

**KERALA STATE BRANCH  
of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT - 2024-25**

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**1962-2025**

**(“FROM DARKNESS LEAD UNTO LIGHT”)**

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# KERALA STATE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

## 63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-25

National Association for the Blind India was constituted in India in the year 1952 in order to empower people with visual disabilities by providing them with access to education, vocational skills, assistive technology and employment opportunities. Through its wide network of branches and partnerships, the organization strives to promote inclusion and equal rights for the blind and visually impaired, helping them to lead independent and dignified lives. In recognition of the outstanding performance in the field of welfare of people with disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice And Empowerment, Government of India has given National award to National Association for the Blind, India.

Kerala State Branch of the National Association for the Blind (KSB-NAB) is a committed Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), registered under the Travancore Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act XII of 1955 (Reg. No. 28/1972). It serves as the Kerala State Branch of the **National Association for the Blind, India (NAB India)**, which is headquartered in Mumbai.

On behalf of the Governing Council of the **Kerala State Branch of the National Association for the Blind (KSB-NAB)**, I am honored to present the **63rd Annual Activity Report** for the year **2024–25**.

Our journey of serving the welfare, empowerment & rehabilitation of the visually impaired commenced on **20th December 1962**, inspired by the vision and initiative of the Late **Benedict Mar Gregorios**, the then Archbishop of Trivandrum. Over the decades, KSB-NAB has grown into a dynamic organization with a strong network of around **260 Life Members**, guided by a dedicated Governing Council comprising of Senior Advisors, Executive Officers, and elected representatives. The tenure of the Governing Council is for a period of three years, ensuring democratic governance and accountability.

Since inception, KSB-NAB has been at the forefront of initiatives aimed at supporting and uplifting **visually challenged individuals** and persons with **multiple disabilities**. Through a wide range of programs spread across Kerala, we strive to bring about meaningful change in the lives of the differently-abled. Our primary focus lies in **empowerment through sensitization, education, training, rehabilitation**, and advocacy for equal rights and opportunities.

With pride, we report that **over 60,000 persons with disabilities** have been directly rehabilitated through our efforts. Guided by our mission to eliminate avoidable disabilities and uphold the dignity and rights of the differently-abled, we continue our work toward building an inclusive society.

This Annual Report reflects the activities, progress, challenges, and aspirations of the organization during the year 2024–25. It is a testament to the collective efforts of our members, staff, partners, and well-wishers who have supported us on this impactful journey.

## **Programs & Projects of NAB Kerala**

NAB Kerala is committed to the empowerment, rehabilitation, and inclusion of visually impaired individuals. Below is a brief overview of the key programs and projects actively undertaken by NAB Kerala.

### **1. Vocational Training & Rehabilitation Program**

#### **Empowering Visually Impaired Individuals through Skill Development**

In a dedicated effort to promote self-reliance and social inclusion, a diverse range of vocational training programs are offered to visually impaired individuals. These programs are thoughtfully designed to harness their potential and equip them with practical, income-generating skills. Key areas of training include:

- **Furniture Re-caning:** Trainees learn the traditional craft of re-weaving chairs and other furniture using cane and plastic, developing fine motor skills and precision that are well-suited to tactile work. This skill is in demand for restoring vintage and office furniture, offering both self-employment and job opportunities.
- **Soap Making:** Participants are trained in the art and science of producing handmade soaps using safe & natural ingredients like caustic soda, stone powder, characteristic perfumes, relevant colour materials, hardener for enhancing the thickness of the soap and very pure coconut oil. It is marketed & sold under the caption “**Netra**” appearing beautifully in fascinating covers. This training not only provides a potential source of income but also introduces them to basic entrepreneurship, packaging, and marketing techniques.
- **Preparation of Lotions and Cleaning Materials:** This module teaches the formulation of personal care and household cleaning products, emphasizing hygiene, quality control, and cost-effectiveness. The products created can be sold locally or through small business ventures.
- **Umbrella Making:** With guidance from skilled instructors, participants learn to assemble and manufacture umbrellas — a skill that combines craftsmanship and precision. This training supports opportunities for seasonal employment or partnership with small-scale manufacturers.

