



Devoted to  
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# B.P.A. newsletter

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RESEARCH & NEWSLETTER  
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

## "JAGDISH UPVAN" - A HOMAGE



The Blind People's Association and all the associated Trusts paid tribute to Jagdishbhai on the occasion of his 20<sup>th</sup> death anniversary by inaugurating a special sensory garden called "Jagdish Upvan" in the BPA. The Upvan was inaugurated by Jagdishbhai's sister Smt. Daksha Manmatbhai Patel in the presence of Mr. Sudhir Patel, Mrs. Shubhlata Ramesh Patel, Mr. Sanjay Patel & other family members. Mrs. Bhadra Satia's family members were also present on this occasion. The school students sang Bhajans in Jagdishbhai's memories. A blood donation drive was also held and 25 blind students donated blood.

Jagdish Kashibhai Patel was born sighted on 5th September, 1928 in Borsad in Kheda District of Gujarat. At the age of 8 years, he lost his eye sight due to meningitis. He studied at the Behala School in Kolkata and then went on to the Victoria Memorial School in Mumbai where he completed a course in Physiotherapy. He set up his own medico massage clinic and earned a reputation as a Physiotherapist with magic fingers. He founded the Blind Men's Association in 1950 (now renamed as Blind People's Association) and other associated Trusts like NAB Gujarat Branch, National Adult Training Centre. His firsts include a School for adult blind in





Gujarat, a Braille transcription project by prisoners of Sabarmati jail, adding cross disabilities in a vocational training Workshop, initiating centres of excellence at the district level and community based rehabilitation programmes. He brought in professional management, team work and networking. He was awarded the Padmashree by the Government of India, the Golden Award by HelpAge International and many other national and international awards. His partner in progress remained his wife Bhadraben Satia who helped to nurture and provide solid support to the growth of Blind Men's Association and the associated Trusts.

Thanks to donors, well-wishers and Jagdishbhai' and Bhadraben's family, the entire BPA family consisting of staff, students, trainees, for making the Inauguration of Jagdish Upvan a grand success. Thanks to the people who worked very hard for the preparation and implementation of the event.

## TANYA COMPUTER CENTRES ACROSS GUJARAT

## SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE INAUGURATED AT JIT MEHTA



Madison Resource Foundation has extended support for establishing Tanya Computer Centres at 4 Locations namely... Ahmedabad, Kapadwanj, Sayla and Deesa. BPA officials and concerned heads from 4 centres had a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at BPA main office to discuss the proper implementation of this Project. Kapadwanj Centre was inaugurated on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 at V S Gandhi Charitable Trust on its Foundation Day.

Hon'ble Mayor of Ahmedabad Ms. Bijalben Patel inaugurated Vocational Training Centre at Late Ms. Jyotsanaben Dhirubhai Naik Physiotherapy Centre on 18 February, 2019 sponsored by Smt. Kamuben B. Naik and Smt. Urmilaben L. Naik. BPA family appreciates the hard work of Smt. Miraben Shah and Ms. Sangitaben in handling this centre successfully. Shri Piyushbhai Desai, President of BPA, Sunitaben Thakor, President of Jit Mehta were present alongwith donors and well-wishers. Piyushbhai promised Rs. 5 lakhs to Jit Mehta on this occasion which was then given under the CSR fund of Wagh Bakri Tea Company.





# SIGHT SAVERS TRUCKERS PROJECT



Blind People's Association and Sight Savers, Mumbai signed an agreement on 30 November, 2018 for screening eyes of Truck Drivers. This project was inaugurated at Aslali on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The Truckers from different parts of India will be provided eye checkup and spectacle free up cost after computerized checkup, diagnosis and refraction under this Project. Dharmendra and Soumen attended Partner's meet for all the South Zone partners of National Truckers Programme in Mumbai funded by SightSavers on 23-24 January 2019.

