

**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(B), & 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),  
MUMBAI-400 033

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018-19**

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, and surrounding districts including 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 2018-19:

**MEMBERSHIP**

The present strength of membership is 1085, including 13 new members admitted during the year.

**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 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Association was convened on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, at Smt Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Dadar (East) Mumbai, which was attended by 81 members.

**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. 51,015/- was disbursed during the year to 22 beneficiaries. It covers the expenses incurred on clinical tests, treatment of ailments, purchase of medicines, surgery etc. The Association decides the quantum of assistance based on the production of appropriate medical documents. Considering the rising cost, the Association has set up a Medical Corpus Fund during the Financial year 2010-11 and as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, it stands at Rs. 10,37,064/- which include the donations of Rs. 60,000/- received during the year 2018-19. 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 Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018, BPA distributed school materials to the sighted students of blind parents. The Note Books were sponsored by Mr Hitesh Mehta of H M Classes who has been sponsoring the same for the past 12 years through the kind courtesy Mr Purshottam Patel and the Water Bottles were sponsored by Mr Naresh B Thakur, Member, through the kind courtesy of Mrs Anubha Dixit. The Pencil Boxes, Compass, scales etc were given as donation by Mr. Prasad Todankar and a cash donation of Rs. 3,000/- was received from the Q C S C Staff members of Mazgaon Telephone Exchange of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. for purchase of educational materials. Both these donations were received through the efforts of Mrs Savita Zende, our staff member. The Association kept on record its sincere thanks to all the donors for their valuable assistance.

Seventy three sighted children of 60 blind parents were assisted to the tune of Rs. 20,032/- for educational materials.



Scholarship worth Rs.70,400/- was distributed by way of cheques on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018, to 110 sighted children of 81 blind parents and also an amount of Rs.71,100/- was distributed by way of cheques as Scholarship to 64 college-going blind students, on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019, at the BPA Office, Cottongreen.

Thus under the educational programme, during the year the Association spent a total amount of Rs.1,61,532/- .

#### **BPA-BPCL SCHOLARSHIP**

During the academic year 2018-19, we referred 19 sighted school and college going wards of blind parents, to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., for scholarships. Due to some technical reasons at their end, the scholarship amount was not distributed till the end of March 2019. We were informed that the BPCL would disburse the amount tentatively in the month of April/May 2019. The Association kept on record its 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 20,202/- was disbursed to 10 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.24,000/- were provided to 12 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, 20 males and 14 females were assisted to the tune of Rs.1,98,500/-.



## **EQUIPMENT BANK**

For 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. 12,185/--were supplied to 78 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 2018-19, blind women were assisted in their hour of need under our various schemes to the tune of Rs 2,00,050/-.

## **HAWKERS' DAY:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Hawkers' Day was celebrated on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018, at Kedarnath English High School, Nehru Nagar, Kurla (East) from 2.00 p.m. onwards. Dr Khatri, of K E M Hospital, Mumbai was the Chief Guest and Lion Deepak Rohra the Trustee of Kedarnath School was the Guest of Honour. Total 81 persons, including office bearers had participated in the function. The president welcomed the gathering. Dr Khatri, delivered a lecture on various health problems, especially diabetes and related illness. Four selected visually impaired hawkers viz. Mrs Malti Tamhankar, Mr Prakash Gurde, Mr Phoolchand Bomble and Mr Arun Dagde were felicitated with mementos at the function at the hands of the Chief Guest. Thereafter an entertainment programme was conducted by three visually challenged artists. The participants were also given a chance to exhibit their hidden talents in singing, dancing or any other cultural activities. Some of them actively participated in singing etc. All the participants were given a token gift and snacks were also provided. The Association kept on record its sincere thanks to Mr Nitesh Shah for sponsoring the gifts, Mr Radhe Radhe, of Basant Agro-chem Ltd for sponsoring the snacks and Mr Amar Sunkrsett, Mr Ramesh Thakkar, Mr Mahendra Galani, and Mr Chiman Patel. for their generous donations. The Association also kept on record its sincere thanks to Lion Deepak Rohra, the Trustee of the School who provided the Auditorium free of cost for our function and very kindly accepted our request and agreed to be the Guest of Honour. Through his efforts he had also arranged Dr Khatri, of K E M Hospital, to be the Chief Guest for the function. The programme concluded at around 6.00 p.m



### **RESHIMBANDH PROGRAMME:**

This year the Fifth Reshimbandh Programme was conducted on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018, at Smt Kamala Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, Dadar (East), Mumbai from 2.00 p.m. onwards. 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 115 people attended the function. The function was inaugurated by President, Mrs Anubha Dixit. Thereafter various "poems on rain" were recited by various participants. Afterwards, a competition on Gazals was arranged. Mr Mazhar Shaikh and Ms Chaya Sakhare were the judges of the competition. Total 25 youngsters actively participated in the competition. The cash prizes of Rs. 2,500/- (First), Rs. 2,000/- (Second) and Rs.1,500/- (third) were won by Mr Kasim Baig, Mr Nitin Verukar and Mr Aftab Thakur respectively. Two consolation prizes of Rs. 500/- each were also won by Mr Mayur Kate and Ms Shradha Ghuge. The prizes were distributed at the hands of the judges.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Vijay Gujar.

