



Devoted to
Comprehensive Development
Of Persons with Disabilities

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B.P.A. newsletter

YEAR 2020-21 ▲ VOLUME : II & III ▲ July-October, 2021 (This Newsletter is available on website: www.bpaindia.org)

RESEARCH & NEWSLETTER
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

Tokyo Paralympics 2020



Ms. Bhavina Patel

First Ever Indian Table Tennis Player to Earn a Paralympic Silver Medal

World No.8 Bhavinaben Hasmukhbhai Patel is a very accomplished para-athlete and boasts of having won multiple championships. In her 13-year career so far, the paddler has competed in 28 tournaments and has won 26 of them. They include five gold, 13 silver and eight bronze medals. She has been trained and groomed at the BPA.



"Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi felicitates Medal Winners of Tokyo Paralympics 2021 in New Delhi. Pride of BPA, Bhavina Patel, winner of Silver Medal in Table Tennis is seated in the wheelchair on the left side. BPA Family congratulates all medal winners and is truly proud of Bhavina.



**Para-athlete
Bhavina Patel
receives grand
welcome at
Ahmedabad
Airport**

Mr. Anurag Thakur, Central Minister of Sports honouring the Medal Winners of Tokyo Paralympics 2021 in New Delhi. He is interacting with Pride of BPA and winner of Silver Medal in Table Tennis, Ms Bhavina Patel

COVID VACCINATIONS AT BPA FIRST DRIVE THROUGH COVID VACCINATION FOR SPECIALLY ABLED



In the light of spreading awareness among citizens to take the Covid-19 vaccine across the nation BPA organized a special Drive through Covid-19 Vaccination Camp for persons with disability. 500+ Specially abled people participated and took free vaccine at the BPA campus within a span of 2 Days on 12-13 June 2021 and set a new world record. The event was supported by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Bankim Pathak Foundation, Saika Mobility Hub, Akhil Hindustan Viklang Sangh and the Blind People's Association. Thanks to Govt of Gujarat and Wagh Bakri Tea Group for supporting this initiative. Thanks to all volunteers for making this event a great success.

People taking advantage of the offer queued up at the centre in vehicles, wheelchairs, and on customised mopeds for their free COVID-19 vaccine shots. "The vaccination process is now more convenient," said Mahendra Chudasma, a 45-year-old man who is visually impaired. "It's a very nice feeling." Despite being a major producer of corona virus vaccines, India faces a huge task in inoculating its 1.3 billion people, partly due to the logistical difficulties of reaching remote areas and also skepticism about the shots. People with disabilities often face additional problems of being unable to reach vaccination sites due to a lack of transport or no ramps at the centres for easy access. Some people have struggled to use a government-mandated smart phone app required to register for shots. Second drive through covid vaccination for specially abled was organized on 12 September, 2021.

ON 10 APRIL, 2021



Vaccination drives were held at the BPA on three occasions to help the staff.

ON 15 JULY, 2021



75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY AMRIT MAHOTSAV



BPA Family celebrated 75th Independence Day Amrit Mahotsav with a record on 15th August, 2021. 4000+ people with disabilities across joined online and sang National Anthem. Members of Rotary Club Supreme, Lions club of Vastapur and Jodhpur Ahmedabad Association joined the event. Founder Member of BPA Shri Pratul Vyas was the Chief Guest and hoisted the National Flag.



NEW VISION CENTRES BY CONCORD BIOTECH LTD.



DHOLKA



MATAR

Concord Biotech Ltd. has provided financial support of RS. 21,56,000/- under CSR for starting 2 new Vision Centers in Dholka and Matar under Save Sight project. Thanks to Mr. Sudhir Vaid, Mr. Ankur Vaid, Mrs. Megha Vaid and Mr. Ravi Kapoor for supporting Blind People's Association (India). The inauguration of the Dholka Centre was held on 11 May, 2021 and the Matar Vision Centre was inaugurated on 22 June 2021 at Saint Paul Girl's Hostel- Matar.

The following officials were present on this function-Shri. Umang Patel- SDM Kheda District; Mr. Sudhir Vaid- Chairman- Concord BioTech; Smt. Megha Vaid, Director, Concord Biotech; Shri Rajendrabhai Shah, President Blind People's Association; Dr. Bhushan Punani- General Secretary, BPA; Smt. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, BPA; Fr. Soosai Justin Thiraviam, Saint Paul Girls Hostel; Smt. Vimal Thawani- Project Director, BPA; Dr. Dharmendra Jena- Deputy Director, Health, BPA



SUPPORT OF NAVIN FLUORINE OF THE PADMANABH MAFATLAL GROUP



The BPA has started services for people who suffer from psychiatric and mental illnesses like schizophrenia bipolar disorder, depression etc. This project surveys people with these problems, gives medicines, therapy and also helps them to be resettled through learning a skill. This Centre received support of recurring expenses from Navin Fluorine of the Padmanabh Mafatlal Group. This new Project was inaugurated on 16 June, 2021 at Thasra in the presence of the local politicians and well-wishers. Mr Mehul Singh Gohil, General Manager, HR and Admin of Navin Fluorine was present on this occasion. 30 persons will be trained in skills at this centre. A total of 90 persons with psychiatric disorders will be trained in 3 different project locations.

OUR NEWEST PROJECT AT VATRAK



Smt. Bellaben & Shri Yogeshbhai Patel Eye Hospital is a joint project of K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal, Vatrak, Blind People's Association (India) and Samata Vikas Charitable Trust. The MoU between K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal and Blind People's Association (India) was signed as a joint project in which the KKSSAM would provide the land in Vatrak and BPA will construct the building in triangular partnership with Samata Vikas Charitable Trust. The ground breaking ceremony took place on 02.02.2020. This will be the largest eye hospital in Aravalli and Sabarkantha districts. The core group committee meeting of this proposed Eye Hospital at Vatrak was held at BPA campus on 8 June, 2021. The team visited this project on 22 June, 2021 and had a meeting at Vatrak. The hospital building has been designed by Mr. Jwalant Mahadevwalwa.

