



Devoted to  
Comprehensive Development  
Of Persons with Disabilities

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# B.P.A. newsletter

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RESEARCH & NEWSLETTER  
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

## LAKSHMIPAT SINGHANIA IIM LUCKNOW NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary of BPA India has been selected by an eminent panel comprising of highly respected who's who of the corporate, academic, finance and social sectors of our country. He has been selected as the Leader in the category of "Community Service & Social Upliftment". This coveted award is given annually in the category of Business, Science & Technology and Community Service and previous recipients include luminaries like Mr. Ratan Tata, Dr. Narayan Murthy of Infosys, Sunil Bharati Mittal, Anand Mahindra to name a few.

Dr. Punani has been chosen this year from 388 nominations for final selection of 6 winners by the Jury. The dates for the conferment of the Award to Dr Punani, in a glittering function in New Delhi, will be intimated soon by the organizing committee.

All members of BPA family are truly proud of this great achievement!

## VANDE MATHRAM



**હાર્દિક અભિનંદન**

**BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA) & RAAH FOUNDATION**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Respected **SHRI NARENDRA MODI**

Our blind student present "Vande Matram" song penned by Hon'ble Prime Minister

Composed by : Mrs. Bindu Trivedi  
Produced by : Shri Shaileshbhai, Arpan Films  
Launching Function : 4 p.m. on 28 May, 2019  
At Blind People's Association (India)

Heartiest Congratulation

'Vande Mataram' Penned by Hon. PM Narendra Modi

Brilliantly Sung by Divyang Students

**'वंदे मातरम्'** माननीय प्रधान मंत्रीश्री नी रचना

Mayor of Ahmedabad Ms. Bijal Patel launched the song "Vande Mataram" on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at Mayor's Office. This patriotic song written by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, composed by Dr. Binduben Trivedi, Former Director of Mumbai Door Darshan was presented by Shri Jasubhai Kavi of Raah Foundation and was performed by our students with disabilities.

## MoU WITH K. K. SHAH AAROGYA MANDAL TRUST, VATRAK



The Trustees of Shri K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Aarogya Mandal, Vatrak have pledged to give land belonging to the Trust to BPA India for construction of an Eye Hospital. A Planning meeting was held at K.K.



Shah Aarogya Mandal Trust, Sabarkantha for construction of this eye hospital at Vatrak on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mr. Dharmendra Jena, Mr. Vijay Shah, Sabarkantha, the Trustees of Vatrak hospital Mr. Girish Darji, Mr. Chandubhai Majetia, Mr. Kamlesh Patel, Mr. Kodarbhai Patel and Mr. Babubhai Patel with other local community members were present. The first large donation for this Hospital has been raised from Shri Dineshbhai Shah. Thanks to the efforts of Vijaybhai Shah. A break through donation of more than 2 Crore is likely to come through from Rajeshbhai Shah of the USA for the naming of this hospital. Mr. Ramesh Shah deserves the credit for motivating Rajeshbhai.

## UNVEILING OF PLAQUE



Dr. Jit Mehta Balshala Trust (JMBT) is a Public Charitable Trust (administered by Blind People's Association India) working for the training and rehabilitation of Persons with Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for the past 25 years. Gujarat Tea Processors Private Limited (GTPPL) supported the Jit Mehta activities by contributing Rs. 5 lac under its CSR initiative. On 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 Shri Piyushbhai Desai, Chairman of Wagh Bakri and President of BPA unveiled the Name-Plate depicting the Wagh Bakri's financial support to the Trust. Shri Parasbhai Desai and other staff members of GTPPL, Ms. Mira Shah (Vice President), Ms. Vimalben, Ms. Deepali (Secretary), Ms. Sangita (Co-ordinator) and other volunteers/staff members of Dr. Jeet Mehta Balshala Trust, Dr. Bhushan Punani, Ms. Nandini Rawal, Mr. JT Panchal and others staff members of BPA India, and Mr. Rakesh from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation were present on this occasion. Mr. Mrunal Patel, a Specially Abled person (associated with the JMBT since past 10 years) shared his achievements in India as well as that of Ms. Ripal Patel (Divyang) in Australia.