The participants were provided snacks sponsored by Mr Radhe Radhe of M/s Basant Agro Tech India Ltd. The Association kept on record its sincere thanks to Shri Hiralal Maganlal Doshi Charitable Trust, Mr Radhe Radhe, Mr Mansing B Chavan, Mr Ramesh Thakkar, Ms Deepali Todankr and Ms Sarala Padi for their generous donations for the programme.

### **CHESS TOURNAMENT:**

The Association conducted a Chess Tournament for the blind and low vision people staying in Greater Mumbai and surrounding areas, on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, at our office premises, in collaboration with Lions Club of Juhu, under the auspices of Lions Juhu Smt Mohandai Oswal Eye Care Foundation from 10.30 a.m. onwards. Mrs Anubha Dixit, President and other office bearers of the Association along with Lion Raj Wankawalla, President, Lion Prajesh Nanvati, Hon. Treasurer, Mr Riddhish Shah, Chairman, Sight First, Lions Club of Juhu, were present on the occasion. The function started by lighting the lamp at the auspicious hands of Lion Wankawalla, President, Lions club of Juhu and Mrs Anubha Dixit President of the Association. Mrs Dixit welcomed the members and requested Mr Ketan Kothari, Hon. General Secretary, to introduce the Association to the guests. He explained various activities and services being offered by the Association for the overall empowerment of visually challenged people, for more than seven decades. He also said that this is the first time we



are conducting a chess tournament for the visually challenged people and this is also the first project jointly conducted by the BPA and Lions Club of Juhu. We would look forward for having more and more innovative projects with the help of Lions Club, in the years to come. He said that this tournament is being organized mainly two points keeping in mind, that for promoting chess amongst the blind and to select four players for the open chess tournament to be conducted by the Indian Blind Sports Association in New Delhi in the month of December 2018. Lion Wankawalla delivered an inspiring and encouraging speech to the participants and wished them best of luck in the competition. He also assured that this is the first project with our Association and wish to have more projects with us in the years to come. Lion Riddhish Shah also said that although the Club and the Association were in touch with for almost a year it was only now the opportunity had arisen for working jointly. He also said that chess is the only one game where a visually impaired person can play with a sighted person at par. He also wished all the participants for their success in the tournament.

Total 20 persons participated in the competition. At the end of the tournament, Mr Atul Kajrale and Mr. Anirudh Kunthe, Arbiters declared the names of four winners viz. Mr Nitesh Moharle, First prize, Mr Mahesh Yadav, Second Prize, Mr Vishal Deshmane, Third Prize and Mr Shakir Khan fourth prize. It was decided that the certificates and cash prizes would be distributed on the occasion of our Foundation Day and Dr Rajendra T Vyas Memorial Award Presentation ceremony, on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

#### **FREE DISTRIBUTION OF FOLDING CANES:**

The Lions Club of Chembur and our Association had jointly organized a programme of free distribution of folding canes to poor and needy visually impaired people at our Office on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, during the occasion of "Lions Service Week". The Programme was organized through the kind courtesy of our Ex-Vice President, Mr C A Patu. The President and some of the Office Bearers of Lions Club of Chembur, Mr Kétan Kothari, Hon. General Secretary and Mr Patu were present on the occasion. Fourteen numbers of folding canes were distributed amongst the blind people who were present on this occasion, at the hands of the office bearers of Lions Club. The Association kept on record its gratitude to the Lions Club of Chembur and appreciated the efforts of Mr Patu.

#### **FOUNDATION DAY**

The 71<sup>st</sup> Foundation Day and Padmashree Dr Rajendra T Vyas Memorial Award Presentation ceremony was held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018, at "Geeta Hall, Bhandup (West), Mumbai" from 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Total 102 persons had participated in the function. The



programme started with lighting the lamp at the hands of Mrs Anubha Dixit, President and Mrs Vasudha Sahasrabudhe and her team. Thereafter a "Story Recitation" programme was conducted by Mrs Vasudha Sahasrabudhe and team in Marathi as well as in Hindi. The programme was very much interesting and the members were delighted and appreciated the team.

