

General Secretary Report 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Dear readers, I am excited to present to you the Annual Report for the Year 2024-25 of our Blind Welfare Organization. The continued upscaling graph of growth of our organization is not only a testament of the height to which our organization has reached, but is also inspiring in terms of overall development. This is all one can dream of and ask the Almighty for a favor and is fortunate enough to get his wish granted. Prerequisite for any organization to achieve its goal is to go out on the work field and preparing an action plan is a huge effort, then contact with the people, follow-up and review of the interests of the people as well as the social situation are important for the success of the organization. In short, while working for the visually impaired, initiatives have to be implemented for their rights, welfare, and overall development.

The highest achievement this year was the land acquisition for the school building at Trimbak Road. The joy felt while unveiling the plaque for this site was overwhelming. One can compare it with watching a blind players play national cricket at stadiums like Brabourne or getting married in a grand manner by a blind couple. Such initiatives bring us all immense joy. Of course, this is a collective effort and this would not have been possible without the cooperation of all my colleagues and office bearers. Most importantly, the organization cannot carry out its activities without the generosity of well-wishers and charitable individuals in the community like you.

1. Recitation of Holy script Dnyaneshwari : This year too, the holy book Dnyaneshwari was recited at Devachi Alandi from May 15, 2024 to May 17, 2024. More than 60 people from across the state, including children and elderly, participated in this recitation, and what caught the attention of the recitation were some young visually impaired students from Bhosari Blind School.

Many visitors gave him a pat on the back. This Parayan (recitation) was inaugurated in the presence of Yogi Niranjan Maharaj, trustee of Alandi Devasthan, Senior Police Inspector Kiran Kabade, well-wisher of the organization, and Dr. Narayan Jadhav from Alandi. During the three-day Parayana, chapters 9, 12, 15, 16 and 18 were read sequentially. Kirtan was organized every evening.



The entire cost of the program was borne by the temple, so there was no financial burden on the organization. The organization's president Arun Bharaskar, general secretary Datta Patil and Rachel Shirsat worked hard to make the program a success.

2. Scholarship Distribution Ceremony: The scholarship distribution ceremony was organized by the organization on 22nd June 2024 at Udyan Mangal Office, Pune. On this occasion, scholarship cheques of Rs. 1800/- per person were distributed to 127 meritorious students. Arun Bharaskar, the president of the organization, informed that the scholarship scheme has been running continuously for 17 years even without any government grant. On this occasion, Rajya Sabha Minister Smt. Medhatai Kulkarni, Businessman Krishnakumar Goyal,

education broadcaster Deepak Shah, Swaroop Seva Samiti Chairman Umesh Zirpe, Dr. Satyasheel Naik and Dr. Shaligram Bhandari were present on the dias.

At the same event, Kohinoor Group Chairman Krishna Kumar Goyal was honored by MP Medhatai Kulkarni with a certificate of appreciation, Puneri turban, shawl, and Shreephala for his contribution to the organization. On this occasion, seeing that the organization has been implementing the continuous scholarship scheme for 17 years, senior medical professional Dr. Satyasheel Naik donated Rs. 51,000/- to the organization to strengthen its further work.



Responding to the felicitation, Krishnakumar Goyal said that he has been helping this organization for the disabled and will continue to do so, not just for the felicitation but as a social commitment. Speaking on the occasion, MP Medhatai Kulkarni said that she was impressed by the percentage and progress of visually impaired students, and urged students not to get overwhelmed by success but to continue learning continuously and wished the students great success. He also promised to provide substantial assistance from the MP fund for the construction of buildings for the disabled that the organization is doing in Nashik.

At the event, Kamala Education Society Chairman Deepak Bhai Shah wished the meritorious students well for their future endeavors. Dr. Vishwasrao Gaikwad, Vice President of Dr. Shaligram Bhandari Institute, Director Bhagwan Pawar, General Secretary Datta Patil, Mahavir Oswal, etc. worked hard to make the program a success.

