



National Trust

for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy,
Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities



Mukesh Jain

Joint Secretary & Chief Executive Officer

मुकेश जैन

संयुक्त सचिव एवं मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी

राष्ट्रीय न्यास

स्वपरायणता, प्रमस्तिष्क घात, मानसिक मंदता एवं
बहु-निःशक्तताग्रस्त व्यक्तियों के कल्याण हेतु

Ministry of Social Justice &
Empowerment, Govt. of India
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता
मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

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Dr. Dear Shri Chandra,

Sub: Undertaking various awareness activities on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April, 2017.

The National Trust is an autonomous organization under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, working for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities.

People affected by Autism face challenges in many areas of their lives. Thus educating the public about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and raising Autism awareness has been the focus of large scale initiatives in many countries. In 2007, the UN General Assembly declared 2nd April as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) and since 2008, 2nd April is being observed across the World as World Autism Awareness Day to increase awareness about Autism among general masses worldwide. This year, the National Trust and many civil society organizations working in the field of Autism have planned to celebrate WAAD on 2nd April, 2017 on a much higher scale.

You are requested to coordinate with the Registered Organizations of National Trust in your State to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day on a large scale. Awareness activities like symposium, conference, workshops on Autism related subjects may be organized on 2nd April and in the week following it. Radio talks, TV discussions etc. may also be held, apart from awareness activities in educational institutes.

Apart from many specific interventions to enhance the awareness about Autism, a unique global initiative to help raise the awareness about Autism called **Light It Up Blue** campaign has been launched by many countries since 2010. The National Trust being the nodal Government agency in India for Autism, also joined this **Light It Up Blue** campaign. On behest of the National Trust, in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), important historical monuments like Red Fort, Humayun Tomb, Qutub Minar, Safdarjung Tomb, Purana Qila and Jantar Mantar were Lit up in blue colour on 2nd April, 2013. ASI, this year, has instructed its field offices to light up all the ASI Monuments in the country, to spread awareness about Autism.

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