# 23<sup>RD</sup> CAR RALLY FOR THE BLIND



Blind People's Association and Ahmedabad Round Table-40 organised 23<sup>rd</sup> Car Rally on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019. The objective of this Rally is create public awareness about the potentials of the blind and to develop the feelings of competition among blind persons. Blind persons acted as navigators and read out only rally instructors from a Braille map and guided the sighted drivers. The Rally was flagged off by Mr. Y.M.Shukla, Charity Commissioner, Swami Adhyatmanandji of Shivanand Ashram and Mr. Piyush Desai, President of BPA.

# VOICE OF SAP AND BPA AT STATUE OF UNITY



On 7 February 2019, Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mr. Jayantibhai Panchal, Mr. Bharat Joshi, Mr. Zakir Sipai, Mr. Ambalal Pandya, Mr. Dhaval Sheth Mr. Zala Singh (Volunteer) and BPA team accompanied Voice of SaP team to donate wheelchairs at the Statue of Unity, at Kevadia Colony. These wheelchairs are for the use of aged people and those with disabilities.

# BARODA HANDCART PROJECT

Mr. Shailesh Shah US based donor, who is a native from Baroda raised funds from friends, and family to support various projects in Baroda. Last three years, he has been implementing projects with Blind People's Association. He supported women with disabilities by providing sewing machines in the last two years. This year he supported 10 people with visual impairment by providing them Hand Carts. Mr. Shailesh Shah is very particular in details, he checked the applications, interviewed all 10 people, and ensured that the end use items are in needy and proper hands. We thank Mr. Shailesh Shah and donors who supported this c a u s e .





## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### PARENTS AWAKENING



ICEVI India funded a Training Program for the parents of blind students of residential primary school at BPA on 28 January, 2019. The parents were blindfolded to help them to understand problems that their children face. The parents were also taught about dream mapping and career counseling. Mrs. Vimal Thawani and team organized the training.

### TRAINING OF SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Blind People's Association organized Training of Siblings of Children with special Needs on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at Khushiyo Nu Sarnamu Centre for Children with Special Needs - Deesa. This programme was funded by Kangaroo Kids Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Abha Joshi, Mrs. Chaitali Patel and Mr. Vanrajsinh Chavda coordinated the programme. The siblings were made to understand the impact of disability on development through simulation of disability. The non-disabled siblings understood the problems that their siblings face. They went back with better understanding and acceptance.

### COOKING WITHOUT LOOKING



BPA proudly partnered in organizing unique workshops cooking without looking for visually impaired as a part of World Disability Day celebrations at Big Bazaar, Himalaya Mall on 26 February, 2019. It is often perceived that people with visual impairment might be unable to cook, for the fear of being unable to handle cooking appliances or gas stoves that could be hazardous. Well they can! If the cooking appliances are used with a bit of caution, along with certain assistive technology they can be independent cooks. There is no need, after all, to continue craving for that bowl of healthy food, unless someone else cooks it for you! BPA organized such first workshop with the support of Big Bazaar to introduce less hazardous electric and non-electric appliances and tools to make people with visual impairment independent cooks. 30 young boys and girls with visual impairment were taught to cook using these devices and modern kitchen equipments.

### NAB STATE BRANCH CONFERENCE - 2019

Mr. Ranchhod Soni, Mr. Tarak Luhar and Mr. Arkesh Patel attended State Branch Conference -2019 of National Association for the Blind (India) at Chennai, Tamilnadu from 27 February to 4 March, 2019.

Mr. Ranchhod Soni presented a Paper on - Inclusion in the manufacturing sector and consumer products i.e. mobile, electronic products user friendly & Inclusion in Financial Services. Tarak Luhar made a presentation on Inclusion in Sports and Cultural Organizations.

Prof. Bhaskar Mehta, Immediate Past President of NAB and Executive Committee Member of Blind People's Association was also present during the seminar.



### AGRICULTURE & DAIRY FARMING TRAINING

ICBLP Agriculture & Dairy training was arranged for farmers with disability at Kukma, Bhuj on 15-17 March'19, supported by CBM. Mr. Jyotish Choudhary coordinated this training with BPA-KCRC team.