3. Blind couple's wedding ceremony: After reaching a certain age, every parent feels that their son or daughter should get married. But if a blind person is born into a family, the family often neglects them, either unintentionally or out of shame. In such cases social organizations have a major role to play, hence our organization has been trying for the past several years to arrange marriages for such individuals. For this, the organization's treasurer, Mrs. Vijaya Dabe, has taken the initiative and is continuously implementing this initiative. This year, on July 7, 2025, the marriage of two blind couples, Balu Porje and Sonali Takbhate and Tulshidas Rathod and Divya Lohar, was arranged. Organization received special contributions from Maratha Mudra Mahila Mandal and Lions Club of Corporate for this marriage ceremony program. Both the couple felt satisfied as not only a formal wedding ceremony was conducted, but also all the necessary household items such as utensils, mangalsutra, mattress, and cupboard were given to them.



The auspicious ceremony concluded with great pomp and show with the playing of the Vajantri (wedding band). The organization's treasurer Vijaya Dabe Marathe, Director Rakesh Kanojia, honorary President Kalpana Pandey, Director Bhagwan Pawar, and Director Pratibha Holkar worked hard to make the program a grand success.

In this program, blind and sighted artists came together to perform Abhang (devotional songs). In fact, it is said that singing is where blindness never gets in the way because blind people can sing very well.

4. Ashadhi Ekadashi Program: Anniversary of the our organization falls on 11th July every year, but our aim is that this Anniversary program should be organized on some worthy occasion. One such occasion was Ashadhi Ekadashi. On this occasion a “Pandhariche Sukh Nahi Tribhuvani” program was hosted by the visually impaired artist at the Parshuram Saikhedkar Theater. In this programme, blind and sighted artists gathered and paid respects to Abhang. True singing is said to be where blindness never comes in the way and even some visually impaired people can sing best is shown by them time and again. They can give justice to singing but in order to ensure that they should be given a rightful platform, hence our organization organized an appropriate program on the anniversary day.

At the same event, as part of the organization's commitment, a Class 12 Braille guide was presented to Durga Masure, a student, by dignitaries. The price of 12th std guide is Rs. 3500/-. Kondaji Gangurde, a blind person who had suffered an accident earlier, and Jalindar Mokhal were given monetary help for their business by the dignitaries. On this occasion, Dr. Pramod Shinde, Director of Kaushalya Hospital, Dr. Machhindra Kadam, Joint Secretary of Nashik Divisional Board, and Devendra Joshi, President of Parshuram Saikhedkar Library, were present on the stage And Lions Club of Nashik Supremo Sham Kedar and his office bearers as well as office bearers of Rotary Club of Nashik Smart City were also present.



The devotional concert began with the chanting of Ram Krishna Hari, followed by the following Abhangas performed by the singers. Each artist presented more than one such great song. The program was presented by the organization's President, Arun Bharaskar, while the program was managed by Treasurer Vijaya Dabe Marathe, honorary President Dr. Vijay Ghadge, and Director Bhagwan Pawar.

Accompanied by musical instruments such as tabla played by Rajesh Bhalerao, violin played by Bhagwan Pawar, synthesizer played by Jai Bhalerao, mridung played by Kiran Lahamage, percussion and autopad played by Sushil Kedare.

5. Felicitation of Visual impaired: The organization has been organizing an award ceremony for blind students for the past 16 years to congratulate the students who achieved excellent grades in the academic year 2024-25. Previously, this appreciation ceremony was celebrated at one place, but due to the large number of students and to avoid inconvenience to the students, the organization organized these programs at the local level on different days in Nashik, Mumbai and Pune this year. This program was organized at the local level so that students would not be inconvenienced and also keeping in view that no student would be deprived of the honor. On August 24, 2024, 72 students who achieved excellent marks in the academic year 2024-25 were felicitated by dignitaries at Shri Krishna Lawns, Pune Road. On this occasion, a large number of office bearers of Rotary Club North and office bearers of Manavata Utthan were present on the stage.

Initially, the lamp was lit by the dignitaries and then the felicitation ceremony began. On this occasion, the first three students in each group were felicitated by the dignitaries. Vardan Ashtikar scored 95% marks in class 10, Tirupati Gaikwad scored 77% in class 12th commerce department, and Rohini Nagare scored 81% marks in economics in her graduation, making all the office bearers pay attention to her. Vardan Ashtikar acknowledged to the dignitaries that they were not only honored and felt proud of

having achieved so much, but also said despite being blind, they are not inferior to any able students.

