



Devoted to
Comprehensive Development
Of Persons with Disabilities

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RESEARCH & NEWSLETTER
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF BELLABEN & YOGESH PATEL EYE HOSPITAL – VATRAK



The BPA is well known for developing innovative and need based programmes for all age groups of persons with disabilities, their parents and other stake holders.

The BPA in collaboration with the Samta Vikas Charitable Trust has started a Cataract Free Sabarkantha Campaign known as “Motiyan Mukta Sabarkantha”. Under this campaign more than 10000 cataract surgeries have been performed and sight saved. Vision Centres have been set up in Vatrak, Modasa, Bhiloda, Kalol, Bavla and at BPA. The hospital has been bringing the patients for surgery from remote villages of Sabarkantha to Bareja for surgery. The local community decided that an eye hospital was needed locally for the benefit of patients of Sabarkantha.

The K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal at Vatrak, District Sabarkantha has offered the Blind People's Association land free of cost for use for setting up the eye hospital. This land is on the Modasa-Bayad Highway, very close to the Trust hospital at Vatrak. This project is part of a triangular partnership between the Blind People's Association, K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal and Samta Vikas Charitable Trust. Blind People's Association applied to our BPA Bareja Eye Hospital donors in the US and our dedicated donor Bellaben and Yogeshbhai Patel have agreed to donate Rs. 2 Crores for naming of this hospital. We have received funds for the Operation theatre and Phaco machine of 35 lakhs from Dineshbhai Shah from the USA.



The Architect has already drawn up plans. This eye hospital will serve lakhs of poor and needy people from Sabarkantha, Aravalli and neighbouring state Rajasthan to get premier eye care at no cost. This will be

the first such hospital in this area. The local community will help in mobilization of patients and other resources for the successful implementation of the project.

The Shilanyas/ground breaking/BhoomiPoojan ceremony of the hospital was conducted on the auspicious day of 02-02-2020 . The programme started from 9.00 a.m. in the morning with a Vedic Pooja which continued till 11.00 a.m. The Bhoomi Poojan and Shilanyas was performed by the representatives of Smt. Bellaben and Shri Yogeshbhai Patel - Smt. Anjanaben Patel, Smt. Pinaben Patel, Shri Ajitbhai Patel, Shri Sureshbhai Patel, Smt. Shardaben Patel, Shri Hariom Patel, Shri Nishant Patel also remained present.

The following persons were present on stage function

- ♦ Mr. Jashubhai Shivabhai Patel, MLA, Bayad Malpur
- ♦ Mr. Rajendrasinh Shivsinh Thakore, MLA, Modasa
- ♦ Mr. Amrutesh Aurangabadkar District Collector, Aravalli
- ♦ Mr. Deepsinh Shankarsinh Thakore, M.P. Sabarkantha, Aravalli
- ♦ Mr. Acharyashri Dineshkumarji, Darshanyog Mahavidyalay, Aryavan, Rozad, Sabarkantha
- ♦ Families of the donors
- ♦ Trustees of all three partner organizers - Blind People's Association, K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal and Samta Vikas Charitable Trust

The local community joined in to give funds to clean the area, build the Mandap and arranged for the food etc. BPA thanks Bellaben and Yogeshbhai for giving firm shape to this dream – which will result in providing eye care to hundreds of people in need.

SIGNING CEREMONY CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN MUMBAI & BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

Blind People's Association, (India) is a nationally renowned 15-campus NGO working for the education, vocational training, rehabilitation and employment of persons from all kinds of disabilities. We are a health providing agency through our BPA-Bareja Navalbhai & Hiraba Eye Hospital, our ENT Hospital and our Orthopaedic Hospital. This hospital complex is based in Bareja 22 kms on the National Highway-8 from our Head Quarter in Vastrapur. We do almost 12000 free cataract and other eye surgeries in the hospital. We do eye checkup of about 2 lakhs persons every year in the Districts around Ahmedabad and North Gujarat. We have started Motiyan Mukta Sabarkantha Abhiyan (Cataract Free area) in the districts of Sabarkantha and Aravalli.