- **Computer Operations:** Using assistive technologies such as screen readers and specialized software, visually impaired learners are trained in essential computer skills including typing, internet browsing, email, document handling, and even basic programming. This opens the door to digital literacy, online learning, and employment in the information technology sector.

Beyond training, job placements are actively facilitated for deserving and capable candidates. By partnering with companies, government agencies, and NGOs, the program helps integrate visually impaired individuals into the mainstream workforce. These efforts aim not only to provide financial independence but also to restore dignity, build self-confidence, and promote full participation in society.

## **2. Prevention of Blindness & Other Disabilities**

Health camps in rural areas focus on:

- Early identification of disabilities, especially among children
- Promoting awareness on hygiene and nutrition
- Preventing avoidable blindness and improving overall health

## **3. Client Service Unit**

### **Empowering Persons with Disabilities to Access Government Support**

The Client Service Unit helps persons with disabilities (PwDs) access government benefits and services by offering personalized assistance and advocacy.

#### **Key Areas of Support:**

- **Travel Concessions:** Help with applying for concessions in public transport and obtaining necessary certificates.
- **Medical Care:** Support in accessing free or subsidized treatments, assistive devices, and health insurance.
- **Job Reservations:** Guidance on job quotas, application support, and vocational training.
- **Legal Assistance:** Advice on disability rights, legal aid referrals, and resolving issues related to discrimination.
- **Guidance & Counselling:** Psychological support, career and education counselling, and life skills workshops.

#### **Additional Services:**

- **Document Assistance:** Help with obtaining disability certificates, ID cards, and other necessary documents.
- **Awareness & Outreach:** Educating PwDs and families about their rights and available government schemes.

- The unit works to ensure PwDs lead empowered, independent, and dignified lives.

#### **4. NAB-LIC Group Insurance Scheme**

During 2024–25, the National Association for the Blind (NAB), in collaboration with LIC of India, provided group insurance coverage to 136 visually challenged individuals. This scheme offers financial protection in cases such as accidental death or disability. It aims to promote financial security and inclusion for persons with visual impairments, supporting their overall well-being and independence.

#### **5. Care & Therapy Centre**

This program provides specialized care and physiotherapy for children with disabilities, including multiple disabilities, focusing on their overall development and independence.

##### **Key Focus Areas:**

- **Mobility Training:** Exercises and use of assistive devices to improve physical movement, balance, and independence.
- **Communication Skills:** Speech therapy and alternative communication methods to enhance language, expression, and social interaction.
- **Parental Counselling:** Guidance and emotional support to help parents actively participate in their child's care and development.

The goal is to support each child's physical, emotional, and social well-being while empowering families to create a supportive home environment.

#### **6. Computer Learning Centre**

NAB's Computer Learning Centre offers specialized computer training for visually challenged individuals, with support from IBS Software Pvt Ltd. The programme equips participants with essential digital skills to promote independence and enhance employment opportunities.

##### **Key Features:**

- Accessible training using screen readers like JAWS and NVDA
- Courses in basic computer use, MS Office, internet, and email
- Personalized instruction tailored to each learner's pace
- Career guidance, job readiness, and placement support
- Inclusive and empowering learning environment

This initiative helps bridge the digital divide, enabling visually impaired individuals to participate confidently in today's digital world.

## 7. Mobility Training Centre

The National Association of the Blind (NAB) offers specialized training programs designed to empower individuals with visual impairments to navigate their environments safely and independently using white canes.

NAB's Mobility Training empowers visually impaired individuals with personalized techniques for safe navigation, fostering confidence and independence in diverse environments.

### Core Skills Taught:

- **White Cane Usage:** Proper techniques to detect obstacles and terrain changes
- **Route Planning:** Strategies for memorizing and navigating routes
- **Environmental Awareness:** Use of sound, touch, and spatial cues
- **Street & Transit Navigation:** Safe street crossing and public transport use

### Tailored Programs:

Training is adapted based on:

- **Age & Experience:** Suitable for children, adults, and seniors
- **Daily Routines:** Aligned with work, school, and community life
- **Living Environment:** Customized for urban, rural, or suburban settings

With practical support and personalized guidance, NAB helps individuals with vision loss travel confidently and live more independently.

