



Devoted to
Comprehensive Development
Of Persons with Disabilities

For Private Circulation Only

Price Rs.5/-

B.P.A.

newsletter

YEAR XXVIII ▲ VOLUME : IV & I ▲ October, 2019 & January, 2020 (This Newsletter is available on website: www.bpaindia.org)

RESEARCH & NEWSLETTER
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

MANIBEN KASHIBHAI PATEL (CHALODA) CENTRE INAUGURATED



Mrs. Bijal Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad City inaugurated “Maniben Kashibhai Patel (Chaloda) Intervention and Skill Development Centre” at Blind People's Association on occasion of World Disabled Day on 3rd December, 2019 at Building No. 8. This centre has been sponsored by Shri Hiroobhai Kashibhai Patel of USA at a cost of Rs. 1.68 Crores in memory of his beloved mother Maniben. Hiroobhai is a native of Chaloda Village in Dholka Taluka. He completed his education in Civil Engineering from Sardar Patel University in the early 70's and went to the USA. Today he has a large construction business but he has not forgotten his debt to his motherland and his mother who encouraged him to get an education.

Hiroobhai had not even seen the BPA when he agrees to fund the project; it was done totally on the trust and reputation of the BPA. This Centre will house vocational training units for teaching skills and trades like tie and dye, block printing, diya making, kits & bags, and other trades for persons with Multiple Disabilities. It shall include Physiotherapy Unit to care for infants with Multiple Disabilities, as well as render adjustment training to the late age blinded and disabled persons. It shall also offer intervention and counseling services.

World Disabled Day is celebrated at an International level on 3rd December to highlight the needs and causes of Persons with Disabilities. Mrs. Bijal Patel, as a Mayor has always been a great friend of the Disabled, and she has always promoted this noble cause for Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Hiroobhai Patel's wife, family and friends were present on this occasion.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA CONFERS AWARD ON BHUSHAN PUNANI

Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary of BPA India was conferred LakshmiPatSinghania -IIM Lucknow National Leadership Award by the worthy hands of Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind in a glittering ceremony in New Delhi on 9th December, 2019. He has been awarded this honour as Leader in 'Community Service & Social Upliftment'. This coveted award is given annually in the category of Community Service, Business, Science & Technology. Its previous recipients include luminaries such as Mr. Ratan Tata, Dr. Narayan Murthy, Mr. Sunil Bharati Mittal and Mr. Anand Mahindra. Dr. Punani has been chosen this year from 388 nominees for final selection of 6 winners by the Jury. Dr. Bhushan Punani after completion of his Management Degree from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in 1979, chose the Blind People's Association, instead of a lucrative corporate career. He is one of the first Professional Managers to join a Disability Organization. He completes his 40 years at BPA this year. Under his leadership BPA has grown from a small organization to one of the largest and fastest growing organizations in Asia.



as Deafblind International, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment, Sense International, Sight Savers International, Christoffel Blindenmission. He is also Director on Boards of Companies including Wagh Bakri Tea Group and Shah Investors Home Limited.

The citation of the award reads, "This Award is presented in recognition of Outstanding Dedication and

Sincerity in the Promotion of Social Welfare in the field of Community Services and Social Upliftment.

At a special function held at BPA to felicitate him, Dr. Bhushan Punani credited this award as recognition of Transparency, Accountability and Outstanding Governance at BPA. He expressed his gratitude to the team spirit, dedication, devotion and hard work of all BPA stakeholder, Trustees, Staff, Volunteers, Well-wishers and Donors for making BPA India the leading Disability Development Organization in Asia.

On 16th December, 2019 Dr. Punani was also felicitated by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Rotary Club for this award.

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

Dr. Punani also got education in Law and did his Doctorate in Management of Educational Systems for the Blind. He is associated with several International Organizations such

COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE FOR ADULTS WITH DEAFBLINDNESS/MULTI-SENSORY IMPAIRMENT



Mr. Tony Huber, the Consul General of Australia joined by Mr. Rohit Manchanda, the Trade Investment Commissioner for India inaugurated a Computer Centre for persons with deafblindness on 23rd December, 2019 at BPA India Deafblind unit, which has been sponsored by Sense International.



