

NAD's Annual Activities Report 2015 - 16

1. 6th National Deaf Women Empowerment Seminar

“PROTECT DEAF WOMEN AND GIRL COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY”

**Cardinal Parecatil Memorial Renewal Centre, Azad Road, Kaloor, Emakulam, Kochi,
Kerala on 18th & 19th April, 2015**

We organised the 6th National Deaf Empowerment Seminar starting off on 18th & 19th April 2015 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm with over 100 women participating from New Delhi, Telangana, & various districts of Kerala & Tamil Nadu. It was indeed a sight to see with women in colorful attire reflecting the diverse culture and tradition of India, signing and communicating excitedly, as for some, this was their first ever Seminar and opportunity to meet deaf women from other parts of India. Dr. Surinder Randhawa, Senior Consultant, BAASLS Programme, Smt. Geeta Sharma, Secretary, National Association of the Deaf, Ms. Janaki, People with Hearing Impairment Network, Hyderabad, Mrs. Theresa, Women Secretary, Regional Women Deaf Centre, Tamaraserry, Calicut, & Mrs. Renuka Rameshan, Director, Family Care, Coimbatore & Sign language Professional & Interpreter, inaugurated the 2-day Seminar by lighting the lamp, which was followed by presentations that made everyone take a deep look at each of their lives thus far and see what can be done through empowerment.

We invited the chairperson of Keral Commission for Women but they couldn't make it to the workshop as they were travelling to Meghalaya for some other workshop.

Dr. Surinder Randhawa's presentation, "Protecting Deaf women in India—Communication is the key" set the tone for the 2-day Seminar. Digging deep into the mindsets of male chauvinistic society about women in India, many truths were revealed, urging deaf women to fight back and not have to suffer silently anymore, given the fact that anything that happens to a deaf woman is "silent", and hence there is need for protection and time to "make the voices heard".

Technology has been a boon to the deaf community and has helped communication system and dissemination of information in visual mode. Presentation by Smt. Renuka Rameshan, Director of Family Care, covered technology available to protect deaf women and girls and also provided tips on

how to be wise in using social media and share knowledge that helps in personal and professional growth. Information about the latest mobile apps such as “him mat”, launched by Delhi Police for safety of women, and “fight back” launched by Tech Mahindra, originally for in-house, but made public after Delhi gang rape incident, were extremely helpful for the deaf women and the apps are deaf-friendly as with the press of a button, help can be accessed.

Smt. Geeta Sharma, Secretary, Women’s Wing of NAD, stated a few problems faced by deaf community such as lack of interpreters and thereby lack of accessibility, lack of job opportunities, poor education facilities etc., and sought the support of the Government.

The question and answer session saw the interacting capacity of the attendees and many valuable suggestions were given. Shirley Somasundaram, Malayalam dramatist & famous personality in the theatre field, paid a visit to the seminar hall to view the action and was impressed with the goings on and congratulated the participants along with the head of Cardinal Parecatil Memorial Renewal Centre, who also said a blessing for the deaf women and families present. A short boating trip was arranged for all to enjoy them and bond together in the evening. Day 2 of the Conference included an hour of education on the laws that every deaf woman should know and be aware of such as free legal aid, the power to decide, the right to interpreter, human rights, etc., after which an hour of group discussion was slotted for the participants to suggest changes and a plan of action to be proposed to the National Commission for Women & Government authorities. Various points of debate and ideas were generated through this time. Smt. Janaki, Director of People with Hearing Impairment Network (PHIN) briefed everyone about the activities of the organization, reaching out to many deaf women and seeking legal help in situations where the “hearing” perpetrators needed to be brought to book and cited many case studies, which was a boost to many.

Domanic Presentation, MLA of Kochi, Ernakulam, spared a few minutes from his busy schedule to meet the participants and address them, wish them and congratulate them. One of the youngest participants, a final year college student, presented an eye-opening session on the tools to empower, namely, training, positive thinking, communication skills, education, leadership, teamwork, interaction between hearing and deaf community, self development, etc.

The vote of thanks was given by Nirupma Kaul, Deaf Women Committee, National Association of the Deaf summarizing the whole event. After thanking all the distinguished guests and participants, each city/ town was presented with

a set of information books published by National Commission for Women which included Problems relating to NRI marriage, Prevention of sexual harassment at work place, Aspiration rites relationship marriage and MeeraDidi se pooch, to help understand the present day problems faced by women and know how to overcome them.

It was observed that the participants found the 2 days seminar really fruitful. When the feedback was taken from the participants it was found that most participants didn't know about the basic rights of women and it was their first hands on experience to attend such a seminar and attain knowledge about their rights. Many deaf women shared about their discriminatory experiences and they were counseled on how and why they should stand up for their rights.

From the great output received from the deaf women, we hope that more such workshops can be conducted for deaf women and their stand and betterment in the society can be considered seriously. We hope that the Govt. of our country and state administration will keep supporting us like they always have. From the suggestions we received, one of the suggestion which was commonly given by the participants was if Govt. experts in this area would come and meet deaf women and understand them closely and impart their knowledge about the rights of women to them.

Since the workshop was a lot based on how technology so recommendations were made to seek financial and intellectual assistance on how interpreter services via video conferencing can be made accessible to deaf women. Video conferencing services would solve a lot of problems for not only urban women but also rural women as communication is one big barrier for the deaf community.

Sign language plays a major role in the life of any deaf individual as it is their first language and their only mode of communication. But sadly it doesn't get the same status as any other language. Making sign language the official language of our country would solve the major problem of the deaf community. The education is very poor for the deaf as a. deaf schools aren't enough b. teachers teaching in deaf schools themselves don't know sign language themselves. When the very base is so weak then how can we expect the deaf to walk equally with "normal" world. Deaf women and girls at a major level are victims of sexual abuse and rape but their cases are never taken into action because they aren't able to express themselves cause of communication barrier and lack of interpreters. The sad truth is in India there are only 250 professional sign language interpreters for 18 million deaf people. Therefore, our only appeal

is to promote sign language in our country and make it an official language. This in a major way will solve the problems of deaf women 'deaf pride' can be promoted.

2. 3rd National Convention for Youth with Disabilities

USI Residency, New Delhi on 4th & 5th April, 2015

National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) organized National Convention for Youth with Disabilities 2015 in USI Residency, New Delhi

Dr. Shanti Auluck, Founder & Director of Muskaan; Nidhi Goyal; A. S. Narayanan, Secretary, National Association of the Deaf; Abdul Mabood, Founder, Snehi; and Javed Abidi, Honorary Director of NCPEDP during a session at the National Convention for Youth with Disabilities.

A very successful 3rd National Convention for Youth with Disabilities comes to an end. It hosted 75 brightest young girls and boys with disabilities, studying in the topmost colleges and universities of India.

3. Sign Language Program for Delhi Police Station

Rajindra Place, New Delhi on 30th April 2015

National Association of the Deaf Team joined the students from Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), University of Delhi in addressing Delhi Police Officers on 30th April, 2015 at Police Station, Rajindra Place, New Delhi. The response was tremendous and the Delhi police are keen to implement certain changes in their working. They are willing to include Indian Sign Language as part of their training module to enable police personnel to interact with deaf and mute people who approach them. Mrs. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Programme Coordinator, CIC University of Delhi hope for active participation from National Association of the Deaf in our student project on Sign Language in formulating this training module. CIC is also preparing a list of official interpreters with their contact details to be handed to the Commissioner, Delhi Police that could be circulated to all the police stations for ready reference.

The program was organized by Cluster Innovation Centre of the University of Delhi (CIC) and attended by around 100 Police Officers had attended the event.

Ms. Sonia Bhatia (Program Officer), Ms. Surbhi Taneja (Interpreter) and Ms. Riya Taneja (Interpreter) of National Association of the Deaf taught the Sign Language Class to 100 Police Officers also they performed a skit on common incidents like robbery and rape. The skit was performed in a contrasting manner where one was acted out without the assistance on a sign language interpreter and the second scenario was with an interpreter. The contrast was visible to all the cadets. The confusion, misunderstandings that existed in the first scenario due to communication gap between the police officer and victim and that gap was solved through the presence of a sign language interpreter in the second scenario. This skit sent a powerful message on the importance of promotion of Indian Sign language.

4. Maha Protest for Demanding the ISLRTC as an Autonomous Body

Shashtri Bhawan Delhi on 5th May, 2015

MAHA PROTEST IN DELHI ON 5TH MAY 2015 FOR DEMANDING THE ISLRTC AS AN AUTONOMOUS BODY.

Thousands of people gathered at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 5th May, 2015 to create pressure on the Government to pass the ISLRTC as an autonomous body

More than 5,000 deaf people from all over the country gathered with just one hope in their heart, that the ISLRTC is an autonomous body and that the disabled citizens of India do not have to wait another 2 or 3 years to get the ISLRTC as an autonomous body.

The Deaf Community in India is one step closer to getting autonomy for ISLRTC! The meeting with MSJE Minister Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Secretary Shri Verma and other official resulted in a promise for a meeting the PM Modi within 15 days. All work on ISLRTC under NIHH will be stopped until then. Deaf Leaders are planning another demonstration on May 20 if Shri Narendra Modi does not meet them or if their demands are not met.