Padmashree Dr Rajendra T Vyas Memorial Award Presentation ceremony started at 6.00 p.m. Honourable . Dr Shrikant Shinde, M P was the Chief Guest for the function. Mr Harshad Jadhav, Joint Secretary introduced Dr Shinde to the audience and praised his various activities as an M P as well as a well known Orthopaedic surgeon. Mr Ketan Kothari, Hon. General Secretary explained various activities and services of our Association for the overall empowerment of visually challenged people staying in Mumbai and its suburbs, and surrounding districts including Thane, Palghar and Raigad,. He said that majority of our beneficiaries are belonging to economically weaker section of the blind community and our aim is to make them self sufficient and lead a dignified life in the society. Mr Pravin Dandia paid tribute to Dr Vyas and shared his contribution. He informed that Dr Rajendra T Vyas was one of the founder members of the Association in 1947. He continued to hold various positions of the Association till the year 1993, and thereafter he was the President Emeritus of the Association till the end of his life in the year 2010. Dr Vyas lived for 80 years out of which he dedicated about 63 years for working in the field of blind welfare activities. He was instrumental for a number of blind welfare activities not only with this Association but also with the National Association for the Blind, India, which was established during the year 1952, around 5 years after the establishment of this Association. . His name will always be written in golden letters in the field of blind welfare activities. Taking into consideration of his remarkable contributions for the blind, the Blind Persons' Association, Mumbai has instituted an award in his memory to be given every year to one of the blind persons who has excelled in his/her abilities or services. This year the award was conferred on Dr (Ms) Kritica S Purohit, who obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy and registered as a first blind person in India in O T P T Council and practicing as a successful Physiotherapist. A citation and Cash Award were presented to her at the hands of the Chief Guest, Honourable Dr Shrikant Shinde.

On this occasion we felicitated Mr Kishor Gohil, a visually challenged person, who is conducting a well known Orchestra team and also a candle making unit, where 10 to 15 visually impaired people are employed. Mr Prakash Pandagale, introduced Mr Gohil to the audience in glowing terms. Mr Gohil was felicitated at the hands of the Chief Guest with a letter of appreciation and a memento.



Thereafter, the top most four winners of the Chess Tournament, conducted by the Association for the visually impaired persons, on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, were also distributed the certificates and cash prizes at the hands of the Chief Guest.

While addressing the audience, Honourable Dr Shinde, said that though he has attended a number of functions, this was an entirely different experience. He congratulated the award winner Dr Kritica Purohit, Mr Kishor Gohil and the winners of Chess Competition. He also appreciated the Association and its voluntary workers for their yeoman services. He said that he is always ready to extend his full support and assistance for conducting a medical camp or any other activities for the welfare of the visually impaired persons.

Finally, Mr Kiran Kadam, Vice President, proposed vote of thanks to the Honourable Chief Guest, Mrs Vasudha Sahasrabudhe and her team and all the participants for sparing their valuable time and making the programme a grand success. The programme concluded with National Anthem. All the participants were served with tea and snacks.

#### **BRaille ME WORKSHOP;**

The Association organised a workshop for demonstrating and teaching the use of "Braille Me" a Braille Display for the visually challenged people, on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019, at 2.00 p.m. at our Office Premises at Cottongreen. Mr Prathamesh Bendre and Ms Surabhi Shrivastav, of Inauvision explained various advantages of using the device. Some of the Office bearers and members of Executive Council were also present at the Workshop. Total 15 members had attended the Workshop and got benefit of the same.

#### **ANNUAL PICNIC:**

The Association had organized its annual picnic on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019, to Mandvi Hill Resort, at Virar (East). Altogether 79 persons had participated in the picnic, which include B P A members along with their families and friends, staff members etc. The Association had arranged transportation from Virar Station to Resort and back, breakfast, lunch, evening tea and mini dinner.

The persons reached at the Resort at around 10.00 a.m. and enjoyed the whole day playing aquatic games, lucky draw etc. They left the Resort at around 6.00 p.m.



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### **WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:**

This year the Women's Day was celebrated on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at "Rusi Mehta Hall, Tulsi Wadi, Tardeo, Mumbai Central (West)" from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Eighty eight visually impaired women actively participated in the function. The programme started by lighting the lamp at the hands of Ms Yugandhara Walsangkar a well known actress and Ms Pradnya Gokhale a well known performing artist,

On this occasion we conducted various competitions such as Essay writing, Mono Act, skill tests, candle race etc. A number of women actively participated in these competitions and exhibited their talents. The first three winners were awarded with cash prizes.

The evening session started at 4.00 p.m. This session was graced with the presence of famous film actress Ms Rohini Hattangadi, as the Chief Guest. On this occasion we also felicitated a visually impaired woman, namely Dr (Ms). Shireen Irani, who is serving as a Guest Lecturer at Mumbai University at the hands of the Chief Guest. The prizes for the winners of various competitions were also distributed at the hands of the Chief Guest.

All the participants were served with breakfast, lunch, evening tea, snacks etc. Before concluding the function a token gift was also given to all women participants. The programme concluded with National Anthem, at around 6.00 p.m. The Association kept on record its sincere thanks to all the donors, well wishers and participants for their whole hearted support and co-operation which enabled us to make the celebration a grand success.

### **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 4,10,107/- by way of donations from our 60 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.

AD

(Mrs) ANUBHA DIXIT  
(PRESIDENT)

KETAN KOTHARI  
(HON. GEN. SECRETARY)