PALANPUR PROGRESS

Shri Sandip J Sagale, I.A.S, Collector and District Magistrate of Banaskantha, inaugurated the “Dr. Shankarbhai K. Mewada Lions Divyang Education and Training Centre for children with Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities” on 7th December, 2019 at a building at Palanpur donated for use by Shri Mehulbhai K Mehta of Mumbai. The inauguration was followed by a function at Lions Hospital where Voice of SAP donated 51 customized wheelchairs and Tricycles to enhance mobility; 12 Digital Hearing Aids for students with hearing impairment; 22 Angel Devices for students with visual impairment and 15 Sewing Machines to for Economic Independence. Paramhans Yogananda Charitable Trust through CSR funds of Wagh Bakri Tea Company and Lions Club of Palanpur also donated 10 Motivation Wheelchairs to Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Maheshbhai Patel (MLA Palanpur) was also present on this occasion along with Mr. Mehul Mehta and Dignitaries of Lions Club of Palanpur and BPA officials. The Voice of SAP Founder Mr. Pranav Desai and his group of dedicated Volunteers met all the beneficiaries and conducted interviews. The Day Care Centre will be managed by Lions Club of Palanpur, with Technical Supervision by Blind People’s Association. The District Collector has promised to allot land for construction of a new centre for Persons with Disabilities at Palanpur.



INAUGURATION OF PRAYAS DAY CARE CENTRE AT JODHPUR



BPA has one more feather in its cap. It has started a Prayas Day Care Centre at Mandore, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, sponsored by Gruh Finance Limited under CSR. Mrs. Manisha Panwar (MLA Jodhpur) inaugurated the centre and Ms. Meena Bhatt and Ms. Shweta Inamdar of Gruh Finance were Guests of Honour. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mr. J.T. Panchal, Mr. Bharat Joshi, Mr. Arindam Ray, Mr. Jyotish Choudhary and

Mr. Harmish Modi of BPA attended this programme. Dr. O.P.N. Calla, President of BPA Jodhpur along with the centre staff were present on this occasion. This event was coordinated very efficiently by Mr. Dayal Singh. Co-incidentally BPA India have already a presence in and around villages of Mandore by community based rehabilitation and eye screening.



BPA & NAB DAY CARE CENTRE AT SANAND

The Sanand Sarvajanic Trust, founded by Late Shri Baldevbhai Dosabhai and now managed by his grandson, Shri P a r e s h b h a i Bachubhai invited BPA and NAB Sanand Branch to establish a Day Care Centre at Sanand which was inaugurated on 5th October, 2019.



SMART CLASS FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS"



On the occasion of its 114th founding day, Canara Bank donated Smart class for Inclusive Learning for Students with Special Needs. It was inaugurated by the worthy hands of Circle Head Mr. C. N. Rao, Canara Bank, Ahmedabad.

NEW HORIZONS WITH INCREASED CAPABILITIES



The BPA&H Porecha Eye Hospital is the only not for profit Non-Governmental Eye Specialty hospital in Ahmedabad District. It is well known and popular among district residents, for its following specialties - PHACO and SICS Surgery, Glaucoma Surgery, Retinal Surgery, Vitreous Surgery, Cornea Surgery, Low Vision Care and Clinic, Spectacles Unit and Laser Surgery.

Super Specialty Operation Theatre: The hospital is equipped with two Laminar Modular Surgery Rooms, dedicated to Super Specialty Surgeries, such as, problematic cataract surgeries where Retina is weak, where the Cataract and Retina both need to be operated by more than one eye specialist simultaneously. This has been possible from the generous donation by Mr. Yogeshbhai and Mrs. Bellaben Patel of USA.

This Unit was inaugurated On 21st August, 2019 by the worthy hands of Hon. Acharya Devvrat, Governorshri of Gujarat. Donors' family in India was present on this occasion alongwith Trustees, Executives & staff of BPA, residents of Bareja, and other Donors of BPA.

Advanced Microscope for Operating: Hon. Acharya Devvrat, Governorshri of Gujarat also launched the Advanced Microscope with the Achromatic Lens, a specialised Eye Surgery Technology, with Highlight Transmission, thus permitting high quality imaging at Lower Light Intensities, for Eye Surgeries. This increased capability also has enabled the Hospital to perform Light Eye Surgeries at any given point of time. It is funded by the Hon. Governor's Fund for Social Welfare.

CONTINUING REHABILITATION EDUCATION (CRE) AT BPA

- CRE Programme on Modern Braille Reading and Writing Methods at BPA on 24-26 September 2019, was conducted by Mr. Ranchhod Soni and team. A total of 30 participants attended this programme.



- CRE Training on augmentative and alternative communication for children with CP and Multiple Disabilities was conducted from 19 - 21 November 2019. Ms. Samapada Shevde, Director, Perkins India came all the way from Mumbai and taught communication methods for dealing with Children with Severe Disabilities.

- CRE Training on understanding sexuality in Developmental Disabilities was conducted from 10 - 12 December 2019.



MINDFUL WORKSHOP



Department for International Development (DFID) UK, in collaboration with Skills Council for Persons with Disability (ScPWD) organized a Mindful Employers Workshop on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 in Ahmedabad.