# THE SWABHIMAN GROUP SUPPORT FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The Swabhiman group has been empowering people with disabilities for the past 15 years. The group raised an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs and distributed Calipers, Ice boxes, Telephone booths, Beauty parlour kits, Physiotherapy kit, Weight Machine, Hand Cart, Hearing aid, Mobile Repairing kit, Motor Rewinding kit, Carpentry kit, Scholarship, Music Equipment, Cutlery kit as self-employment support to around 135 blind and disabled people.

The distribution function was held at BPA India Ahmedabad campus on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The Founder of Swabhiman Group Mr. Kintubhai Shah and his family were present along with regular and dedicated donors such as Mr. Sunil Parikh and Mr. Rajendra Nagar.



## PARAMHANSA YOGANANDA CHARITABLE TRUST & WAGH BAKRI TEA COMPANY



Wagh Bakri Tea Group under its CSR Programme for the year 2018-19, donated Rs. 5 Lacs to Paramhansa Yogananda Charitable Trust (PYCT) Ahmedabad for distribution of 72 customized imported Wheelchairs to Differently Abled persons through Blind people's Association (BPA) Ahmedabad. Under this Programme the 3<sup>rd</sup> lot of 10 such wheelchairs was distributed on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at BPA India Ahmedabad campus.

Mrs. & Mr. Khazanchi gave a donation on behalf of PYCT to BPA Bareja hospital for preventing blindness by conducting Corneal grafting surgeries (Keratoplasty)



Devotees of Paramhansa Yogananda (PYCT) also donated Rs. 1,00,000/- for relief of People With Disabilities affected by Fani Cyclone in Odisha.

## ASHWINI – ROHINI GARDENS ANNUAL EVENT

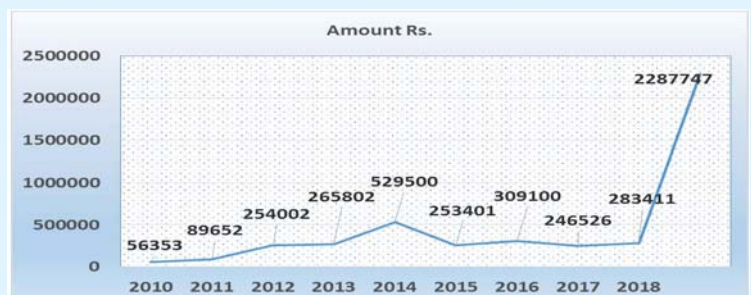


Ashwini - Rohini Gardens Annual Event was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. This group of dedicated senior citizens has been supporting BPA India for the

past decade. They raise funds, gifts and donations in kind for BPA India and this contribution has been increasing from year to year. A Mime was performed by students with Deafblindness and an exhibition and sale of



all products was organized at the gardens as part of this Annual event. Members of this garden visited BPA India's Vision-in-the-Dark project on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. Mr. Paritosh Dave, Hostel Supervisor of BPA India guided their visit. The graph depicting their support is given below. Kudos to Parikh Sir and his team for their generosity and drive! They are truly young at heart!



## LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Blind People's Association India organized a fifteen-day Leadership Workshop for women with Visual Impairment from 6 -18 May 2019 with the aim to make them confident, self-dependent and enhance their soft skills and facilitate their employment opportunities. It was a

customized workshop that included variety of subjects such as Yoga, Dance, Computer training and English communications along with body language. The program was designed to be flexible to cater to needs of every girl, as this is a personalized

workshop. Ms. Kinnari Desai, Advocacy Manager of BPA India coordinated this training at BPA India Ahmedabad campus.



## MEETING OF PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEED CENTRES

92 parents whose children are receiving training and education at BPA India's Special Need Centres attended the Annual Parents Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. The meeting was organized to share progress

and achievements of their children. They were informed about new set of activities and their role and responsibilities. All the parents were happy with progress of their children and were satisfied with services provided by these centers.