MEDUSIND CSR SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH NAAZ

The Inclusive school is a place where children with and without disabilities study together. The school was reopened after the summer break from 15th June 2021. Virtual education has been provided to the students as the physical classroom activities were restricted by the Govt. of Gujarat. This year Medusind has supported all the recurring expenses of the school which is a very great donation. Every year we celebrate Shala Pravestosa (Festival of School Admission) to motivate students who have been given new admission. This year, physical classroom activities were not allowed. The teachers visited the home of new students and gave them welcome kits. This year, there are 13 new admissions in the school. The teachers had celebrated International Yoga Day in the School, and students joined virtually.

The school teachers visited the village, the students were gathered at one place. This place was either a school, Anganwadi, or house of any students. The main purpose of this initiative was to ensure that the numeracy, writing and reading skills of the students should not be affected, and quality education will be imparted. The children with intellectual disabilities who are in residential care are engaged in kitchen gardening activities, and other vocational activities.

The vaccination of all teachers, attendants, drivers, and other support staff, and adults with intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities has been done.



On International Yoga Day



On Festival of School Admission



Home visits of teachers



Teachers at Anganwadi/any student's house for combined class



Kitchen gardening

**Inauguration of Vadtaldham Netra Sarvar Kendra on 3 September, 2021
by Kothari Swami Maharaj A new initiative of BPA-Porecha Eye Hospital, Bareja.
Supported by Shree Vitaldas Somchand Shah Charitable Trust**



22 June, 2021: Visit & Meeting of BPA Directors and staff at Thasra



The President of BPA Shri Rajendrabhai Shah; General Secretary Dr. Bhushan Punani; Executive Director, Mrs. Nandini Rawal; Project Director, Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Deputy Directors Mr. Arindam Ray, Dr. Dharmendra K. Jena and Mr. Bharat Joshi visited the Centre for Persons with Mental Illness at Thasra. Mr. Mihir Jani and team arranged the visit to the centre and the land which is likely to be given to BPA by the Government



21 June 2021: Dr. Pranay Shah, Dean Shri, B. J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, Dr. Hansa Thakkar, Director, M&J Institute of Ophthalmology, Dr. Somesh Agrawal, Professor, M&J institute of Ophthalmology visited Porecha Eye Hospital, Bareja on 21st June 2021 for inspection of the 4th year of Sheth Jamnabhai Bhagubhai BPA School of Optometry.

BPA team consisting of Nandini Rawal, Executive Director; Vimalben Thawani, Project Director; Bharat Joshi, Dy. Director; Krupa Velani, Project Manager; visited Jodhpur Centre 27-28 July, 2021 to plan for the future sustainability of the centre, meet with local BPA Jodhpur Trustees and donors. The team had a meeting with Deputy Director, Mr. Anil Vyasji of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Jodhpur who was felicitated by Dr. Calla, President, BPA Jodhpur



29.9.21: Visit of Dr. Bhushan Punani and Shri Rajendrabhai Shah along with donor..... to BPA Porecha eye hospital



24.9.2021: Snehmilan and felicitation of donors of BPA Porecha Eye Hospital and upcoming Smt. Bellaben & Shri Yogeshbhai Patel Eye Hospital, Vatrak at Jalaram Dham, Vadagam in Sabarkantha District. Programme was organized by Samata Vikas Charitable Trust at Vadgam

MEETINGS/ZOOM WEBINARS & PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS ATTENDED BY BPA STAFF



CARE GIVERS TRAINING PROGRAMME:

Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Gandhinagar launched a training program for "Care Givers" at BPA on 9th June, 2021 in the presence of Dr. Dileep Mavlinkar, Director, IIPH. BPA Executives attended the function.



DR. BHUSHAN PUNANI

Presentation in the Webinar on the subject "Discussing a Change and Challenges: Commemorating the Thirty First Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act" Organized by American Corner, Hyderabad

19 May, 2021: Experience of Promoting Initiatives to Combat Climate Change, Panel Discussion, organized by International Disability Development Consortium (IDDC) on Climate Change

2 June, 2021: Community Based Rehabilitation-Inclusion, Keynote Speaker, National Level Webinar, organized by Renu Vidya Mandir, Bahalgarh, Sonipat, Haryana

3 June, 2021: attended and did a presentation in a Meeting under DDUGKY, Gandhinagar project of SRLM Gujarat with Hon. Secretary, Rural Development Department Attended Project Approval Committee (PAC).

19 June, 2021: National Context of Inclusion as a Mandatory Need of the Hour, Message to Teachers & Parents, Keynote Speaker during the launch of Centre of Well Being, an initiative of Euro Schools India

29 June, 2021: Coordination of Covid 19 Thematic Webinar, World Blindness Summit, WBU ICEVI General Assembly (Virtual),

6 July, 2021: Right of the Persons with Disabilities, IGNOU National Centre for Disability Studies

9 July, 2021: NEP 2020 Webinar organized by Uttar Pradesh Rajashi Tandan Mukta Vishwa Vidyalaya, Prayagraj

15 July, 2021: Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management, a Webinar on Empowering PwDs in context of Covid-19" Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management, Gandhinagar

17 July, 2021: Discussing Change and Challenges: Commemorating the Thirty First Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act, United States Consulate General, Hyderabad

24 July 2021: Panel Discussion on Skilling & Entrepreneurship Building, Virtual, NIEPVD, Dehradun

World Blind Union **ICEVI** **ONCE** **WORLD BLINDNESS SUMMIT**

COVID 19 INTERVENTION IN SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Moderator: Bhushan Punani
Regional President, ICEVI West Asia

Ms. Vidhi Shah
Teaching Computer during Covid

Mr. Himanshu Sompura
Providing audio material during Covid

Ms. Krupa Velani
Teaching Special Children online

Carmen Millán
Head of Personal Autonomy Unit ONCE

DATE & TIME : 29-6-2021, 6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM IST
Zoom link : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81672005084>

Virtual Presentation in the Session: COVID-19 Intervention in Services for Persons with Visual Impairment

Moderator: Dr. Bhushan Punani, Regional President, ICEVI West Asia

Speakers and their Topics:

- Mr. Ranchhod Soni & Ms Vidhi Shah - Teaching Computer during Covid
- Mr. Hemanshu Sompura - Providing audio material during Covid
- Mrs. Krupa Velani - Teaching Special Children online