## 8. Special Service Project in Rural Areas

Initiated in 2019–20 in **Nemom Block Panchayat**, this project identifies children from BPL families needing:

- Medical and therapeutic support
- Financial aid

A project was initiated by the students of NAB in Aryankavu with the support of life members & well-wishers. School bags, umbrellas, books, stationaries, tiffin boxes, water bottles etc. were donated to around 75 children & clothes to around 100 people worth Rs 3 lakhs during 2024 – 25.

## 9. "*The NAB Symphony*" Music Troupe

Formed by talented visually impaired singers, The NAB Symphony is trained to develop into a professional music troupe. The group nurtures musical skills, promotes inclusion, and performs at events to showcase the artistic abilities of visually impaired individuals.

## 10. Audio Recording & Publishing

To support the educational needs of visually impaired students, our in-house audio recording studio plays a vital role in producing accessible learning content. The studio regularly creates high-quality **audio textbooks** and **materials for competitive exams**, carefully curated and recorded by trained professionals and volunteers.

These audio resources are tailored to various academic levels and competitive examination requirements, ensuring that visually challenged learners have equal access to essential study material. To maximize reach and ease of access, the content is distributed through popular digital platforms like **WhatsApp** and **Telegram**, allowing students to conveniently listen and learn on their personal devices.

This initiative not only bridges the information gap but also empowers visually impaired students to pursue their academic and career goals with confidence and independence.

## 11. YouTube Channel – *Drishyam NAB*

Our dedicated YouTube channel, **Drishyam NAB**, serves as a dynamic digital platform offering **daily audio-visual content** curated specifically for the visually impaired community. The channel covers a wide range of topics including **current affairs, science and technology, editorial discussions, and health and lifestyle updates**—all presented in an accessible and engaging format.

To further enrich the learning and awareness experience, we also publish a **weekly digital magazine**, made available via **Google Drive**, featuring curated articles and updates. In addition, our **active Facebook page** provides regular updates, event highlights, and interactive content to keep our community informed and connected.

Together, these platforms aim to empower visually impaired individuals with timely information, broaden their knowledge base, and foster greater social inclusion through digital media.

## 12. Sound Recording & Editing Course

The **Sound Recording & Editing Course** is a specialized skill development program designed to empower visually impaired individuals with professional training in the field of **audio production** and **sound editing**. Conducted in an accessible and inclusive environment, the course covers key aspects such as voice recording, mixing, editing techniques, use of digital audio workstations (DAWs), and sound design.

Participants gain hands-on experience with industry-standard tools and software, enabling them to pursue careers in **radio, podcasting, music production, dubbing, and other media-related fields**. By building both technical skills and creative

confidence, this program opens up new avenues for employment and entrepreneurship in the growing media and entertainment industry.

The course reflects our commitment to promoting economic independence and creative expression among the visually challenged community.

### **13. Projects with IBS Support**

In collaboration with **IBS Software Solutions**, several impactful initiatives were undertaken during the year **2024–25** to enhance the lives of visually impaired and multiply disabled individuals. IBS’s continued support played a crucial role in advancing two key programs:

#### **1. Life Skills Development Program:**

This initiative focused on equipping visually impaired and multiply disabled individuals with essential life skills, including personal grooming, mobility training, communication, and daily living activities. The program aimed to foster greater independence, confidence, and social integration among the participants.

#### **2. Audio Recording Studio:**

With the backing of IBS, the in-house audio recording studio was further developed and utilized to train individuals in **audio recording and editing techniques**. This not only improved the production of accessible educational content but also provided professional training opportunities in the field of sound technology.

During the year, a total of **65 individuals** successfully received training through these programs, gaining valuable skills that enhance both their **personal development and career prospects**. The partnership with IBS Software Solutions continues to be a vital force in promoting inclusion, empowerment, and sustainable change for persons with disabilities.

### **14. Mobile Accessibility Training**

#### **Focused Digital Training for Visually Impaired Individuals**

NAB offers specialized training programs designed to empower visually impaired individuals with the skills needed to confidently use smartphones and mobile applications independently. This training aims to bridge the digital divide and promote greater accessibility and inclusion in the digital world.