The great part was the media--TV and newspaper--they covered the news in a very positive way. We were posting clippings, links and clips later. Congratulations, NAD and other organizations that worked together.

Part of the group from all over India that participated in the demonstration. Representatives of the group with Secretary Verma.

5. Federation of Disabled Rights Organized the Protest Dharna at MCD for Demanding the Shops, Booths, & Kiosks to Persons With Disabilities

MCD Headquarters, Civic Center, Delhi on 15th May, 2015

The Federation of Disabled Rights with National Association of the Deaf is organised successfully done Protest/Dharna against Municipal Corporation of Delhi (NDMC, EDMC, SDMC) at Civic Center to demand restoring the scheme of allotment of Shop/Booth/KIOSK to persons with disabilities for self employment which has been on hold from 2001. More than 150 PwDs & 100 members of National Association of the Deaf participated in the Protest. Commissioner of NDMC and he agreed to start the process to allot boots to PWDs. Today we successfully done protest against MCD and gave memorandum to Commissioner of NDMC.

Press Release

Subject: Seeking action against the urgent demands for citizen with Disabilities at Delhi.

Federation of Disabled Rights (FDR) in association with National Association of the Deaf and another NGOs/DPOs across Delhi has called for symbolic Protest/DHARNA seeking action against our demands with regard to residents with disabilities at Delhi.

It's a feeling of deep pain and anguish bringing to your notice with the fact that even covering the Delhi's residents with disability into the election manifesto of AAP, still there are no affirmative action has been reported till date since the swearing ceremony of newly elected government lead by CM Hon'ble Arvind Kejriwal (Aam aadmi ki Sarkar)

So we representing the persons with disabilities of Delhi would like to put forward our urgent demands to AAM ADMI KI SARKAR as below-

1. Confirm the representation of person with disabilities in Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDC).
2. A Person with any disability should be appointed at post of commissioner and Deputy Commissioner under the PWD Act 1995.

3. Issue directives for simplification and issuance of disability certificate by CMO/MS of all govt hospital at mass level to reach to last person with disability.
4. Ensure 3% employment through new (and backlogs vacancies) recruitment under time bound manner.
5. Make Delhi a barrier free and accessible city for the citizen with Disabilities.

In this joint event, mainly we have support from Kapil Kumar Aggarwal, Sonu Bhola, Pradeep Raj, Vijay Kumar, Baldev Gulati, KK Dixit, Bunty Solanky as individual and NPRD, NPRDE, ADA Akansha Nav Prerna, Anuj Jain (National Association of the Deaf as a NGO/DPO in full support to our this movement in future also, if in case, our demands are not full-filled.

A little attention to the matter would be of great help to thousands of citizen with disabilities, whose potential and skills are getting wasted due to irresponsible attitude of the officials at all the departments at Delhi Administration.

Today Federation of Disabled Rights with National Association of the Deaf is organised successfully done Protest/Dharna against Municipal Corporation of Delhi (NDMC, EDMC, SDMC) at Civic Center to demand restoring the scheme of allotment of Shop/Booth/KIOSK to persons with disabilities for self employment which has been on hold from 2001. More than 250 PWDs participated in the Protest. Commissioner of NDMC and he is agree to start the process to allot boots to PWDs.

Today we successfully done protest against MCD and gave memorandum to Commissioner of NDMC.

6. State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth

PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PHD House, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh on 5th July, 2015

We have also been able to successfully conduct the State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth at Auditorium, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PHD House, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh on 5th July, 2015

The seminar started with the welcome note by Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD and Mr. Dilip Jangir, Executive Member (a unit of Rajasthan) of NAD. Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD talked to the audience that he shared the problems of human rights for the deaf in India and

ISLTRC. Mr. Rahul Garg, NAD's Deaf Youth Team and Mr. Rahul Jain, Speaking Hands Institute for the Deaf explained the meaning of the attitude PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD explained about the importance of the attitude in deaf people's lives need to be changed. Shared how much they took their time to learn themselves being better than they could help deaf others.

Chief Guest Sh. Vijay Kumar Dev, Advisor Of Administrator, Chandigarh spoke about sending the ISLTRC as an autonomous body proposal to PMO and supported to work with NAD.

Mr. Rahul Garg, NAD's Deaf Youth Team organized a one on one question-answer round where N.A.D. was supposed to answer questions asked by the participants, any questions regarding their functioning, administration, fundraising, etc. This session led to trust building between the organization and its members. There are about 175 deaf young people from Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Haryana participated in the Workshop. They are a lot of excitement by our workshop.

7. NAD Team met Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment

New Delhi on 6th July, 2015

Shri Zorin Singha, President, Shri Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of National Association of the Deaf with NAD Members visited the residence of Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment early morning on 6th July, 2015. They spoke to Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot that we needed his help for demanding the ISLTRC as an autonomous body. He said he has already spoken to Dr. Jitendra Singh, PMO regarding ISLTRC. They forced him to push Dr. Jitendra approving the ISLTRC as an autonomous body. He said he would do it surely.

He asked us how he learns the sign language. They taught him the alphabet sign language also words sign language. He is very inspired to learn it. He spent time with them for 45 minutes. It was a very wonderful for them to meet Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment as a nice person.

8. NAD Team met Smt. Gitanjali Gupta, Secretary Cum Commissioner, the Department of Delhi Transport (Ministry of Transport, Delhi Government)

New Delhi on 15th July, 2015

Shri Zorin Singha, President and Shri Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of National Association of the Deaf spoke to the Secretary-CUM-Commissioner Smt.

Gitanjali Gupta, the Department of Delhi Transport (Ministry of Transport, Delhi Government) on 15th July, 2015. She said that she is in total agreement that deaf people can drive. After looking at all our documents and the high court order. She came across one problem. If in the medical certificate the doctor states that the applicant is not medically fit to drive, then she cannot overrule it. So, a reference of this will be made to the Govt of India seeking for the clarification of the order that was passed and for the formulation of the policy for the granting licence to the deaf sector by the Transport Commissioner.

9. NAD Team & AIFDW Team met Senior Advocate Ram Jethmalani

New Delhi on 25th July, 2015

Shri A. S. Narayanan, Secretary, Shri Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of National Association of the Deaf and Smt. Uma Kapoor, General Secretary of All India Foundation of Deaf Women visited the residence of Shri Ram Jethmalani, Senior Advocate on 25th July, 2015. We spoke to Shri Ram Jethmalani that we needed his help for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body. He said we should make request letter for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous. He will tell Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister. He fully supported us. We thanked greatly to Smt. Uma Kapoor, General Secretary of AIFDW led us to meet Shri Ram Jethmalani.

10. Sign Language Program for Delhi Police Station

Rajindra Place, New Delhi on 30th July 2015

National Association of the Deaf Team joined the students from Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), University of Delhi in addressing Delhi Police Officers on 30th July, 2015 at Police Station, Rajindra Place, New Delhi. The response was tremendous and the Delhi police are keen to implement certain changes in their working. They are willing to include Indian Sign Language as part of their training module to enable police personnel to interact with deaf and mute people who approach them. Mrs. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Programme Coordinator, CIC University of Delhi hope for active participation from National Association of the Deaf in our student project on Sign Language in formulating this training module. CIC is also preparing a list of official interpreters with their contact details to be handed to the Commissioner, Delhi Police that could be circulated to all the police stations for ready reference.

The program was organized by Cluster Innovation Centre of the University of Delhi (CIC) and attended by around 100 Police Officers had attended the event.

Mr. Sanjay Taneja, Member of NAD and Ms. Riya Taneja (Interpreter) of NAD taught the Sign Language Class to 100 Police Officers also they performed a skit on common incidents like robbery and rape. The skit was performed in a contrasting manner where one was acted out without the assistance on a sign language interpreter and the second scenario was with an interpreter. The contrast was visible to all the cadets. The confusion, misunderstandings that existed in the first scenario due to communication gap between the police officer and victim

and that gap was solved through the presence of a sign language interpreter in the second scenario. This skit sent a powerful message on the importance of promotion of Indian Sign language.

11. Independence Day Telecast with Sign Language Interpreter

Red Fort, Delhi on 15th August 2015

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) once again advocated with the government for Sign Language interpretation of India's Independence Day telecast.

Independence Day 2015 via Sign Language Interpreter on TIMES NOW TV. A significant step forward for the Indian disability movement, after years of advocacy by National Association of the Deaf. Sign Language in Independence Day broadcast.

12. NAD Team met Smt. Kirron Kher, Hon'ble Member of Parliament of Chandigarh

Chandigarh on 25th August, 2015

Shri Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD with Interpreter Babli visited the residence of Smt. Kirron Kher, MP of Chandigarh on 25th August, 2015. They spoke to Smt. Kirron Kher that they needed her help for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body. She said she will speak to the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body.

13. The Week Health Magazine

India on 30th August 2015

Link:- <http://www.theweek.in/health/cover/indias-sign-language-is-crying-for-recognition.html>

COVER STORY

Listen...

