



# National Association for the Blind Chandigarh and Punjab State Branch

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-25**

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## OUR HISTORY

Established in 1952 at Mumbai, National Association for the Blind (NAB) with its 22 State, 68 district branches & 11 Institutions for Blind Welfare across the country is the largest Non-Government Organization in the disability sector in India. It is dedicated to the upliftment of the quality of life of the visually challenged and integrating them with the mainstream society. The association is rendering valuable service to the society by developing educational, vocational and employment services for the incurable blind children, adults and Multi-disabled through its vast network in the country. **NAB, Chandigarh and Punjab branch is operational since 1990 with its office at Karuna Sadan, UT Red Cross building, Sector 11, Chandigarh.**

## OUR VISION & MISSION

### **Vision:**

To empower and educate the visually challenged population of our country, thus enabling them to lead a life of dignity and productivity.

### **Mission:**

- To prevent blindness and serious Eye ailments of general public by timely medical intervention.
- Prevention of preventable and cure of curable visual impairment.
- Socio-economic rehabilitation of the visually challenged in mainstream, through education, training and employment.
- To take up advocacy against all types of individual and structural discrimination and ensure full legal capacity.
- Assure accessibility to the world of information.

## OUR PROGRAMS

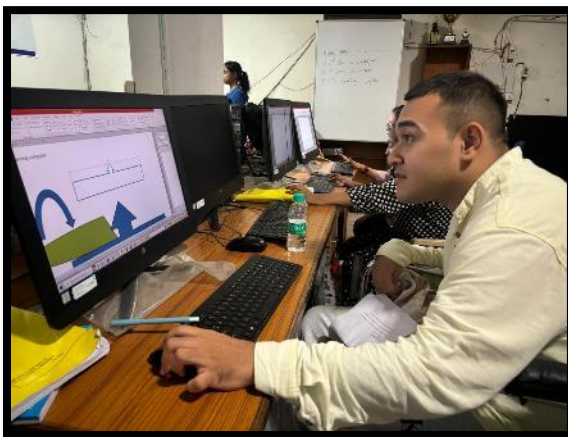
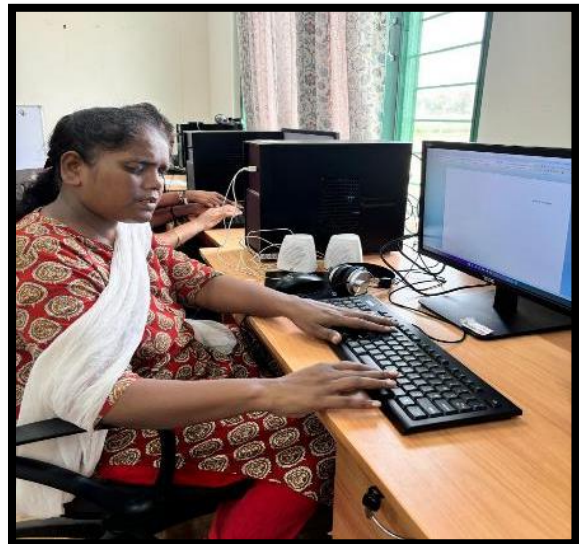
### *Empowering Visually Challenged with Technology*

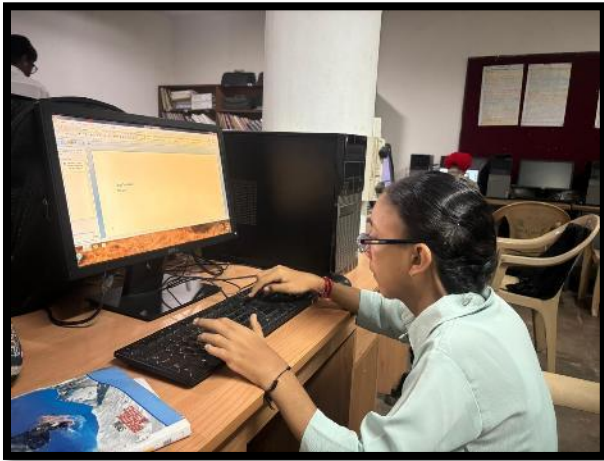
#### ➤ **FREE COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM AT CHANDIGARH**

NAB Computer Training Program, operational since January 2003 at Karuna Sadan, U.T. Red Cross Building, Sector 11-B, Chandigarh, is dedicated to empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), especially the visually impaired, and disadvantaged girls. The program provides free digital skills training to help participants gain independence, improve access to education and employment, and achieve social inclusion.

Accredited under the PM Daksh Skill India Initiative and the Chandigarh Child and Women Development Corporation Ltd., the program has trained 34 PwDs under the Data Entry Operator Course. Of these, 18 completed training in December 2024 and 16 in March 2025. The training integrates assistive technologies like screen readers and magnifiers and also focuses on soft skills to prepare participants for government and private sector jobs. The program remains committed to fostering inclusive growth and lasting empowerment—completely free of cost since inception.