#### *Training Highlights:*

- **Smartphone Operation:**

Participants learn how to navigate smartphones using accessibility features such as screen readers, voice commands, and touch gestures. The training

covers essential functions like making calls, sending messages, and managing contacts.

- **Mobile Apps Proficiency:**

Trainees are taught to use a variety of mobile applications, including social media, messaging platforms, email, banking apps, and navigation tools, enabling them to engage fully in daily activities and stay connected.

- **Building Confidence in Digital Communication:**

The program emphasizes enhancing communication skills through digital platforms, helping participants gain confidence in using technology for social interaction, education, and professional purposes.

- **Successful Outcomes:**

To date, 54 trainees have successfully completed the program, demonstrating increased independence and digital literacy.

This focused training empowers visually impaired individuals to harness the benefits of technology, fostering greater independence and inclusion in today's digital society.

## 15. PSC Coaching

As part of our commitment to educational empowerment and equal opportunity, we provide free audio materials for visually impaired candidates preparing for the Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) examinations. These were designed to help students navigate the competitive exam process with confidence and competence.

It included focused training on relevant subjects, general knowledge, current affairs, mock tests, and exam strategies—delivered in an accessible format suited to the needs of visually impaired learners.

During the year, more than **100 visually impaired students** benefited from this initiative, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to compete effectively for government job opportunities. This program represents a significant step toward promoting **inclusion in public employment** and enabling **financial independence** for persons with visual disabilities.

## 16. Empower EDU Program

In a world that is increasingly driven by technology, access to computer education is crucial for unlocking opportunities and fostering independence. The visually impaired community faces unique challenges in acquiring these essential skills limiting their access to employment and social inclusion. Empower EDU, an ambitious initiative by us, is designed to break down these barriers and empower visually impaired individuals through a comprehensive six month job-oriented computer training program.

The primary goal of the Empower EDU is to equip visually impaired individuals with the skill and knowledge necessary to thrive in the digital age. By focusing on computer literacy, mobility training, soft skills development and English language proficiency. The program aims to enhance employability and foster self-reliance among participants. This program commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 8 visually impaired students took admission during the reporting period. The current batch which commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 too had 8 student enrolled in the beginning but due to health & other personal issues, currently only 4 students are there and is progressing successfully with the financial support of Life Members and well-wishers.

## **17. Noon Meal Program**

NAB launched the Noon Meal Program on 1st February 2024 to ensure that visually impaired individuals receive nutritious meals to support their health and well-being. This initiative caters to two main groups: visually impaired visitors from outside the center and in-house students residing at KSB-NAB.

The program provides balanced, wholesome lunches that help enhance energy levels and focus, enabling participants to fully engage in their daily activities and learning.

Supported by the generous contributions of life members, this initiative reflects NAB's commitment to fostering a caring and supportive environment for persons with visual impairments. Through their continued support, the Noon Meal Program remains sustainable and impactful in improving the overall quality of life for beneficiaries.

# **MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS IN 2024 - 25**

## **1. MEETINGS**

### **Executive Committee Meetings:**

During the financial year 2024-25, the Executive Committee of NAB convened **eight times** to oversee the organization's operations, make strategic decisions, and guide ongoing programs. The meetings were held on the following dates:

- 10th May 2024
- 26th June 2024
- 30th August 2024
- 20th September 2024
- 15th November 2024
- 21st December 2024
- 14th February 2025
- 20th March 2025

Each session focused on reviewing progress reports, addressing challenges, approving budgets, and planning upcoming activities. These regular meetings played a crucial role in ensuring smooth functioning, accountability, and alignment with NAB’s mission to support and empower persons with visual impairments.

The Executive Committee’s active involvement and collaborative decision-making reflect their dedication to advancing the organization’s goals and responding effectively to the needs of the community.



**Governing Council Meetings:**

During the period of 2024-25, NAB conducted **four Governing Council meetings** to provide strategic oversight and governance for the organization. These meetings were held on the following dates:

- 12th April 2024
- 26th July 2024
- 22nd October 2024
- 17th January 2025

The Governing Council meetings served as a vital forum for reviewing the organization’s progress, discussing key policy decisions, and ensuring compliance with regulatory and ethical standards. Council members engaged in in-depth discussions on program outcomes, financial performance, and future directions for NAB’s initiatives.