By Mandira Nayar | August 30, 2015





Millions of hearing-impaired Indians fail to communicate for want of a fully-evolved vocabulary of their own. India's sign language is crying for recognition



- "The idea of signing to communicate in public was forbidden. If I ever tried to talk to them [parents] outside, they used to hold my hands. I was taught that signing was somehow shameful"- Anuj Jain, who is part of the National Association of the Deaf

A.S. Narayanan has never had a conversation with his family. He spent the first 15 years of his life in silence. Narayanan is like over a million Indians who are defined by their inability to hear. But if you are hearing impaired in India—it is worse than children of a lesser god that all differently-abled are lumped in with—the discrimination is a little more fundamental: it is the denial of a language.

Standing in front of the flea market lane of Janpath at Connaught Place in Delhi, Narayanan, much older now, laughs. "I grew up alone," he says. "At most, they would ask me if I had eaten. Or, if I was okay? I brought myself up." Surabhi, a student of Jamia Millia Islamia, is his translator. Signing came naturally to her. "It was the first language I learnt," she says. "My parents are deaf. I learnt English later."

It was years later that the idea of conversation, even communication that wasn't just functional, came into being for Narayanan. He is now the office-bearer of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in India and is off to Chandigarh for the weekend to hold a workshop on training with young students. It has become easier to communicate with cellphones and computers, but the language is still borrowed.

So far, the Indian sign language is still at a nascent stage. “There are millions of words in a language. In India, we only have a few thousands,” says Narayanan. “The language has not even evolved.” The Indian sign language comprises rudimentary signs, mostly instinctive, but it is far from the codified recognised language like the American sign language.

For the past few months, the NAD has been advocating for an autonomous Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre. The idea is to explore, expand and foster the Indian sign language. This centre was allotted in the 11th Five-Year Plan but is yet to see the light of day. The project was moved to the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Eighteen months ago the government chose to move the centre from IGNOU to the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of the Hearing Handicapped. This, as one activist from NAD put it, is like “asking a wolf to raise a lamb”. The institute believes in an oral approach to deaf education, virtually denying the deaf a chance to build a language that is rooted in their own culture.

The idea that the deaf need a separate language is alien in India. Instead, children are discouraged from signing. Anuj Jain, who is also part of NAD, grew up with his four sisters who were all deaf. His fifth sibling, a sister, is not. “She used to feel left out,” he says, laughing. “We would have these conversations and she couldn’t keep up.”



Children who are born deaf are still ‘taught’ how to speak. They are given hearing aids to amplify the sound. Geeta Sharma remembers being forced to speak as a child. She spent years being shuttled from school to school. “The approach was oral,” she says. “They tried to get me to talk.” Forcing children to talk and hear isn’t unusual. Sharma is in her 40s. But even now, this is standard practice.

The Lady Noyce School is one of the biggest institutions for the hearing impaired in Delhi. There are 600 students who flock into the cramped classrooms to learn. At the centre of the school is a courtyard. This, open-to-the-sky bit of paved brick, is probably the biggest space the children have.

Once there was a cricket field, now the social welfare department occupies most of the area. Kids here spend years learning how to read and write. Knowing the sign language is not compulsory for the teachers. It is something that they pick up. The hearing impaired kids, of course, have to learn how to speak.

It is not unusual. Teachers in deaf schools are not trained in the sign language. Nor is it considered essential. There is a brief orientation of a day or so on sign language. For the most part, the idea is to integrate the kids and teach them, but in a language—English or Hindi—that is not their own. Nor are hearing impaired teachers hired to teach. The idea that sign language can exist even in the hearing world does not exist.

The emphasis, for four years, is on preparing the kids to learn how to speak or communicate in the same way as is done in the hearing world. “They want to fit cochlear implants so that we could hear,” says Narayanan. “We are deaf. This is not communication.” It is like forcing a left-handed person to write with his right hand. A bit medieval and cruel.

For women, being hearing impaired means literally being invisible. “Girls are often never allowed to leave home,” says Sharma. “They have no opportunities and no one to communicate with. Imagine a life where there is no entertainment, no conversation, nothing.”



Technology has brought in a revolution. The cell-phone and the internet has made the world a smaller place and for the deaf it has brought with it the gift of communication. Text, Facetime, Skype chats, Hike, video chats have made it possible for the sound barrier to be breached. Meeting people who don't know sign language, asking for directions, even talking with each other has become possible. “I remember when I used to get a phone call from a friend,” says Anuj. “My sister would pick up the phone and seem to speak for ages. When I would ask what the other person said, she would always

give me just the gist. I would think why she would talk for so long when the answer was monosyllabic,” he laughs.

Over the years, Ananta, his daughter has become the voice he never had. Jain remembers the time when his parents spent a year trying to clap loudly to get his daughter’s attention. “They were convinced she was deaf,” says Jain. “She would never react when they clapped their hands. But when she turned one, she started talking. Then they knew,” he laughs. His son, a toddler, is also learning the language.



Ananta can speak the sign language fluently. It came easily to her. Even now when Jain's sister visits, she is the outsider, for she hasn't learnt the sign language yet. “She communicates through me,” says Ananta. “She will call and ask me to pass on a message to my father.”

The idea of signing to communicate in public was forbidden, says Ananta, translating for her father: “If I ever tried to talk to them [parents] outside, they used to hold my hands. I was taught that signing was somehow shameful.” He apparently retorted in sign that they should then ask the people who can hear to never speak.

Sitting in McDonald's in Janpath, the father-daughter duo is having an animated conversation. Things have changed. In several countries today, the sign language has gained legal recognition, but in India, it is still not recognised as anything but a few gestures for the hearing impaired to communicate.

It isn't a language. It needs to be. Language is much more than just communication. It is about being heard; about laughter; about the triviality of life; it is about poetry; it is about anger; fear; joy; disappointment and the shades in between. Even blue has more colour in other languages. Growing up

as a hearing impaired person in India, where 18 million people are still waiting to talk, it is more than just about being mute, it is being deprived of expression—forever.

**14. Support the language of 18 millions deaf people
in India by establishing an autonomous ISLRTC on
change.org**

India on 30th August, 2015

The ISLRTC Now campaign is gaining momentum. A petition on [Change.org](https://change.org) has been created and we are looking for friends , acquaintances to extend their support. Since we focus on accessibility we have translated the text of the petition into ISL for the Indian Deaf Community. It is a request to family, friends , Deaf friends and society at large to extend your support.

Indian Sign Language and its Users cannot be ignored. If we talk of an Inclusive Society for all we need to make sure there is Accessibility in all forms. The Indian Deaf Community needs YOUR SUPPORT.

Petitioning Prime Minister of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Prime Minister's Office.
Honorable Narendra Modi, MSJE Minister Shri Gehlot, Minister for State in PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh

Support the language of 18 millions deaf people in India by establishing an autonomous ISLRTC.

 **Madan Vasishtha** Manassas, VA



Need your urgent HELP!

The Deaf community in India is fighting for its Right to a 'respectful' and a 'dignified' life, and its Right to Language by strongly demanding for an autonomous Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC). The centre will focus on promoting increased use of Sign Language in public life, bring quality, equality and accessibility in deaf education and encourage research and training in various aspects of Indian Sign Language. The centre will be largely managed by the deaf themselves.

Sadly, deafness being a hidden disability, many children, youths, adults and seniors with severe to profound deafness are ignored or considered 'non-existent'. Till date, the Indian government has failed to realize the importance of such a centre and has been prolonging the

Sign this petition

1,872 supporters

628 needed to reach 2,500

 Atiya Hajee signed this petition

 First name


 Last name

 Email

 India ▼

 486111

 I'm signing because... (optional)

 Share with Facebook friends

Sign

☒ Display my signature on Change.org

By signing, you accept Change.org's [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

15. Meeting of National Committee on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Seminar Hall, USI, New Delhi on 5th & 6th September, 2015

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD, Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Women Secretary of NAD and Mr. Sachin Singh, Member of NAD participated in the meeting on 5th & 6th September 2015 at Seminar Hall, USI, New Delhi.

A very good 2 days long meeting. Heavy duty brainstorming. Many new ideas. NCRPD committed itself to making India accessible. We will unveil the agenda as we go along. For now, one single demand. Let's all collectively ensure that the 98 Smart Cities are built/developed on the principles of Universal Design. Don't allow any more construction which effectively leaves disabled people out and not just excludes them but discriminates against them.

16. NAD Team met Shri Amit Shah, President of BJP

BJP Headquarters, New Delhi on 6th September, 2015

Shri A.S.Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Shri Anuj, Joint Secretary of NAD, Smt. Geeta Sharma, Woman Secretary of NAD and Ms. Riya Taneja, Interpreter met Shri Amit Shah, President of BJP. Shri Amit Shah is a very nice person and would tell Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, about ISLRTC as an autonomous body must be approved by the Cabinet as soon as possible.

17. NAD Team met Smt. Kavita Jain, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of Haryana

Chandigarh on 9th September, 2015

Shri Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD with Interpreter Babli met Smt. Kavita Jain, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of Haryana on 9th September, 2015. They spoke to Smt. Kavita Jain that they needed her help for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body. She said she will speak to the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body after the Cabinet Secretariat approval immediately.

