



Devoted to
Comprehensive Development
Of Persons with Disabilities

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B.P.A. newsletter

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RESEARCH & NEWSLETTER
BLIND PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

CONVENTION CENTER DONATION

Montecarlo Ltd, leading infrastructure construction and development company, donated Rs 1 Crore (IRS 10 million) as first instalment for establishing Montecarlo Convention Centre in Building No. 8 of BPA. Mr. Kalpesh Desai, Company Secretary of the company presented cheque to Mr. Dinesh Bahl, Event Manager of BPA. The Company has pledged a total donation of Rs. 2 crore for the naming of the fifth floor of the new Convention Centres at the BPA. These rooms will be used for training and experience sharing



GSSCL SUPPORT

FREE SURGERY
500 Cataract, 50 Cornea
Date: 27.01.2022 Thursday
Time: 9:00 am onwards

Shri Rajendra Shah, President BPA
Dr Bhushan Punani, General Secretary BPA
Smt Nandini Rawal, Executive Director BPA

BPA requested Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited to provide financial support by sponsoring the Self-Employment Aids, Assistive Devices to differently abled people so that they can be self-employed and earn their livelihood and can live their life with dignity and also to provide financial support to do cataract surgeries & cornea transplantation under prevention & control of Blindness program The Gujarat State Seeds Corporation under its CSR grant for 2021-22 has sanctioned Rs. 88,69,000 for reaching out to more than 1300 persons with disabilities and other stakeholders across Gujarat .



Shri. P.S. Rabari, Managing Director and Shri. Hiteshbhai Babariya, Deputy Director from GSSCL inaugurated the program on 27 January, 2022 at Bareja hospital which will provide 500 cataract surgeries and 50 cornea surgeries.



14 OCTOBER (WORLD SIGHT DAY), 2021

The Silver Jubilee function of Andhjan Mandal, Nadiad was held on 14 October, 2021 at BPA Nadiad Branch. Awards were given to Social Clubs for funds collection on Flag Day. Inaugural and Motivational Speaker was Shri. Bhupendrabhai Brahmbhatt, Social Worker and the Chief Guest was Smt. Veenaben Patel (Veenaben Thakorabhai Patel Charitable Trust). BPA Executives and staff attended this function.



INAUGURATION OF HARI OM MOTA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Hari Om Mota Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Multiple Disabilities at Nadiad in a house owned by Krina Patel was inaugurated on 14 October. Krina's mother was present on this occasion in spite of her fragile health. Around 30 adults with multiple disabilities will be given training in making of various trades.



United Way of Delhi funded the Karvaan Programme at the Sanand ITI through the BPA. Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mr. Bharat Joshi attended the inauguration of Computer Training Center.





3 December, 2021: Jodhpur Association, Ahmedabad (JAA) celebrated IDPWDs by providing assistive devices to divyangjan of Jodhpur District well supported by Jodhpur Branches of Blind People's Association & Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayta Samitee. 150 disabled persons were given assistive devices like tricycles, wheelchairs and also income generation support like sewing machines. This was the first such programme organized by the Jodhpur Association in Ahmedabad in their mother town of Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The Chief Guests were Justice Shri Vineet Kothari and Chief Shri Sanjay Jain. The movers and shakers of the Jodhpur Association of Ahmedabad are Shri Gajendra Bhandari, President; Shri Sumer Lodha, Treasurer; Shri Jugal Kishore Rathi, Secretary; Shri Chanchal Raj Mehta, Vice President; Shri M.M. Singhi, Founder President. All the above and the top management of BPA was present at Jodhpur.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

BPA BANASKANTHA UNIT organised an awareness program and camp for PWDs and parents on rights for voting and any changes required in their voter ID card with help of Mamlatdar/SDM office. Mr. Bodana, Mamlatdarshree, Mr. Desai, Deputy Mamlatdar and other officials from SDM office remained present in the program in which CBID trainees performed street play for motivation of Parents. Other stakeholders also performed dance along with children with special needs of the Khushio nu Sarnamu, Deesa.

BPA BHUJ UNIT distributed ration kit to 60 PwDs and 160 were helped to get registered under e-shram.