The objective of this workshop was to encourage employers to engage and hire People with Disabilities. The workshop was conducted by National Star Foundation, a UK Charitable Foundation which funds Specialist Residential Education to young People with Disabilities, Specialist Teacher Education, Disability Awareness and Health & Social Care Training Worldwide. The workshop had Employers from all sectors who promote Inclusion as part of their policy. The first half of the workshop focussed on Intellectual, Visual, Hearing and Autism Disabilities. The second half focussed on duties of employers and sharing of UK's best practices.

Ms. Anu Gupta, Head the Skills Department for International Development (DFID) laid the context by explaining the role of DFID in skilling of employers and the

collaboration of the UK Government with the Indian government in this regard.

Mr. Anup Srivastava, Skills Council for Person with Disability (SCPWD) spoke about the need for highlighting Talents of Persons with Disabilities and harnessing them.

Mr. Surpreet Singh Gulati, Director, DET, Government of Gujarat emphasized about the importance of Skills Training and, the role of Government in Including People with Disabilities in Industrial Training Institutes. He praised BPA, ITI and said that he looked forward for a greater role by BPA, in upgrading the Skilling Programmes.

Mr. Peter Cook, British Deputy High Commissioner (Gujarat), spoke about his personal experience with a Person with Disability in his family, and the commitment of his Government and the High Commissioner's Office to create Inclusive Environment for People with Disabilities.

Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director of BPA shared the experiences of BPA for job placements of Persons with Disabilities. She stressed how the world has changed from prejudice and stigma to Dignity and Empowerment. She also outlined how the Office of the High Commissioner in Mumbai had donated many useful technological equipments to the BPA in the 90's.

RASOTSAV–ALL INDIA FLAG DAY FOR THE BLIND 2019



National Association for the Blind and Blind People's Association jointly organized Musical & Dance Performances by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), at Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Auditorium Hall, Behind Rajpath Club, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad on 13th September, 2019 on occasion of All India Flag Day. Each year, **this event is sponsored by Shah Investors Home Ltd. (SIHL)**. Children with Disabilities performed Dances, Songs, Mimicry and much more. It was a successful thorough enjoyment for all.

A ceremony was organized for felicitation of the following persons:



- Smt. Muktaben Dagli, as first visually impaired women recipient of Padma Shree Award, and the Founder of Pragnachakshu Mahila Seva Kunj, Muli Road, Surendranagar District in Gujarat.
- Dr. Nitin Sumant Shah, Chairman & Managing Trustee of Heart Foundation & Research Institute, Ahmedabad and President of NAB Gujarat State Branch for sponsoring World Peace Car Rally.
- Mr. Samir Kakkad, First Specially Abled Person to drive from Ahmedabad to London.
- Certificates of graduation were distributed to Tanya Computer Trainees, a project Supported by Madison Resource Foundation.
- Mr. Mani Teja, and Mr. Mrudul Chilmulwar, PG students, (Product Design 2016) of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad launched Currency Identification Template for Blind People during Rasotsav function. Their faculty Mrs. Gayatri Menon was also present in this programme. This product was distributed free of charge to all blind persons.



REGULAR INTERNS FROM GERMANY

Every year VIA E.V.-Verein fur internationalen und Interkulturellen, based at Austausch, Germany sends two students as volunteers to BPA for internship.



From September, 2018 to August, 2019 Ms. Anja Neumann and Ms. Annabel Parker from Germany and completed their internship at BPA Special Needs Centre in August, 2019. By the end of the year, these two girls were indivisible part of the BPA family. The students and teachers of the Special Needs Centre gave them a farewell party on the last day of their internship.



Ms. Caja Neumann & Ms. Karoline Mehlig started their internship with BPA from 1 September 2019 and will work with students and teachers of Special Need Centre till 31 August 2020.

TACTILE TRAINING

Mr. Siddhant Shah who has started an initiative 'Access for all' has visited Blind People's Association and interacted with our blind students. He visited the BPA campus and shared his motivation in starting such an initiative. His mother started losing her sight and he decided to dedicate a meaningful artistic experience to her by initiating "Access for All". Siddhant's wife Nirali visited BPA on 28 August, 2019 with Tactile Models of the Wonders of Egypt like the Pyramid, Sphinx, Mummy, Pharaoh etc. Students enjoyed touching these models and Nirali who is a Special Educator explained the Egyptian civilization to the students.

SOOR SAMRAT SANGEET SPARDHA

Blind People's Association and Path Charitable Trust jointly organized a Soor Samarat Sangeet Spardha on 21 July, 2019 at BPA. Mrs. Bijal Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad was Chief Guest. Lion Umesh Chajjar, DC Lions Talent Competition was also present. Mrs. Diptiben Amarkhotia, Municipal Councilor, Bodakdev, Mr. Mahek Anil Kanjani, Anand Niketan School, Mr. Ruhan, RJ, Radio Mirchi and Mr. Parag Mehta, Voice of Kishorekumar, remained present.