WORLD BLINDNESS SUMMIT – MODERATION



WORK WITH PERSONS WITH MDVI – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Moderator: Nandini Rawal

Treasurer of the ICEVI and Executive Director of Blind People's Association (India), a premier NGO



Akhil Paul

True Inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness



Sampada Shevde

Early communication for children with MDVI



Vimal Thawani

Transition Planning for Persons with Deafblindness



Virginia Carcedo

Digital Transformation and Employment of Persons with Deafblindness

DATE & TIME : 28-6-2021, 6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM IST

Zoom link : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87115257668>

Session: Work with Persons with MDVI – Challenges and Opportunities in the ICEVI General Assembly in Madrid on 29 June, 2021

Moderator:

- Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Treasurer of ICEVI

Speakers and their Presentations:

- Mr. Akhil Paul, Executive Director, Sense International (India) on “True Inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness
- Ms. Sampada Shevde, Director, Perkins India, a world pioneer in MDVI on “Early Communication for Children with MDVI
- Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Secretary, ICEVI (India) and Project Director, Blind People's Association (India) on Transition Planning for Persons with Deafblindness
- Ms. Virginia Carcedo, General Secretary of Inserta Empleo and Deputy Director of training, employment and transformation for the on ONCE Foundation “Digital Transformation and Employment of Persons with Deafblindness

TWO-DAY CRE PROGRAMME ON CBR

Avinashlingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women organized a virtual Two-Day CRE Programme on Community Based Rehabilitation in collaboration with National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Tamilnadu on 27 and 28 April, 2021. The following officials of BPA were invited and they made presentations

- Dr. Bhushan Punani: Application of Orientation & Mobility Techniques in COVID on 27 April, 2021
- Ms. Kinnari Desai: CBR & Economic Rehabilitation on 27 April, 2021
- Mrs. Nandini Rawal: CBR Success Stories on 28 April, 2021



WEBINAR ON 'INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR PWDS'

Department of Special Education SNTD Women's University conducted a three-day National Webinar on 'International and National Policies and Legislative Provisions for PwDs' from May 5 to 7, 2021. The objectives of this webinar was to familiarize the participants with the International and National policies and legislative provisions for persons with disability, to develop understanding about the role of the policies and legislative provisions in facilitating special and inclusive education and to evaluate the impact of the policies and legislative provisions on the field of education today. In this webinar Dr. Bhushan Punani and Mrs. Nandini Rawal participated as keynote speakers.



NANDINI RAWAL:

5 April, 2021: attended the 3rd Trustee Meeting of Consortium for Inclusive Education (CIE)

5 April, 2021: attended the Zoom Meeting with Deepak Foundation and Inclusive Education Forum

9 April, 2021: attended the Board Meeting of Perkins India

19 June, 2021: Presented “Experiences from Gujarat” in National Consultation on Impact of COVID – 19 on Education of students with disabilities organized by ASTHA (Delhi) and Human Rights Law Network.

1 June 2021: Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mrs. Nandini Rawal and Mr. Bharat Joshi attended the Virtual meeting with Civil Society Organisations and other development partners scheduled under the Chairmanship of CEO, NITI Aayog and the Chairman of the Empowered Group-7 constituted under the National Disaster Management Act to discuss the partnerships and strategies to combat surge of Covid cases across the Country and also regarding vaccination drives etc.

Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC)-Sundernagar
Department of Empowerment of PwDs (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India) Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

(Organized By: Deptt. of Special Education, CRC, Sundernagar, HP)

Webinar on:
"STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING OF ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SKILLS"
Friday: 2nd July, 2021 Timing: 11.00 AM- 12.00 PM

Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/bvt-axqk-vbo>

RESOURCE PERSON
Dr. B.K. Panchal
Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad Gujarat, India.

PATRON
Dr. HIMANGSHU DAS
DIRECTOR
NH PWD, Dehradun
Uttarakhand

WEBINAR COORDINATOR	VOTE OF THANKS	TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Sb. PRIYAVRAT NAWANI Orientation & Mobility Instructor CRC, Sundernagar, HP	DR. PRADEEP PAIWA Ist. in Physiotherapy CRC, Sundernagar, HP	Sb. SHAKTI SINGH Ist. cum Manager, ICI CRC, Sundernagar, HP

Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline "RISE-218" Toll Free Number: 18009990119
Early identification & intervention services available at CRC, Sundernagar (HP) for children up to 6 years



Department of Special Education, CRC organized a Webinar on "Strategies for Teaching of Orientation & Mobility Skills on 2nd July, 2021. Dr. B.K. Panchal attended this webinar as a Resource Person.



"PRATYUSHH" - FAMILY NETWORK MEETING

26 June, 2021: Blind People's Association RLC (W) and Sense International (India) jointly organized a Local Family Network Meeting on Around 50 parents from Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Porbandar, Palanpur, Deesa, Nadiad, Bhuj were participated in this virtual meeting. Mrs. Krupa Velani, Coordinator welcomed the group, and Dr. Sneha Khubani, Pediatrician, Porecha Eye Hospital, Bareilly spoke on Hygiene and precautions in Covid time. Ms. Hetalben of Samaj Suraksha Department, Government of Gujarat spoke on new schemes for PwD's during Covid period and Ms. Vimal Thawani, Project Director of BPA on achievements of persons with deafblindness and new initiatives by special need centres of BPA. Parents shared their experiences, children performed their ability and Deepa Joshi showed a video of children's activities.

8 May 2021: Virtual Meeting of all Coordinators of Special Need Centres: All coordinators shared their centre activities, achievements and future planning.

COMMUNITY BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (CBID) PROGRAMME

Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)-A Statutory Body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

RCI conducted a 6-days Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme from 16-23 August, 2021 through Virtual Mode in collaboration with University of Melbourne, Australia to prepare trainers to conduct CBID Programme. Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Ms. Kinnari Desai, Mr. Bharat Joshi and Mr. Jyotish Choudhary were nominated to undergo this ToT Programme for smooth conduct of CBID Training as Master Trainers at Blind People's Association. BPA started the first training of CBID batch from 1st October 2021.