We were very privileged to have the visit of Madam Mrs. Akie Abe, First Lady of Japan, Wife of Mr. Shinzo Abe, to our Head Office in Vastrapur. We were charmed by her approachability and her sensitivity towards people with disabilities. We were also happy to host the visit of Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai. After his visit, we applied for a grant from the Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai of Rs. 50 lakhs for two machines for our BPA-Bareja Eye Hospital. The two machines are as below.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Machine is often used to evaluate disorders of the optic nerve as well. The OCT exam helps the ophthalmologist see changes to the fibers of the optic nerve. For example, it can detect changes caused by glaucoma OCT helps not only in deciding the medical management of retinal diseases but also has a keyrole in surgical management of macular hole surgery, epi-retinal membrane surgery, retinal detachment surgery and in release of vitreo macular traction. It helps in observing progression of Glaucoma and other retinal disorders.





Yag Laser with Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)- Sometimes after having cataract surgery, a patient will experience blurred or double vision. This can occur because of a condition known as posterior capsule opacity (PCO). When PCO is present, a haze develops in the eye's natural membrane behind the artificial intraocular implant. If the haze is affecting your vision, you may need a one-time laser procedure which uses a yttrium aluminum garnet (YAG) laser. SLT (selective laser trabeculoplasty) is used to lower IOP (eye pressure) in patients of uncontrolled Glaucoma with a laser beam creating a passage to pass fluid from trabecular meshwork which is noninvasive and best way to prevent irreversible blindness in Glaucoma patients.

Both these machines are very expensive and ordinary people cannot afford them. A diagnostic test on an OCT machine costs Rs. 5000 and poor people cannot afford this luxury. This machine is also not available in the charitable hospitals in Ahmedabad.

The BPA applied to the Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai under the "Grassroots Project Assistance for "Provision of Medical Equipment to Navalbhai & Hiraba Porecha Eye Hospital in Ahmedabad District". The Government of Japan inquired thoroughly about the need and efficacy of the machine and have agreed to provide Rs. 50 lakhs to the Blind People's Association for the purchase of the machines. The new machine will help BPA to cover 6000 persons with retinal problems additionally per year. These surgeries are very expensive and poor people who are not able to afford them will be given free surgeries. BPA will do free surgeries on 3000 poor persons every year and another 3000 poor persons will get diagnostic and laser intervention services free. The Japan Government agreed to fund this Project under "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects"(GGP).

The signing ceremony of this grant was held at 10.30 a.m. on 6th March, 2020, Friday at the Prayer Hall of the Blind People's Association, Vastrapur Head Office. The Consul General Harada Michio signed on behalf of the Government of Japan and Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, signed on behalf of Blind People's Association. Mr. Devang Dani, Chairmen, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation was present along with The President of Blind People's Association Mr. Piyushbhai Desai and Chairman, Wagh Bakri Group. The other Trustees and Office Bearers of BPA and BPA Bareja hospital, staff, students and other well-wishers were also there and were impressed by Mr. Michiko's humour, humanity and large heart. BPA Bareja Hospital will soon procure these machines and invite the Japanese Government for the Inauguration.

The BPA thanks the leadership of the Japanese Government and the people of Japan for this generosity and assures them that these machines will be very useful in removing needless blindness in the population.



“INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND”- ICEVI WEST ASIA - SENSE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



The first ever ICEVI West Asia-Sense India was organized in a relatively cold Kathmandu, the land of Himalayas from 16-18 February, 2020. The 3 days of learning and exchange of ideas attracted more than 300 participants from 8 countries which included Poland, USA, Australia, India, Bangladesh, Kenya, UK and Nepal.