HONOURING USA STUDENT

Mr Colton J Pettyjohn, student of MacMurray College - Social Work Program from USA completed 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 social service. BPA officials and staff recognized his efforts and asked him to share his experience and service to children with multiple disabilities.



MOTIVATION PEER TRAINING AT COIMBATORE

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Motivation Charitable Trust conducted a training program at Coimbatore, Tamilnadu from 21-27 July, 2019 and invited wheelchair users from various places for getting feedback and for improving wheelchair user comfort. From BPA, Mr. Zakir Sipai, Computer Programmer attended this training. This training helped in maintaining health, achieving independence through personal mobility (i.e. being able to move around the home and community by overcoming obstacles), building confidence and a sense of value amongst the community. Each participant shared their knowledge and experience of the use of wheelchairs.



DISTRIBUTION OF HELP TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER "SWABHIMAN GROUP"



A group of committed persons who call themselves "SWABHIMAN GROUP" organized a special event to lend support to needy persons with disabilities on 13 July, 2019 at BPA campus. They distributed items to poor beneficiaries like Assistive devices such as Digital Hearing Aids,

Sewing Machines, Plumbing Kit, Physiotherapy Kit, Massage Kit, Beauty Parlor Kit, Hand Carts, Idli making equipment, Provision Kit, Medicines, Educational scholarship, Food support, Transportation expenses. A total of 200 persons with disabilities were benefitted by this generosity. Swabhiman group has been arranging this programme twice a year for the past 15 years. The beneficiaries are from remote rural areas and this support will make a tremendous difference to their lives. In the evening, the same group arranged an inclusive DJ party for children with and without disabilities on lawns of the BPA. Around 400 children danced, sang and enjoyed themselves to the utmost. Mr Ramesh Patel, Employment Officer of BPA announced a donation of Rs. 5,00,000 as Corpus for the Swabhiman Fund-a great initiative indeed.

GIVING THEM VOICES & SWABHIMAN

Two leading voluntary groups, Swabhiman led by Mr. Kintubhai Shah and VoiceofSAP led by Mr. Pranav Desai (USA) joined hands to distribute assistive devices, rehabilitation devices and provided scholarship to 140 Divyangjan on 5th October, 2019 at BPA premises. Encouraged by this benevolent act, Dr Nitin Shah, Chairman, Heart Foundation promised to give a donation in the future.



DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES BY INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT



Income Tax Officers of Gujarat led by Principal Chief Commissioners of Income Tax, Shri Ajay Atri and Shri A. D.Mehrotra celebrated Gandhi Jayanti in a novel way by donating assistive devices to 32 Divyangjan on 2 October, 2019. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Shri Devashish Roy Choudhary; Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Ms. Chhavi Anupam; Principal Commissioner Shri PradeepMehrotra; Principal Commissioner Shri Suresh Kumar; Commissioner of Income Tax were present on this distribution function.

FCED COURSE MATERIAL IN GUJARATI LANGUAGE

Dr. Avani Trivedi Bhatt, Regional Director of the IGNOU, Regional Centre, Gujarat extended cordial welcome and courtesy extended to BPA staff - Mr. Tarak Luhar, Mr. Bharat Joshi and Mr. Bipin



Mehta who visited her office on 17th September, 2019. Her gesture in donating 800 sets of Foundation Course for Education of Children with Disabilities (FCECD) in Gujarati language to BPA free of cost is greatly appreciated. This material has been collected from IGNOU and BPA will give this material free of cost to our students. BPA takes this opportunity to thank Dr. Avani, the IGNOU Regional Centre and IGNOU Head Quarters for this donation.

DONATION OF REFRESHABLE BRAILLE DISPLAY DEVICE TO BPA

Mr. Bankim Pathak, a well known singer and supporter of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has donated a Refreshable Braille Display Device to the Blind People's Association. This device will be very valuable in the education and empowerment of persons with visual impairment. This first such device donated to BPA was handed over to Mr. Tarak Luhar by Mr. Pathak in a function to commemorate the death anniversary of India's versatile singer - Mohammed Rafi on 31 July, 2019.

BIG BAZAAR TO LAUNCH BOOKLETS TO EASE SHOPPING FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

On 27th August, 2019 BPA a partner organization with Big Bazaar to make their stores disabled friendly. Big Bazaar decided to launch Quiet Hours for people with autism and intellectual disabilities. To develop collective



understanding amongst staff, BPA conducted an orientation workshop on autism and intellectual disabilities. The staff was introduced to people with disabilities and allowed them to interact with them. This has not only made the workshop interesting but gave

hands on experience to deal with such children. The staff of Big Bazaar in Himalaya Mall showed great enthusiasm and decided to develop a play zone for such children. Finally, the "Quiet Hours" was launched on

17th September, 2019. Big Bazaar team also announced that every Tuesday between 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. the "Quiet Hours" will be observed during which Rs. 100 discount on every purchase of Rs. 1000/- will be given to each parent and BPA staff.

WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS/EVALUATIONS BY BPA STAFF

LECTURE ON ROPwD



Mr. Mihir Jani and Mrs. Krupa Velani staff of BPA conducted 2-day interactive lectures on orientation on

disabilities, rehabilitation strategies, use of various modes of communication with persons with disabilities and rights of persons with disabilities and Communication and Multiple Disability for MBBS Students of Gujarat Adani Institute of

Medical Sciences, Bhuj on 13-14 August, 2019.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



CBR Forum, Bangalore invited BPA staff Mr. Jyotish Choudhary and Mrs. Krupa Velani to give orientation training on disability to CBR staff members of Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh, Gandhinagar Pethapur on 12 August, 2019.



VISION ASSESSMENT TRAINING

BPA staff members - Mrs. Deepa Joshi and Mrs. Krupa Velani conducted Vision assessment of students with hearing impairment and conducted training of the teachers of School for the Deaf, Navrangpura in July, 2019.

Mrs. Krupa Velani and Mrs. Deepa Joshi did Assessment of students with deafblindness and teachers training at Rotary Club BadhirVidhyalay, Nadiad in July, 2019.



AWARD GALORE

BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION GETS AWARD FOR BEST INSTITUTION

Blind People's Association is one of the leading organizations in India working with all categories of disabled persons. BPA reaches out to 1 lakh disabled people annually and provides need based services of education, training and employment.

The selection committee of the National Association for the Blind, Delhi Branch has chosen Blind Peoples Association, Ahmedabad for the NAB Sarojini Trilok Nath National Award under the Best Institution category. The award event was held on 1 December 2019 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi

Mr. F. J. Porwal, Secretary and Mr. H. M. Panchal, Director (Training) of the BPA were present in Delhi to receive award on behalf of BPA by the Trustees of NAB Delhi Branch.

BPA has received many prestigious awards in the past including the National Award from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and FICCI Award. This award was given to BPA for its outstanding services in the field of development of persons with disabilities.



Ms. Sonal Madhani, Music Teacher has been conferred the National Award under the category "Best Employed Person Female with Visual Impairment for the year 2019" by the Ministry of

Social Justice and Empowerment on 3rd December at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Vice-President of India Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.



BPA SHINES - DIVYANG RATNA AWARDS : Girls and Boys of BPA Dance Group were conferred Divyang Ratna Awards by Kalgi Foundation on 27th July, 2019 in Senate Hall, Gujarat University. BPA thanks Kalgi Rawal - Social Ambassador of Gujarat for launching these Awards .

Ms. Sudhaben Joshi, Teacher of Higher Secondary School was honoured by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani as the Best Teacher under his famous program "Mann Nii Moklas"



Best Occupational Therapy Award



Mr. Sunil Gaurier, Occupational Therapist of BPA was conferred "Dr. Pushpaben Mankad Occupational Therapy Award" on the occasion of World Occupational Therapy Day - 27th October, 19.

Dance Group of Blind People's Association participated in 8th Talent Show held by Muskan Charitable Trust at Katra especially for the Specially abled & Under Privileged Children and were awarded RS.21000/ Cash Prize and BPA Music Teacher Miss Sonal Madhani was also awarded Rs.5000/ for singing patriotic song in competition.



APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary

- has been appointed as a Member of Academic Council of the Institute by National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD, Divyangjan), Dehradun, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- has been appointed on the Committee for Accessibility in built environment and admission procedures for Persons with Disabilities by the Dr. Baba Shaheb Ambedkar Open University.



Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director has been appointed as a Member of ICEVI Committee for children with MDVI or Deafblindness

External member on the internal complaints committee of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 of Evosys Global.



Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Project Director served as member of the panel of judges and experts for the event 'Teaching Learning Material Competition and Exhibition' organized by 'Consortium for Inclusive Education' (CIE), Baroda 8 August, 2019



Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Jena, Head of BPA-Bareja Hospital has been appointed as President of Vision 2020 - Right to Sight, Gujarat Chapter from 5th October, 2019.

VISHNU OUR NEW STAR

Vishnu Waghela is a skilled footballer with a difference..... He is totally blind. He is the first student from BPA to show his preference for football and then practice so hard that he flies across the field kicking the football. His dedication to the game has ensured that he is part of the Indian Football team and played matches against Japan in Cochin in December, 2019 and won the same. Kudos Vishnu may you keep on scoring....