18. NAD Team Met Different VIPs

Chandigarh on 10th September, 2015

Shri Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD with Interpreter Babli met Shri Balramji Dass, Governor of Chhattisgarh, Shri Surjit Kumar Jayani, Minister for Health, Govt. of Punjab, Shri Vijay Dev, Advisor to Administration of Chandigarh, Smt. Kirron Ker, MP of Chandigarh and Shri Sanjay Tandon, President of BJP, Chandigarh on 10th September, 2015. They spoke to all of them that they needed their help for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body. They said they will speak to the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body after the Cabinet Secretariat approval immediately.

19. NAD Team met Shri Satya Jain, Ex-MP of Chandigarh

Chandigarh on 11th September, 2015

Shri Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD with Interpreter Babli met Shri Satya Jain, Ex-MP of Chandigarh on 11th September, 2015. They spoke to Shri Satya Jain that they needed his help for demanding the ISLRTC as an autonomous body. He said he will send the letter to Cabinet Secretariat for approval the ISLRTC as an autonomous body immediately after meeting with the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi.

20. State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth

58th International Week of The Deaf Celebration 2015

“With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can!”

Auditorium, Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi on 20th September, 2015

We have also been able to successfully conduct the State Level Workshop on Empowerment of Deaf Youth at Auditorium, Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar, Delhi on 20th September, 2015.

The seminar started with the welcome note by Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD. Ms. Rupmani Chettari, NAD's North India Deaf Women Committee & Deaf Youth Team of NAD shared the powerpoint presentation about International Week of Deaf “With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can!”. Members of Noida Deaf Friendship Club & Delhi Deaf Friendship Club showed their different skits and Mime about hearing parents of deaf child and Deaf parents of deaf child.

Chief Guest Mr. Onkar Sharma, General Secretary of All India Federation of the Deaf, Guest of Honour Mr. Suresh Prakash, Treasurer of All India Federation of the Deaf and Guest of Honour Mr. Suresh Ahuja, Executive Member of AIFD are invited in the Workshop. They spoke about NAD is the best advocacy organization for demanding Govt. for our human rights for the deaf.

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD shared the powerpoint presentation about history of Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre. Mr. Sachin Singh, Member of NAD shared powerpoint presentation about United Nations at USA.

Ms. Ritu Panda, Member of NAD shared powerpoint presentation about visiting the Regional South Asia World Federation of the Deaf.

Mr. Rahul Garg, Assistant Coordinator of NAD shared powerpoint presentation about Understanding Deaf Children. There are about 250 deaf young people from NCR participated in the Workshop. They are very impressed by our workshop.

21. Press Information Bureau Government of India Cabinet

22-September-2015 13:10 IST

Setting up of India Sign Language Research and Training Centre

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the setting up of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The ISLRTC will be under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It shall be located

initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

This decision will help the five million deaf community of the country. It shall provide for increased accessibility for the hearing impaired in education, in the workplace and in all activities of public life.

The Centre will be a Society consisting of a President and 12 Members in the General Council. There will be an Executive Council consisting of a Chairperson and nine Members, some Ex-officio and others, as experts from National Level Organizations of the Deaf/Universities/Academic Institutions and independent experts in Indian Sign Language (ISL).

The needs of the deaf community for a common ISL and related matters have long been ignored, and problems have been documented by various organizations working for the deaf. The Centre will lead the way in academic development, training and propagation of the Indian Sign Language. Development of sign language interpreters, Research and Development and new technology will be the focus area of the Centre. It will provide equal opportunities to hearing impaired persons to fully participate in every sphere of life.

Links from:- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=127079>

22. Setting up of India Sign Language Research and Training Centre

22 Sep, 2015



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the setting up of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The ISLRTC will be under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It shall be located initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

This decision will help the five million deaf community of the country. It shall provide for increased accessibility for the hearing impaired in education, in the workplace and in all activities of public life.

The Centre will be a Society consisting of a President and 12 Members in the General Council. There will be an Executive Council consisting of a Chairperson and nine Members, some Ex-officio and others, as experts from

National Level Organizations of the Deaf/Universities/Academic Institutions and independent experts in Indian Sign Language (ISL).

The needs of the deaf community for a common ISL and related matters have long been ignored, and problems have been documented by various organizations working for the deaf. The Centre will lead the way in academic development, training and propagation of the Indian Sign Language. Development of sign language interpreters, Research and Development and new technology will be the focus area of the Centre. It will provide equal opportunities to hearing impaired persons to fully participate in every sphere of life.

Links from:- http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/setting-up-of-india-sign-language-research-and-training-centre/



National Research Institute on Sign Language to be Set Up

Sep 22, 2015, 03.18 PM IST

NEW DELHI : The government today approved setting up of a national-level institute for research and training on sign language to provide increased accessibility in education, workplace and other activities of life to five million hearing-impaired people.

The proposal to set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) was endorsed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ISLRTC will be set up as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and will function under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

It shall be located initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

"This decision will help the five million deaf community of the country. It shall provide for increased accessibility for the hearing-impaired in education, in the

workplace and in all activities of public life," an official statement said.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Union minister Ravishankar Prasad said that the decision to set up the institute was taken to ensure proper training to the deaf and dumb community.

The government said that the needs of the deaf community for a common ISL and related matters have long been ignored, and problems have been documented by various organizations working for the hearing-impaired.

"The centre will lead the way in academic development, training and propagation of the Indian Sign Language.

Development of sign language interpreters, research and development and new technology will be the focus area of the centre.

"It will provide equal opportunities to the hearing- impaired persons to fully participate in every sphere of life," the official statement said.

The centre will be a Society consisting of a President and 12 Members in the General Council.

There will be an Executive Council consisting of a Chairperson and nine Members, some ex-officio and others as experts from national-level organizations of the deaf/universities/academic institutions and independent experts in ISL, the statement said.

The Statesman

Research Institute on Sign Language to be Set Up

Posted at: Sep 22 2015 3:22PM

The government on Tuesday approved setting up of a national-level institute for research and training on sign language to provide increased accessibility in education, workplace and other activities of life to five million hearing-impaired people.

The proposal to set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) was endorsed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ISLRTC will be set up as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and will function under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

It shall be located initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

"This decision will help the five million deaf community of the country. It shall provide for increased accessibility for the hearing-impaired in education, in the workplace and in all activities of public life," an official statement said.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ravishankar Prasad said that the decision to set up the institute was taken to ensure proper training to the deaf and dumb community.

Links from:- <http://www.thestatesman.com/mobi/news/india/research-institute-on-sign-language-to-be-set-up/91807.html>

Business Standard

National Level Research Institute on Sign Language to be Set

Press Trust of India | New Delhi September 22, 2015 Last Updated at 14:22 IST

The government today approved setting up of a national-level institute for research and training on sign language to provide increased accessibility in education, workplace and other activities of life to five million hearing-impaired people.

The proposal to set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) was endorsed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister [Narendra](#) Modi.

ISLRTC will be set up as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and will function under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

It shall be located initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

"This decision will help the five million deaf community of the country. It shall provide for increased accessibility for the hearing-impaired in education, in the workplace and in all activities of public life," an official statement said.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ravishankar Prasad said that the decision to set up the institute was taken to ensure proper training to the deaf and dumb community.

The government said that the needs of the deaf community for a common ISL and related matters have long been ignored, and problems have been documented by various organizations working for the hearing-impaired.

"The centre will lead the way in academic development, training and propagation of the Indian Sign Language. Development of sign language interpreters, research and development and new technology will be the focus area of the centre.

"It will provide equal opportunities to the hearing-impaired persons to fully participate in every sphere of life," the official statement said.

The centre will be a Society consisting of a President and 12 Members in the General Council.

There will be an Executive Council consisting of a Chairperson and nine Members, some ex-officio and others as experts from national-level organizations of the deaf/universities/academic institutions and independent experts in ISL, the statement said.

Links from:- http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/national-level-research-institute-on-sign-language-to-be-set-115092200482_1.html

Others Links from:-

<http://www.punjabkesari.com/frmNewsDetails.aspx?uid=211490>

<http://www.sify.com/news/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-indian-sign-language-research-and-training-centre-news-default-pjwtdQciidgib.html>

<http://www.dlatimes.com/article.php?id=52820>

<http://www.prepsure.com/union-cabinet-approved-the-setting-up-of-indian-sign-language-research-and-training-centre/>

23. NAD Team Celebrated the Prime Minister Approving the ISLRTC as an Autonomous Body at BJP's Headquarter Office

New Delhi on 23rd September, 2015

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) today hailed the Centre's decision to establish an autonomous Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre here. "The decision will help to grow Indian Sign Language and positively change lives of millions of deaf in the country including producing a large number of sign language interpreter," a spokesperson for the association said. "Approval of autonomy to Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre by the Centre coincides with the International Week of the Deaf celebrated by deaf communities world over in the last week of September. This decision of the Indian Government would raise its standing in the eyes of world of deaf community," he added. The Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday had approved the setting up the Centre dedicated to exclusively developing the Indian Sign Language, something that was missing so far in the training curricula in this specialised field. The Centre will be located initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. This decision is expected to help the five million suffering from hearing disabilities in the country. It will also provide for an increased accessibility for the hearing impaired in education, in the workplace and in the all activities of public life. The Centre will draw experts from national level organisations of the deaf, universities, academics institutions and independent experts in India Sign Language. UNI PR CH NK1654-- (UNI) -- C-1-1-DL0104-351566.Xml

Links from:-

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/articles/India/20150923/2684894.html>



IndiaPosted at: Sep 23 2015 6:16PM

NAD welcomes govt's decision to set up Sign Language Centre

(Rptg, rephrasing headline)

New Delhi, Sep 23 (UNI) The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) today hailed the Centre's decision to establish an autonomous Indian Sign Language Research and training Centre here.