## DISTRIBUTION OF MODIFIED IMPORTED WHEELCHAIRS



Wagh Bakri Tea Ltd. sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget to Paramahansa Yogananda Charitable Trust (PYCT) for giving modified imported wheelchairs to Divyangs. The first distribution took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at the BPA where Mr. Piyushbhai Desai, Chairman, Wagh Bakri Tea Company and Trustees of PYCT and Trustees of BPA remained present. Wagh Bakri and Paramahansa Yogananda Charitable Trust (PYCT), Ahmedabad distributed the second lot of 7 Motivation Wheelchairs to needy beneficiaries on 19 March'19. Each wheelchair is customized to suit individual needs.

## WAGH BAKRI CSR REACHES DIVYANG OF SAYLA



Shri Parag Desai, Executive Director of Wagh Bakri Tea Company distributed self employment kits under CSR to 102 Divyang beneficiaries of Livelihood Program of CBM implemented by the Ashirwad Viklang Trust, Sayla in the presence of Pujaniya Bhai Shree of Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal at Sayla.

## MEGA CAMP IN JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN



Wagh Bakri Tea Company sponsored a Mega Eye Check up camp at Banad, near Mandor in Jodhpur District of Rajasthan on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. This camp has been sponsored under CSR. All people from villages around Banad were examined in this camp. All those needing medicines, eye drops and spectacles were provided the same on the spot. The eye surgeries were performed completely free of cost at Jodhpur. The ICBLP team at Jodhpur arranged the mobilization and screening of patients.

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eye Camp in Rajasthan organised by Blind People's Association (BPA) & Shared Vision Sansthan (Jodhpur) under CSR Fund from Wagh Bakri Tea Company. Shri Parasbhai Desai formally inaugurated Eye Camp event by lighting lamps along with other dignitaries and local leaders.

Shri Parasbhai addressed the gathering and welcomed all the invitees & people at the eye camp. He gave a brief background about the Company and Wagh Bakri Tea Brand. He shared the fact that, he is the fourth generation of Wagh Bakri Family Legacy. He proudly proclaimed that, 2019 is the 100<sup>th</sup> year of completion of WB Tea in India. He also narrated the journey of WB Tea Pioneer late Shri Narandas Desai in South Africa, his association/stint with Mahatma Gandhi, including his return to India and journey ahead. He also explained the meaning and relevance of "Wagh" (Tiger) and "Bakri" (Goat) appearing in the logo of Wagh Bakri brand, which was applauded by the audience.

Shri Punani also welcomed the eye patients, and wished them better eye health and requested them to take maximum benefit of the eye camp. He guided patients about eye camp facilities. He also appreciated and acknowledged the overwhelming support of the village Sarpanchs and local volunteers as well as the Shared Vision Sansthan, Jodhpur.

347 patients were checked of which 30 Cataract cases were identified. 23 Cataract patients have been taken to Balaji Eye Hospital, Jodhpur, whereas, follow-ups are underway for remaining 07 cataract patients, who will be taken to hospital gradually in course of time. 116 spectacles were distributed and 225 patients were distributed medicines free of cost.



## DONATIONS AND SUPPORT

### SHETH JAMNABHAI BHAGUBHAI SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY



The trustees of Jamnabhai Bhagubhai group of Trusts have declared a donation of rupees 2 Crores to start the Sheth Jamnabhai Bhagubhai BPA School of Optometry at Bareja to be built and managed by Blind People's Association. The initial payment of Rs. 50 lacs was handed over on 5 March, 2019 by trustees of JB trust, Mr. Rajiv Vastupal and Mr. Shreyangbhai Sutaria to Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mrs. Nandini Rawal and Mr. Dharmendra Jena of Blind People's Association. The function was held at Rajiv House, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.

### AMBULANCE FOR BAREJA HOSPITAL



An Ambulance was donated by Nathajibahi Ichharam Shukla Charitable Trust and Vithaldas Somchand Shah Charitable Trust to BPA Bareja Eye Hospital. This ambulance will be used for bringing patients to the Hospital for surgery and dropping them to their homes.