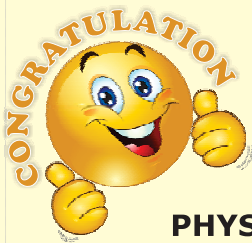


## "ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME" FOR VOLUNTEERS

Blind People's Association India have always motivated and encouraged people from mainstream community to not only visit BPA India Ahmedabad campus, but also contribute through their time and resources. BPA India is lucky that we have many dedicated volunteers who apart from money give their valuable time and who meaningfully contribute to achieve our goals. Presently 35 such sincere Volunteers come almost every day and give their 2 to 4 hours a day. Most of them are involved in day to day services provided by the organization, i.e. supporting teachers in the classroom, taking visitors around the campus, reading to blind, supporting in fund raising, employment and accounts departments.

BPA India gave them information, knowledge and skills to enable them to understand Disability. A one-day training program was organized on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at A.N. Lalbhai Conference Centre. 35 Volunteers were invited to participate. The program started with welcoming of participants. Dr. Bhushan Punani gave the historical background of BPA India and shared milestone developments of BPA India and the role of Volunteers. It was very informative and encouraging presentation. Ms. Nandini Rawal discussed their attitudinal barriers and myths about Disabilities and ways to cope with it. Ms. Kinnari Desai and Mr. Bharat Joshi discussed about Advocacy experts and Resource mobilization respectively. All participants were given simulation exercise to feel and understand different Disabilities. This was very well received by the participants and lots of discussion took place. This helped them to understand different Disabilities in better way. At the end of program all participants were presented participation certificate. The program was very well received by the participants. Most of them opined that it enhanced their understanding about various Disabilities and activities at BPA India. They also mentioned that such training is required from time to time to upgrade their understanding. All Volunteers went back with lots of motivation and commitment to contribute further. We are thankful to them for their unconditional support.





# BPA INDIA STARS

## BPA INDIA SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY ACHIEVED 100% RESULT IN FINAL EXAMINATION

This year BPA India School of Physiotherapy achieved 100% result in 3<sup>rd</sup> year Diploma Certificate Course in Physiotherapy of Ahmedabad University.



Mr. Nikul M. Vaghela scored distinction with 76.6% Marks in this job oriented course. This school provides real time practice to all the students by providing OPD, which is free of cost for all citizens; with 50 to 60 patients visiting this Centre for treatment. This result has proven that the desire to excel can be overcome by the disabled; they can equally compete with the non-disabled.

## 100% RESULT IN OUR SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Students of BPA India again gave a moment of pride to trustees and management. Gujarat State Higher Secondary Board has declared 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Examination result. 100% was scored by BPA India students in this exam conducted by Gujarat Education Board.

Mr. Waghela Pravin Bachubhai stood first rank in the school with 376 (75.20%) marks out of 500. Mr. Pravin belongs to a family of limited means from Jamnagar. This effort by teachers and volunteers who supported the preparations and made these special kids feel special and happy is highly appreciative.



## SPORTS HEROS



Mr. Chirantan Mesariya, Special Educator of BPA-Sumeru Centre participated in Gujarat State Open Chess Championship for Visually Challenged. He scored 7 points out of 7 and got 2<sup>nd</sup> number in the Championship. This programme was organized by Samaj Suraksha Sankul (Deepak Foundation) office at Vadodara on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

Eight Visually Impaired Sports Men of BPA India participated in Para Sports Coaching Camp at Border Security Force (BSF) Head quarters at Gandhinagar. The Camp was sponsored by Aaditya Foundation.



Ms. Bhavina Patel and Ms. Sonal Patel Paraplegic Table Tennis Players of BPA India participated in ITTF Para Egypt Open 2019 in Alexandria, Egypt from 24<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. Bhavina won Silver Medal in Singles and Bronze Medal in Doubles category respectively and Sonal won Bronze in Doubles category.