Rotary Club Nashik North President Geeta Pingle, Secretary Agastya Munim, Madhuri Mahajan of Innerwheel, Manavata Utthan Mandal President Bharti Jadhav, Jagbir Singh and Kuldeep Kaur were present at the event. A similar program was organized in Mumbai on September 1, 2024 at the Bahai Center under the initiative of Rotary Club Bombay Queen City where 79 students were felicitated.

On the occasion of Teachers' Day, the Blind Welfare Organization and Rotary Club of Pimpri Chinchwad jointly organized On Thursday, September 5, 2024, a felicitation ceremony for 125 visually impaired students from Pune division. It was held at Swami Krupa Hall, Karve Road, Kothrud, Pune in the presence of dignitaries. On this occasion, former trustee of Alandi Devasthan Shri Yogesh Desai, President of Rotary Club Akurdi Gautam Shah, President of Rotary Club of Talegaon Dabhade Shri Kamlesh Karle, President of Rotary Club of Chinchwad Parag Joshi, President of Lions Club of Ganesh Khind Shailesh Khandelwal, etc. were present on the stage. In the same program, on the occasion of Teachers' Day, Mr. Pandurang Salunkhe, Mrs. Sanjeevani Wagh, Mr. Prashant Shinde, Mr. Datta Raut, Mr. Rangnath Gajre were felicitated as ideal



teachers for imparting knowledge. While in class 10th Jinnat Sheikh scored 80.60%, Ajinkya Doke 85.20%, Shubham Rathod 74.80%. In class 12th Rishikesh Waghmare scored 91%, Shubham Narwade 88.67%, Awate Dhammapal 83.83%. They along with Bombale Savitri, Poonam Jadhav and Anil Pawar were felicitated by dignitaries for securing excellent marks in the graduation examination and Madhav More with 73% marks in the MA examination.

As a token of appreciation, the students were felicitated with educational books, white sticks, pen drives and cash. The organization's president Arun Bharaskar, director Bhagwan Pawar, director Megha Pimple and general secretary Datta Patil worked hard for all the above three programs.

6. **Blind students will soon be able to take education through English medium:** As an initiative to provide a quality education to blind students in the school owned and operated by BWO, a land was purchased by The Blind Welfare Organization at Trimbyewshar in Anjaneri, plot number 100 in Nashik Trambak Road area, the plaque unveiling and tree planting program was held on September 9, 2024 in the presence of all dignitaries. On this occasion, a program of plaque unveiling and tree planting was conducted with Police Inspector Madhukarji Kad of Panchavati Police Station, entrepreneur Deepak Chande, officials of the organization and many eminent personalities of Nashik. At this time, Mr. Kad expressed desire to plant a banyan tree as it is considered an auspicious tree. Mr. Deepak Chande donated Rs 5 lakh while unveiling the plaque to mark the beginning of the organization and expressed the hope that the dream of the organization would soon be fulfilled. At this time, President Arun Bharaskar expressed his desire to start a modern English medium school and a workshop

There will be many difficulties in taking up the project and the organization will have to face many problems even during the construction process hence we expect that the charitable groups in the undertaking society would take initiative and help.



At the inaugural ceremony Honorary President Dr. Vijay Ghadge made the introduction. Director Raj Vyas welcomed the dignitaries. For the plaque unveiling and tree planting program, Mahindra & Mahindra Company's former operations head Mr. Hiranman Aher, Honorary President of the organization, Kalpana Pandey, Mr. of Jain Social Group. Sachin Shah, P I Burdikar and majority of Lions Club corporate members were present in large numbers.

At that time, Mr. Ajay Sanap announced to bear the expenses of construction of a room on behalf of Lions Club Corporate Corporation. And architect Manish Jadhav testified that he would do the work for the company free of cost.

Dr. Rakesh Kanojia, director of the organization expressed gratitude for the success of the program and vice president Dr. Vishwasrao Gaikwad, treasurer of the organization Vijaya Dabe Marathe, director Dinesh Musale, director Bhagwan pawar worked hard for this event to be a success.