These meetings reinforced the Council’s commitment to transparent governance and effective leadership, helping to steer NAB toward fulfilling its mission of empowering persons with visual impairments through comprehensive support and advocacy.



### **Annual General Body Meeting:**

The Annual General Body Meeting of NAB was held on **26th July 2024**. The meeting witnessed the participation of **23 members**, who came together to review the organization’s activities, discuss progress made over the year, and plan future initiatives.

Members actively engaged in deliberations on key issues, financial reports, and upcoming projects aimed at furthering the mission to empower persons with visual impairments. The gathering provided a valuable platform for effective and open communication, collective decision-making, and strengthening the commitment of all stakeholders towards the fulfilment of NAB’s goals.



### **2. Vishu Celebration & Visit of World Malayali Council members**

On the occasion of Vishu, World Malayali Council Travancore Province sponsored clothes to 40 visually impaired on 12/04/24. Smt. Seleena Mohan (WMC Womens Forum- Global President) was the chief guest. As an initiative of the World Malayali Council, they offered an amount of Rs. 10,000/- towards commencement of umbrella making in our premises. It was an individual donation by Mr. Vijayan an

executive committee member of World Malayali Council. Vice President Smt. Molly Stanly will be the in charge of umbrella making unit.



### 3. Visit of IBS Volunteers to NAB

On **18th April 2024**, a group of dedicated volunteers from **IBS Software Pvt Ltd** visited the National Association for the Blind (NAB). During their visit, the volunteers had the opportunity to witness a vibrant cultural program organized and performed by NAB students and the visitors were much appreciated the histrionic talents of our Empower Edu students.

After the performance, the volunteers actively interacted with the students through group activities. These sessions fostered meaningful conversations, camaraderie, and mutual learning, creating a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

The visit not only strengthened the bond of friendship and fellowship between NAB and IBS volunteers but also emphasized the significance of awareness, empathy, and community support in empowering persons with visual impairments.





#### 4. Visit of Empower Edu Students to IBS

The first batch of **Empower Edu students**, along with the **President, Secretary, Vice President**, and coordinators of NAB, visited the **IBS Software Pvt Ltd** campus for an educational exposure visit on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Students interacted with IBS staff, gaining insights into career opportunities, workplace culture, and technology trends. They also went around campus and it has been an eye opener to learn more about the equipments and other arrangements inside the **IBS Software Pvt Ltd**





## 5. Helen Keller Day Celebration

NAB celebrated **Helen Keller Day** on **26th June 2024** with a vibrant and inspiring program that highlighted the talents and spirit of visually impaired individuals. The event featured a variety of entertainment performances presented by the visually impaired participants.

The occasion was graced by **Sri. Rajan Panicker IA & AS**, who served as the **Chief Guest**, and **Smt. Gayathri S, Vice President of Federal Bank**, who was the **Guest of Honour**. Both dignitaries expressed their appreciation for the performers and reaffirmed their support for NAB's mission in promoting inclusion and opportunity for persons with visual impairments.

To support participation, Travel Allowance (TA) was provided to 32 visually impaired participants, ensuring that individuals from various locations could attend the celebration. Additionally, lunch was served to all attendees, providing warmth to every participants.

The event was a heartfelt tribute to Helen Keller's enduring legacy and a celebration of the abilities, achievements, and potential of the visually impaired community.





## 6. Visit of Empower Edu students to Kowdiar Palace

On **9th July 2024**, a group of visually impaired students from NAB were given a rare and enriching opportunity to visit the historic **Kowdiar Palace** in Thiruvananthapuram. The visit offered the students a memorable cultural experience, allowing them to connect with Kerala's royal heritage in a meaningful and pleasant ambiance.

During the visit, the students had the honour of **interacting with members of the Royal Family**, who warmly welcomed them and engaged in conversations about history, tradition, and the students' personal journeys. The interaction was not only inspiring but also deeply encouraging, leaving a lasting impression on the participants.

The palace visit was both educational and motivational, giving the students exposure to Kerala's rich cultural legacy and heritage while reinforcing their sense of dignity, confidence, and belonging.