## BELIEVING WITHOUT SEEING

Vishnu and Kamlesh recently participated in a Football Tournament and won a Trophy! Viva Football. These BPA India students are the first footballers in Gujarat who are blind and yet enjoying the game immensely.



## PERFORMANCE BY VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

Swami Vivekananda Rehabilitation Organization which is working on special need children in Rajasthan, organized an inclusive talent show programme for Specially Abled and non-disabled on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019 in Sikar, Rajasthan. The programme was to support them and enhance their talent to enable them in society independently. Upon their invitation, Visually Impaired students of BPA India performed a Dance, which was awarded the first prize.



- A cultural event to showcase the abilities of Persons with Disabilities before the Hon'ble President of India was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The BPA India team was invited for presenting a Garba. They were invited to Delhi for the rehearsal and the final programme. Airfare was given and stay arrangements were made for the team.
- Happy Bubbles, Mumbai an NGO organized Shrimad Bhagwad Saptah Gyaanganga in Rapar, Kutch on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The Visually Impaired students of BPA were invited presenting a dance performance. Happy Bubbles sponsored their travel, food and accommodation.

## "SANMAN" BY GOLDEN JUBILEE MARRIAGE COUPLE



Mr. Pramod Shah and Mrs. Shilpa Shah celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of their marriage by awarding 50 parents from different institutes who have struggled in their lives for giving better life to their special children. The following five parents were selected from BPA India for this award :



Mrs. Javnikaben Kadiya  
(Mental Hygiene Clinic)



Mrs. Bhagwati Baa  
(Deafblind Unit)



Mrs. Shirinben  
(VIAD unit)



Mrs. Chaitali  
(Vocational Unit)



Mrs. Ramaben  
(VIAD Unit)

## VISITS

### VISIT OF TANYA AND SAM BALSARA



MADISON Resource Foundation has funded 4 Tanya Computers to the BPA India at Ahmedabad, Deesa, Kapadwanj and Sayla campuses. 48 persons with Visual Impairment will be trained in computer for 3 months. Mr. Sam Balsara, the owner of MADISON WORLD and his daughter Tanya visited BPA Tanya Computer Centre located at Sayla and Ahmedabad campuses on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, and interacted with Trustees, trainees and staff of BPA India. His visit has motivated the students and teachers a lot.

Tanya Computer Workshop held at BPA India on 27-29 May, 2019. 48 students and 4 teachers had participation of this Workshop.

### VISITOR FROM PRIA



15 May, 2019: Ms Aarti Upadhyay, Assistant Programme Manager & team from Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi visited Banaskantha for understanding of Sammilit Vikas Jankari (SVJ) project, who interacted with the SVJ staffs, Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) members, government stakeholders. Mr. Vanraj Chavda, Project Coordinator of SVJ project attended/assisted then all.

### SEWA RURAL TEAM VISIT



The senior core team of Trustees and Executives of Sewa Rural Jagadia consisting of Bankim Sheth, Managing Trustee, Mr. Pramod Nagraj, Technical Director, Mr. R.K. Patel, Incharge-VGTK and Mr. Vikram visited the BPA for the whole day on 30<sup>th</sup> May for learning about new initiatives in rehabilitation and employment for people with disabilities. Sewa Rural is 40-year old organization working in tribal areas of South Gujarat. They have a 200 bedded hospitals, community eye care and rehabilitation and vocational training unit for tribals.



### PARENTS MEETING AT JIT MEHTA

Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Project Director of BPA India attended the meeting of Parents of children at Dr. Jit Mehta Balshala Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. She addressed different issues facing children, its solutions and gave excellent suggestions to parents.



# VISITS BY BPA PROFESSIONALS

## VISIONING WORKSHOP AT FERRANDO, MEGHALAYA



CBM India invited Nandini Rawal, Executive Director of BPA India and Advisor to CBM, to visit Ferrando Institutions for Persons with Hearing Impairment at Barapani, Meghalaya, which was to a Vision Building Workshop for this organization on 1&2 May, 2019. She had a meeting with the Trustees and staff of Ferrando, understood their working, and helped them to develop a strategic plan and priorities for the next decade. She guided them on SWOT analysis (understand their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) and helped them to develop a blue print for the future.