### RAMDEV MASALA SPICES UP BPA

Ramdev Masala the most renowned king of the spices market has once again given spices for use in the BPA hostels and campuses for the entire year. Ramdev Masala has been a regular donor to the BPA and the blind and disabled students of all the campuses eat all the meals which are made with Ramdev Masala turmeric, chilli powder, coriander-cumin powder, garam masala and asafoetida.



### CSR SUPPORT

**DP WORLD Mundra** DP World has sanctioned Rs. 80 Lakhs for establishing Hi Tech State of Art "Skill Development Centre" for people with disabilities at the BPA - KCRC unit at Bhuj as part of their CSR activity. The first installment of Rs. 49.91 has been released out of this amount. Last year DP World donated Rs. 57 lakhs to BPA for Laminar Modular Eye Operation Theatre at Bhuj and for Self Employment for people with disabilities.

### DAHEJ-SEZ CSR SUPPORT



Dahej-Sez supported BPA activities for the first time under their CSR budget. A total of Rs. 16,60,000 was sanctioned initially and Rs. 2,24,000 was sanctioned at later date. A total of 92 poor persons were operated for sight restoration from the villages around Dahej-Sez area. 6 eye camps were conducted, 2753 persons were screened, 914 were given medicines and high quality spectacles were given to 1648 persons. 10 telescope were given to persons with low vision, 30 sewing machines and 20 beauty parlour kits were given for self



employment. 5 screening camps were held in schools for needy school children. The NAB Bharuch District Branch helped the BPA - Bareja Eye Hospital Unit in identifying beneficiaries and managing the logistical details. BPA thanks Mr. Patil, CEO, Dahej-Sez and Mr. Hitesh Jadav, Asst. Manager, Sez and Marketing, for their support.



# RBI FINANCIAL LITERACY AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Reserve Bank of India, Ahmedabad Regional office arranged a Programme on Financial Literacy Awareness among the students and trainees of BPA on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019. On this occasion Mr. J. K. Dash (Regional Director, Gujarat) Mrs. Mruga Dash, Mr. D. B. Singh (Deputy General Manager), Mr. Sanjay Bhatt (DGM), Mr. S. K. Gore (AGM) and officials of RBI were present. The Bank arranged a quiz session with the students and handed over the prizes to the winners. They donated Sports kit and arranged snacks for all participants.

## CANDLE LIGHT MARCH



The students and trainees of BPA paid tribute to our valiant soldiers and martyrs on 18 February, 2019 by holding candle light vigil and march.

## ACCESSIBLE ELECTION AWARENESS

Department of Social Defense organized a Voter awareness programme among persons with disabilities 6 February, 2019 at Prayer Hall of BPA. Election Commissioner in collaboration with the Department of Social Defence arranged an "Awareness Rally for Voters with Disability" from Apang Manav Mandal to BPA on 19 March '19. Social Defence Ahmedabad officials along with nearly 300 persons with cross disabilities participated in this rally. More than 50 students with visually impairment from BPA participated in this rally.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Women staff of BPA celebrated womanhood on the occasion of the World Women's Day - 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Dr. Sheetal Punjabi, a renowned Gynecologist addressed women's health issues and helped all the women staff of Blind People's Association to understand the health risks and the measures for the same. All female staff of the BPA ATCB, SSB and HSB Schools, Distance Education, Physiotherapy and JMMT, ITI, EPS, Public Relations, Aids and Appliances, Accounts, all special need departments in the BPA campus, NAB Braille Press, Blind Women's Association remained present at Prayer Hall of BPA main campus. Centres outside BPA campus like Naaz and Bavla Sammit school, Jit Mehta, Early Intervention, Sumeru and Bareja deputed 2 senior staff members. All the women enjoyed the bonding and also the experience of sharing what it is to be a woman.

## NEWS READING ON LOUIS BRAILLE DAY

Two persons with visually impairment Ms. Sonal Madhani and Mr. Krishna Thaker read news through the use of Braille in the regular news bulletin of Ahmedabad Doordarshan and Ahmedabad All India Radio on 4<sup>th</sup> January-birth anniversary of Louis Braille, inventor of Braille system. BPA thanks Doordarshan and AIR for this "Equality of Opportunities".