## 7. Project Implementation & Trip to Thenmala Dam & Kulathupuzha

As part of their commitment to social responsibility, the students of NAB's Empower Edu Program carried out a meaningful community service project at Aryankav in Kollam District. This initiative reflected the values of empathy, leadership, and service instilled through the program.

During the outreach, the students donated essential items including school bags, umbrellas, books, stationery, tiffin boxes, and water bottles to approximately 75 children in the community. In addition, they distributed clothing to around 100 individuals in need. The total value of donated materials was approximately Rs. 3 lakhs, demonstrating the scale and impact of the project.

The food and transportation expenses for the trip were generously sponsored by NAB office bearers – Prof. John Kurian, Er. J. Jayakumar, Dr. K T Cheria Panicker, Er. Jose V Kurisinkal, and Mr. Raju George – whose support made the event possible.

In recognition of their efforts, the students were honoured by the Panchayat President, Smt. Suja Thomas, who applauded their spirit of service and meaningful contribution to the local community.

As part of the trip, the group also visited Thenmala Dam and Kulathupuzha, making it a memorable blend of service, learning, and exploration.





## 8. Onam celebration

Onam celebration was on 20/09/2024. Instead of onam kits, Rs 500 each were given to 51 visually impaired persons. 132 participants were there for the Onam sadya. Life members and well-wishers donated liberally for celebrating Onam.





## 9. White Cane Day Celebration

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, we observed the White Cane Day. We had Ms. Tiffany Brar as the chief guest. We also received the key for Maruthi Eeco 7 seater car costing Rs. 6,41,415/- with the CSR support of Federal bank, through Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation. Around 32 visually impaired participated for the celebration with cultural programs & lunch.





## 10. NAB Christmas Carol

Spreading festive cheer and building a sense of community, the NAB Christmas Carol Team organized a joyful carol performance starting from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December. The team visited the homes of NAB members, supporters, and well-wishers, bringing the spirit of Christmas through music and heartfelt performances.

This annual tradition not only celebrates the holiday season but also strengthens the bond between NAB and its extended family of patrons. The carol visits were warmly received, fostering goodwill, inclusivity, and festive unity. It also provided an opportunity for the visually impaired performers to showcase their musical talents and actively participate in community celebrations.





## 11. Christmas sale of NAB Home Needs & Carol Team Performance at IBS

On 20th December 2024, the NAB (National Association of the Blind) team set up a special Home Needs Stall at the IBS Campus, showcasing a wide range of handmade products crafted by visually impaired individuals. The stall featured items such as soaps, umbrella, cleaning items etc. — all created with care, skill, and dedication by members of the NAB community.

The initiative aimed not only to provide an opportunity for the sale of these goods but also to promote economic empowerment and self-reliance among the visually impaired. Visitors to the stall showed great interest in the products, and many took the opportunity to learn more about NAB's mission and the talents of the individuals it supports.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, NAB's Christmas Carol team delivered a heartwarming performance that included:

- Traditional Christmas Carols, filling the campus with joy and seasonal cheer
- A lively mimicry segment, which brought laughter and smiles to the audience, showcasing the diverse artistic abilities of the team

The event was a beautiful blend of awareness, celebration, and inclusion, highlighting the spirit of Christmas and the importance of community engagement. NAB places on record its deep gratitude to IBS Campus for hosting the event and to all attendees for their enthusiastic support.



## **12. World Disability Day, X'mas & New year Celebration**

World Disability Day, X'mas & New year celebration of NAB held on 21/12/2024 with K. Jayakumar IAS as chief guest. The program was attended by the Sri. Sreekumar K P, Vice President TATA ELXSI. 40 visually impaired persons attended the function. TA and lunch were arranged for the visually challenged persons who attended the programme.



### 13. Second Batch of Empower Edu

The second batch of Empower Edu commenced on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> with 7 students. The boys are given accommodation at NAB & girls at the nearby hostel. In addition to the regular classes in English, Computer, Soft skills & Mobility, a session on laughter yoga is also conducted twice every month.



### 14. NAB Home Needs Sale at Christ church

A sale was arranged by Asrya c/o our executive member Ms. Lekshmi Giridhar at Christ church Palayam.