## MEETING OF BRAILLE PRESS OF GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS



The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi convened a meeting of Chiefs of Braille Press of Grantee organizations under Central Sector Scheme “Support for Establishment/Modernization/Capacity Augmentation of Braille Presses” on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 at National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability (NIEPVD), Dehradun. The topics discussed at this meeting were Procedures for reimbursement of recurring expenses permissible under the Scheme release of non- recurring GIA. Mr. Tarak Luhar from Blind People’s Association India attended this meeting.

## 2-DAYS TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS



Sightsavers in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha, Rajasthan organized a 2-day training on Leadership Skills for Assistant Project Coordinators & Programme Officers of Inclusive Education on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Zone by the Park Hotel, Jaipur. Mr. Bharat Joshi & Mr. Rajesh Mistry attended this training.

## PRE-FUNDING PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Mrs. Nandini Rawal conducted the Pre-funding Project Assessment at Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh at Pethapur, Gandhinagar on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. This Assessment was arranged by Caritas India CBR Forum.



## ANAND DHAM VISIT

Special educators of BPA India visited Ananddham (Residential center for adults with Intellectual Impairment) on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 and interacted with management, staff and persons with Intellectual Impairment. They visited the beautiful resort-like centre and were impressed with ultra modern facilities for residents.



## BPA VOLUNTEERS TO ASHIRVAD TRUST - SAYLA & KCRC-BHUJ



BPA India volunteers Shri Ashokbhai, Dilipbhai, Vinodbhai, Arindam Ray and Jyotish Choudhary visited Ashirvad Viklang Trust, Sayla on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 and BPA Kachh Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre at Bhuj, and met officials of Suzlon on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

## "INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WHEEL CHAIR SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME"



Mr. Archit H Shah, Physiotherapist of BPA Physiotherapy School for the Blind- underwent "Intermediate Level Wheel Chair Service Training Programme" from 3<sup>rd</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. He completed 56 hours theoretical and practical training in World Health Organization's

Wheelchair Service Training package at intermediate level wheelchair provision, organized by Motivation India, and supported by All India Pingalwara Charitable Society-Amritsar. The Training programme facilitates knowledge and skills on how to provide an appropriate wheelchair and cushion for people who need additional support to sit upright or close to upright.

## ICEVI-NIEPVD CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability, Dehradun (NIEPVD) is an apex organization of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India. It promotes activities related to Education, Braille Production, maintaining the National Braille, Audio and Large Print Books Library, distribution of educational aids & devices and Research and Teacher Education under ADIP scheme.



The International Council for the Education of Persons with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is an international organization devoted to promotion of education and related activities, for persons with Visual Impairment and those with Additional Disabilities. Its India office is at Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad campus. NIEPVD and ICEVI jointly organized a Champions Program for youth with Visual Impairment at Dehradun on 27&28 June, 2019 to promote leadership among

## MAA NU KANKU



Gujarat Vidyasabha Lalit Kendra, Raah Foundation and Blind People's Association India organized a programme called "Maa nu Kanku" on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at H.K. College Auditorium. This programme

featured famous Gujarat poems set to music by blind musicians and singers. The Former Principal of BPA India Shri Jasubhai Kavi who heads Raah Foundation and who is a poet, coordinated this important event which was attended by literary personality Shri Kumarpal Desai.

youth with Visual Impairment to enable them to attain leadership qualities and to emerge as successful citizens. This program was hosted by NIEPVD, which was sponsored by ICEVI, coordinated by Dr. Geetika Mathur on behalf of NIEPVD, and by Dr. S R Mittal on behalf of ICEVI. This 2 day Residential Program focused on leadership qualities, technology, role models, importance of Braille, understanding basic legislative provisions and career guidance. 27 participants from New Delhi, Rajasthan,

Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Utharakhand participated. Dr. Bhushan Punani made presentation on Law and its use in empowerment. Mrs. Nandini Rawal spoke on Leadership Qualities and Mr. Ranchhod Soni spoke on Technology for Empowerment.