DP World HR Head Mr. Varun Sharma and CSR Head Mrs. Nandiniben Dharvarkar visited BPA-KCRC Bhuj. Women with Disabilities of Vocational Training Unit of KCRC centre welcomed them.



Rahi Foundation regularly provides lunch for the students of BPA Sumeru Centre. On World Disabled Day- 3rd December, 2021 they organized a blood checkup, eye check of the students.



Hope Committee of BPA organized a Magic and Entertainment Show for the students and trainees of BPA.

Lioness Karnavati Hostel girls attended a gathering of ex-students of BPA-ITI. Ms. Ankita, ITI Instructor conducted the training.



AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV





आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



Postcard Campaign

Children to express their patriotism with Post Cards

students with blindness and low vision of Blind People's Association from 4th to 12th standards will write postcards to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on any of the two topics

"Unsung heroes of Freedom struggle"

"My vision for India in 2047"

Date
17/12/2021

Special Guest

Shri K. Ranjitekumar
Sr. Superintendent of Post offices
Ahmedabad City

Shri Alpesh Shah
Sr. Postmaster Navrangpura
Head Post office

Time
12:00
PM

📍 Blind People's Association, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad



The Government of India decided to celebrate Amrut Mahotsav of the independence of the country. Ahmedabad City Postal Department, Navrangpura Post Office organized a letter writing competition to the Hon'ble Prime Minister as part of the celebration of Amrut Mahotsav on 17 December, 2021. A total of 150 students from BPA participated and expressed their views in a letter on "My Dream India of the Year 2047" as also wrote on "Heroes of the Freedom Struggle". The target was for 75 lakh students studying in Std. 4 to 12 across the country to write post cards to PM. So far, more than one lakh students from 200 schools in Ahmedabad have written postcards to the PM. Surprisingly, some students of BPA have even written letters in Braille script.

AWARD GALLERY



Ms. Usha Rathod, Physically Challenged Table Tennis Player of BPA was conferred National Award as Outstanding Sports Person by Hon'ble President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind on 3 December, 2021.

Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary of BPA has been conferred the NAB Delhi Sarojini Triloknath National Award 2021 which consists of a citation, certificate, trophy and cheque of Rs. 50,000. This award is bestowed on him for devoting his life to the empowerment of persons with visual impairments and his remarkable achievements. The award ceremony was held on 3 December, 2021 (World Disabled Day) in New Delhi. Dr. Punani did not attend the programme in Delhi



as he was in Jodhpur, Rajasthan for programme with the Jodhpur Association of Ahmedabad for distributing assistive device. Dr. Punani has been the moving force in the disability field for the past decades and is well known and respected for his deep knowledge, his humility and his humanity. He has donated the award money to the BPA Staff Welfare Society. BPA Trustees, staff and other stakeholders are proud to be associated with Dr. Punani and wish him many more decades of dedicated services.

Mr. Pradeep Patel, Secretary, NAB Bharuch and Mr. Vishnu Tejabhai Vaghela were conferred Ushta Te Award on 12 December, 2021. Tarak Luhar, Secretary, NAB Gujarat accompanied them.



Mr. Vishnu Tejabhai Vaghela, totally blind Footballer admitted to the Blind People's Association in the Technical School for the Blind in 2017. He played against Japan and was chosen for international tournaments. He took admission in ITI and Japanese Manual Medical Therapy in the BPA and along with his training in computers also started Football practice. Soon he became the Captain of the Region Football Team. Blindness is not a barrier for Vishnu, his enthusiasm, positivity and hard work has enabled him to surmount all the hurdles of poverty and disability.



Ms. Bhavina Patel, winner of Silver Medal in Table Tennis got 7 crore as prize money from 3 State Governments. She got Arjuna Award at the worthy hands of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India.



Congratulations to all these Awardees.

PARAMHANSA YOGANANDA CHARITABLE TRUST (PYCT) & ITS SUPPORT

The PYCT through S.K. Khazanchi have been doing yeomen services at the BPA for the past decades. Even after Mr. Khazanchi's passing away, the legacy continues through Mrs. Khazanchi, their daughters, Trustees and friends of PYCT.