### **15. Demo on Ultrasonic device**

Dr. Mathew visited NAB for introducing an ultrasonic device which will help the visually impaired for navigation. The device was demonstrated to the visually impaired & he sought the support for further development of the device. NAB team along with Dr. Mathew Koshy visited the research wing at LBS to discuss the same. Also, NAB team visited Kollam to meet Dr. Mathew & Mr. Nishanth who developed this device. A proposal for developing this was shared with TATA Elxsi.



### **16. Vision Empower Trust visited NAB**

A team from Vision Empower Trust visited NAB & interacted with the students to develop study matters for the visually impaired.



## 17. Vocational Training

### 1. Furniture Re-caning

Trainees learn the traditional skill of re-weaving cane furniture, developing fine motor precision. This craft is valuable for restoring vintage and office furniture, offering both self-employment and job placement potential.

### 2. Soap Making

Participants are trained in crafting handmade soaps using natural ingredients such as caustic soda, stone powder, and pure coconut oil. Branded as “Netra”, these soaps are packaged attractively and sold commercially. The module emphasizes production, safety, entrepreneurship, packaging, and marketing.

### 3. Preparation of Lotions and Cleaning Materials

This training focuses on creating personal care and household cleaning products with an emphasis on hygiene, quality, and cost-efficiency. It prepares participants for local sales or starting small businesses.

### 4. Umbrella & Mat Making

Guided by 100% visually impaired teacher, participants learn to assemble umbrellas & mats, a skill requiring precision and manual coordination. This opens avenues for seasonal employment or collaboration with small manufacturers.





## 18. Donation towards Marriage of Visually Impaired

NAB with the support of members donated Rs 50000/- for the marriage of 2 visually challenged, 1 who is a caretaker at NAB- Mr. Amos Joy.

## 19. Internship

Six students from Government Law College were provided internship opportunities at NAB. During their time with us, they gained practical exposure to disability rights, accessibility laws, and advocacy work. The program aimed to enhance their legal knowledge while fostering a deeper understanding of issues faced by the visually impaired.

### *New Members*

During 2024-25 following six new members joined as Life Members.

1. Mr. Pradeep Kumar K S
2. Mr. Vinod Chandra
3. Ms. Julia J.
4. Mr. Abraham Jose
5. Mr. Joseph M M
6. Mr. M L Unnikrishnan

## **Gratitude**

*We are thankful to the Almighty for all the Blessings showered on us in our activities. Our thanks are due to our Patrons Mr. Frank P. Thomas, Director & Business Head, Asianet News Network Pvt. Ltd, and Er. Thomas Mathew.*

*KSB-NAB is indebted to President Prof. John Kurian, all Members of the Governing Council, Honorary Workers, Project Coordinators and NAB Volunteers, Trainees and their parents, NAB India, M/s Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation, M/s IBS Software Pvt Ltd, M/s Asianet News Network Pvt. Ltd, M/s ARTECH Realtors Pvt Ltd, M/s.Ospyn Technologies Pvt Ltd, M/s Y's Men International, M/s Y's Men India Area, M/s GJW Ministeries, Thiruvananthapuram, M/s Zam zam Restaurants, M/s Pilgrims Highland, M/s Innerwheel club of Trivandrum North, M/s Dr. Varkey Chacko & Leelamma Varkey Trust, Life Members of NAB and all other well-wishers for the cooperation and support extended.*

*At this juncture, I would like to place on record for the attention of esteemed members that KSBNAB is being sustained only through the benevolent support and succor from NAB life members and well-wishers. KSBNAB continues to impart various training as well as educational programmes free of cost even without governmental grant or foreign contributions.*

*Those interested in supporting NAB activities may kindly donate to the following Account:*

**Account name** : Kerala State Branch of the National Association for the Blind

**Account number** : 57009370913

**IFSC** : SBIN0070212

**Branch** : SBI, LIC Pattom

*It may please be noted that all contributions to NAB will attract income tax exemption under 80 G.*

*Respectfully submitted before the General Body of National Association for the Blind, Kerala State Branch today the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.*

J. Jayakumar

General Secretary