KHEL MAHAKUMBH

As every year, the Government of Gujarat organized Khel Mahakumbh in all the districts of Gujarat for persons with disabilities who participated in various sporting events, games and athletics. Students from all the BPA campuses participated in events in their own districts and brought back heaps of medals and prizes.



AFRICA FORUM CONFERENCE

Dr. Bhushan Punani and Nandini Rawal attended the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and also the Africa Forum Conference in Ethiopia from 8-11 October, 2019. They presented papers in the Forum and also chaired Sessions.



VEDIC MATHEMATICS TRAINING



17 September, 2019 : Mr. Ramesh & Mrs. Bharti Morkhandikar conducted a Training Programme for Master Trainers in Vedic Mathematics on the birthday

of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at BPA campus. Teachers of Adult Training Centre School for the Blind, Secondary School for the Blind and Higher Secondary School for the Blind and Special Need Centres attended this programme coordinated by Mr. Ranchho Soni.

6-7 September, 2019 : Exposure visit of CBR workers from Perkins India Lucknow at BPA. Ms. Sampada Shevde and Ms. Anuradha Bagchi from voice & Vision visited during this period and they had a visit to BPA- Early Intervention Center and AshirwadViklang Trust, Sayla.

SNEHMILAN PROGRAMME



Staff Welfare Society of BPA organized a SNEHMILAN programme in its campus on the reopening day after Diwali on 4th November, 2019. The programme was followed by lunch for the entire staff, students, trainees, volunteers and other workers of BPA family. The lunch was sponsored by Ms. Renuben Gandhi, Friend of Ushaben Atulkumar, Trustee of BPA.

ADJUSTMENT TRAINING

Jaimini Patel, Payal Lodha and Rakesh Chopda who have recently lost their sight are undergoing the adjustment training at BPA. They are getting training in computer, and orientation and mobility every day.



WORLD SIGHT DAY

World Sight Day was celebrated by Blind People's Association at Bareja Eye Hospital by training optometrists on infection control supported by Ahmedabad Optical Association.



Under the USA Professional Fellowship Program, Dr. Karen Aschaffenburg and Dr. Marta Muco interviewed Dharmendra Kumar Jena, who had studied under this programme in USA.



Paramahansa Yogananda Charitable Trust Ahmedabad donated 200000/- for Keratoplasty surgery at Bareja.



FOUR FOR KISHOR NITE

Dr. Guru Dutt, Dr. Bhaveshbhai Gheewala, Dr. Raj Raval, Dr. Kalpeshbhai Shah, Dr. Payalben Vakhariya, Dr. Ashokbhai Patel, Ms. Dixita Purani and Mr. Anil Patil, deserve heartfelt thanks for organizing the "Four for Kishor Nite" for raising funds for Keratoplasty surgery for poor and needy patients at BPA-Porecha Eye Hospital on 16th November, 2019 at the Tagore Hall, Ahmedabad. Doctors save lives but these dedicated doctors added philanthropy and charity by raising funds selflessly for the cause of the BPA. It was a brilliant programme and the doctors sang all the popular and evocative songs of Kishore Kumar and kept the audience spell bound for almost 4 hours. A collection of almost Rs. 7 lakhs was raised for the BPA through this endeavour.



VISITORS

- 21 September, 2019 : 22 UG level Students of National Institute of Fashion Technology NIFT Gandhinagar spent for their Project Work “Senses versus Self“ had impactful experience of all Departments including Vision in the Dark and Technology Museum with Mr. Ranchhod Soni.
- 28 September 2019 : Study Tour of 41 students and 3 faculties - Central University of Kerala, Department of Social Work, Kerala to BPA
- 9 July, 2019 : Shree Pavan Bhardwaj deputy director and SurehChavada, project officer of Targeted intervention, Gujarat State AIDs control society visited BPA- Bareja eye hospital
- 10 August, 2019 : 50students from Nirma School of Architect visited BPA to understand the Accessibility and Universal design. Gave them simulation of different disabilities, to help them, understand the problem faced by people with disabilities in routine life and brief information about the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016 and its various provisions on Accessibility. Kinnari coordinated them.
- 17 September, 2019 : Celebrated the birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi by Shri Ahmed Patel (Vice President of APMC) with children with all disabilities at BPA dining hall.
- 18 September, 2019 : Shri Vishal Bharvad(Ahmedabad city BJP - Secretary) celebrated his birthday with DamjibhaiHadiyal, Principal of BPA at students with visually impaired of BPA. Shri Vishalbhai donated handsfree& ice cream to all students.
- 18 September, 2019 : 800 sets of FCDI course (Foundation Course) materials donated by IGNOU.DrAvani Trivedi Regional Director- IGNOU handed over the sample set to BPA team
- 9 September,2019 : 3rdBatch of Medical Students of 1st year of V.S Hospital visited Vision in the Dark, Technology Museum and Physiotherapy Clinic of BPA
- 24 August, 2019: IXth Standard students of Shiv Ashish School, Bopal visited all departments of BPA. Shri Ashok Purohit, Volunteer of explained all activities of BPA to these students.
- 23-24 September, 2019 : 7 staff members from Samarth, Raipur, Chhattisgarh visited BPA.
- 20 November, 2019: Mr. Gulati Director of Employment and Training Gujarat visited ITI Department of BPA.
- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), Pune is amongst the declared Smart Cities by Government of India. As a part of the Smart City project, they have contemplated to prepare a comprehensive Social Development Policy and Program for their area of operation and Mr. Samir Ghosh a noted disability activist and expert has been appointed as their Principal Consultant. The PCMC has decided to develop strategies for the access of Persons with Disabilities and hence came for an exposure visit to BPA and Sense International for their study tour on 23rd November, 2019, They were greatly excited to see the various projects at the BPA and have promised to use their learning to make the PCMC an inclusive corporation.