"The decision will help to grow Indian sign language and positively change lives of millions of deaf in the country including producing a large number of sign language interpreters," a spokesperson for the association said.

Read more at <http://www.uniindia.com/nad-welcomes-govt-s-decision-to-set-up-sign-language-centre/national/news/210870.html#pJP2oK0WcZg84T3q.99>

25. 58th International Week of The Deaf Celebration 2015

With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can! Deaf Awareness March

Sukhna Lake, Sector 1, Chandigarh to Fountain Plaza, Sector-17, Chandigarh on 24th September 2015

On the occasion of 58th International Week of the Deaf, National Association of the Deaf organised a 'With Sign Language, Our Children Can' on 24th September, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. from Sukhna Lake, Sector-1, Chandigarh to Foundation Plaza, Sector 17, Chandigarh. Over 450 deaf persons from Chandigarh and parts of Punjab participated in this march.

This year, IWD 2015 will take place under the theme 'With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can!' from 21 to 27 September 2015. As an extension to the information on the articles 2, 9, 21, 24, 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) about Sign Language and the Deaf community: With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can draws upon the principle of basic human rights in relation to (sign) language acquisition at birth. It is about recognizing deaf individuals as primary visual beings belonging to a linguistic minority group (deaf community) and calls for sign language to be made available to deaf persons as a birth right. As stipulated in Article 24 Section 3b of the CRPD, governments are obligated to facilitate the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community. With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can considers sign language as a valid linguistic means of conveying thoughts, ideas and emotions. This fact has been accepted and enacted into Article 2 of the CRPD, which defines sign languages as equal to spoken languages. As such, acquiring Sign Language shall not be considered as the last resort, least desirable or temporary option for deaf children.

With Sign Language Rights, Our Children Can stresses that the use of sign language does not hinder the learning of a spoken language and that literacy and language does not equal speech and communication. Language development must precede everything else, and that speech development can occur later. Conversely, early speech development alone will not guarantee language and literacy skills. The brain, without adequate stimulation during the critical learning years, ages 0-3, may atrophy as much as 30%. In fact, hearing babies whose parents use sign language have a head start in communicating with their

parents. Due to insufficient family and community support during this critical learning period, deaf children are needlessly found to be stalled in language acquisition when commencing formal schooling. Therefore it is of utmost importance for deaf children to be able to use sign language at an early age and in all areas of life.

The function started with the welcome note by Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD.

Chief Guest. Smt. Kavita Jain, Minister for Social Justice Empowerment, Govt. of Haryana has spoken that she heard about the Cabinet approved the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre as an autonomous body last 22nd September 2015. Guest of Honour Shri Vijay Kumar Dev, Advisor, Administration of Chandigarh has also spoken that he heard the Cabinet approved the Indian Sign language Research and Training Centre as an autonomous body and he still supports NAD. Guest of Honour Shri Anurag Aggarwal, IAS Home Secretary has explained to the deaf people that his pleasure is with them about the Cabinet approved the Indian Sign language Research and Training Centre as an autonomous body. Guest of Honour Shri Satya Pal Jain, Ex-MP of BJP, Chandigarh has spoken with Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and sent his letter to the PMO, he said that he provide the Id Card Disability and hostel to the deaf people.

Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD spoke the problems for the deaf in India to deaf audience and thanked Smt. Kavita Jain & Shri Satya Pal Jain so much for supporting NAD for PM approval of the ISLRTC as an autonomous body. Mr. Narender, General Secretary of Gurgaon Association of the Deaf has explained about the stories of demands from Govt. Mr. Dilip Jangir, Executive Member (a unit of Rajasthan) of NAD was a lecturer to the deaf audience.

Members of Chandigarh Deaf Friendship Society performed the skit about disunity and unity. Also students of Speaking Hands Institute for the Deaf performed the skit.

26. 58th International Week of The Deaf Celebration 2015

“With Sign Language Rights Our Children Can!”

Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi on 26th to 27th September, 2015

We organized the 58th International Week of the Deaf “With Sign Language Rights Our Children Can!” between 26th to 27th September, 2015 at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, and New Delhi. We are happy to share the work the done by the National Association of the Deaf. It

was the great experienced to done such a nice event at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi. Our mission was to promote the Human Rights of Deaf people and also promote the Indian Sign Language so that ordinary people can also communicate with the deaf people. We, 15 deaf staff and volunteers have given the Literatures of Deaf Culture and the brochures of IWD 2015 to the hearing people. We were getting a good response from the people came over there. They appreciated our team work a lot. They also showed their interest to be a part of our organization. We spread awareness about the Indian Sign Language and Human Rights of Deaf People so that the ordinary people can also help them in different manner. Through this event ordinary people came to know how they can communicate with the deaf people. After they talked our 6 Sign Language Interpreter they came to know how they communicate with deaf people through sign language. We aware the people about Sign Language through our screen projectors or our interpreters were also there to help the hearing people to communicate with deaf people.

Most of the people were not aware about the NAD. Though this event people become to know about Deaf People and Indian Sign Language. People showed their interest to learn the Indian Sign Language. They were giving a good response to us. They wanted to join our organization or support us. They also gave donation for this good cause. They praised our organization for doing this Event. We were very thankful to Select Citywalk Mall for supporting our organization and other supporters who helped us a lot.

27. NAD Team met Hon'ble Chief Minster of Delhi Shri Arvind Kejriwal

Civil Lines, New Delhi on 9th November, 2015

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD and Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Woment Secretary of NAD with Sign Language Interpreter Ms. Surbhi Taneja met Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Delhi Government at his resident in New Delhi on 9th November, 2016. They talked with Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of Delhi with deep anguish to bring a matter of grave concern to his notice. The Department of Social Welfare, Delhi Goverment has illegally seized more than half the area of the Govt. Lady Noyce Sr. Secondary School for the Deaf. The junior deaf students have been secretively sent to school in North Delhi, situated in Timarpur.

- First of all, NAD Team want to present the location as well as history of the school so that the ‘reality’ is well perceived and understood generally. During the British rule, around during 2nd November 1931, Shri. Kalidass Bhattacharyya, B.A. (Gallaudet University, Washington DC, USA), Founder & Principal established a school for the deaf children near Delhi Gate, out of love and care for them. This was the first school of this kind know as Govt. Lady Noyce School for Deaf & Dumb.
- Many well-known commercial and ancient historical monuments like Chakra-Stambh of Ashok era, Firozshah Kotla Fort, Delhi Gate, Mahatma Gandhiji’s Samadhi and Museum, famous cricket and football stadiums of international standard are situated around this Deaf School which is a pride for us. It is situation between New Delhi and Old Delhi, an important facility for us: – the deaf students and our parents.
- The first Prime Minister of India – Chacha Nehru himself graced an “Establishment Day” Ceremony of this school which was an encouragement for deaf students.
- Few years ago, Office of the Department of Social Welfare of Delhi Government (Congress) was shifted from Kasturba Gandhi Marg to the premises of Govt. Lady Noyce Sr. Secondary School for the Deaf temporarily during the renovation of the Office buildings of the Department of the Social Welfare. At that time the Department of the Social Welfare assured the School that after renovation, the Office will be shifted in its old premises (Kasturba Gandhi Marg). But many years have passed since the renovation completed, the office have still occupied more than half of the school premises, and deaf students of primary classes also are being shifted to Nehru Vihar (Timarpur) School which is located far off.
- Being an alumni of this deaf school, NAD Team tried to meet the Principal to know why these innocent and tiny deaf students are being shifted far off and when this office of Delhi Government will return back to its own premises? Their answer was that these students are being shifted because the school has not sufficient accommodation. Now, it is clear from above statement that the Government is working secretly on a mollified plan to hand over the whole land of the school to the said the Department of Social Welfare.
- The Department of Social Welfare (Congress) had took a huge advantage of the deaf children and violating the fundamental rights of these students and attempting to tread the mission of Late Shri. Kalidass Bhattacharyya – the founder & principal of this deaf school. Land requirement of the Govt. Office might be fulfilled by allotting some another building/accommodation to them. This has totally destroyed NAD

Team's right of education, otherwise why would the Department of Social Welfare, Delhi Government seize our deaf school.

- NAD Team have written letters to the Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Shiela Dixit, and the Child & Women, Education Minister, Smt. Kiran Walia. But they did not take action anything. It wasted our time since 2012-13.

Now, different Deaf NGOs working for the welfare of deaf with NAD Team are opposing this wrongful imposition by the Department of Social Welfare, Delhi Government. All of them are protesting against this unauthorised possession by the Department of Social Welfare, Delhi Government.

In this context, they all are requested to take positive and solid steps to oust the Department of Welfare Social from the school premises.