11 December 2021: Distributed Dry Ration Kits kits to 35 persons with disabilities, visually impaired widows and divorcees. This event was sponsored by Smt and Shri Kuldeep Kaul Delhi (Gurgaon)

5 January, 2022: PYCT celebrated Gurudev's Birthday and distributed 9 wheelchairs to needy persons with disabilities, Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary of BPA did an encouraging and motivational speech in this programme. PYCT distributed masks, sanitizer, blankets, sweet chikki and new year calendar to each wheelchair beneficiary. Families of Dev Deep Tower donated Rs 2000 and Guruji donated Rs.1000 for the sweet chikki.

11 January, 2022: Distributed Dry Ration Kits to 35 persons with disabilities, visually impaired widows and divorcees. This event was sponsored by Shri Narsimham, Mumbai who is a great friend of Shri.S.K Khazanchi. He gifted a wheelchair to a tiny lovely boy who was mentally as well as physically challenged.



25 October, 2021: Smt. Khazanchi and other Trustees and donors of PYCT team visited the BPA Porecha Eye Hospital and supported Keratoplasty surgeries. The PYCT has pledged Rs. 2.5 lakhs for conducting 10 Keratoplasty surgeries every month.

2 October, 2021: Artificial limbs distribution to persons with locomotor disabilities supported by Shri Shaileshbhai Shah, USA

Mr. Shailesh Shah, USA is based Volunteer cum Donor who every year conducts Seva Project in Gujarat. He motivates his friends, family members to contribute funds for SEVA Project. He personally attends the event and meets the people with disabilities. For last two years he was not able to travel to India due Covid 19 Pandemic and yet continued SEVA Project. He decided to support 25 people with disabilities who lost his/her limbs. The distribution function was organized on 2nd October to mark Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji. Mr. Shaileshbhai Shah and his friends joined the function through virtual mode, and interacted with people with disabilities, and motivated them to participate in economic, sports, and education activities.



Donation by Staff

The staff of Kalupur Commercial Co-op Bank Ltd celebrated their 52nd Foundation Day on 5 December, 2021 at BPA and supported for 52 cataract surgeries and 52 Tricycles, 6 Petty Shops, 2 Calipers, 2 Artificial Limbs for benefitting the persons with disabilities. The total fund was donated by the staff

Donation of Computers



Shri Girish Bechardas Patel & Shri Harshadkumar Shantilal Patel donated 5 computers for using the same in BPA Technology for the Blind. Shri Girishbhai & his son Mr. Shalin Patel remained present and they interacted with our visually impaired students. BPA is grateful to both of them for donating computers. We are also thankful to our volunteer Mr. J. S. Jhala for motivating the donors.



Computers donated through Shri Chinmay, friend of Shri Rajendrabhai Shah ,President of BPA

MEETINGS / TRAININGS / WORKSHOPS / PRESENTATIONS

CBID TRAINING: Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)-A Statutory Body under the Department of Empowerment of PwDs 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 training in Community Based Inclusive Development (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. The CBID trainees are doing their field training in different BPA centres.



CBID MENTORS' MEETING: Ms. Kinnari Desai arranged a CBID Mentors meeting on 13 December, 2021 at BPA. The objective of the meeting was to collectively discuss and bring clarity on the assignments of phase 2.

ICEVI Meetings



Mrs. Nandini Rawal and Mr. Harmish Modi handed over the ICEVI Account to the new ICEVI Treasurer Mrs. Praveena Sukhraj of South Africa in a virtual handing over ceremony on 16 December, 2021. Nandini & Harmish explained to her, that how they handled the ICEVI Account as Treasurer & Accountant respectively for the past 20 years.

15 December, 2021: Dr. Bhushan Punani and Nandini Rawal attended the ICEVI ExCo Meeting. Dr. Punani attended in his new role as Global Vice-President and Nandini Rawal as her last appearance as the Treasurer.

Nandini Rawal has been appointed as Honorary Member of Scientific Committee of Parvaz international Film Festival of Iran and she presented a paper in the film festival in January, 2022. Ms. Fatane Amiri who is the spirit behind this festival has visited BPA many times.

