has been instituted by the association to commemorate the work of late Dr Vyas and has been awarded to meritorious blind people in the past. Mr Jatin Paranjpe, famous cricketer was invited as the Chief Guest for the function. The guests were felicitated with floral bouquets. Mr Kothari welcomed the members and explained about various activities and services of the Association, in the field of blind welfare for the past seven decades. He said that our main objective is to serve the economically weaker section of the blind people staying in Mumbai City and its suburbs, at grass root level, including their overall development.

The Award presentation function started with lighting the lamp by the Chief Guest. Mr Pravin Dandia, President Emeritus, paid rich tributes to Dr Vyas and lauded his services and dedication to the Association. He recalled the immense contribution of Dr Vyas and said that it will be an inspiration for all of us. His name will always be written in golden letters in the field of blind welfare activities. This year the award was presented to Mr Jaydeep H Singh, a visually challenged person, who is one of the prominent Judo players and received a number of medals at National and International levels. The award contain a Citation and Cash Award. The Braille version of the citation of Mr Jaydeep Singh was read by Mr K. Raman Shankar. Mr Ravindra Patil, the coach of Mr Jaydeep Singh, briefed about the determination and hard working mentality of Mr Jaydeep Singh which enabled him to achieve the goals in his life. Mr Jaydeep Singh expressed his sincere gratitude to the Association for selecting him for this prestigious award. He also said that he is trying his level best to bring other visually challenged people also to come forward in the field of Judo.

On this occasion the Association felicitated Dr. Charudatta Jadhav, President, International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) and a senior employee of Tata Consultancy Services (T C S) who is also an eminent Chess player in his own right and Mr Prakash Patil, an employee of State Bank of India, for his selfless social service, with Mementos. Mr Kothari, introduced Dr Charudatta Jadhav and Mr Raman Shankar introduced Mr Prakash Patil to the audience. The function concluded with vote of thanks by Mr Kiran Kadam, Vice President followed by National Anthem, at around 6.00 p.m. The participants were served with refreshments.

ANNUAL PICNIC:

The Association had organized its annual picnic on Sunday, 4th February 2018, to Shanti Sagar Resort, at Amernath. Altogether 115 persons had participated in the picnic, which include some of the members' families, staff members and volunteers. The Association had arranged transportation from Ambernath Station to Resort and back, breakfast, lunch and evening tea. The participants enjoyed the water games during the day.

After lunch, a lucky draw was conducted in which 10 persons got various prizes. After serving the evening tea, they departed home at around 5.00 p.m. The participants were very much happy and enjoyed the picnic.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:

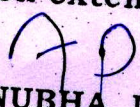
This year, the 8th Women's Day was celebrated by the Association on Sunday, 25th March 2018, from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. at M N B Industrial Home for the Blind, Jogeshwri (West), Mumbai. Total 71 women had participated in the function. Registration of participants started at 9.00 a.m. A nominal amount of Rs 50/- was charged as registration fee from the participants. After the breakfast, the programmes started with Welcome Speech by Mrs Anubha Dixit, President. Thereafter Advocate Ms Rupali Naik delivered a lecture on "Live-in Relationships, its legal Implications" which was very informative. Subsequently various competitions were organized including "Anthkashri. The delicious lunch was prepared and served by "Arpan Charitable Organization". The winners of competitions were felicitated with cash prizes. Thereafter a poetry recitation programme was arranged by Ms Vandana Khare and Team which was very much interesting and informative. Participants enjoyed the programme and appreciated the team. After serving the refreshments programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks. All the participants were given gifts before concluding the function.


OUR SINCERE THANKS

We are highly grateful to our Donors, Charitable Trusts and Well Wishers for their generous donations without which it would have been impossible for us to support our beneficiaries. This year we received Rs.5,67,551/- by way of donations from our 65 donors.

We specially thank Mr M P Antia, Partner of M/s.Sorab S.Engineer & Co. (Chartered Accountants) for auditing our accounts free of cost every year.

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the services of volunteers, friends, well-wishers and staff members for their help, support and co-operation extended to us.


(Mrs) ANUBHA DIXIT
(PRESIDENT)


KETAN KOTHARI
(HON. GEN. SECRETARY)

BPA THANKS ALL THE DONORS FOR THEIR KIND SUPPORT