Shri Arvind Kejriwal listened to their talking with sign language through Interpreter. He said he will look matter into these letters and will send them to the Department of Social Welfare, Delhi Govt.

28. Workshop on Indian Sign Language for 25 Hearing Employees of Hans Foundation

India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road on 17th -18th November 2015

NCPEDP invited Asha Singha (Interpreter) and Zorin Singha, President of NAD to be lecturer to 25 Employees of Hans Foundation about NAD News and his life at India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 17th November, 2015.

NCPEDP invited Asha Singha (Interpreter) and Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD taught the Indian Sign Language Classes to 25 Employees of Hans Foundation on 17-18 November 2015 at India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi.

29. NAD Team met Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt

The American Diner, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 18th November, 2015

Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD surprisingly received a message from Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt on 17th November, 2015. He could not believe how Mahesh Bhatt got his contact information. Mr. Anuj Jain then set up a meeting with Mr. Mahesh Bhatt and his team to meet on 18th Nov, 2015. The people who met Mr. Mahesh Bhatt were Mr. Anuj Jain (Joint Secretary of NAD), his wife Reena Jain, his daughter Ananta Jain, Mr. Zorin Singha (President of NAD) and his daughter Interpreter Asha Singha at India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi in the morning. They discussed about how he directed the film, how he communicated with the deaf actors and about what all he wanted to achieve with the film (THE SILENT HEROES). He also welcomed all the

suggestions from the NAD team members and was eager to know more about the deaf community. NAD is truly pleased with his efforts and initiative and wishes him well for the future.

THE SILENT HEROES is world's first film with Real DEAF actors and is perhaps the first attempt by a filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt to create story with these special children as Heroes and not as sympathy seeking individuals. This is an adventurous -emotional story of 13 REAL deaf children on a Himalayan mission, their struggle for survival , their courage and their heroism. THE SILENT HEROES has been screened at various film festivals and received excellent audience response ,Kolkata International children's film festival, Dehradun international film festival and Prayag international film festival, to name a few. Esteemed singer Sonu Nigam has given his voice to these children, so enjoy the worlds first released the caption film on 11th December, 2015.

30. NAD Worked Together With V-Shesh for Learning English Skills

Govt. Senior Secondary School for the Deaf, Kalkaji, New Delhi on 27th November 2016

Mrs. Rashi, V-Shesh invited Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of National Association of the Deaf to share with the 100 Deaf students of Govt Senior Secondary School for the Deaf, Kalkaji, New Delhion 27 November 2015, Friday morning. He talked to them about Learning English Skills. V-Shesh will start to support teaching the English Skills Class to them every Monday to Friday 830am to 1030am from USAID support. NAD wish V-Shesh's work will succeed their works for the Deaf. He is happy to know that NAD with V-Shesh work together for the Learning English Skills.

31. World Disabled Day

India Gate, New Delhi on 3rd December 2015

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) & National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) shared organizing the World Disability Day 2015 successfully, we had a symbolic WALK to Freedom at the lawns of Boat Club next to Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, Delhi on 3rd December, 2015.

A symbolic Walk to Freedom with over 7500 deaf people and disabled people from all over India was held on 3rd December 2015 at India Gate, New Delhi to commemorate both the occasion of World Disability Day and 20 years of the

passage of the Act. The participants included people with disabilities, their friends, families, and supporters. The walk also saw Parliamentarians and other dignitaries come out to show their support towards disability.

All events and initiatives under the Campaign aimed to not just ensure that the disability movement in India achieves the maximum exposure possible (and that too at an opportune time, with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 currently pending in the Parliament), they also attempted to spread awareness about the agendas and imperatives to the farthest reaches of the country.

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD, Mr. Dhananjay Bansal, General Secretary of Silent Sports Promotion Society, Smt. Uma Kapoor, General Secretary of All India Foundation of Deaf Women, Mr. Somesh Sharma, Advisor of All India Sports Council of the Deaf, Lalit Kumar, Executive Member of Delhi Association of the Deaf, Dr. Madan Vasishtha, PhD., Former Professor of Gallaudet University, Mr. Sibaji Panda, Vice President of All India Federation of the Deaf & Mr. Vivek Mehta, Chief Technology Officer shared speaking related to an Official Language as recognition of Indian Sign Language in the Constitution, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the celebration of 20 years for the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995.

Mr. Zorin Singha, President of NAD, Mr. A.S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD, Mr. Javed Abidi, Honorary Director of NCPEDP, the officials of America India Foundation, the officials of Hans Foundation and Shri Mahesh Giri, Hon'ble Member of Parliament shared the showcases on the stage behind India Gate. They flagged off 500 balloons to the High Sky Up. Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD taught the Basic Sign Language Class to the large audience. The Deaf Members of National Association of the Deaf performed the drama related to "we stand united or we divide".

32. The Cabinet expedite the Passage of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2014

Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 19th December, 2016

CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 19th December 2015 organised by Disabled Rights Group & National Association of the Deaf to request to pass the RPWD Bill in this Winter Session Parliament.

350 deaf people and cross-disability groups and individuals from across Delhi participated in a candle light vigil as an appeal to Parliamentarians to pass the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 that is currently stuck in the

Cabinet despite the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment sending it to the Cabinet on 26th November 2015.

They requested to appeal to the Govt/Cabinet to expedite the passage of the RPWD Bill. After this week, we have just one more week left before the Winter Session of the Parliament comes to an end. At this vigil, they would earnestly appeal to the Govt to please ensure that the Cabinet passes the Bill urgently and formally sends it back to the Rajya Sabha. They would also appeal to all the political parties to treat this matter as a completely non-political issue and to ensure that the Bill is passed within the current Winter Session.

There were Mr. Javed Abidi (Covenor, Disabled Rights Group), Ms. Shamyala (Director, AADI), and Mr. Anuj Jain (Joint Secretary, NAD) spoke related to the RPWD Bill as well as many other leaders of disabled organisations participated in the Candle Light Vigil.

33. Workshop on the Advocacy Leadership Training for the Deaf

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Regional Centre, Sector- 12,
Chandigarh on 23rd January 2016

National Association of the Deaf organised the Workshop on the Advocacy Leadership Training for the Deaf at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Regional Centre, Sector-12, Chandigarh on 23rd January, 2016.

The function started with the welcome note by Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer of NAD. Chief Guest of Shri Vijay Kumar Dev, Advisor to the Administrator Chandigarh has spoken about the works of NAD and said he will provide government jobs to deaf people, he said them that they would give their letters to him and he will solve their problems. He said Yogesh Kumar always contacts with me.

Guest of Honour Shri Phool Chand Yadav, Commissioner for Disabilities, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of Haryana, spoke to the deaf delegates that they don't think they are disabled people; when he was small child & he did not think that he was disabled person. He also said, "I don't think that I am disabled person but now I am a commissioner for disabilities."

Guest of Honour Shri Nitin Rokade, Chief HR Manager, Indian Oil Company Limited, Chandigarh spoke to the deaf delegates that they have problems to share with him and he would solve your problems.

Shri A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of National Association of the Deaf explained to them how victory NAD got the ISLRTC as an autonomous body by PM's approval on 22nd September 2015 during the International Week of the Deaf.

Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Women Secretary of NAD and Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of NAD shared explaining the importance of advocacy for Govt. for demanding the human rights in areas of lives of deaf people.

Mr. Vivek Mehta, Chief Technology Officer, deafeasy explained to deaf delegates regarding the importance of technology for the deaf people through the alarm device help deaf people for vibrant waking up themselves easily.

There were about 85 deaf delegates participated in the Workshop from Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh.

34. Sign Language Interpretation of the 67th Republic Day Parade

New Delhi on 26th January, 2016

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) once again advocated with the government for Sign Language interpretation of India's Republic Day telecast would feature sign language interpretation but only on DD News and DD Bharati.

We are happy that last year's gains have not been lost and that the telecast would be accessible this year also. But why the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is still not willing to feature sign language interpretation on DD National is beyond our comprehension. DD National is important because all other channels, especially the private ones like NDTV, Times Now, etc take their feed from DD National and not from DD News or DD Bharati.

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN INDIA: Doordarshan has made necessary arrangements for the accessible telecast of President of India's 'Address to the Nation' on the eve of Republic Day. Unfortunately, this feature would be available only on DD Bharati. Not even on DD News (which has a greater outreach), leave alone on DD National. Having said that, it is worth a celebration that after a full 67 years of India having become a Republic, the President's Address would finally be telecast with live sign language interpretation.

Sign Language interpretation of the 67th Republic Day Parade. Sadly, the interpretation could only been seen on DD News and DD Bharti, unlike last year when almost all private channels picked up the DD News feed with the sign language interpretation inset. This can easily be seen as an impediment, but

we must not lose hope. The advocacy will continue. With the momentum of the Disability Rights Bill picking up again, we hope to see more interpreters in the country and all forms of media being accessible to all persons with disabilities.

35. 6th National Deaf Conference 2016

**Indian Social Institute, 10 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi
on 20th – 21st February, 2016**

We successfully for the 6th National Deaf Conference 2016 being held at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi between 20th to 21st February, 2016. We have many deaf lecturers signing to the 200 deaf delegates from all over the country participating in the 6th National Deaf Conference 2016. The conference started with the welcome note by Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of NAD.