کارگاه های علمی
پنجمین دوره جشنواره بین المللی فیلم پرواز

کارگاه مهندسی پرستش در رشد خلاقیت و کسب و کار
افسران دارای معلولیت
مدربان: مهندس مهدی بصیرزاده
زمان: پنجشنبه ۲۳ دیماه / ساعت ۱۰:۰۰
مدت کارگاه: ۶۰ دقیقه
مکان: سالن اجتماعات فرهنگسرای اندیشه

کارگاه روایت داستان قهرمانان دارای معلولیت
مدربان: پرفیسور ناندینی راول
زمان: چهارشنبه ۲۲ دیماه / ساعت ۱۵:۰۰
مدت کارگاه: ۶۰ دقیقه
مکان: سالن اجتماعات فرهنگسرای اندیشه



کارگاه اختلالات در کودکان
مدربان: پرفیسور حسین نجمی
زمان: چهارشنبه ۲۲ دیماه / ساعت ۱۶:۳۰
مدت کارگاه: ۶۰ دقیقه
مکان: سالن اجتماعات فرهنگسرای اندیشه



کارگاه تاب آوری در کودکان و نوجوانان با نیازهای ویژه
مدربان: دکتر محمدرضا مقدسی
زمان: چهارشنبه ۲۲ دیماه / ساعت ۱۸:۰۰
مدت کارگاه: ۶۰ دقیقه
مکان: سالن اجتماعات فرهنگسرای اندیشه



کارگاه بررسی روند تاریخی ارتباط هنر، سینما و معلولیت در دوران معاصر
مدربان: دکتر کامران عاروان
زمان: چهارشنبه ۲۲ دیماه / ساعت ۱۹:۳۰
مدت کارگاه: ۶۰ دقیقه
مکان: سالن اجتماعات فرهنگسرای اندیشه

30 November, 2021: Nandini Rawal attended as a Member of the Award Selection Committee-2021 of RUDMI- Nandini P. Divetia Rural Rehabilitation Awards for Disabled

18 December, 2021: Nandini Rawal made a presentation on Resource Generation & Management in AICB Training Workshop on Leadership Skills & Financial Management

7 December, 2021: Dr. Punani attended the Panel discussion on "Creating an Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-Covid 19 World Indian Perspective. This virtual programme was organized by Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences (AIRS), Amity University, Noida.

17- 18, December, 2021: Sarthak Educational Trust New Delhi NAAI organized the Virtual 8th National Conference on Disability Digital Divyang: Enabled & Empowered on which.

Ms. Krupa Velani participated in discussion on celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) in Bulletin India



25 November, 2021: Local Family Network Meeting "Pratyushh" was organised at Blind People's Association with the support of Sense India. 30 parents of children with deafblindness/multiple disabilities were present. Ms. Vimal Thawani addressed the parents and discussed about importance of Covid vaccination and activities of Pratyushh network. Ms. Kinnari Desai gave information about E- shram registration, advocacy and CBID course.

28 November, 2021: A function was held by Samta Vikas Charitable Trust, (BPA partner in the Smt. Bellaben and Yogeshbhai Patel Eye Hospital at Vatrak) to felicitate Mr. Rameshbhai Shah, newly appointed CEO of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of USA. Rameshbhai is the heart and soul of the Motiya Mukta Sabarkantha Campaign for eliminating cataract blindness and donor and Member of SVCT.



18 December, 2021: BPA Porecha Hospital team conducted Staff orientation program at KCRC Bhuj. The topic was quality control measures developed for the OT and OPD and planning for for Naliya and Nakhatrana vision centers. A quarterly plan was also developed for KCRC eye unit.



7-9 December 2021: Regional Network meeting of Abhiprerna, Prayaas and Training for Adults with Deafblindness was held from 7-9 December, 2021 at Blind People's Association under the auspices of Regional Learning Centre (RLC West). 56 parents, special educators and adults with deafblindness participated in the program. In these three days they discussed on difficulties faced in the covid pandemic, mental health, vocational opportunities and training for PwDs, rights and responsibilities, various schemes and concessions. Participants visited Astha Vocational Training Center and Ananddham. This 3 days program organised by Blind People's Association was supported by Sense International India. RLC Team is thankful to all BPA officials, Sense team and special thanks to Mr. Rajendra Shah, President, BPA for organizing fruitful visit to Astha and Ananddham.