थावरचन्द गेहलोत
THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



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MESSAGE

Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) has been advocated internationally as the core strategy for improvement in the quality of life of Persons with disabilities (PwDs). CBID was initiated by the World Health Organization, following the Alma-Ata declaration in 1978. It was promoted as a strategy to improve access to rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in low and middle-income countries, by making optimum use of local resources through collaboration with NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities.

The international community is currently focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, which recognizes the potential of community based inclusive development to accelerate inclusion of persons with disabilities and bridge the digital divide.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Australia in November, 2018 for cooperation in disability sector. Under the said MoU, the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan); DE:PwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India & the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, Australia have jointly developed the first Community Based Inclusive Development Programme. This program will be instrumental in developing a pool of community based rehabilitation workers trained to respond to issues concerning persons with disabilities at community level across the country.

I am delighted to launch this Programme together with a CBID guide book. I thank the entire team of the DE:PwD, the RCI, the University of Melbourne and other experts for their valuable contribution in developing this programme and preparing the programme Guide book. I hope the programme will be widely accepted across the country.


(Thaaawarchand Gehlot)

PARENTS MEETINGS



13 May 2021: Annual virtual parents meeting of Ashirvad Viklang Trust, Surendranagar and Porbandar. Ms. Vimal Thawani addressed the parents, congratulated their efforts in virtual training, Mr. Bharat Joshi spoke on following general hygiene guidelines at home in covid situation, ration kit help and Give foundation support. Ms. Anjana talked on vaccination, evaluation of students and contact with parents for various activities. Ms. Krupa focused on time table of students at home in vacation time.

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. Bhushan 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.

Webinar on RoPwD Act-2016

The new act introduced for persons with disabilities is a very comprehensive and powerful act. But, they will be able to benefit only if they are properly informed and educated about this act.

A webinar was organized on features and provisions in RoPwD Act 2016. Mr Bharatbhai Joshi, Deputy Director BPA was invited as a speaker on this topic. His profound study on this topic, wide experience of delivering speeches on this topic in various seminars and webinars and his method of explaining every topic and subtopic in detail made this webinar enriching and interesting.

Mr Joshi began the speech with the brief outline of earlier acts and the need for a new act

Then he gave the outline of this act and gave details of new disabilities added in this act. He then discussed some features that are useful for most of disable persons. The speech was followed by question answers.

Approximately 75 persons participated in this webinar and benefited from this webinar.

New Education Policy 2020

A webinar was held on New Education Policy on April 18 2021. Approximately, 83 persons participated in this webinar. Mr Himanshu Sompura (Secretary Navchetan Andhjan Mandal) and Mr Anil Aneja (President AICB) were invited as speakers for this webinar. Mr Sompura talked about key principles and key features of NEP, radical changes that this policy will bring about in the education system and expected outcomes of these changes. Mr Aneja discussed about the provisions of special education in this act. He also discussed what will be the impact of this policy for students with disabilities.

Creating Accessible E-book

A Two-day webinar on creating accessible E-book on 14 to 24 June 2021. 18 participants from Surat learnt creating accessible E-books.

Objectives of this webinar was;

1. To explain how important E-books are for Visually Impaired students for reading purpose nowadays.
2. To explain how to create E-book in very details.
3. To explain in detail the dos and don'ts in creating E-books. What is heading, how to describe images and how much important for any Visually Impaired persons.

Mr. Himanshu Sompura and Ms. Bharatiben were invited as lecturer for this webinar. The webinar ended with the strong demand for creating more E-books from Gujarat side and will be beneficial for VI persons.

TANYA COMPUTER CENTRE (TCC) ACTIVITIES IN THIS QUARTER

The number of students enrolled in each centre.

❖ Batch 4 students:

No	Center Name	Total Student	Male	Female
1	Ahmedabad	15	11	4
2	Deesa	13	10	3
3	Kapadvanj	8	7	1
4	Sayla	13	13	-

VTCC Online Study Centre

Approved 3 online courses from Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University. These courses are ;

1. Certificate Course in Vaidik Maths
- 2 Certificate course in translation
- 3 Certificate Course in Anchoring.

This is a regular weekly programme and it was launched on 22 May 2021 and it's objectives are;

- To enhance and cultivate the interest of the participants in literature and light music
- To identify the creative talents from the visually challenged participants and to train and motivate them to write poetry and prose.
- To invite eminent literary personalities in this programme and thereby to acquaint participants with well-known writers.

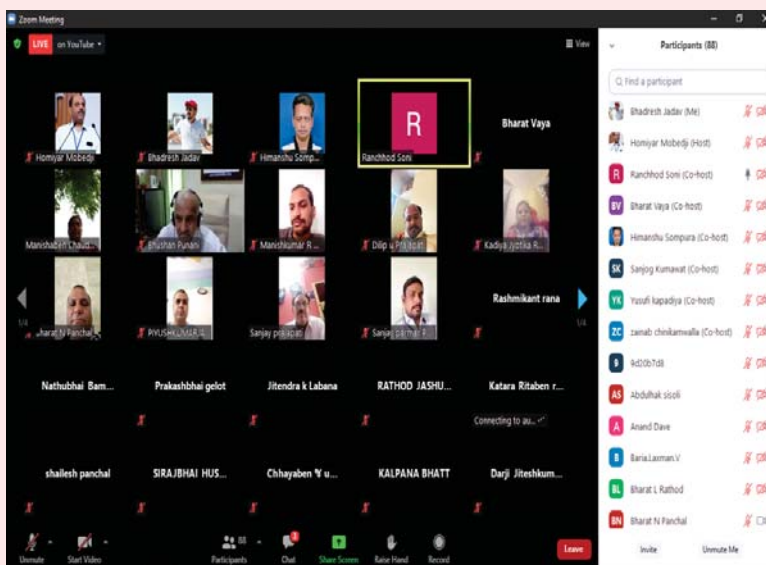
For the First time, TCC on-line study centre organized this Two-day programme "From Taste to Health" on cooking by webinar on 27-28 May 2021. Visually challenged participants who know basics of cooking were invited to attend this webinar. 57 participants benefited from this programme.

