

# Delhi walks to fund autism centre

BY ARCHANA CHATURVEDI

New Delhi, March 14: More than 200 people participated in the Walk For Autism in the capital on Sunday. Amongst them were eminent dancer Shovana Narayan, and noted painter Bulbul Sharma, to show their support for Action For Autism, the organisation that runs Open Door, a school for individuals affected by autism.

The event was organised by the AFA in aid of the on-going construction of the National Centre for Autism, which when completed will serve as a venue for advocacy, research, rehabilitation and training.

The AFA currently operates from inadequate premises in the Chiragh Delhi village, where the demands placed on it are overwhelming. The AFA is currently involved in fundraising to build this centre for



PROACTIVISM: Dancer Shovana Narayan participates in the Walk for Autism in New Delhi on Sunday. A photograph by Pritam Bandyopadhyay

which land has already been allotted in South Delhi.

Autism is a complex neurological disorder affecting at least two million people across India. The last few years have seen a steep rise in its diagnosis worldwide. Autism Spectrum disorder affects the way the brain processes information and prevents individuals from properly understanding what they see, hear and otherwise sense.

The causes of this disorder are currently unknown, though it is true that 80% of those affected are males.

However, with timely intervention and therapy people with autism can make significant progress and live productive lives.

The walk on Sunday kicked off from the Sanskriti School in Chanakyapuri where participants had gathered. They included par-

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