The three days conference was designed to cover all the aspects related to the life cycle of persons with visual impairment and deafblindness. The first and third day had plenary sessions, day two was dedicated to concurrent workshops sessions. Altogether, there were around 120 speakers who shared their varied experiences with the participants. There was an entertainment programme by blind singers from Nepal who enthralled the audience by their range and melody. It was inaugurated by Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairperson of National Assembly (Upper House), Nepal and the Guests of Honour were Ms. Alison Marshal, Director, Sense International; Mr. Mahesh Prasad Dahal, Secretary Education, Government of Nepal; Dr. Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI. The other officials were Dr. M.N.G. Mani, CEO; Ms. Nandini Rawal, Treasurer, ICEVI; Head of Programme Committee; Dr. Bhushan Punani, Chairperson, ICEVI West Asia; Mr. Madhav Prasad Aryal, Country Representative, ICEVI Nepal, Mr. A.K. Mittal, Secretary General, World Blind Union, Mr. Akhil Paul, Director and Board Member – Dbl Sense India, Mr. Mitralal Sharma, President, NFDN, Nepal and Mr. Birendra Raj Pokharel, ICEVI Nepal & Executive Secretary, Action on Disability Rights and Development (ADRAD).

The conference was organized by Blind People's Association (India) with Action on Disability Rights and Development (ADRAD-Nepal) as the local partner. The venue was Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) Jawalakhel, Lalitpur. The Theme of the Conference was “Inclusive Education: Leaving No One Behind” and the Sub Themes were Early Intervention and Child Preparatory Practices, Inclusive Practices and School Age, Inclusion and Children with Severe Disabilities, Policies and Legislations in Asia and Inclusive Practices, Skill Training and Inclusive Practices, Technology and its use to Enhance Inclusion, Access – Physical, Communication, Attitudinal, Social and Emotional, Governance and Resource Mobilization. This Conference was recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India for 150 participants (Indian Participants) under Continuing Rehabilitation, Education (CRE). The participants enjoyed the conference and paid their obeisance to the Pashupatinath Temple and visited all the historical sites of Kathmandu.

The Jagdish Patel-Sense Award for outstanding services in the field of visual impairment and deafblindness was conferred on Mrs. Vidya Devi Vaidya, a Teacher of students with visual impairment for 4 decades and Mr. Pushparaj Rimal, a person with deafblindness. Both the Awardees are from Nepal.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT LUCKNOW



Department of Visual Impairment of Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow, UP in collaboration with National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) (Under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India) organized an International Conference on Innovative Practices and Researches for Education and Rehabilitation of Persons with Visual Impairment (Divyangjan) at Atal Auditorium, DSMNR University, Lucknow, UP from 26-28 February, 2020. ICEVI West Asia was the knowledge partner in this important event. Dr. Bhushan Punani and Mrs. Nandini Rawal presented papers on Inclusive Education in a special Plenary Session of 90 minutes in the conference.

NATIONAL SEMINAR AT DEHRADUN



Dr. Bhushan Punani and Mrs. Nandini Rawal attended the National Seminar at the National Institute for Empowerment of People with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) a unit of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Dehradun. Dr. Punani gave the key note address and Mrs. Nandini Rawal chaired the Session on Early Childhood Education and Inclusive Education on 24th & 25th January, 2020 respectively in this Seminar supported by ICEVI.

VISION 2020 GUJARAT SEMINAR

Vision 2020 Gujarat Chapter which is headed by Mr. Dharmendra Jena of BPA Bareja Eye Hospital, organized a one day seminar "Infection Prevention in Eye Care" on 11th January, 2020 at the BPA Campus. Nearly 120 specialist consisting of Ophthalmic Surgeons, Optometrists, Ophthalmic Assistants from all over Gujarat participated in this programmed which was inaugurated by Dr. Girish Thakar, State Programme Director, NPCB, Gujarat State. Stalwarts like Dr. P. N. Nagpal, Dr. Uday Gajiwala, Dr. Pina Soni, Dr. Utpal Jani, Dr. Bharat and Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Districts Hospital were also present.



WORKSHOP ON TACTILE GRAPHICS

Prof Boguslaw (Bob) Marek from Poland, who is a colleague of Dr. Frances Gentle, President of International Council for Education of people with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) visited BPA and has delivered Tactile Graphics Workshop 8 February, 2020. Bob is well known in the Pacific Region for his contribution to the field of tactile graphics. He has presented at several SPEVI conferences and delivered workshops in the Pacific region. The Workshop was sponsored by ICEVI West Asia.



REGIONAL TRAINING ON DEAFBLINDNESS



BPA organized 5 day training on deafblindness recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India as a CRE Programme from 25 to 29 February, 2020 and funded by Sense India Participants were from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat. They were teachers who are working with single category disability and were trained in handling children with multiple disability and deafblindness.