Objectives of this webinar were;

1. To explain that cooking is not just a daily activity but it is both a science and an art.
2. To explain the recipe of nutritious and delicious items for brunch, lunch and dinner.
3. To explain in detail the dos and don'ts for preparing the food for family members suffering from diabetes, blood pressure and other common problems.

The Speakers were Miss **Nidhi Shah** and Mrs **Abha Nanavati** Their detailed verbal description of every recipe, detailed and satisfactory answers to each question from every participant were the outstanding qualities of the speakers. The webinar ended with the strong demand for organizing at least one webinar every month on cooking.

Gujarati Typing in Mobile Phones Using Physical Keyboard



We all know that typing long mails and other long documents in mobile phones using virtual keyboards is comparatively difficult for VI persons. To overcome this problem, we encourage them to use external or physical keyboards. It brings ease, speed and accuracy in typing directly in their mobile phones. But there were technical difficulties in typing in Gujarati. After proper testing, TCC (BPA) in collaboration with Navchetan Andhajan Mandal, Madhpar organized the first webinar on Gujarati typing in mobile phones using physical keyboards on 23rd May 2021. The experts explained with demonstration how to write Gujarati in mobile phones using external keyboard. This development will allow visually challenged persons to use mobile phones as mini laptops in their classrooms as well as in work places even in situations where they have to type in Gujarati. More than 88 participants benefited from this webinar.

TCC conducts webinars and on-line workshops on topics that enhance creativity, professional skills and broaden their understanding in various topics. A good number of visually challenged persons are associated in the field of music. They include teachers, performers and private tutors. The recent webinar was organized for their benefit. The topic was "**the use of classical music in film songs**". The invited speaker was an eminent singer, a well-known composer and one of the key persons of the orchestra named Khandekar Brothers' orchestra. The webinar was organized from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on **April 4 2021**.

Mr. Khandekar divided the topic in three parts. Leading 35 ragas which are frequently used in film songs, leading musicians who have made abundant use of classical music in film songs, and leading singers who have excelled in singing classical based film songs. The best part of the webinar was that Aniketbhai gave many examples in his melodious voice. Approximately, **80 visually challenged** persons participated in this webinar and enriched their knowledge with a lot of enjoyment.

Programming Course in Python Language

Participants – 22 For the First time, TCC on-line study centre organized a Two Month course on Python language from 1 June 2021 to 31 July 2021. 22 People from various state from India learnt Python language.

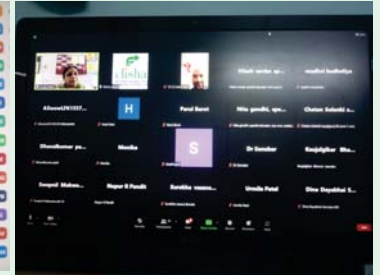
Objectives of this webinar were

1. To explain basic knowledge of Python programing.
2. To learn how to use lists, tables, and dictionaries in Python programs
3. To learn how to read and write files in Python.
4. To learn how to write loops and decision statements in Python.

Ms. Vidhi Shah was lecturer for this two monthly course. She has done very hard-work to teach Visual Impaired students. The classes will be conducted first 5 days of the every week for 2 months for 1.5 hour class from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. She taught this language in Py-Charm editor with ease method.



29 September, 2021: Krupa Velani did a Virtual Presentation of Session on Communication and Behavior for Diploma in Special Education 1st year - MPVSS Ujjain



25 September, 2021: Krupa Velani did a Virtual Presentation of Session on Deafblindness/MSI for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Staff in Baroda District

VIRTUAL DRAWING COMPETITION.

A Virtual drawing competition on monsoon was organized for Children with special needs on 23 July, 2021. Children partici[ated from home and parents uploaded their creations



ONLINE CLASSES



BPA-BAREJA STAFF AT PBMA'S H.V DESAI EYE HOSPITAL, PUNE

Swabhiman arranged a mega distribution camp for people with disabilities on 28th August, 2021 to help and motivate them after the massive impact of covid pandemic. As usual, Swabhiman extended their support to 151 people with different disabilities. 61 people with disabilities and their parents were given support to start self-employment, 46 children with disabilities have received assistive devices and 32 children with disabilities were given scholarship on 28th Aug, 2021. 5 people with disabilities having chronic disease have been given medical support to meet their daily need of medicine. Mr. Kintubhai, a founder of Swabhiman group and his team, well-wishers and donors remained present during the distribution program. What started almost 20 years ago is today 'Nirantar Swabhiman'!!!



Mrs. Sonia Jena and Mr. Soumen Maity attended the training program on NABH from 23 August to 4 September, 2021.

Mr. Hiren Rana and Mr. Shailendra at H. V. Eye hospital attended and completed training program on eye Bank from 30 August to 4 September, 2021

IN-HOUSE CAPACITY BUILDING



8 September, 2021: Staff Meeting of KCRC Eye Hospital by Dr. Dharmendrakumar Jena, Head of BPA-Bareja Hospital at KCRC office.

Eye Nore HIMS Cloud System 24.9.2021: Training staffs of BPA Porecha Eye Hospital by Arvind Eye Institute

8 September, 2021: Mr. Jigneshbhai Tirgar Chief Accountant of BPA giving training for the KCRC Accounts staff



REPUBLIC DAY AT BPA



ON JANMASHTAMI DAY AT BPA – NAAZ CENTRE

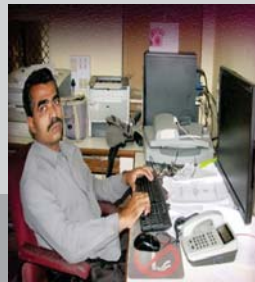
PASSING AWAY OF BPA STAFF, DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



Mr. Dilip Shah



Mr. Ambalal Patel



Mr. Zakir Sipai



Mr. Rahim Khan Pathan



Our devoted volunteer
Mr. Khazanchi
also could not come out
of the corona infection.



Mrs. Bellaben Patel, the donor of Smt Bellaben
& Yogeshbhai Patel Eye Hospital in Vatrak &
Mr. Vitthalbhai Patel, donor of BPA-Bareja
Orthopaedic Hospital passed away due to different illnesses.