## NEW CENTRE IN RAJASTHAN

In 2018, Shree Jayprakashji Taparia of Taparia Tools, Mumbai visited Blind People's Association Ahmedabad India and expressed his keen interest to start services for persons with Disabilities. He had a discussion with Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, BPA India and it was agreed by both the parties that BPA India shall provide technical support and guidance to start services for persons with Disabilities at Jashvantgadh. The management of the Centre would be the responsibility of the Taparia Trust/Foundation.

Following the discussion, Shree Jayprakashji sent Mr. Sandeep Nayak for orientation training at BPA India. He underwent a week long training which included theory as well as practicals. He went back and identified children with Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. He started Centre based services with

5 children in February 2019. Mrs. Vimal Thawani Project Director, who had returned from the UK, in January, 2019, was assigned the responsibility of being the link person to develop the Centre. Mr. Sandeep was invited for the follow up training from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 at BPA, Ahmedabad. He was informed of special needs of children, was taught to do functional assessment and develop Individual Education Program for children. Various formats i.e. Intake, Assessment, IEP and home visit formats were given to him. BPA India team consisting of Nandini Rawal, Vimal Thawani and Krupa Velani visited Jashvantgadh on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, saw the Day Care Centre, understood the geographical details, cultural and social aspects, observed the children and met parents. The Taparia family has decided to construct a new centre in the future which can house 200 persons with Multiple Disabilities.



# BPA BAREJA HOSPITAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- National Program for Control of Blindness has prepared an infection outbreak policy of which the BPA Bareja hospital been selected in the core team to make the policy, for the state of Gujarat. The meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> April in the office of the Commissioner of Health, where Mr. Dharmendra Jena represented the BPA India.

- Dr. Sumit Chatterjee, BPA Bareja Cornea Specialist has been selected by Sight Life of India in collaboration with Disha Eye Hospital, Kolkata for advanced DSEK course with live surgery to patients from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019. After this training, Sight Life will help BPA-Bareja eye hospital to improve quality and advance cornea work.



- 11 May, 2019: Johnson & Johnson surgical vision conducted Phacoshaala Training program at BPA-Bareja for upcoming surgeons, to enhance their skills in Phaco and its complications management.



- NPCB & VI : Trachoma Elimination programme Workshop was organized on 9-10 May, 2019 at Bareja. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director of BPA India inaugurated this session of the Workshop. Dr. Promila Gupta, Consultant and Dr. Praveen Vasisht, AIIMS, Delhi conducted the Training along with faculty from M.J. Institute of Ophthalmology, Ahmedabad.



- Dr. Nishant Shah, Dr. Nirav Zala, Dr. Vishal Thakkar, Dr. Shreya Shah, Dr. Niyati Paunikar, Dr. Mrugesh Vaghela, Dr. Ekta at Bareja



- Dr. Mohamed Abousaleh, Ophthalmologist from Security Forces Hospital, Dammam, Saudi Arabia completed his Phaco fellowship successfully at Blind People's Association Bareja hospital.



## VISION-2020 THE RIGHT TO SIGHT INDIA



VISION 2020 INDIA in collaboration with Quality Resource Centre (QRC) established by Orbis India at Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital conducted a day long workshop on "Inducing Quality in Eye Care" at Arunodaya Deseret Eye Hospital, Gurugram, New Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Mr. Dharmendrakumar Jena Manager of BPA-Bareja Eye Hospital attended this workshop.

Mr. Dharmendrakumar Jena attended 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of Vision 2020 on 8 June 2019 at Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai.

- Mr. Dharmendrakumar Jena, Manager and Mr. Saumen Maity, Optometrist of BPA-Bareja Hospital presented CBR and Eye Care in Gujarat concept at the 2nd Annual meeting of ACOIN Gujarat chapter, at Drishti Netralaya, Dahod, Gujarat on 23 June 2019.



