



# The National Association for the Blind

Half Yearly Newsletter: *April - September 2022*



# A Note from President



On behalf of the Governing Council of **The National Association for the Blind - Karnataka**, I would like to place before you our **Half Yearly Newsletter for the period April - September 2022**.

***I am glad to inform that we have restarted all our activities for the betterment of visually impaired, during first half of 2022.***

- All our training programs i.e. Mobility, Basic Computers & TOT are underway at Bengaluru center.
- Our Mysuru center continued working through covid - 32<sup>nd</sup> batch graduated and training of 33<sup>rd</sup> batch has commenced during July.
- Our CBR team also worked through covid and coordinated vocational skill training with RUDSETI's and Government Department.
- TOT batch of 6 female graduates hailing from pan India i.e. Coonoor, Meghalaya, Kerala, Odisha & Raichur will graduate in September 2022. Also 5 field coordinators are in parallel undergoing TOT training and will graduate in October 2022.
- Graduation day of 311<sup>th</sup> batch of Mobility trainees was held on 6 May 2022. Ms. Hema Hattangady - Former CEO of Conzerv Systems, Angel Investor, Independent Director and Author was the chief guest.
- Graduation day of 312<sup>th</sup> batch of Mobility trainees was held on 4 June 2022. Prof. S Sadagopan - Ex director of IIITB, Author and Columnist for TOI, graced the occasion as chief guest.
- Graduation day of 47<sup>th</sup> batch of Basic Computer trainees was held on 2 July 2022. Mr. Sreekrishnan Venkateswaran - CTO of Kyndryl India, graced the occasion as chief guest.
- Graduation day of 313<sup>th</sup> batch of Mobility trainees was held on 15 August 2022 along with Independence Day celebration. Mr. Thipesh - Donor was the chief guest. He also donated 30 white canes on this occasion.
- ***Graduation day of 314<sup>th</sup> batch of Mobility trainees / 9<sup>th</sup> batch of TOT / NABK AGM + Elections will be held on 24 September 2022.***
- We are continuously engaging with several employers for placement opportunities to our trainees by adopting TRAIN & HIRE model. ***We are glad to inform that we have successfully placed during September, 3 of our male ex trainees & one of their sighted spouse in Sorterz - Commercial laundromat in Doddaballapura.***
- Renovation work continued through the new financial year at our Bengaluru campus.
- NABK is now registered for crowd funding on GiveIndia platform - For mobility & employability / Vocational skills to 500 visually impaired. Also, we are now registered on National CSR Exchange Portal to seek funds & implement corporate CSR projects.
- NABK Bengaluru trainees participated in the TCS World 10K Race - Bengaluru 2022 edition on 15 May 2022 along with sighted buddies from Indian Cancer Society. This race category was for 4.2kms with start point at Kanteerva stadium.
- ***Thank you to every single one of our Beneficiaries, Staff, Volunteers, Donors and Life Members for all your efforts over the past year.***