READY FOR THE GAME

A very exciting and interesting event , an inclusive Housie/Tambola, organized by the Ladies Circle, a part of Ahmedabad Round Table took place on Sunday, 22nd December, 2019. The event sponsored by Heart Foundation and Research Institute was an inclusive Housie/Tambola for sighted and blind people to play together. The sighted people had the



housie tickets in the printed form and the blind and the low vision people had the Housie/Tambola tickets in Braille and enlarged versions respectively. Generally, visually impaired students are denied

such fun and games due to the fact of tickets not being accessible to them. These students fully enjoyed the fun of checking out numbers which are called out on their Braille or large print tickets. Dedicated volunteers assisted these students. The wonderful prizes like refrigerator, gold coins, washing machine, TV for winners were won by students with visual impairment and there were very few winners from the non-disabled category. People from all walks of life played the Housie/Tambola along with the blind students enabling bonding and understanding of disability. The event will be held from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. at the BPA Vastrapur campus.



WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS/EXAMS/SEMINARS/ MEETINGS/EVALUATIONS ATTEND BY BPA STAFF

DR. BHUSHAN PUNANI, Executive Secretary	
1 July, 2019	Attended meeting - Shelter for the Homeless in Ahmedabad and in Gandhinagar on 2 July, 2019
8 July, 2019	Attended Meeting of Sub Committee on Low Vision in New Delhi
14 July, 2019	Lecture on Right of persons with Disabilities Act-2016 seminar at Bhuj-Kutch
20 July, 2019 & 27 August, 2019	Attended Board Meeting of Wagh Bakri Tea Company
9 August, 2019	Attended Sense India Board Meeting
16-21 September, 2019	Attended designing a competency-based curriculum for the new CBID Certificate course at Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi.
16 September, 2019	Attended the meeting of United Ways of India
7-9 November, 2019	Presentation on "New Developments, in RoPwD Act" at First Rehab Conference 2019 organized by Gujarat Spastic Society at BPA
MRS. NANDINI RAWAL, Executive Director	
8-9 July, 2019	Attended Board Meeting of Perkins India in Mumbai
9 August, 2019	Attended Sense India Board Meeting
21-23 August, 2019	Visited BPA Jodhpur Centre in Rajasthan with Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mr. Bharat Joshi, Mrs. Krupa Velani, Mr. Jyotish Choudhary
12 November, 2019	Attended Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to review training modules on Inclusive Education of RAISE Project at Guwahati
MRS. VIMAL THAWANI, Project Director	
7-9 November, 2019	Presentation on "Rehabilitation of Children with Multiple Disabilities at First Rehab Conference 2019 organized by Gujarat Spastic Society at BPA
MRS. KRUPA VELANI, Project Manager, Field Special Need Units	
8-9 July, 2019	Visited Deesa and Palanpur Centre
19 August, 2019	Attended Parents Meeting at Rotary School, Nadiad
July 3rd week	Krupa training for Anganawadi workers and parents at Porbandar
Mr. Bharat Joshi, Manager, CBR & Resource Mobilization, Krupa Velani and Deepa Joshi	
2 & 3 August, 2019	To conducted training of VTU staff at Kapadwanj & Kathlal
23 December 2019	Attended a lecture by Prof. Upendra Baxi on "The Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties of Citizens, and Human Rights: Fools Rush in Where Angels Fear to Tread" at Ahmedabad Management Association.
MR. DHARMENDRAKUMAR JENA, Manager, DR. DEEP JOSHI, Senior Ophthalmologist, Bareja Hospital	
13-14 July 2019	Attended the 13 th Eye India Conference 2019 (Community Ophthalmology) to at PBMA's H. V. Desai Eye Hospital
15 July, 2019	Attended the Seva SCALE & GSI Project Partners Review Meeting
Dharmendra Jena, Sonia Jena and Soumen Maity, Optometrist, Bareja Hospital	
12 July 2019	Attended 7 th reinventing CSR - a symposium on collective CSR action at hotel Radisson Blu, Ahmedabad organised by vision spring.
MR. SOUMENMAITY and MR. HIREN RANA, staff of BPA Bareja Eye Hospital	
6-7 September, 2019	Attended workshop on "Standardizing primary eye care services" at Alakh Nayan Mandir Eye Hospital in Udaipur organized by vision 2020.