➤ **FREE COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM AT GOVT INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, JAMALPUR, LUDHIANA**

Since January 2012, NAB Computer Training Program for the visually challenged has been running at the Government Institute for the Blind, Jamalpur, Ludhiana. The program offers free basic and advanced computer training, empowering individuals with visual impairments to use digital tools confidently and independently. To date, over 285 visually challenged individuals have successfully trained under this training program. The program also offers computer training to students enrolled at the Blind Institute.

A new batch under the PM Daksh Skill Development Initiative is set to begin soon, furthering our mission to build digital skills and promote independence among persons with visual disabilities.



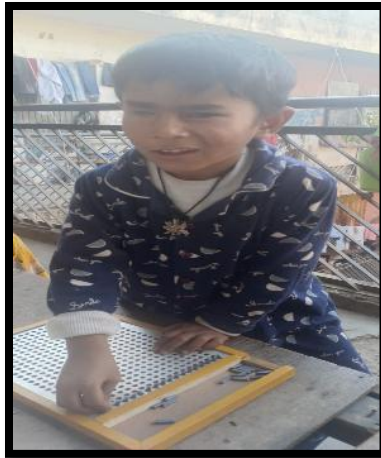


## ➤ INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

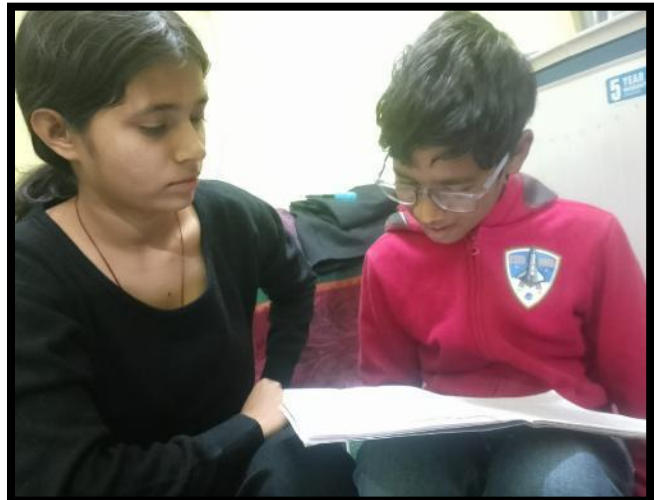
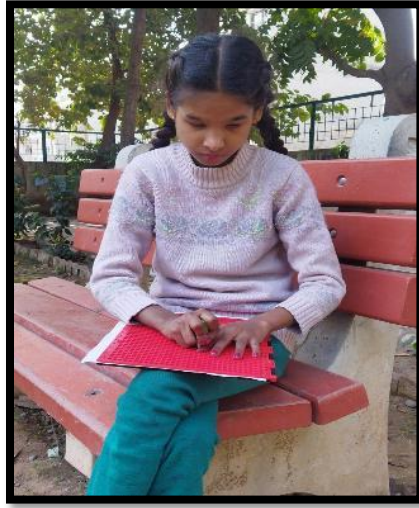
Now in its 20th year, NAB's Inclusive Education Program empowers children with visual impairments by integrating them into mainstream schools, ensuring they have equal access to quality education. The program focuses on creating a positive, inclusive, and supportive environment across schools, families, and communities to promote the holistic development of these children.

Currently, 30 visually impaired students are being supported through this initiative. NAB provides free educational resources such as audio books, Braille materials, and large-print books, customized to meet each student's individual learning needs.

Our resource teachers offer regular home visits, providing personalized academic support, assisting with homework, and addressing daily learning challenges. Additionally, students are brought to NAB's new institute for further enrichment and to strengthen their academic and social skills in an inclusive setting.









## ➤ MULTIPLE DISABILITY PROGRAM

NAB's Multiple Disability Program offers support to 20 children with Multiple Disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities with diverse challenges spanning physical, cognitive, sensory, and social domains. With the continuous efforts of our special educators, we focus on enhancing their abilities, improving daily living skills, and promoting meaningful inclusion within their families and communities. Each child receives individualized interventions tailored to their unique strengths and challenges. A fully equipped Occupational Therapy unit is now operational at our new institute in Mohali, providing comprehensive therapy services to meet the diverse needs of children with multiple disabilities.

We also provide free Braille books, educational materials, and all necessary aids and appliances to support their learning journey. In addition, we facilitate insurance coverage of up to ₹1 lakh per student through the flagship Niramaya Health Insurance Program by the National Trust. This coverage benefits children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disabilities, and Multiple Disabilities. For the past five years, the National Association for the Blind (NAB) has proudly served as the State Coordinator for the National Trust (SNAC), further strengthening our commitment to inclusive care and support.