1. Mr. Alok Kejriwal, Managing Director, Archana Ampoules Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, “Deaf can do.”
2. Mr. T. K. M. Sandeep, CEO, & Mr. Hari Hara Kumar, Director Education, Deaf Enabled Foundation, “Technology on Education for the Deaf”.
3. Mr. Vivek Mehta, Chief Technical Officer, Mr. Charu Dutta & Mr. Gagan Arora, deafeasy, “Technology & Accessibility”
4. Mr. Sharique Khan, Ms. Deepna Sonani & Mr. Adnan Khan, Qugo, “Chat with Animations”.
5. Ms. *Shilpi Kedia*, **Managing Director**, *BarrierBreak Technologies*, **Mumbai**.
6. Mrs. Preeti Saini, General Secretary, Association of Sign Language Interpreters, “ISL interpreter for Deaf Community in India”.
7. Mr. Gyanendra Purohit, Founder, Anand Deaf School, “ISL Bill and Including Recognition Official Language”.
8. Mr. Aqil Chinoy, Founder & CEO, Inspiralive, “Technology for the Deaf”.
9. Mr. Rajesh Ketkar, Assistant Director, Ishara Foundation, “Accessibility on Video”.
10. Mr. Sunil Sahasrabudhe, ISL Teacher for NIHH & Mr. Mohd. Shafique, ISL Teacher for NIHH. 11. Mr. Sachin Singh, Teacher, DSMNRU, “Technology & Accessibility”.
12. Mr. K. C. Isaac, Founder & President, Kerala Association of the Deaf, “History of Deaf People” in India.

13. Mr. A.S. Narayanan, Secretary, NAD, & Mr. Zorin Singha, President, NAD, “RPWD Bill, ISLRTC & Driving License for the Deaf”.

Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of NAD The programs were a great success and a great source of encouragement and inspiration to all our 200 deaf delegates from Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Kerala, Chennai, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and other parts of India participated in the Conference. It has benefited a lot for deaf delegates learning about 13 deaf lecturers’s presentations. They are very impressed by our Conference.

36. 10th Anniversary Celebration of the National Association of the Deaf

India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi on 21st February, 2016

We successfully organised the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the National Association of the Deaf on 21st February, 2016 at India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi. We have invited Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment as a Chief Guest. But he was unable to attend the event due to Haryana Jat Riot. Shri Jagdish Kumar, Deputy Secretary of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India was the Chief Guest. Shri A. S. Narayanan, Secretary, NAD addressed the welcome note. Shri Zorin Singha, President, NAD addressed the speech.

Among the Deaf there are several individuals who have extraordinary achievements to their credit. National Association of the Deaf loves to encourage and appreciate Deaf persons who are achievers by giving them Achievers Deaf Awards. These achievers are a great source of inspiration to the members of the Deaf community. In addition to providing role models to the Deaf community, the Achiever Deaf Awards also serve the purpose of giving joy to the parents of the Deaf Achiever, along with a sense of importance to the individual. It is also a means for the Deaf community to show the rest of society that Deaf persons are capable of great achievements and that they too can be counted to be as equal to all other citizens.

Shri Jagdish Kumar, Deputy Secretary of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India gave out the Deaf Achiever Awards to Shri T. K. M. Sandeep, CEO, Deaf Enabled Foundation, Shri Aqil Chinoy, Founder & CEO of Inspiraliv and Shri K. C. Isaac, Founder & President, Kerala Association of the Deaf.

Shri T. K. M. Sandeep signed about his work and organisation to the audience.
Me

Translation of News Report

Deaf-Dumb Conference Demands Official Status (Position) for Indian Sign Language

**Monday February 22nd, 2016 Malayala Manorama (All Editions in Kerala, and Dubai
etc.)**

New Delhi,

The expert commission which constitutes the reformed Indian Sign Language should give Official Languages Position in India to Sign Language as it was demanded in the deaf dumb national conference held at New Delhi on 21st to 22nd February, 2016. This conference was organized by National Association of the Deaf which is in the National Organisation for the Deaf.

It was decided by the central govt. last year that a research and training centre for Indian Sign Language should be established and to expand a common Indian Sign Language in India acceptable in all states.

In the Conference, Shri Jagdish Kumar, Deputy Secretary of Disabled Dept. declared that the centre will start functioning by July 2016. It is aiming at job training, language study, technical education to the deaf and dumb community which is 50 lakh or more number in India and proper steps will be taken for its study and research.

NAD has given awards to K. C. Issac, President of Kerala Association Federation of the Deaf (Kottayam, Kerala), Akhil Chinoy (Mumbai) & T. K. M. Sandeep (Hyderabad) who have organized self employment projects and educational and employment cum training centres in their status.

It is to be noted that the function was organized in a quite different way than such other programmes in the capital. The speeches were short but meaningful in sign language without making hand applauses in sound, the deaf audience waved their hands in atmosphere to congratulate the speakers.

The meeting started at correct time and ended 12 seconds before the deadline time. And at the end, there was attractive "National Anthem" in sign language and it was another better display for National Patriotism.



Photo:- K. C. Issac (KAFD) President receives awards of NAD from Jagdish Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Disabled Dept., Central Govt. NAD President Zorin Singha and General Secretary A. S. Narayanan are nearby.

37. District Deaf Workshop on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Muktsar, Punjab on 6th March, 2016

We organized the second kind of the District Deaf Workshop on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on 5th March 2016 at Muktsar, Punjab between 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. There were about 85 deaf delegates from all over Muktsar, Punjab attended the workshop for one day.

Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary of National Association of the Deaf presented the different PowerPoint Presentations about the Human Rights on Video, the human rights/laws, & UNCRPD. We created an awareness on UNCRPD to help deaf people understand and know the laws and rights of the deaf. It helps to empower them to do themselves by their own decision in their lives in India.

A milestone for the advocacy of the rights of persons with disabilities is now steadily gaining worldwide acceptance and support. This is known as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) refers to a document focusing on international human rights of people with disabilities. It was created by the United Nations and is being monitored by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 13, 2006. The Convention was opened for signature on March 30, 2007. It then came into force on May 3, 2008, after the Convention's ratification by the 20th party. There are a total of 71 countries that have ratified the convention. Some of the countries that have ratified the Convention include Australia, Belgium, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. The UN.org website has a section where interested groups and individuals can read the latest developments regarding the convention.

The Convention intends to ensure equal rights to people with disabilities. This is done by elaborating in detail the rights of persons with disabilities and setting out a code of implementation.

Guiding Principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:-

Eight principles form the base for the Convention and the articles included in it. Below are the guiding principles:

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
- Non-discrimination
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
- Equality of opportunity
- Accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities

India ratified UNCRPD on the 1st of October, 2007. India was the 7th country in the world and the first significant country to do so. The ratification of UNCRPD was a direct result of the advocacy by NCPEDP and Disabled Rights Group (DRG).

UNCRPD is an international instrument that provides persons with disabilities the same human rights that everyone else enjoys. It marks a radical shift in defining and understanding disability - it moves from a medical/social perspective to a human-rights based approach.

However, UNCRPD is just a paper if it is not implemented. Disabled people have to play an active role in the implementation and monitoring of UNCRPD.

NCPEDP has therefore launched an advocacy initiative for speedy implementation of UNCRPD in India.

650 million people, roughly 10 per cent of the world's population, live with a disability, according to the United Nations. In India alone, there are roughly 100 million people with disabilities, which is almost 1/6th of population of disabled people in the world.

38. District Deaf Workshop on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Abohar, Punjab on 6th March, 2016

We organized the second kind of the District Deaf Workshop on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) on 6th March 2016 at Abohar, Punjab between 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. There were about 85 deaf delegates from all over Abohar, Punjab attended the workshop for one day.

Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer of National Association of the Deaf presented the different PowerPoint Presentations about the Human Rights on Video, the human rights/laws, & UNCRPD. We created an awareness on UNCRPD to help deaf people understand and know the laws and rights of the deaf. It helps to empower them to do themselves by their own decision in their lives in India.

A milestone for the advocacy of the rights of persons with disabilities is now steadily gaining worldwide acceptance and support. This is known as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) refers to a document focusing on international human rights of people with disabilities. It was created by the United Nations and is being monitored by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 13, 2006. The Convention was opened for signature on March 30, 2007. It then came into force on May 3, 2008, after the Convention's ratification by the 20th party. There are a total of 71 countries that have ratified the convention. Some of the countries that have ratified the Convention include Australia, Belgium, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. The UN.org website has a section where interested groups and individuals can read the latest developments regarding the convention.

The Convention intends to ensure equal rights to people with disabilities. This is done by elaborating in detail the rights of persons with disabilities and setting out a code of implementation.

Guiding Principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:-

Eight principles form the base for the Convention and the articles included in it. Below are the guiding principles:

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
- Non-discrimination
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
- Equality of opportunity
- Accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities

India ratified UNCRPD on the 1st of October, 2007. India was the 7th country in the world and the first significant country to do so. The ratification of UNCRPD was a direct result of the advocacy by NCPEDP and Disabled Rights Group (DRG).