- Arti Bhandari, Project Officer, Sight Savers, Mumbai visited Truckers Project of Bareja on 28 & 29 June, 2019



## NEW LAMINAR MODULAR OPERATION THEATRE

A New Laminar modular operation theatre with air handling unit and Hafafilter built with the financial support of Ms. Belaben Patel and Mr. Yogeshbhai Patel, USA.



## PROFESSIONALS ABROAD

### DR. BHUSHAN PUNANI TO AUSTRALIA



Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary of Blind People's Association was 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 also included the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; Regional Director, CBM Dr. Sara Varughese and Mr. Carmo Noronha, Bethany Society. The objective of the visit was to co-design a Course on

Community based rehabilitation and develop other projects on Disability with the University of Melbourne. It also involved a series of meetings to strengthen collaboration in the areas of Disability. The University of Melbourne took the financial responsibility for the entire visit including international travel, hotel, meals and local transportation.

### EVALUATION OF CBR PROJECT IN TAJIKISTAN

Bhushan Punani was invited by Caritas Germany to evaluate a CBR project in Tajikistan from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 to assess their initiatives taken in establishing inclusive CBR and also evaluate their steps taken in developing Inclusive Disaster Preparedness Strategy. He visited the project Head Quarters, met with the team and different stakeholders in the community, and in the government.

### RAIN OF INTERNS AT BPA

Many NGOs don't welcome interns from different colleges; BPA India welcomes interns with open arms. This year from April to July, there were around 70 interns from the faculties of law, engineering, management and other under graduate courses. These trainees did a variety of assignments for BPA India like helping in Leadership Training, conducting post-use effectiveness of assistive devices and economic assistance, development of teaching learning materials, beautification of the campus, designing of website, digitization of data, video filming, helping in distribution of aid and fund raising. Interns were guided by Kinnari Desai, Bharat Joshi, Jigna Joshi, Sangita Patel, Jagannath Mallik and Arindam Ray.

## VISITORS/INTERNS FROM ABROAD

### FROM PERKINS INTERNATIONAL, USA

Ms. Kristen Layton, Director, Perkins India, Perkins International and Ms. Paige Klotzman, Coordinator, Perkins India, Perkins International, USA along with Ms. Sampada Shevde, Director, Perkins India visited BPA India on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. They saw different types of services provided by BPA India, saw the early intervention program and the training of ASHA/Aanganwadi teachers in relation to early identification and intervention. They also visited CBR programmes in Surendranagar and Sayla. They took time out to see the Inclusive schools at Naaz and the services for persons with Multiple Disabilities. Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mrs. Krupa Velani and Mrs. Jigna Joshi accompanied them on the visit. Perkins is a very old and valued donor of BPA India and has helped the development of services for MDVI persons since 1992.



### SOCIAL WORK MAJOR FROM USA

Colton Pettyjohn, who is a Junior Social Work Major from the USA is doing his internship from May 27, 2019 to August 2, 2019 at BPA India. The purpose of the fieldwork experience is to provide "hands on" practical experience in a social service, or health care agency, or organization. Field experience is an integral part of social work education, and is intended to complement the theoretical framework by allowing the opportunity to apply theory to actual social work situations. It is a regular part of the curriculum, and is viewed as a special kind of learning experience. Field placement provides students an opportunity to acquire an understanding of how social problems impact individuals, families, small groups, organizations and communities. Colton is being rotated through several departments and is experiencing life in India. He has been exposed to rural projects to see how people with mental illnesses are being rehabilitated and also how other people with disabilities are pursuing income generating activities independently. Colton had visited BPA India Ahmedabad campus early in 2018 and he had decided since then that he would visit it again and study in-depth.