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Blind People's Association (India)
- National Association for the Blind (GSB)
- National Adult Training Centre for the Blind

23 March, 2019

- Saddbhawana Rural Development Trust
- Dr. Jit Mehta Balshala Trust
- International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)



# CONGRATS CORNER

## Approval for Cornea Transplantation

BPA-Bareja N & H Eye Hospital has been certified and registered under Human Organ Transplantation Act (HOTA) as Cornea Transplantation Centre by Government of Gujarat This is a big feather in BPA's cap.



Dr. Bhusan Punani, Executive Secretary of BPA has been conferred Leadership Award for Exemplary Social Service by Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak on 2nd February, 2019.



Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director of BPA has been felicitated by Punjab National Bank as eminent Social Worker of Gujarat on 26 January, 2019.



Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded (SWMR) organized a cultural program on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. 26 children from Mental Hygiene Clinic (MHC) and Visually Impaired

with Additional Disabilities (VIAD) units of BPA participated in the programme and they won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. The prize was handed over to the Coordinators and Special Educators of the Units.

Jigna Joshi, Coordinator of VIMD Unit of Blind People's Association completed 6-months Educational Leadership Programme at Perkins International, USA in February, 2019. She was the only person from Asia to participate in the program.



## APPOINTMENT



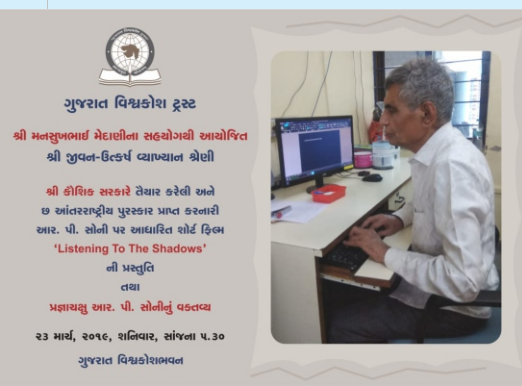
Dr. Bhusan Punani has been appointed as Member of Finance Committee of Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG) and he attended First Finance Committee Meeting in Gandhinagar

Mr. Tarak Luhar, Development Officer of Blind People's Association has been appointed as a Member of Internal Committee for the differently abled students of Gujarat University by the order of the Hon. Vice-Chancellor of the University. This Committee is constituted for taking care of the day to day needs of the differently abled students of the Gujarat University and implementing the schemes devised for them.



## LECTURE AT GUJARAT VISHWAKOSH TRUST

A 26 minute documentary "listening to shadows" was screened at Gujarat Vishwakosh Trust on 23 March, 2019. This documentary deals with the life and views of Ranchhod soni. The film was a part of the pre-diploma project of Kaushik Sarkar Pursing the course of film making at NID Ahmedabad IN 1998. The film deals with abstract concepts such as how do blind people pursue duty. Do blind people have dreams? Do blind people have fear? Etc This film has received 6 International awards. Mr. Soni shared his memory associated with this documentary and discussed the abstract concepts at length. In a programme at Gujarat Vishwakosh Trust.



## PARA TABLE TENNIS

Ms. Bhavina Patel and Ms. Sonal Patel participated in Para Table Tennis in Costa Brava Spanish Open from 19-23 March, 2019 held at Platja D'Aro, Spain. Bhavina won Silver medal and Sonal got Bronze medal. BPA congratulates this duo for this achievement.





# VISITORS



Elaine Steyn, Program Director, Oklahoma University; Armand Mccoy, President, Trifecta communication Michael E. Mitscher, President, Mitscher and Associates Michael J. Knopp, Director, Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation Cassandra Rigsby, Norman Director for creation of economic health visited BPA-



Bareja hospital on 22 January, 2019. This visit is a result of Dharmendra Jena's visit to USA on behalf of Entrepreneurship Institute of India in 2017.