### ➤ **TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE LIBRARY**

NAB's Talking Book Library has nearly 2500 titles including recorded CDs of books for the school and college students. This library has been benefiting all the visually challenged in the region. We preserve nearly 1000 Braille Books on various titles. These books have been donated by NIEPVD Dehradun to NAB being their extension counter at Chandigarh.



### ➤ **NIRAMAYA HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR THE DISABLED**

Niramaya Health policy is providing Insurance benefits to persons suffering from Autism, Cerebral palsy, Intellectual disability, and multi disabilities through The National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice, and Empowerment Govt of India. We have successfully enrolled nearly 236 beneficiaries under Niramaya scheme till date.

## **NAB IN SPORTS 2024-25**

The NAB Men's and Women's Blind Cricket Teams proudly represent Chandigarh as the official state teams, recognized by the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI). We regularly host Inter-State and National Blind Cricket Championships from Chandigarh, promoting talent and inclusion at both regional and national levels.

## ➤ National Men & Women T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind, 2025

Both the NAB Blind Men's and Women's Cricket Teams proudly represent **Chandigarh State** at national-level tournaments organized by the **Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)**.

The **Women's Team** showcased their exceptional talent and determination at the **National Blind Cricket Championship** held in **Kochi, Kerala**, from **January 13–16, 2025**. Similarly, the **Men's Team** competed with great spirit at the **Nationals in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, from **December 13–16, 2024**.

These prestigious national events were significant milestones for both teams, reflecting their **skill and unwavering passion for the sport**, while promoting inclusivity and empowerment through cricket.





Figure 1 Blind Women Cricket Team enjoying at Kerala Beach

## HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25

### ➤ **Eye Care Program under Prevention and cure mission of NAB- Survey and Identification of Persons in need of Eye Care in Chandigarh and Mohali**

To date, we have successfully conducted over 23 eye screening camps at our institute premises, in villages and rural areas of Chandigarh and Mohali, as well as in various schools across these regions. Through these initiatives, we have directly reached and screened more than 18,000 students and community members.

These camps do much more than provide free spectacles—they play a vital role as early intervention points for detecting serious eye conditions, often identifying issues before they become irreversible. Timely referrals from these camps have helped restore not only vision but also dignity, confidence, and new opportunities for many individuals.

In the past one year alone, we have organized 10 eye camps and provided free spectacles to over 500 underprivileged beneficiaries.

In addition to eye care, the National Association for the Blind (NAB) has facilitated essential documentation for many Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), including medical certificates, UDID cards, Aadhaar enrolment, government pension applications, and access to other welfare benefits.

Following the initial intervention, NAB ensures that children identified with visual impairments are integrated into our educational and rehabilitation

programs. This may include home-based instruction, mainstream school inclusion, computer training, or participation in community-based programs, enabling their continued growth, learning, and social participation.

### ➤ **Rotary International Donates Mobile Eye Care Van to NAB**

Rotary International, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Chandigarh, has generously donated a state-of-the-art Mobile Eye Care Van to the National Association for the Blind (NAB). Officially flagged off by the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Sh. Gulab Singh Kataria, on 20th March 2025, the van is now fully operational.

Equipped with advanced ophthalmic equipment, the Mobile Eye Clinic delivers free, high-quality eye care services to underserved schools, villages, colonies, and remote rural areas—where access to medical facilities is often limited. It plays a vital role in preventing avoidable blindness and enabling early detection of visual and other disabilities.






This impactful outreach program has significantly enhanced our ability to provide equitable access to healthcare. At NAB, we firmly believe that prevention and early intervention are key to reducing the long-term effects of disabilities—offering a more effective and life-changing approach than rehabilitation after onset.





## ➤ CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION TO COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES AT CHANDIGARH

Under the PM Daksh Skill India initiative, we have successfully completed Data Entry Operator Course to our 34 PwDs in Chandigarh. 18 PwDs successfully completed their training in December, 2024 and 16 PwDs have finished their training in March, 2025. This training has provided them with Govt certificates which makes them eligible for all Govt. and Private sector jobs thus creating employment opportunities for them.