UNCRPD is an international instrument that provides persons with disabilities the same human rights that everyone else enjoys. It marks a radical shift in defining and understanding disability - it moves from a medical/social perspective to a human-rights based approach.

However, UNCRPD is just a paper if it is not implemented. Disabled people have to play an active role in the implementation and monitoring of UNCRPD.

NCPEDP has therefore launched an advocacy initiative for speedy implementation of UNCRPD in India.

650 million people, roughly 10 per cent of the world's population, live with a disability, according to the United Nations. In India alone, there are roughly 100 million people with disabilities, which is almost 1/6th of population of disabled people in the world.

39. International Women's Day

Indian Social Institute, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 8th March, 2016

An event on “Women empowerment day” was held at Indian Social Institute organised by National Association of the Deaf (NAD) on 8th March, 2016. Among the participants were 125 deaf women members/non-members and husbands of the married deaf women. The event was chaired by Women Secretary, Mrs. Geeta Sharma, National Association of the Deaf (NAD) followed by three sessions which included:-

1. “Women Empowerment in India” by Ms. Sangeeta Singh, Ph.D Scholar, Delhi University **Women Empowerment in India**

The issues addressed during the session included:-

- (i) Meaning of women empowerment
- (ii) Obstacles in empowering women in India
- (iii) Gender inequalities across the world
- (iv) Ways to empower women. The primary focus was to acquaint with the various hindrances that restrict the social and economic growth of women in Indian context. Focusing on the gender gap in literacy, emphasis was given on the causes that impede the education of a girl child. A short movie, “Nischay” was presented to highlight the ways by which women are abused in their day to day life. The later part of the movie illustrated need of the hour to raise their voice against violence. The speaker also put forward the various facts about the gender inequalities prevailing in the society globally. The key points were discussed on “How can we empower ourselves?” which included educational, social, psychological and health related aspects for the better development of a woman in the society. It was added by presenting stories about the true spirit of Indian women who achieved their goals irrespective of their

socioeconomic and disability status and set themselves as role models in today's society. The session was concluded by what a great personality, Swami Vivekanand said, ***"There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved, It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing."***

2. "Knowledge of Deaf Women" by Ms. Priya Reddy & Ms. Harpriti Reddy, Coordinator, The Deaf Way Foundation.

The participants were taken to Crafts Museum, New Delhi after the sessions were over. The purpose was fun for them to enjoy with each others at Crafts Museum, New Delhi.

40. Meeting of the National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Seminar Hall, USI, New Delhi on 5th – 6th March, 2016

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, Secretary of National Association of the Deaf, and Mr. Sachin Singh, Member of NAD participated in the meeting on 5th – 6th March 2016 at Seminar Hall, USI, New Delhi.

NCPEDP with support from Mphasis organised a training on accessibility standards and audits for National Disability Network leaders from across the country. Here are some pictures. This training is being conducted by DEOC - Diversity and Equal Opportunity Centre.

National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities India (NCRPD) meeting held in Delhi. Issues such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, the amendment to the National Building Code, future course of the National Disability Network, DPI India and the upcoming DPI World Assembly, among others were discussed.

42. International Women's Day

Chandigarh Club Ltd., Sector-1, Chandigarh on 12th March, 2016

March 8th marks the International women's Day, which Celebrates the achievement of women in all spheres of life. On this occasion National Association of the Deaf is joining Hearing Impaired women from all over the Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to Commemorate this day. A lot of efforts and progress have been registered at the National Associational

of the Deaf towards achieving Evaluate Empowering deaf women and elevating them socially and culturally. Furthermore, National Associational of the Deaf on the Status of empowering deaf women currently holding its session at Chandigarh Club Ltd., Sector-1, Chandigarh.

National Association of the Deaf organized the International Women's Day at the Auditorium of Chandigarh Club Ltd., Sector-1, Chandigarh on Saturday, 12th March 2016. This is a step taken for raising awareness and creating a positive space in society for disability and women's issues. The deaf women are doubly disadvantaged first by disability and second with the added vulnerability of their gender. We saw a gathering of around 150 deaf women. We invited the Deaf Women Lecturer Smt. Geeta Sharma, Women Secretary, National Association of the Deaf, Chief Guest of Honour Shri Sanjay Tandon, President of Bharatiya Janta Party Chandigarh, Guest of Honour Shri Sanjay Arora, Chief Manager of GAIL, Chandigarh ,

The seminar started with the welcome note. Mrs. Rupinder Kaur and Anu Saigal, NAD's Deaf Women Committees, Chandigarh. Presented by Ms. Akanksha Sharma, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Regional Centre, Sector- 12, Chandigarh. Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Woman Secretary of NAD explained about the Histories of International Week of the Deaf. The Seminar was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri Sanjay Tandon (BJP) and Shri Sanjay Arora, Chief Manager, Gail (Chandigarh). They said it is our duty to bring this injustice to an end as deaf women after faces double discrimination in social life. Shri Sanjay Tandon congratulated Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Public Relation Officer (NAD) for his achievements and praises him by saying that he never missed an opportunity to meet and greet higher officials. He added that the problem is very big for the deaf women to communicate with normal ones. They congratulated all the deaf women on this International Women's Day.

Presentation by Shri Sanjeev Gulati, Project Advisor of Social Welfare, Chandigarh on 'Emotional Intelligence' where the ability to understand others and act wisely in human relations was discussed along with the functioning of our brain, that during a situation that triggers us, it tends to leave us with less space to think and act wisely, Presented by Mr. Vivek Mehta, Chief Technical Officer, deafeasy on "Explained about Digital Technology & Products for the Smart Deaf."

These two topics had never been discussed before on the event of International Women's Day. It was a refreshing and an eye opener to all the participants. We concluded the seminar by cutting the cake and celebrating the day.

43. Hearing impaired may soon get driving licences

Dipak K Dash | TNN | Mar 18, 2016, 05.13 AM IST

New Delhi : Persons with hearing impairment may soon be able to get driving licences after passing tests. The road transport ministry is planning to incorporate provisions including some sort of "prominent identification" of vehicles driven by such persons.

Recently, social justice and empowerment minister Thawar Chand Gehlot had written to road transport minister Nitin Gadkari to look into this aspect and take necessary steps to enable hearing-impaired persons to get driving licence.

"We are considering all aspects. This is a genuine demand from one segment of the society and they must not be deprived of their right," Gadkari told TOI.

Ministry sources said they are considering options like pasting stickers on vehicles driven by the hearing-impaired to alert other drivers, as it is done in the case of vehicles driven by someone with a learner's licence or a "child on board" stamp.

"In case of drivers with hearing impairment, we can think of pasting such stickers both in the front and rear windscreens so that they can be spotted quickly. Safety of such drivers largely depends on how other drive," said a government official.

The demand for amendment of the law to allow such persons to have a driving licence has been going on for over a decade and some of the cases have also been referred to courts.

Links from:- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Hearing-impaired-may-soon-get-driving-licences/articleshow/51450127.cms>

44. Workshop on Advocacy Leadership Training for the Deaf

Chandigarh on 18th – 20th March, 2016

Around 50 deaf delegates from North India attended a three-day workshop. The first day began with the introductory session addressed by Shri Stanzin Dawa, Regional Coordinator, RGNIYD, Regional Centre Chandigarh, which gave the deaf participants a brief outlook of the topic "Leadership & Advocacy" and the role it played in our lives. During the workshop, core aspects of leadership are clearly defined and explained through various team building activities, group discussions, indoor-outdoor exercises by the mentors.

Shri Uday Bhaskar, Trainer from the Deaf Enabled Foundation, Hyderabad (Telangana) shared the detailed information about leadership styles, theories and attributes of successful leaders, levels of maturity, skills & competencies. Examples of key lessons learnt from famous historical figure like Mahatma Gandhi who was the preeminent leader of the Indian independence movement in British-ruled India.

Importance of water conservation has been addressed by Dr. Jigmet Yangchan, Junior Scientist, HMAARI from Ladakh, to protect the water environment and to meet current and future human demand. The goals of water conservation efforts include:-

1. Ensuring availability of water for future generations.
2. Energy conservation
3. Water saving technology for the home chores.

The team members of RGNIYD conducted a different sessions on Johari Window which is a technique used to help people better understand their relationship with themselves as well as others. During the exercise, subjects are given a list of a few adjectives out of which they need to pick some that they feel describe their own personality. The eight-step process on grassroots advocacy was also discussed to develop a strategy to advocate for a change. An Interpreter bridged the communication gap between deaf participants and facilitators through Sign Language. Participants were also made familiar with the various tools and the power point presentation which will be used for deaf empowerment in community. The focus was on the topic of "SWOT" (Strength, weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and group discussions. The workshop concluded with the aim of sharing the knowledge with others to increase the team building qualities in deaf community. Certificate of Participation (COP) along with group photograph has been distributed to all the participants. Addressing the participants, Shri Stanzin Dawa of the RGNIYD said, "Your circumstances should not define your limitations; rather they should help you to redefine your potential and the power within you to make things possible."

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Regional Centre, Chandigarh in collaboration with National Association of the Deaf (NAD).