PYCT GIVES ASSISTANCE



The Paramahansa Yogananda Charitable Trust (PYCT), Ahmedabad in association with BPA, Ahmedabad distributed 15 Angel Instruments (Educational Instruments Specially designed for the blind students) to 15 visually impaired students on Friday the 3rd January, 2020. The cost of these educational instruments is Rs. 9,000/- per piece.

The sponsors of these educational instruments named as Angel are:

1. Smt. & Sh. Padam Bath Kaul, California	8 nos.
2. Smt. & Sh. Shiban Bakshi, Gurrigaon	2 nos.
3. Smt. & Sh. N. S. Gai	2 nos.
4. Smt. & Sh. Parimal Watal, Delhi	2 nos.
5. Smt. & Sh. S. K. Ganju, Gurgaon	1 nos.

Digital Hearing Aids :

1. Mr. S . K. Khazanchi	8 nos.
2. Voice of SAP at Surat	5 nos.

Tricycles

1. Smt. Aditi Aditya Patel 31-1-2020 12 No Digital Hearing Aid, 10 No Sewing Machine, 12 No Hand Cart, 10 No Tricycle,	2 nos.
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Customized Motivational Wheelchair

1. Smt. Sonalben Patel	15 nos.
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eBRAILLE LIBRARY



Mr. Pratham Soni of Tech2Serve, USA for raising funds for a unique initiative. Many visually challenged students feel more ease and comfort in reading books in Braille. Effective technological solution is Refreshable Braille Display which produces data in electronic Braille and thereby can save thousands of books in a handy device. It saves paper, space, time and money and makes reading more effective and relevant. After connecting this device with computer one can access any book online or through the computer in Braille instantly. It will also facilitate them to write notes in Braille which may be converted into text. Initially 3 students will be able to access this library at a time. Pratham Soni's company Tech2serve donated 3 ORBIT refreshable Braille readers for



starting the eBraille library. Last year he donated 50 smart phones to visually impaired students of BPA to help them to access information and educational materials. He promised to raise more funds for this Project. - Thanks Pratham for your great support for visually challenged students.

TRAINING IN ORIENTATION & MOBILITY FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS



OT Association Gujarat approached BPA to organise importance & understanding of orientation and mobility among children with visual impairment with additional disabilities. One day orientation program was organised, 30 Occupational Therapist participated in the program. The program focused on understanding children with multiple disabilities, impact of vision loss on development of child, concept of orientation and mobility, various techniques and training strategies were discussed. The training was conducted very practically through active involvement of participants.

At the end of the training one of the participants, Ms. Purnima Makwana from K. P. Patel Institute said, "I was wondering why child was not responding to my commands and activities, now realize that he had loss of vision in particular visual field area. Today I learnt a lesson to look at the child as a whole and not only from motor aspects".

ORIENTATION TRAINING OF PARENTS IN RPWD ACT

One day orientation training was conducted on 6th February, 2020 for parents whose children are registered with "Samerth" Charitable Trust, Juhapura. The training focused on understanding their children and their needs. Parents were helped to understand their disabilities through simulation exercise and also with a visit to Vision- in the Dark. There were helped to understand rights of children with disabilities and silent features of RPWD Act. Some of the children are studying in inclusive set up and accordingly RTE act also was discussed. 29 parents participated in the program.

SMART CLASS

Ladies Circle Ahmedabad donated equipments for Smart Class for the blind on 16th March, 2020 in the BPA Higher Secondary School which includes a smart TV, a laptop, an LCD Projector and an educational material.



SKILLING OF SAMERTH



An Orientation training of Mainstream school teachers on inclusive education and RPWD Act 2016 was conducted on 4th February, 2020 for project of Samerth Charitable Trust. BPA conducted one day orientation training. The training focused on understanding children with disabilities, curriculum adaptation, teaching strategies, successful examples of inclusion and practical solutions to facilitate inclusion. Apart from this session on RPWD act 2016 and RTE was also conducted. All the teachers were willing to admit children with disabilities but were scared of their conditions and ways to cope with it in classroom. Majority of them said that they are willing to help these children provided they get appropriate support to deal with various issues.

AUDIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT ROOM INAUGURATED



This room supported by Lotus Trust, Mumbai was inaugurated by Mrs. Anjanaben Virenbhai Shah, Trustee, Lotus Trust at Bareja on 5th March, 2020. Mrs. Ushaben Atulkumar, Trustee, BPA was present with executives and staff of BPA and Bareja Hospital Complex.

Response to Covid 19 by Blind People's Association:

The Blind People's Association is one of the largest organizations in Asia serving the field of disability. The main campus of Blind People's Association is in Ahmedabad. BPA has 17 campuses in Gujarat, it has also project office in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The 60 years old organization is very professional in its approach, and committed to services to disability and development. The organization provides services in the area of Education, Vocational Training, Employment-Self Employment support, Assistive devices, Health, Livelihood and Empowerment Programs. BPA is one of the leading and known organization that provides services in Community Based Rehabilitation and Mental Health.

The organization also works effectively on the issue of disasters and disability. Large scale relief and rehabilitation services were

1. Community Mask Project:

The Community Mask Project was a new initiative by the organization. The purpose of the project was to provide employment to women with disabilities and other poor women, as well as to provide free masks to the people. To date, the organization has produced and distributed over 60,000 masks. The masks were distributed to laborers, shopkeepers, police, and other members of the public. More than 20 women have found employment through this program, and the organization aims to distribute 2 lakh masks.

2. Stop Hunger: Helping Hands Project:

People with disabilities have to face the most hardships in this Lock Down situation. His life depended on his daily income; the sudden closure of the business made it difficult for him to get even a one-time meal. The organization launched the Stop Hunger-Helping Hands Kit project to help persons with disabilities and their families in such dire circumstances. Under this project, ration kits are given to the family of a person with disability. This ration kit is made of wheat flour, rice, tur dal, sugar, oil, 2 masks, sanitizer, and soap. So far, the organization has distributed ration kits to more than 12000 persons with disabilities in more than 500 villages in 14 districts of Gujarat. The organization aims to provide this ration kit to more than 20000 families. For this project, the organization has received very generous cooperation from donors, local organizations, and volunteers.

BPA is looking forward to receive support for this project from Corporates, Individual Donors, National and International Organization. We also plan to distribute these kits in Jodhpur District of Rajasthan.

provided by the organization to the persons with disabilities during the earthquake in Gujarat and persons with disabilities due to the earthquake. The organization also provided relief work in natural disasters in Kerala and Odhisa.

The organization has been working with the state government in any kind of disaster for the relief and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Due to the serious impact of Kovid 19 Korona Pandemic, the lock Down was given by the Government of India. The situation of this lockdown became very miserable for the persons with disabilities. The following projects were started by the organization with the aim of helping persons with disabilities, their families and other sections of the society in this pandemic condition.



AWARDS



Blind People's Association (BPA) was conferred the National Award in the category of Civil Services Organization by President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the 16th National Voters' Day – 25th January, 2020 at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. BPA was recognized for its outstanding role in making elections accessible for persons with disabilities. **Dr. Bhusan Punani, Executive Secretary of BPA and Member of National Advisory Committee on Accessible Voting** received the Award from Hon'ble President on behalf of BPA. The BPA had produced ballot papers, voter ID cards, voter's slips and voter information booklets in Braille for people with visual disabilities. It also promoted accessibility for persons with orthopaedic disability, hearing impairment and deafblindness. BPA produced ballot papers in audio for the first time in the country and also developed voting process in sign language and imparted training to voting booth officials.



SUDAHBEN JOSHI, Science Teacher of the BPA Higher Secondary School has been conferred the Teachers Felicitation Award by Sri Aurobindo Society by Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal on 3rd March, 2020 at a function in New Delhi.

SHRI RAMBHAI JADAV, Director, Ashirvad Trust



was conferred award "Paramarth Na Pagle" On the Path of Service to Humanity by Dr. Jagdish Trivedi, a renowned artist and donor at Surendranagar Town Hall.