7. **Event of World White Cane Day:** As per the decision of UNO, 15th October is celebrated all over the world as World white cane Day. On this day, many organizations organize various programs to create public awareness about the blind and the capabilities of the blinds and our Blind Welfare Organization is no exception to this activity. Therefore, The Blind Welfare Organization, Rotary Club Grape City and Lions Club Supremo, jointly organized various programs on the occasion of World White Cane Day on 15th October 2024 at Sadhun Lions Club Hall, Pandit Colony Nashik.

With an aim to bring out the latent qualities amongst the blind people, a singing competition was organized by our organization. Also, monetary help was provided to Shri Manohar Gadekar, Fayaz Shaikh, Janardan Ingale, Chandrakant Salve, Dada Panpatil and Mahendra Musale for self-employed by distributing money orders to them. These are the people who do businesses at the places like railway station and bus stand. On the occasion of the program, Mr. Sanjeevan Darwale from Right TypeFastner was also present. In the song singing competition, Ramesh Kuchekar stood first, Kantilal Kshirsagar stood second and Vikas Chavan stood as a third winner.



In the same programme, 128 White Canes were distributed to 128 blind persons. General Secretary Datta Patil, Treasurer Vijay Dabe (Marathe), Director Raju Vyas, Rachel Shirsath took special efforts.

8. Diwali Milan Programme: Deepawali is a queen of all the festivals in India hence it is rightly said “Diwali San Motha Nahi Ananda Tota” i.e. Deepawali festival bring a lot of joy and happiness in life. This festival is so infused with life of us Indians that be it a poor or a rich, everybody is busy making plans for Diwali celebrations well in advance. Keeping in view, the organization has been organizing Diwali Milan programs for many years for those poor families who cannot afford to celebrate Diwali. This year, on the occasion of Dhantryodashi, Diwali Milan program was organized on 29 October 2024 at Rungtha High School, Nashik.

During this programme, Anubhuti Foundation President Pravin Parekh, Nashik industrialist Nemichand Poddar and Lions Club corporate officials were present in large numbers. On this occasion, various programs were organized by the organization, in which a “Diwali special magazine” was published in Braille script to instil a love of reading among the blind. For this, the online publication of this issue was done by the honorable Narendra Bhau Firodia, a businessman of the city and a well-wisher of the organization. On behalf of the organization, clothes were distributed to men and sarees and sweets to women to make a memorable Diwali for the blind people. Approximately 138 people took advantage of this initiative. Two people, Mr. Bharit and Raju Kothule, were handed over a 6x 6 stall to run a business for their permanent rehabilitation. One of the stalls was provided by Lions Club Corporate, while the other stall was supported by businessman Vinay Birari.



This time, businessman Pravin Bhai praised the initiatives taken by the organization and he proudly confessed that he is a witness to this initiative for the past five years. He wished that The organization should run similar activities in future also and he promised to provide an artificial office in the Nashik Trambak Road space acquired by the organization. Nemichand Potdar, assured that the Nirman Group would always support us so that the organization could take the initiative to save the sight of others. Mr. Ajay Sanap expressed wish that the blind people who are going to be permanently rehabilitated should do a good business. If they succeed in business this will give boost to others to come out and help other blinds for taking up business. He assured continued help in the future.

Treasurer Vijaya Dabe Marathe, Director Arjun Mudda, and Honorary President Kalpana Pandey worked hard to make the program a success.

9. Organizing a trip to energize blind people: The Blind Welfare Organization organizes a trip every year to help blind people get relief from stress as present day life has become very dynamic and stressful. Many are involved in office work and/or someone kind of business and they face a huge amount of stress and tension. The purpose behind this is to reduce this stress so that they can get a new energy for working. Therefore, the organization has been organizing trips continuously for the past 14 years.

These trips include various religious places and some sightseeing places. Since a blind person cannot see, many a times their family members asks them what are they going to see in such site seeing visits. What will one see ? This question itself creates a sense of inferiority within him/her and in turn reduces their ability to work. Therefore, with the aim of reducing this tension, the organization organized a trip this year from December 20 to 25, 2024. The trip started from Kailash Math, from there they enjoyed walking to Akkalkot, from Pandharpur to Narsobachi Wadi and Kolhapur to Raigad, and on the way back they also enjoyed the ropeway, which was an unforgettable experience for them.

Overall, blind people were able to enjoy this trip through the organization at a very low cost.