**Mr.Alok Kshirsagar**

# Activities - Bengaluru Center



Renovation work: Year 21-22



Indian Art Festival - Dr. Prabha: May



Mobility Grad day - 311<sup>th</sup> batch: May



TCS world 10k race with ICS: May



Medical camp by Aster R V Hospital: May



Founders Day - May



Sensitization - SKEI School: June



Innovation Hub - UREAD demo: June



Mobility Grad day - 312<sup>th</sup> Batch: June



Feni for the Soul - YouTube: June



GiveIndia crowdfunding registration: June



Mobility Training: Ongoing





# Activities - Bengaluru Center

**Basic Computer Grad day - 47<sup>th</sup> batch: July**



**Sensitization Program - New Horizon Intl school, Hennur: Aug**



**UREAD training workshop for trainers: August**



**313th Mobility Grad day+ Independence Day: Aug**



**National CSR Registration: August**



**Ganapati immersion day: August**



**Guest lecture for TOT by Mr. Anand on low vision: Sept**



**Guest lecture for TOT by Mr. Ranganath on CBR & PWD Act: Sept**



**Guest lecture for TOT on counselling & life skills by Ms. Shobha: Sept**





# Activities - Bengaluru Center



**TOT - Final Exams: September**



**Mobility - Daily life living skills: September**



**Teachers Day celebration: September**



**Metro trip by mobility & Computer trainees: Sept**



**Zivame team - Plan to create new design line for VI: Sept**



**Enable India - BLYME session: September**





# Activities - Mysuru Center

University of Mysuru-Students visit: April



Helen Keller Govt Teachers Trg Center visit: April



Midday meal sponsors: April



Visit by Schevaran Chemicals: May



Vidya Vikas College- MSW students visit: May



GC Members visit: May



Founders Day: May



Donors - Mr. Rangachari & Mr. Sukumar: June



Industrial visit by 32<sup>nd</sup> batch: June



32<sup>nd</sup> batch final exams: June



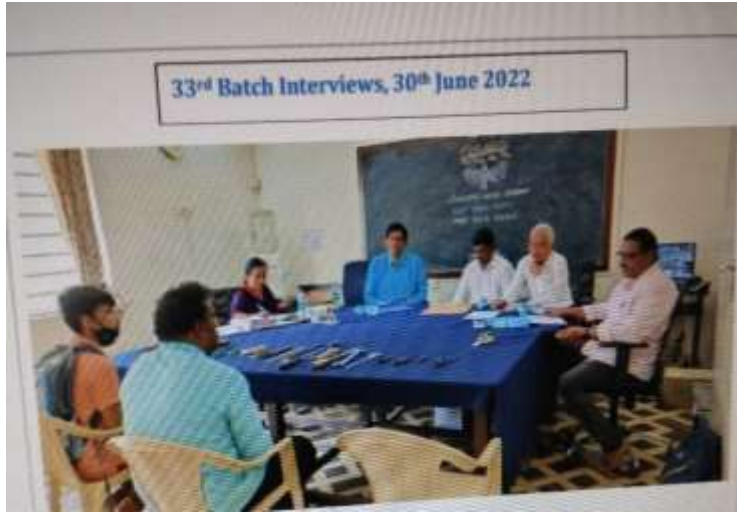
32<sup>nd</sup> batch parents meet: June





# Activities - Mysuru Center

33rd batch interview: June



Independence Day celebration: August



Ms. Shilpa - HR Head, rProcess Outsourcing Services: Aug



First internal test - 33rd batch trainees: Aug



NJS Charitable Trust donated stationeries: Aug



Yoga Classes: Every Wednesday



Teachers Day celebration: September





# Activities - CBR

**Recaning training program - Hassan: April**



**Animal husbandry trg, Canara Bank RUDSETI-Hassan: April**



**Training by Animal Husbandry Dept, Tumkur: April**



**Animal Husbandry training, SBI RUDSETI- Mysuru: April**



**Rural Mobility Training: Continuous**



**Animal Husbandry trainee Mr. Naveen(Coconut peeler) bought 2 cows & sells 32 litres of milk per day @Rs30 - Hassan: June**



**Mr. Vishwanath employed at Tea center- Hassan: June**



**Mr. Yogesh employed at Arvind Garments - Arsikere: June**



**Job fair - Hassan: June**





# Activities - CBR

**Mr. Lakshman employed at St Mary school -  
Arsikere: June**



**Mr Hemant employed at CSI Hospital, Hassan: June**



**Re-caning Graduation ceremony - Hassan: July**



**Self Help Group - Shantigrama: July**



**Self Help Group - Hassan: July**



**Self Help Group - Arsikere: July**





# Corporate Outreach



It has been our constant endeavor to ensure that we make the visually impaired in Karnataka lead a life of dignity through socio-economic independence. We train them on Mobility and employability skills, which includes white collar, blue collar or self-employment skills. We explore possibility of hiring visually impaired in blue collar or white collar jobs with potential employers.