# WEST ASIA CONFERENCE ON VISUAL IMPAIRMENT & DEAFBLINDNESS

Theme "Inclusive Education: Leaving No One Behind"

Jointly organized by ICEVI West Asia & Sense International India

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

**ICEVI:** International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is a global association of individuals and organizations that promotes equal access to appropriate education for all children and youth with visual impairment so that they may achieve their full potential. The West Asia Region of the ICEVI is headed by Dr. Bhushan Punani with Head Quarters at Ahmedabad. Visit website [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org) for more details on ICEVI. Visit website [www.iceviwestasia.in](http://www.iceviwestasia.in) for more details on ICEVI West Asia

**Sense International India :** (also known as Sense India) is the first and only national level organisation supporting specialised services which enable children and adults with deafblindness to overcome the challenges caused by deafblindness. Visit website <http://www.senseintindia.org> for more details on this organization.

Hosted by : ICEVI Nepal and ADRAD-Nepal

**Action on Disability Rights and Development (ADRAD-Nepal)** is a human rights social organization of persons with disabilities established in Nepal. The purpose of this organization is to support implementation of UNCRPD, policy intervention, promotion of accessible Information Communication Technology, Disability Inclusive DRR and achieving Disability related indicators of SDG.

**ICEVI Nepal:** ICEVI Global has been promoting education of children with visual impairment since 1992 with Mr. Madhav Aryal as Country Representative on ICEVI West Asia. The ICEVI extended support to Nepal under Lee Foundation Grant and promoted development of Uniform Nepalese Braille and sensitization of teachers. It also motivated formation of Vision Alliance Nepal which is a joint initiative of ICEVI and World Blind Union. ICEVI West Asia has two representatives from Nepal including Mr. Madhav Aryal and Mr. Birendra Raj Pokhrel.

**Dates:** 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020  
**Secretariat:** Action on Disability Rights and Development (ADRAD)  
10/80 (Kha) Kopundole,  
Lalitpur, Nepal  
**E-mail:** [icevi.nepal@gmail.com](mailto:icevi.nepal@gmail.com)  
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**Google Map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/i7Mc34pDL9t>  
**Contact person:** Mr. Birendra Raj Pokharel &  
Mr. Madhav Aryal  
**Position:** Executive Secretary  
**E-mail:** [afnbirendra@wlink.com.np](mailto:afnbirendra@wlink.com.np)

### Theme of the Conference

"Inclusive Education: Leaving No One Behind"

### Registration

As conference venue has limited facilities, only 300 participants shall be registered for the conference.

For the registration form or the payment details, please visit- [www.iceviwestasia.in](http://www.iceviwestasia.in)

**Registration fee is only Indian Rupees Rs. 3000 (Nepalese Rupees 5000) per participants**

### The registration fee covers:

- Conference kit including conference material
- 3 lunches, 1 dinner and 1 High Tea
- Pick up from designated hotel to conference venue and return
- Braille material, audio material and e-material

Paper presentation : Only registered participants need to send their papers to the Chairperson, Program Committee at the email ID: [iceviwestasia@gmail.com](mailto:iceviwestasia@gmail.com) before 31st August, 2019.

Conference Email: [iceviwestasia@gmail.com](mailto:iceviwestasia@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.iceviwestasia.in](http://www.iceviwestasia.in)

Conference WhatsApp Group: ICEVI Sense Nepal 2020

Note: The Registration Form; bank details for payment; hotel booking form and other details have been uploaded on the website [www.iceviwestasia.in](http://www.iceviwestasia.in)

The Participants from India may pay the Registration Fee of Rs. 3000 per participant as cheque or bank draft in favour of International Council for the Education of People with Visual Impairment, payable at Axis Bank, Satellite Road Branch Ahmedabad. The payment can be transferred through Core Banking to Axis Bank as per following details:

**Bank:** Axis Bank, Satellite Road, Near Prerna Tirth Derasar, Ahmedabad 380015  
**Account No. :** 916010036533881  
**Swift Code:** UTIB0002647

# SPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN ON YOGA DAY



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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**E-Mail:** [blinabad1@bsnl.in](mailto:blinabad1@bsnl.in), [bpaceviad1@bsnl.in](mailto:bpaceviad1@bsnl.in)

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