10. Organizing a state-level cricket tournament: The blind people have different abilities and to provide them with a proper platform to prove it, the organization organizes various sports competitions. As a part of this, the organization organizes state-level cricket tournaments every year to cultivate the sportsmanship among blind people. This also give them a new energy. The main objective is to enable them to prove their sporting prowess by performing brilliantly in the competition.

This year, the competition was organized by the organization on 30th and 31st December 2024 at Singhania Ground, Thane. Eight teams from all over Maharashtra, including Nanded, Amravati, Chandrapur, Akola, Pune, Konkan, and Nashik, participated in this tournament. The tournament was played in a knockout format, with the final match between Chandrapur and Marathwada. However, Chandrapur team won this match and made its mark on the state cricket tournament. The tournament was inaugurated on 30th December at 9.00 am.



The chief guest of the program was Thane MLA Sanjay Kelkar, Nanjibhai Thakkar, former Joint Secretary of MCA Shah Alam and future DG of Rotary Club Dr. Nilesh Jaywant and a large number of Rotary Club office bearers were present. The competition concluded on 31st December in the presence of Rotary Club President Neha Nimbalkar. The winning team was awarded Rs. 12000/- and a trophy, while the runner-up team was awarded Rs. 8000/- and a trophy. Gaurav Zade won the Man of the Series award.

The competition was successful due to the cooperation of Rotary Club Thane Central. Mrs. Madhavi Dole. President of organization Mr. Arun Bharaskar worked hard to make the program a success.

11. Louis Braille Memorial Day: Memorial day of the late Louis Braille, God of the blind, is celebrated on January 6. However, this year, the organization organized this program on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Kashimali Mangal Karyalay Dwarka. In fact, the late Louis Braille gave the blinds a third eye of “knowledge” because of which today blind people work in different fields and at different positions. Some have even excelled in business. With the aim to ensure that the new generation can follow the ideals of Louis Braille, the organization also published a Braille calendar “Kalnirnaya,” with the aim of preserving Braille script.

The program began with the lighting of the lamp. The founder of Motiwal College, Shri. A. F Motiwal, Nashik-based entrepreneur Jayantibhai Lahoti and his friends and family, and Sachin Jadhav of Bank of India were present at the event. At the beginning, the lamp was lit by dignitaries, and various talent-showing programs were also organized on the occasion to nurture the potential of the blind. Approximately 109 blind brothers from Nashik district participated in this program. The organization's president Arun Bharaskar, general secretary



Dattatray Patil, and director Bhagwan Pawar made special efforts to make the program a success.

12. Organization of Haldi Kumku Program: On the occasion of Rath Saptami, the organization organized a Haldi Kumku program at the organization's office in Shalimar on January 1, 2025. In this program, 45 women were given “vaan” along with Tilgula. In fact, there are many opportunities for sighted women to come together. But such opportunities rarely come for our visually impaired sisters, and that is why this initiative was organized by the organization, which can also lead to an exchange of ideas, which inspires others also. This program received special support from Mrs. Asha Venu Gopal.

The treasurer of the organization, Vijaya Dabba Marathe, and Rachel Shirsath worked hard to make the program a success.



13. National Blind Cricket Tournament: The 16th Siyaram Cup National Cricket Tournament for the Blind, organized by the organization, was inaugurated in a grand manner at the Brabourne Stadium. The inauguration of this program was attended by Maharashtra State Water Resources Minister, Hon. Girish Mahajan, MLA Prasad Lad, CCI President Madhumati Lele and Siyaram Company CEO Ramesh Poddar. At the beginning, all the players paid homage to the dignitaries to the tune of the band. At this time, Hon. Girishji Mahajan asserted at the inauguration that even though we are blind, we have immense self-confidence and if we have confidence, a person can accomplish any task. He also assured that he would pay special attention to the construction of an old age home for the blind on Trimbak Road, a project of his organization.