## **In this direction, we have taken the following steps:**

- We are approaching various employers with a new model of TRAIN & HIRE. Under this new model, we plan to work with employers on the following lines:
  - ✓ Employer to set up a replica of specific job role work environment at our Bengaluru campus.
  - ✓ Employer training personnel to initially train our trainers on job role skills.
  - ✓ Shortlist of willing & eligible trainees / ex trainees by NABK & employer.
  - ✓ Employer to hire shortlisted trainees as Interns / Apprentices on a regular stipend to cover their costs of accommodation and food at NABK along with some nominal amount to pay for their personal expenditure.
  - ✓ Training to be provided by our trainers under the supervision of employer trainer.
  - ✓ The objective of this internship would be to teach interns the job skills required – But also get them up to speed on the rigor of an 8 hour shift along with the safety, quality and performance expectations.
  - ✓ Work along with employer to identify a safe accommodation near factory vicinity, where the interns could stay after initial training at NABK. One of our trainers to handhold them during this period, till they gain required confidence.
  - ✓ Post training and performance assessment, those qualifying will be taken on payrolls of the employer. Those disqualified, will receive a certificate jointly issued by NABK + Employer to enable them to seek jobs in related industry.
  - ✓ The above model will also help us in achieving our goal to get NABK affiliated and certified by NSDC-SCPwD as a Skills Training Center and Train-the-Trainer Center.
- As a first step towards the aforesaid model, we met up with Mr. Sandeep Kumar Maini - Chairman of Maini Group of companies to discuss on our joint initiative of hiring a mix of vision and hearing impaired for blue collar jobs in one of their companies i.e. Virya Mobility. We are glad to inform that Mr. Maini has whole heartedly agreed to it.. The intricacies of TRAIN & HIRE model is being currently worked out with Virya Mobility CEO & team.
- ***We are glad to inform that we have placed 3 of our ex trainees in Sorterz - Commercial laundromat at Doddaballapura in Calendering / Folding & Packing / One press ironing division. Also, the sighted spouse of one of the employed trainees secured job in Sorterz. Free accommodation & food is being provided by the employer.***
- On similar lines, we are continuously engaging with several other employers for placement opportunities to our vision & hearing impaired trainees.



# Corporate Outreach - Placement (September)

Sorterz - Mr.Sahadevappa in calendaring



Sorterz - Mr. Nagraj in one press ironing



Sorterz - Mr. Madhu in folding & Packing



Ms.Yeshodha (Sighted wife of Mr.Nagraj ) in folding & packing



Sorterz - Free accommodation



Sorterz - Nearby Anganwadi facility





# Bengaluru - Volunteering Activities

- Mr. Chandramouli - Volunteer + Professional sound recordist held audio sessions on identification of various daily living sounds, recorded by him. Also, made the trainees to listen to meditative & healing music.
- Ms. Shaila Natarajan & her son Dhanish Natarajan conducted online communication skills session from California, for our trainees during August.
- Ms. Swetha - Volunteer conducted fundamental yoga course for our trainees. From thereon, our trainees have been practicing it daily from 4-5 pm. Plans are on for conducting advanced yoga course.
- Mr. L.Subramani - Ex trainee + Chief Copy Editor with Deccan Herald + CEO of SPRUZUP GLOBAL conducted online soft skills session from Chennai, for our trainees

**Mr. Chandramouli - Sound Session: July**



**Ms. Swetha - Yoga Session: August**



**Mr. L Subramani - Soft Skills Session: August**





# Acknowledgements



***We express our sincere thanks to:***

- The Government of Karnataka and The Directorate of Disabled Welfare for their support.
- Members of Taluk Panchayats of Mysuru, Arsikere, Hassan, Tumkuru and Sira for encouraging us and appreciating our activities at taluk centers.
- NSDC-SCPwD for all the support being extended to connect with potential corporate employers and Government projects for welfare of vision impaired.
- Partner Organizations, Well-wishers and Volunteers for their active participation and support for the activities conducted in NABK.