Mr. Ramakrishna Raju and Mrs. Revathy, the founders of Vision-Aid, USA visited BPA on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 and discussed collaboration possibilities. The

issues discussed were collaboration on teaching English to persons with visual impairment through Vision-aid, training in self-defense and training of trainers, gifting of low vision devices to BPA, training of BPA Optometrists in low vision assessment and capacity building of other staff.



Mrs. Maya Nakajima from Grassroots Project, Japanese Consulate, Mumbai visited Bareja hospital complex on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Mrs. Nandini Rawal Executive Director, BPA; Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Project Director, BPA; Mr. Dharmendrakumar Jena, Manager of BPA-Bareja hospital and doctors and staff of hospital welcomed Ms. Nakajima. The latter had come to conduct an assessment study for a machine worth 50 lakh Rs. applied by BPA Bareja Hospital to the Japanese Consulate as a result of visit of Mrs. Abe, first Lady of Japan to BPA.

Interns of Narsee Monjee institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) Bhumin Shah, Darsh Kaushik Mehta, Jahanvi Mukesh Gangadia, Naman Hukmichand Bagrecha, Shikhar Agrawal, SVKM's, Mumbai interned at BPA and conducted an effectiveness study of self-employment ventures and also the post- use study of the motivation wheelchair from 28 January to 20 February, 2019.



Mrs. Mehru Cama & her friend visited BPA and donated funds for developmental work. They also visited Vision in the Dark.



40 staff from Tata Communication



Students of School of Design GLS, Ahmedabad



Staff from Income Tax Office



Visitors from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad



## TRAININGS/MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED/ ATTENDED BY BPA STAFF

### DR. BHUSHAN PUNANI, *Executive Secretary*

- 2 February, 2019 : Attended one-day pre-workshop meeting to develop a roadmap to promote and implement various Sections of RPwD Act, 2016-reg. at RCI New Delhi.
- 4-5 February, 2019 : Attended Workshop on Co-designing Community Based Rehabilitation course by Department of Empowerment of Persons with disability, GOI in collaboration with NOSSAL Institute of Global Health, Australia in New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, DEPwD, MSJ&E, Govt. of India.
- 9 February, 2019 : Participated in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Andh Apang Talim Kendra, Jamnagar
- 12 February, 2019 : Attended Meeting at Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - New Delhi
- 23 March, 2019 : As Chief Guest of "SAVERA" Book Release Programme organized by Vidhya Bharati Foundation at Shivananda Ashram, Satellite, Ahmedabad.
- 21 & 22 February, 2019: Attended meeting of the Supreme Court appointed Committee on "Shelter for the Homeless" as NGO Representative at Surat Municipal Corporation and at Vadodara Municipal Corporation.

### MRS. NANDINI RAWAL, *Executive Director*

- 27 February, 2019 : Attended 39<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Sense International India at Sense Office, Ahmedabad
- 11 March, 2019 : Presentation on "Impact Documentation & Reporting" at Sense International India Meeting at Hotel President, Ahmedabad

### MRS. VIMAL THAWANI, *Project Director*

- 27-28 February, 2019 : Conducted Parents Meeting at Porbandar for parents having deafblind children.
- 2 Feb'19 : With Rumani Trivedi conducted Session on sex education for adolescents with mental retardation and multiple disabilities at NASEOH, Ahmedabad

### MR. DHARMENDRAKUMAR JENA, *Manager BPA-Bareja Hospital*

- Attended meeting on mainstream eye care activities in Gujarat by adding it to general health activities of the state as suggested by commissioner of health at Joint Director (Ophth) office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block 5, Commissionerate of Health, Gandhinagar for preparing Ophthalmic questionnaire for Mobile based TeCHO+ application.

### MS. KINNARI DESAI, *Advocacy Manager*

- 2 February 19 : Conducted a lecture curriculum review workshop for discussing curriculum design of its BBA-MBA Five-Year Integrated Programme (BBA Phase) at Nirma Institute of Management
- 16 March, 2019 : met Mr. Rajiv Yadav, HR Head of ZyduScadila Healthcare Pvt Ltd; Moraiya to discuss the appointment of people with hearing impairment as Lab Assistant in R & D department of the plant.

