

BLIND GRADUATES FORUM OF INDIA

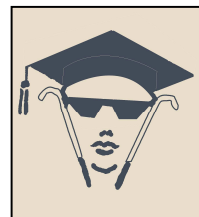
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Secretary Report for BGFI from April 2015 to March 2016

The last AGM of the Blind Graduates' Forum of India was held on 26th September 2015. This report lists all the activities and events that were held from the financial year April 2015 to March 2016.

Monthly Sessions Update

We have tried to arrange atleast 1 session a month with a view to expand our knowledge in all aspects including science and technology, politics, career, personal growth, social issues and many more. The following sessions were held in the last year -

1. Session on Nutrition and Healthy Eating held on April 2015 by Hetal Shah at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan with 16 participants
2. Android Workshop for Beginners with 10 participants held on July 2015 at XRCVC, Thane
3. Live Session! "Masti Ke Liya Kuch Bhi Karega"! - a fun-filled event with our own participants held on November 2015 at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan with 20 participants
4. Accessible India Campaign - An Open Session on how Individuals sensitize Corporates on Accessibility held on January 2016 with Sagar Sodah leading the discussion at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan with 13 participants

New Graduates and Readers

Celebration of Readers' Day and Felicitation of New Blind Graduates on 24th October 2015 where 8 readers and 14 graduates were felicitated.

Outdoor Activities

1. One Day Trek to Prabhalgadh, near Matheran on August 2015 in collaboration with the Young Zingaro trekking Club.
2. Visit to The Nehru Planetarium and a Painting Exhibition 'Closed Eyes Open Minds' by Chintamani Hasabnis on October 2015 with 15 participants. This was India's first painting exhibition which blind person also can read, feel, enjoy and experience the 22 paintings showcased.

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3. Visit to the IIT Tech Fest 2015 by some BGFI member in December 2015 at IIT Powai to understand the latest technology and increase awareness regarding VI community among the technological entrepreneurs.

4. Annual Picnic on February 2016 to Z-Bac Adventures - Kolad with 49 participants

Activities at Nagpur

Free coaching classes for blind students to prepare them for competitive exams are being regularly conducted on every Sunday from 3 to 6 P.M. Concepts are explained and live practice is given to them with the help of human readers.

Soft copy preparation materials are also given to them to practice at home.

Around ten to fifteen students take benefit of the weekly classes.

In last year, three students of class have joined the banks, including two in RBI as assistants.

Membership Update

At the time of the last election in 2014 (i.e. June 2014), we had 96 members in our register. Till now we have added 44 members to the list getting the total number of members to 159 (10 of them being Associate Life Members). Of the total, we have 19 members in the Nagpur Chapter.

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee was unanimously elected in June 2014 with the following members -

Mr. Dinesh Saraiya - President

Mr. Suhas Karnik - Vice President

Mr. Rajesh Asudani - Hon Secretary

Mr. Sanjeev Chaudhari - Hon Secretary

Mr. Amar Jain - Hon Secretary

Ms. Saveeta Rao - Hon Treasurer

Ms. Shaila Dsouza - EC Member

Mr. Neeraj Saxena - EC Member

Mr. Pinkesh Tailor - EC Member

During the last 2 years, the following members were added as EC members -

Honorary Secretaries

Aditi Shah, Ajay Minocha & Payal Jethra.

AJAY

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Vishal Jain and Payal Jethra in July 2014 and Vishnu Ramachandani in November 2014.