MRS. NALINI RAWAL conferred "SevaSahayak" Award from Society for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded (SWMR)

SPORTS



16th National Para Athletics Championship For Cerebral Palsy - 2020 was held at Chhattisgarh - Raipur From 2nd To 4th February, 2020. Ms. Nirali Vala – Trainee of I.T.I. BPA won two gold medals in discus throw and Shot-Put.



Bhavina Patel of BPA wins Gold in Paralympic Table Tennis in Egypt Open Championship. She sets invisible record of winning all the matches - proud of you Bhavina.

BAJAJ ELECTRICALS PINKATHON

Pinkathon -India's BIGGEST Women's Run organized by Bajaj Electricals at Sabarmati River Front, Ahmedabad on the International Women's Day on 1st March, 2020.



BPA-AHMEDABAD ROUND TABLE CAR RALLY



Ahmedabad Round Table-40 jointly organized with the Association Round Table 24th Car Rally for the Blind for promoting inclusion and coordination skills of blind persons on 2 February, 2020. During the rally, the car is driven by an abled person, while the car is navigated by a blind person. They are given a chart in Braille language to read the route. The event is a step towards inclusivity of visually impaired people of the society. Infinium Toyota has sponsored this rally. The rally was flagged off by Commissioner of Police Mr. Ashish Bhatia and Senior Police officials and other dignitaries from the BPA campus. The prize distribution for the winners was done on same day.

PHOTO FEATURE



Staff of BPA give their "Shram Dan" for making of Masks for better management and protection during COVID times.



BirthDay Celebration of BPA Executive Secretary, Dr. Bhushan Punani on 3rd January, 2020 in the newly constructed Amphitheatre.

Employees of Hotel Crowne Plaza on SG Road, spent their day with BPA and provided food and entertainment to the BPA students and trainees. They also visited Vision in the Dark.

Trustees of VS Gandhi Charitable Trust, Mumbai visited the BPA for strategic planning for their trust with expert inputs from BPA Ahmedabad

BPA PILLARS PASS AWAY



Mrs. Nandini Priyakant Munshaw, Hon. General Secretary of BPA passed away quietly in the midst of the Corona pandemic after a long battle with cancer on 26 March, 2020. Her passing away was like her life- quiet, dignified, void of frills and fancies.

She joined BPA more than 50 years ago as a volunteer and reader for blind students. Very quickly she became involved with their lives and the various activities of the tiny fledgling organization that BPA was at that time. She joined the BPA founders Jagdishbhai and Bhadraben and took on the job of professionalizing the organization in her own meticulous way.

Though she was the Managing Director of a large textile mill

and born in a family with a golden spoon, her simplicity and sincerity touched the lives of people around her. Her attention to detail and her concern for the smallest person in the organization and her going out of her way to talk to all the people with disabilities in the BPA campus endeared her to one and all. Her grace and contacts with society helped BPA to become a large and vibrant organization with emphasis on professionalism and transparency. She funded several BPA flagship projects like the Parent Training Project, prevention of blindness project. The latest projects like Vision-in -the Dark, Magic Fingers Showroom were donated by her in her mother's name. Her last Project which was to be inaugurated on 31 March is a large floor for comprehensive services in BPA's building no.8.

Nandiniben was a down to earth person who could talk about politics, management and cooking with the same ease and expertise. She was the conscience of the BPA guiding the professionals in their work and discretely pointing out what she felt was not the right way to do things. The values and culture of refinement and hospitality that she laid down have permeated and become internalized. We at the BPA are privileged to have known and loved her. Her life is a message of social service sans show. BPA will always miss this mother figure... selfless, loving and dynamic.

BPA stalwart and Director of Workshops **Shri Harishbhai Panchal** passed away on Sunday 31st May, 2020. He was doing pooja and passed away during the

pooja. He was very shattered after his wife's death 20 days ago and was very distraught after that. He continued coming to office in spite of his poor health. Harishbhai served the cause of the development of the disabled, vigilantly and selflessly and was present in office till the evening of Saturday, 30th May, 2020. In Harish Bhai's demise, we have lost one more pillar of organization. Whole credit for building up the Workshop from zero to present level goes to him. He was very quiet, self-effacing and liked remaining away from the spotlight. His quiet presence was a blessing in the development of the BPA. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



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,