Dedicated volunteer of BPA Left for his Heavenly Abode. Prof J I Gathiawala provided his outstanding and selfless services for translation of BPA Publications from English to Gujarati. While translating Handbook: Visual Impairment, he proposed numerous new words to Gujarati Literature. May this pious departed soul rest in peace



Shri Sardar Gurudial Singh, a devoted human being, was a great source of inspiration and support to BPA

Toy Bank Inauguration at Palanpur-Deesa Center



30.9.2021: Toys and Books distribution to children with special needs for Toy-cum-Book library supported by Shri Sudeepbhai, son of BPA Trustee Sunitaben Thakor

Van-Mahotsav (Tree Plantation)



The team of Shoppers Stop celebrated Van Mahotsav Week by planting trees at BPA Vastrapur Campus. Shoppers Stop has been a regular donor and supporter of BPA for the last many years - thanks to SS team for this initiative



The Lions Club of Vastrapur celebrated Lion Pankajben's birthday by planting fruit trees at the BPA campus.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

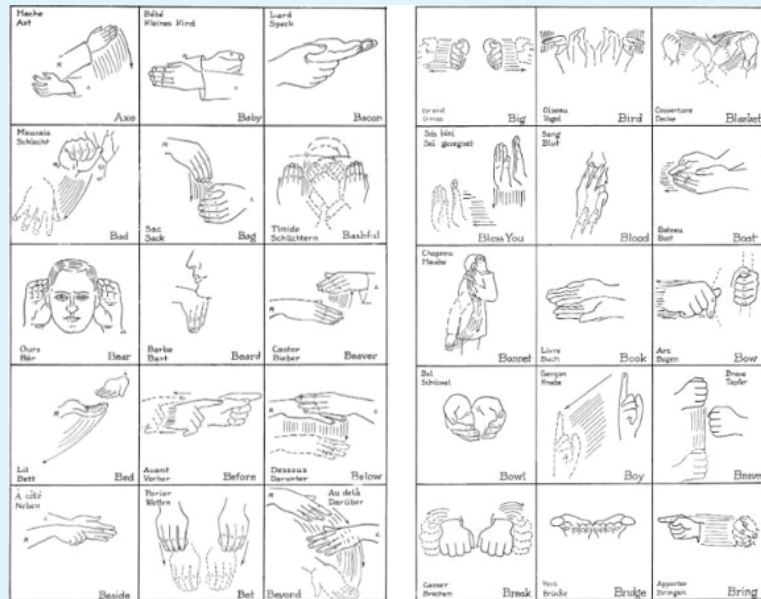
No	Center Name	Total Student	Male	Female
1	Ahmedabad	15	11	4
2	Deesa	13	10	3
3	Kapadvanj	8	7	1
4	Sayla	13	13	-

VI TO VIII STD STUDENTS IN OFFLINE CLASS AT SAVINAY CENTRE, BAVLA FROM 2.9.2021



INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE AS A SUBJECT IN SCHOOLS:

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation on 29 July, 2021 to mark a one year anniversary of the new National Education Policy (NEP) and announced that Indian Sign Language will now be introduced in the education system in the country. It will be added on as a subject in schools in India. P.M said that Indian Sign language has been designated as a subject now and that students can opt to study this. It will promote Indian Sign Language and will help over 3 lakh differently-abled people in the country, who are currently dependent on Sign Language for learning. This is the first time that Sign language has been given the status of a language subject.



23 September, 2021: On International day for Sign language, Ms. Krupa Velani, Ms. Deepa Joshi and Ms. Dhruvi (person with dual sensory impairment) spoke on importance of communication and sign language for persons with special needs on GSTV

29.9.21: Qi to Happiness foundation, Ahmedabad in collaboration with Novotel Hotel invited our children with special needs for therapy and snacks at Hotel Novotel. Special Educator Ms. Jyoti Doshi and children with special needs visited and enjoyed their hospitality.

Eye Camps were sponsored at various places by different Agencies



At Rampur Panchayat



Eye Camp at Ambethi was sponsored by Astral Foundation. Out of OPD of 238 persons, 33 have been brought to BPA Porecha Eye Hospital for eye surgeries



Eye Camps at Por Village supported by Lions Club of Vastrapur, Ahmedabad.



Cataract Free Sabarkantha Campaign in progress SVCT sponsored Eye Camp at Lalpur. Out 140 persons who attended the camp, 24 have been identified for eye surgeries Thanks to SVCT and its volunteers for saving sight of people.



DRY RATION KIT DISTRIBUTION FOR PwDs IN RURAL AREA



INAUGURATIONS - CSR SUPPORT

Inauguration of Solar Roof Top Project at Bareja Hospital by Mr. Nirav Patel and Mr. Umeshji of Kalupur Bank under CSR activity.

Inauguration of 100 Cataract surgeries by Prudent Corporate Advisory Services Ltd. Under CSR. Mrs. Nikita Shah and staff remained present.



CSR SUPPORT OF SAMSARA GROUP

Blind People's Association has launched a skill Development & Livelihood support project for 90 women with disabilities in Gujarat with the support of CSR support of Samsara Group. The first batch of training of 10 women with disabilities was inaugurated today at Dholka. Mr. Mukesh Oza- President-CEO of Samsara Group, Capt. Pankaj Mehrotra- CEO Shipping Agencies, and Top Management of Sea Trade Shipping (India) Private Limited attended the inauguration function on 3 September, 2021. Shri Mukesh Oza, CEO of Samsara Group attended the function virtually, and motivated the women by placing maiden order for 100 bags. This 10 Sillai Training Program and Sewing Machine were supported by Sea Trade Shipping (India) Private Limited. Thanks to Sea Trade Shipping India Pvt Ltd for empowering 10 women with disabilities by sponsoring their training and then gifting them a sewing machine for income generation activities.



DONATION FROM STRIDE



BPA has received CSR funds from Stride Climate Investment for distribution of 50 tricycles; 25 tricycles in Surendranagar District and 25 Tricycles in Banaskantha district.

Officials from Stride Climate Investment.