The Minister inaugurated the competition by hitting the ball on the field. The president of the organization, Arun Bharaskar, provided information to the dignitaries about the organization's activities and why it is holding this cricket tournament. On this occasion, Honorary President of the organization Mrs. Kalpana Pandey, Shyam Makhariya, Director of the

organization Arjun Mudha etc. were present on the platform. The opening match was between the teams Delhi and Maharashtra. Gujarat and Goa teams reached the final on the basis of run rate. Gujarat batted first and set a target of 221 runs for the loss of four wickets in front of Goa. However, Goa could not chase this target. Gujarat restricted their innings to 170 runs for the loss of seven wickets. The winning team was awarded with cash and a trophy in this competition, while the runner-up team was also awarded with cash and a trophy.



In this competition, the Man of the Series award went to Aftab Patel from Goa in the completely blind category, while Jinnah Kesari won the Man of the Series title in the partially blind category. A large number of people, including Mr. Pawan Potdar, businessman Ashish Kabra and office bearers of Rotary Club Bombay Queen City, were present on behalf of Siyaram Company at this event. A reason as to why is this initiative being implemented on behalf of the organization this time? President of the organization Mr. Arun Bharaskar explained the background behind this to the attendees. He also expressed his intention to host the Asia Cup competition as the organization is completing twenty years next year.

Treasurer Vijaya Marathe, Director Arjun Mudda, Director Bhagwan Pawar and Rachel Shirsath worked hard to make the program a success.

14. Organization of various programs on the occasion of Women's Day: On the occasion of Women's Day, various programs were organized by the organization on March 15, 2025 at the Martyrs' Memorial in Nashik. Around 90 women from Nashik district participated in this program. This time, a singing competition and a quiz competition were organized by the organization to give scope to their talents. This time, Kumari Gautami Wagh won the first prize in the singing competition and Yamuna Chaudhary won the second prize. Rohini Nagare's group won the first prize in the quiz competition. All the women were also given sarees as gifts.

A similar program was also organized at the Bahai Center in Mumbai on March 22, 2025. On this occasion, meritorious women were felicitated. Ten blind women who wanted to be self-employed were helped in starting their own businesses. The event was organized in collaboration with Innerwheel Club Mumbai. Mita Roy, President, Innerwheel Group Mumbai, was present at the inauguration of the event. This time, talented women like Priyanka Ghumre, Siddhi Dalvi, Pratiksha Kadam, Tejaswini Sase, and Payal Tayde were felicitated. All five of these women are blind and have done particularly remarkable work.



Priyanka Ghumre is a sports officer in BMC, while Tejal has resigned from her lecture post and is currently pursuing her PhD. Siddhi Dalvi wrote her 10th class paper on a computer and got 94 percent marks while Tejaswini Sase achieved innovation in goal ball. Meanwhile, 9

blind women were helped by dignitaries for self-employment. At the beginning of the program, the purpose of this program and the activities of the organization were narrated by the Arun Bharaskar president of the organization. What was special about this program is that since it was Women's Day, all the work, from the coordination of the entire program to the vote of thanks, was done by women.

Suchita Patil, Rachel Shirsath, Nivedita Patil, Sunita Awhad and the director of the organization, Dinesh Musale Patil, worked hard to make the program a success.

Thus, a total of 14 activities were implemented by the organization during the calander year. There was diversity in these and the activities were implemented keeping in mind their problems or needs. For this, charitable individuals, organizations, corporate banks, social organizations like Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Rotary and Lions Club have played a valuable role.

In addition to these, I would like to mention with honor those who have been continuously helping and have been associated with the organization since its inception and those who have provided valuable support to the organization are Mr. Narendra Firodia of Ahmednagar, Mr. Hiranman Aher, Ashokbhau Jain of Jain Irrigation, Mr. Praveen Parekh, Mr. Krishankumar Goyal, Deepak Shah, Nanjibhai Thakkar Thanawala, former Police Commissioner Mr. Harish Baijal, PI Mr. Kiran Kabade, Siyaram Mills etc. They provide great support every year. I am deeply grateful to all of them. I pray to God that this work continues uninterrupted. I would also seek pardon if I have inadvertently omitted the name of any person or organization in this report. I humbly apologize.

Also heartfelt thanks to all the known and unknown community members who have helped us in our journey.

On behalf of everyone at our organization and the communities we serve, thank you for your kind help and contribution to our organization. We ensure that we shall complete the work on our new facilities at earlies, which is more essential to reach and help visually challenged people in need.

Dattatray Shankar Patil
General Secretary, BWOU, Nashik