### MR. BIPIN MEHTA, *Coordinator, Distance Education*

- 2-11 February, 2019 : Coordinated Examination of 54 Special B.Ed teachers from Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal Sansthanat Distance Education Department

### MR. BHARAT JOSHI, *Manager*

- 29 January, 2019 : Attended Gujarat State Child Protection Society (GSCPS) Government of Gujarat organized an Orientation programme of CSR Organisations on Child Rights and Child Protection Under the aegis of: Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of Gujarat, in partnership with: UNICEF, Gujarat State Office on at Hotel Fern, Ahmedabad.
- 7 March, 2019 : Speak on RoPwD in front of District Judges at Judicial Academy.

## BPA-BAREJA FELLOWS



Dr. Ruchita, Dr. Dhara, Dr. Nikita, Dr. Stuti, Dr. Dipti, Dr. Dhiraj, Dr. Tushar, Dr. Kanisha, Dr. Saumil completed their PHACO Fellowship at BPA - Bareja Hospital between January to March, 2019. Congrats to these young Doctors for the future.

## Stop Press - Australia

DR. BHUSHAN PUNANI, *Executive Secretary* of Blind People's Association has been invited by the Nossal Institute Limited at the University of Melbourne to participate in a research workshop led by Nossal Institute for Global Health from 13 to 19 April, 2019. This visit involves co-design Course on Community based rehabilitation and



also developing other projects on disability with the University of Melbourne. This programme will also involve a series of meetings to strengthen the collaboration in disability. The University of Melbourne will take the financial responsibility for the entire visit including international travel, all hotel, meal, and local transportation cost.



# REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO THE BELOW PROJECTS

Projects	Summary	Donation Options
Sponsorship of Cataract Surgeries	BPA runs Eye Hospital at Bareja, which is 22 km away from Ahmedabad. The Eye Hospital has taken up two initiatives one is cataract free Sabarkantha District and Cataract free Ahmedabad City. The Eye Hospital is highly modernized and specialized to provide best quality eye treatment to the patient at <b>affordable or free of cost</b> . We conduct 12000 free cataract surgeries for poor persons every year. The hospital has also received Award for Best Eye Hospital from Government of Gujarat.	We request donors to provide support of Rs 5 Lakhs for 200 free cataract surgeries at the rate of Rs. 2500/- per surgery. We will provide you photograph and list of all operated persons from your donation. We also request individual donors to support Cataract Surgeries.
Support for Education at Naaz School	The inclusive school is set up in MSM -NAAZ Campus which is 20 km away from Ahmedabad and provides education upto 8 standard to children with and without disabilities. The Naaz Sammalit Pathshala also provides residential facilities to the 36 children with multiple disabilities. It provides medical, educational, psychological, loading and boarding to <b>these children with multiple disabilities for 24 X7 bases, and free of cost</b> . These children with severe and multiple disabilities are orphan, extremely poor and have no access to services. Most organizations working for children with disabilities do not admit children with multiple disabilities. These children will be provided therapeutic as well as life skills training. Most important they will be safe, well fed and looked after.	We request donors to provide support of Rs. 8,64,000/- per year for accommodation, clothes, medicines, education, therapeutic services of 36 children with multiple disabilities. The monthly cost of each child is around Rs. 2000/- that includes all mentioned above expenses. Most of these disabled children are orphans or from single parent households. These children have multiple disabilities and need constant care and supervision.

These projects need funding... Please support us.

For further information and details, please contact:

FUND RAISING UNIT



**BPA**

**BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)**

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# PHOTO GALLERY



Students and staff of BPA visited Vaishno Devi



Students and staff of NATCB Workshop to Nilkanth Dham - Poicha & Statue of Unity on 23-24 March, 2019

Students and staff of ATCB - Secondary and Higher Secondary School to Mahudi and Indroda Park, Gandhinagar on 25-27 February, 2019



BPA Newsletter is the Quarterly Newsletter of Blind People's Association (India) (Formerly *Blind Men's Association*). If you would like to contribute some articles or be included in the mailing list, please contact Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director

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**BOOK POST**

**To,**