1. Mr. G.S. Babu - General Manager- Operation & Maintenance.
2. Mr. Sandeep Giri
3. Mr. Sohan Solanki
4. Mr. Manubhai Thakor
5. Mr. Rahul Sen

Officials from BPA India

1. Mr. Bharatkumar Joshi- Deputy Director, Projects, Resource Mobilization.
2. Mr. Harmish Modi
3. Mr. Rambhai Jadav



Blind Peoples Association - Bareja are highly thankful to Bandhan Bank for the constant support to make sure providing comprehensive and quality eye care to the people with visual impairment and avoidable blindness

MoU between BPA and United Ways of Delhi to work on three Projects in and around Sanand



MoU with Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (NACO) Government of Gujarat for Starting Integrated HIV Testing Center at BPA Porecha Eye Hospital.

SUPPORT FROM JODHPUR ASSOCIATION AHMEDABAD

Jodhpur Association is the Association of native people of Jodhpur city in Rajasthan living in Ahmedabad for work. This association is constantly involved in uplifting society and supporting nation for all the development and social upliftment work. Association is working in Ahmedabad since 1980.



“Atmanirbhar People is pillar of Atmanirbhar Nation” with this thought Jodhpur Association, Ahmedabad in association of Blind People’s Association has given a unique gift of 75 units of tricycle and sewing machines for specially abled citizens on the occasion of 75th Independence day on 15th August, 2021.



Members of Shanti Yog Mandal, Ahmedabad led by its President, Mr. M.M. Singhi, a leading lawyer donates 50 pre-used computers to BPA for establishing a computer training centre for Divyangjan

Signing MoUs



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Blind People's Association with Swarnim Startup and Innovation University to work towards skill based training and provide start up Eco System support to persons with disabilities. . Mr. Deep Mehta, Head, PR & Media, Swarnim Unvisersity signed the MoU along with by Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director in the presence of Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary and Ms Arpita Vyas, Women's Issues, Swarnim University.

Krina Patel has given the use of her bungalow in Nadiad for starting the Hari Om Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Multiple Disabilities. A MoU was signed by Krina's mother and BPA MoU in this regard.



SWABHIMAN DISTRIBUTION



Maqsudaben



Nimisha dagaya

Swabhiman arranged a mega distribution camp for people with disabilities on 28th August, 2021 to help and motivate them after the massive impact of covid pandemic. As usual, Swabhiman extended their support to 151 people with different disabilities. 61 people with disabilities and their parents were given support to start self-employment, 46 children with disabilities have received assistive devices and 32 children with disabilities were given scholarship on 28th Aug, 2021. 5 people with disabilities having chronic disease have been given medical support to meet their daily need of medicine. Mr. Kintubhai, a founder of Swabhiman group and his team, well-wishers and donors remained present during the distribution program. What started almost 20 years ago is today 'Nirantar Swabhiman'!!!



Driver Day Celebration on 17th September, 2021

This Project is funded by Sight Saver under Raahi Project

Driver Day Celebration 17th September, 2021 : India is home to over 9 million truck drivers. Truck drivers play a significant role in transporting India's freight; however their unorganized nature of work prohibits them to take their health issues seriously. To 'RAAHI'-National Truckers Eye Health Programme. Blind People's Association is one of the partners of Sight Savers for implementing the RAHI trucker's projects. This year National Truck Driver Appreciation Week from Sept. 12-18, 2021 was celebrated by BPA Porecha eye hospital has celebrated the week at different locations of in around and Ahmedabad with the support from Sight Savers. The details of the truckers week celebration is as follows;

Locations :- Jetalpur HP petrol Pump, Aslali Ring Road, Shree Ram Petrol Pump (Jetalpur), Coco Moriya Indian Petrol Pump (Bavla) Narol Indian Petrol Pump



NAME OF RO	SALES AREA	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
BHAGAT PETROLEUM	ANAND	TARAPUR	EYE CHECKUP CAMP
GOKULESH FUEL STATION	ANAND	KANERA	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,YOGA SESSION
PARMAR AUTOMOBILES	AHMEDABAD-4	SANAND	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,YOGA SESSION
SOMNATH FUEL POINT	AHMEDABAD-4	SITAPUR	EYE CHECKUP CAMP
AKSHAT PETROLEUM	HIMATNAGAR-2	PALANPUR	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,BLOOD DONATION CAMP
GHANSHYAM PETROLEUM	ANAND	ADAS	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,BLOOD DONATION CAMP
PRAKASH AUTOMOBILES	AHMEDABAD-1	JETALPUR	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,BLOOD DONATION CAMP
JRO MORIYA	AHMEDABAD-1	MORAIYA	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,YOGA SESSION
VRUNDAVAN PETROLEUM	HIMATNAGAR-2	SHAMLAJI	EYE CHECKUP CAMP
BHIMNATH PETROLEUM	PALANPUR	IQBALGADH	EYE CHECKUP CAMP
SHRI GOKULESH PETROLEUM	AHMEDABAD-3	NAROL	EYE CHECKUP CAMP,YOGA SESSION
LAXMI FUEL STATION	AHMEDABAD-1	PIPLI	EYE CHECKUP CAMP
SHREE RAM PETROLEUM	AHMEDABD-2	RAMOL	EYE CHECKUP CAMP

Visitors



Visit of Bank of Baroda Retired Employees

A group of retired staff from Bank of Baroda visited BPA on 10 July, 2021 and were amazed by the experience of Vision in the Dark project.

Paramahansa Yoganand Charitable Trust (PYCT) supported cornea surgery support program at BPA Porecha Eye Hospital.

In a function organized at BPA Porecha Eye Hospital on 15th September, 2021, the program was attended by Mr and Mrs. Kachruji, along with Mrs. Khachanji and Nandini Rawal. All patients who had restored their sight through corneal grafting had gathered. These 20 people can see again thanks to Keratoplasty operations conducted with the kind and generous support of Paramhans Yogananda Charitable Trust (PYCT).