MR. SOUMEN MAITY and MR. SHAILENDRA staff of BPA Bareja Eye Hospital	
23 August, 2019	Attended the Workshop on “Inducing Quality in Eye Care” at SadguruSankalp Netra Chikitsalaya, Anandpur, Madhya Pradesh.
MR. ARINDAM RAY, HR Manager	
2-3 August, 2019	Monitoring of DP World Training and Skill Development in KCRC, Bhuj
MR. RANCHHOD SONI, Coordinator, Technology Department	
4 September, 2019	Attended meeting of DAISY Forum of India in Hyderabad
9- 11 September 2019	Attended Gujarat Text Book Board meeting and gave inputs on Inclusion
12 September 2019	Attended Bank of Baroda Employees' training in Assistive Technology in Gandhinagar
MS. KINNARI DESAI, Advocacy Manager	
19 July, 2019	Consultation at River side school and talk about Inclusive Education
1 August, 2019	Felicitated by GLS University
31 August, 2019	Attended a consultation on “Inclusive Education” with Krupa organized by Riverside School and sponsored by Dipak Foundation, Vadodara.
23 July, 2019	Meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer and team to review the election process and collected feedback from stakeholders from various districts of Gujarat and prepared a compile report to submit to ECI
MR. BIPIN MEHTA, Coordinator, Integrated Education	
5 July, 2019	Participated in an interactive workshop organized on the topic “Sharing the perspectives of inclusive education” planned as a focus group discussion (FGD) at Deepak Foundation, Vadodara
MRS. DEEPA JOSHI & MRS. CHAITALI PATEL	
8-9 July, 2019	Attended Training on Good Vibes Application for special educators at Ahmedabad which help persons with deafblindness to communicate with the world(two way) by using smart phone. This training is organized by Sense India.
Ms. Deepa Joshi, Ms. Krupa Velani, Ms. Dharti Raval (AbhiPrerna), Ms. Juhi Rawal (Adult Deafblind Training), Ms. Nalini Rawal, Ms. Javnika Kadiya (Prayas)	
17-18 September, 2019	Participated in Regional Network Meeting of Abhiprerna and Pryaas and training for persons with deafblindness at Manovikas MPVSS, Ujjain.
MR. SUNIL GAURIER, Occupational Therapist	
30 August, 2019	Attended as resource person for developmental programme and delivered a lecture on “Sensory Stimulation” at Health & Care Foundation (formerly Polio Foundation), Ahmedabad
MR. MAHENDRASINH, staff & TIKU RAM DPO member from Bhopalgarh block, Rajasthan	
5-10 August, 2019	Attended Scientific Goat Farming training at Central Institute Research on Goats (CIRG) Makdoom, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh organized by CBM
MR. TARAK LUHAR, Development Officer	
20 September, 2019	Delivered inauguration speech about BPA-Bareja eye hospital - new project with Helpage and L&T at Itola Village Baroda
18 October, 2019	Delivered speech in All India Confederation of the Blind, (AICB) New Delhi National Conference
MRS. SONIA JENA and MR. SOUMEN MAITY, BPA Bareja Eye Hospital	
28-29 December, 2019	Strategic Planning workshop at H. V. Desai Eye Hospital, Pune sponsored by Seva Foundation, USA

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WITH VISITORS



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

Phone: (079) 26305082, 26304070, 26303513

Fax: (079) 26300106

E-Mail: blinabad1@bsnl.in, bpaceviad1@bsnl.in

Website: www.bpaidia.org

All donations exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

Printed and Published by: Mrs. Nandini Munshaw on behalf of the Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad-380015

Editor: Nandini Rawal, Assisted by: Lalitha Muralidharan, Publication Coordinator: Bhushan Punani

Printed by: Naranbhai Prajapati at Multicategory Training Centre for the Handicapped

Composition and Computer Setting by: Zakir J. Sipai at CAMA Computer Centre, BPA, Photos: Bharat A. Dhuri

Proof reading by : Mr. Baiju Pandit

If not delivered, please return to:
BPA Research and Newsletter
Blind People's Association
(Formerly Blind Men's Association)
Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380015
Gujarat, INDIA

BOOK POST

To,