***We thank our Donors for their contributions in Kind / Cash. They are as follows:***

**Bengaluru Center - Donations in cash:**

- San Engineering and Locomotive Co Ltd - Rs150000 towards Mobility Training / Employability Linked Training of visually impaired.

**Bengaluru Center - Donations in kind:**

- Bank of Baroda - Indiranagar branch donated 141 long white canes worth Rs25k on the occasion of their 115<sup>th</sup> foundation day.
- Mr. Thipesh - Donor donated 30 white canes on the occasion of Independence Day.

- **Donations to General Fund by:**

- ✓ Mr. E.A.Kshirsagar - Rs100000/-
- ✓ Mr. Parag Dhol - Rs100000/-
- ✓ Family of Late Smt. Padmavathi Shetty - Rs400000/-
- ✓ Mr. Venugopal Koka - Rs75000/-
- ✓ Ms. Prudence Chittiappa – Rs90000/-

**Mysuru Center - Donations in kind:**

- Raju Khatariya Trust - Saraswathipuram provided special lunch to our trainees on 18 April 2022.
- Donors - Mr. Rangachari & Mr. Sukumar visited on 20 June 2022 and donated Rs50000/- towards uniforms and shoes for our trainees.
- M/s NJS Charitable Trust provided stationaries to ongoing 33<sup>rd</sup> batch trainees
- Midday meal contributions from: Mr. C.P.Ponacha - Rs25k / Ms. Gayathri Bhaskar - Rs29400 / Mr. Ashok Gopwani - Rs6k.



# Bereavement



**Mr. H Ramakrishna - Governing council member, Ex Joint Secretary & former ED of Bharat Electronics left for his heavenly abode on 13 August, 2022.**

***NABK expresses its heartfelt condolences and sends a thought of comfort & caring to the grieving family.***

Mr Ramakrishna did BSC with distinction from National College and went on to add B.Tech & M.Tech from IISC. He was endowed with academic brilliance and joined BEL. He was an avid reader of books and also fluent in French & German language.

Mr Ramakrishna was associated with NABK since 1980's and went on to become the joint secretary of NABK. He was quite instrumental in getting placements for visually impaired trainees in Bharat Electronics Ltd. Also, he ensured that all re-caning contracts of BEL was given to NABK trainees. He was actively involved in seeking corporate donations for NABK.

***We humbly thank him for all his contributions to NABK. It was really a honour to know and be associated with late Mr. H Ramakrishna.***

***“Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts”***





# Engage with us !!



## **Volunteering:**

Volunteer with us as an Organization / Corporate by encouraging your staff members to volunteer with us or get involved as an individual volunteer. To know more and register for volunteering activities at NABK, please find the link below:

- To volunteer as Corporate: <https://www.nabkarnataka.org/VolunteerFormCorporate.aspx>
- To volunteer as Individual/Group: <https://www.nabkarnataka.org/VolunteeringForm.aspx>

## **Donors & Sponsors:**

You could donate to NABK as an individual or as an Organization / Corporate. Your donations could go towards our various Training / Rehabilitation programs, Rural community development initiatives OR other new projects & activities that we plan for the benefit of the visually challenged.

**To know more and make a donation:** <https://www.nabkarnataka.org/donateform.aspx>

*Donations to NAB are exempted under U/S 80G of IT Act. We accept cheque and direct online payment to bank by NEFT / RTGS or UPI. Our Bank details are:*

Name of the **Account: The National Association for the Blind**

**Bank: Bank of Baroda, Indiranagar Branch**

**Account : SB account # 89240100010208**

**IFSC Code: BARB0VJINBA**

Please send us an email to [outreach@nabkarnataka.org](mailto:outreach@nabkarnataka.org) with the NEFT transfer reference and contact details to enable us to send you an official receipt of your payment.

## ***Together we can make a difference !!***