BPA Project Director Mrs. Vimal Thawani interacting with students of Charotar University of Science & Technology (CHARUSAT), Changa on 18.9.21



"President of BPA, Shri Rajendra Shah and Management team of BPA visited Skills Development Centre at Surendranagar, supported by Padmanabh Mafatlala Group run by Ashirvad Trust, Sayla on 10 August, 2021



Audit team headed by Ms. Monica Sahni by Sight Savers visited Blind People's Association to audit the accounting and project activities of RAHI Truckers Project supported by Sight Savers implemented by BPA Porecha eye hospital



Mr. Makhija and team from Air force Association visited BPA Vision in the Dark on 24.9.2021 and donated one new Drum-set and 2 Casio to Mr. Jaydev who is visually impaired and a guide of BPA-Vision in the Dark project

Quiz Programme on Prime Minister's Birthday



Sulabh International Social Service Organization, Gujarat State Branch and Blind People's Association (India) jointly organized a Quiz Programme on the theme based "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" on the birthday of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendrabhai Modi on 17th September 2021 at BPA campus. It was a unique way of celebration of our Honorable PM's birthday to join and contribute for Green India mission. Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh from Sulabh international and Dr. Bhushan Punani, Executive Secretary, BPA remained represent in the function. 18 participants participated in the quiz programme.



VYO CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY OF RESPECTED SHRI NARENDRA MODI IN A NOVEL WAY

Vallabh Youth Organization (VYO) distributed 1100 Laser Mobility Sticks among persons with visual impairment by the worthy hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel in the presence of Pujaniya Shri VanrajrKumarji Mahodaya, Founder of VYO on birthday of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendrabhai Modi on 17th September 2021. Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mr. Jayantibhai Panchal, Mr. Tarak Luhar attended this programme. The VYO has decided to distribute 1,00,000 such sticks across the country

RASOTSAV-2021-A TALENT MORNING OF SPECIAL KIDS TO SHOWCASE THEIR ABILITIES AND CREATIVITIES



"RASOTSAV 2021" a celebration for their teacher's hard work which they did last whole year to make these kids happy and energetic about the life. On this day we invited talent pool from all our centers spread across state. **We had a combination of offline and digital Rasotsav celebration on 14th September, 2021 All India Flag Day for the Blind.**

More than 130 children with support of their parents and teachers participated in the program. 65 children gave LIVE performance in BPA Prayer Hall and this as well as virtual performances streamed through Zoom from our various Centres over Ahmedabad and Gujarat and also our Centre in Rajasthan. As a token of participation gift of Rs. 100 to each performer. As usual this programme was sponsored by Shah Investors Home Limited.

Training of Gandhinagar Field Workers

The 3-days training program was organized for CBR staff of CBR Forum at Blind People Association from 24-26 August, 2021. The main objective of this three day's training program was to provide detail orientation on 21 disabilities covered under rights of Persons with Disability Act. Another objective was to enable them to identify various barriers hindering development of people with disability in various sectors such as education, health, employment and access to government schemes and socialization. Training delivery method was classroom discussion, PowerPoint presentation, role play and field visit exposure.



Congrats Corner



Dr. Dharmendrakumar Jena, Deputy Director, Health of BPA received best social service award on behalf of Porecha Eye Hospital, a unit of Blind People's Association as a recognition of excellent services in the field of eye care from Lions Club of Vastrapur. BPA Porecha Eye Hospital is providing quality based comprehensive eye care since two decades and reaching out to thousands of people in need at their door step through its outreach program.



Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) has conferred on the Adult Training Centre for the Blind (sister organization of Blind People's Association) a certificate of appreciation issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India for timely return filing and sizeable payment of GST in cash. Thanks our volunteer Shri Kanubhai Mehta; Deputy Director Mr. Arindam Ray; Accountant Mrs. Maya Patel and Mr. Bhavik Vadodariya and ATCB team for their hard work in this regard.



Charity & Donation Collection Drive at Shaligram-1 Bungalows & Samruddhi Bungalows, Thaltej. Thanks To Mr. Natubhai Shah who initiated and supported the Drive. BPA collected around RS. 40000, almost 2 small trucks loaded with old items and got order of lamps made by our beneficiaries from these societies .



Doctorate to Shri Manubhai Chaudhary, Principal, Secondary School for the Blind, BPA completes his Doctorate in the subject "Comparison of Special Secondary Schools for Divyangjan". Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University has granted him degree of PhD

Awards were Conferred by Mr. Sanjay Khaitan, International Director in the presence of Mr Pravin Chhaged, Past International Director and Mr Bharat Chhaged District Governor, Lions International District. 3232 B2 to Mr. J. T. Panchal for his Outstanding Services under Covid Task Force; Mr. Chandrakant Solanki for work for Persons who are Mentally Challenged; Mr. Manubhai Chaudhary for Diabetes Awareness . Mr. K. M. Waghela, President; Ms Kinnari Desai, Secretary; and Ms Mita Thakkar, Treasurer of the Lions Club of Vastrapur (Mostly of the Blind) were also facilitated for their outstanding work at club level. BPA Family is proud of achievements of all of you!!





TRANSITION FROM ICEVI REGIONAL PRESIDENT (WEST ASIA) TO FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary of Blind People’s Association and Former Regional Chairperson of ICEVI (International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment) West Asia has been appointed as First Vice-President. He is the first Indian to become Vice- President of this body. Whole BPA family congratulates him for this great achievement.



Nandlal Gautam (trainee from Vocational training centre, BPA) received Smt. Nandini P. Divetiya Rural Rehabilitation Award for Disabled for the year 2020. Many congratulations to Nandlal. He received a certificate and 15000/- cash prize from Rural Development and Management Institute (RUDMI).

FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR RETIRED STAFF



30 July, 2021: The Staff Welfare Committee organized a Farewell function for retired staff members at BPA campus. Some persons retired but some of them were reappointed by the BPA.



25.9.2021- Silai programme at Sayla



Parag Panchal, person with locomotor disability distributed one pair of masks to each blind student in the BPA. He has promised 500 masks.



Happy Diwali & Prosperous New Year

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

Printed and Published by: Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad-380 015. Editor: Nandini Rawal, Assisted by: Lalitha Murlidharan, Publication Coordinator: Bushan Punani, Printed by: Naranbhai Prajapati at Mutlicategory Training Centre for the Handicapped, Computer Setting by: Dilip Patel, Photos: Bharat A. Dhuri
Proof Reading by: Mrs. Usha Nayak

If not delivered, please return to:
BPA Research and Newsletter
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(Formerly Blind Men's Association)
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BOOK POST

To,