			प्रमाणपत्र संख्या: Certificate No: AZA00032212-000001
भारत सरकार Government of India सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय Ministry Of Social Justice and Empowerment दिव्यांगजन संवर्धन विभाग Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए कौशल परिषद Skill Council for Persons with Disability राष्ट्रीय मानवसंसाधन विभाग एवं अधिष्ठाण परिषद मानवसंसाधन विभाग (Recognized by NCVET) <b>प्रमाणपत्र</b> <b>CERTIFICATE</b>			
प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि ( श्री/शुद्धी/एमएस ) This is to certify that (Mr./Ms./Mx)	<b>Raveen Kumar</b>	युद्धाईडी/संजीकरण/अनुक्रमिक संख्या UDID No./Reg. No./Enrolment No	<b>PB1830219870105202</b>
सुपुत्र/सुपुत्री/पतिवसित Son/Daughter/Ward of	<b>Mr. Fakir Chand</b>	आधार/रोल/संजीकरण/अनुक्रमिक संख्या Aadhaar No./Roll No./Reg. No./Enrolment No	<b>*****7561</b>
जन्म तिथि D.O.B	<b>29/08/1987</b>	ने अहर्ता/व्यंज लेन for job role/qualification	<b>Data Entry Operator- (Divyangjan) VI</b>
अवधि of Duration	<b>147 days</b>	राष्ट्रीय कौशल योग्यता संरचना स्तर National Skills Qualifications Framework Level -	<b>Level 3</b>
प्रशिक्षण भागीदार Training Partner	<b>National Association for the Blind Cha</b>	जिला District	राज्य State
का अंशकाल सफलतापूर्वक has successfully cleared the assessment with	<b>375.75</b>	अंक mark	<b>75.15</b> % प्रतिशत   percentage.
जारी करने का स्थान Place of Issue - delhi जारी करने की तिथि Date of Issue : 31/03/2025			परीक्षक Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>
डिजिटल प्रमाण e - Verification link		संस्था का नाम Institution Name: Dr. Niharika Nigam पद Designation: Head - Standards and Quality Assurance संस्था का नाम Institution Name: <i>[Signature]</i>	

(Govt certificates provided to beneficiaries)



➤ **ASSESSMENT CAMP FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION OF AIDS AND APPLIANCES TO PWDS:**

A significant event was held at the NAB Institute for the Blind — the distribution of assistive devices to the visually impaired, following the Assessment Camp conducted on 6th March 2025 through ALIMCO.

Based on the assessments, 37 visually impaired students were identified as eligible beneficiaries under the Government's assistive devices scheme. These students were provided with Smartphones and other assistive tools to support their education and enhance their independence. The devices will empower them to access learning resources, improve communication, and participate more fully in academic and social life.



### ➤ NAB conducts RCI-Approved CRE Programs

NAB successfully conducted an RCI-approved Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) program on “Teaching and Learning Material for Children and Adults with Disabilities” from April 14 to 16, 2025, at the NAB Institute for the Blind.

The program was attended by 40 dedicated professionals and focused on inclusive teaching methodologies and the development of adaptive learning materials. It equipped participants with practical skills and knowledge to more effectively support the educational needs of individuals with disabilities.



## SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR STUDENTS

NAB extends its heartfelt gratitude to Caring Hands for their unwavering support in facilitating scholarships for students with disabilities. Through this generous partnership, we have been able to award scholarships to 16 individuals, empowering them to continue their education and skill development. This initiative promotes inclusivity and ensures equal access to education for all.

We also extend a special thank you to the dignitaries who graced the distribution ceremony, including Deputy Registrar Dr. Geet Mehra, Senior Assistant Sh. Amarjeet Singh, and the students of I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, whose presence and support were instrumental to the success of this event.



- **Our NAB students coming together to commemorate Republic Day, 2025 with unity and pride**



- **NAB STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN SUGAMAYA YATRA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Our NAB students took part in the Sugamaya Yatra cross disability awareness event, spreading the message of inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities thus Raising awareness and promoting acceptance.

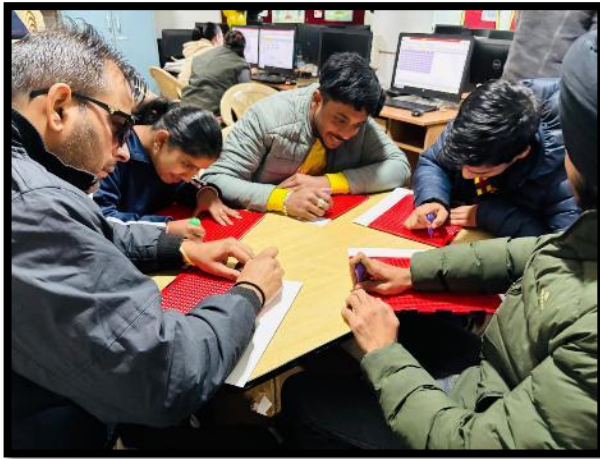





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*LOUIS BRAILLE DAY CELEBRATIONS, 2025:*

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*NAB STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN CHANDIGARH CARNIVAL*

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Celebrating abilities and achievements, our students had the privilege of singing the National Anthem at the Chandigarh Carnival on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, this moment of unity and pride created unforgettable memories of joy and inspiration.