Parents Meeting at Pravin Mandakini Bhagwati Savinay Sammilit Vidhyalaya

Covid-19 Pandemic situation posed many challenges , particularly education of children in general and of special needs in specific . Since March 2020, Almost full academic year passed without offline classes. The teachers continued education through online classes and Sheri Shikshan. They

took monthly test and quarterly exams partly online and partly offline. As per Government guidelines the offline classes started for students of class 6th-8th with all covid -19 protocols in place , students started coming with the consent of parents .



Parents were invited to share progress of their children and activities of school . the meeting was organized on 5th October, 2021, 65 parents attended the meeting . It was interesting to note that in many cases both parents were present . All of them appreciated the efforts of the teachers for engaging and imparting education to children . Ms. Vimal Thawani, Mr. Bharat Joshi and Ms Jigna Joshi attended the meeting and addressed parents .



Two Days Master Training Workshop on "Plus Curriculum for children with special needs"- for IE-CwSN field staff working with Samagra Shiksha , Gujarat. Training of first batch started on 7th January 2022. There will be five batches, 40 participants per batch. This training organized by Blind People's Association & supported by Samagra Shiksha.

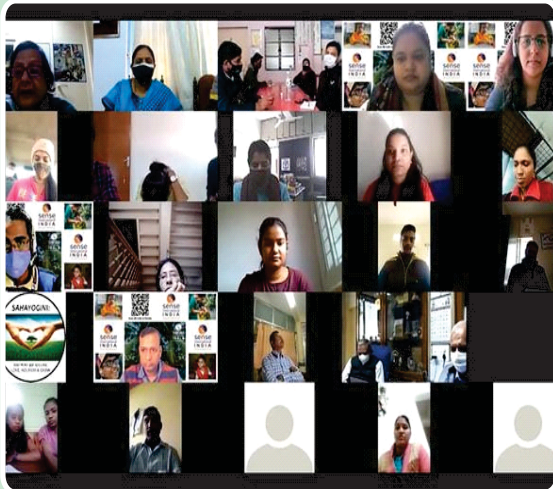


Master Trainer Program supported By USHA International Ltd was inaugurated at Dholka, Gujarat, Implemented by Blind People's Association.



Soumen Maity, Bareja staff and Sursangh, Ashirwad Trust staff with Dr. Sudesh, at Sayla and Surendranagr for overview of CBR work with Visually Impaired Person.

Virtual Regional Training on Deafblindness for Teachers



This training was organised on 18-22 January 2022 by Blind People's Association (RLC West), supported by Sense International India, recognised by the Rehabilitation Council of India and funded by Bajaj Auto. A total of 56 participants from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan attended this training. Ms. Vimal Thawani, Mr. Bharat Joshi, Mr. Sunil Gaurier , Mr. Shrinivas , Ms. Abha Joshi, Ms. Jigna Joshi, Ms. Manisha Parikh and technology team Bhadresh and Vidhi shared their expertise in this training. Ms. Krupa Velani and Ms. Deepa Joshi coordinated this training.

Virtual National Conference on Inclusive Education – Empowering and Enabling the School Stakeholders



Department of Special Education, SNTD Women's University in collaboration with Lighthouse Learning (Euro Schools, Billabong High International Schools, Euro Kids pre schools, Kangaroo Kids International Pre schools, and Center point Schools covering a student strength of 45000 across the country) organized a National

Conference with the theme "**Inclusive Education – Empowering & Enabling the School Stakeholders**" from January 29-30, 2022. Nandini Rawal attended as Chairperson in a session for Parents in Virtual National Conference on Inclusive Education – Empowering and Enabling the School Stakeholders on 30 January, 2022.



1 November, 2021: Virtual speech of Dr. Bhushan Punani & Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mr. R.S. Jadav on RCL Agencies(India) Ltd supported Sewing Machine Distribution function in Wankaner.

18 December, 2021: RCL Agencies Ltd supported Sillai Machine Distribution function at Morbi .



Dr. Bhushan Punani delivering address as Chief Guest of the function "Presentation of Shri Mahadev Desai Social Service Award: 2021" at Gujarat Vidyapith" on 1st January, 2022.



Caregiver Training Program: This training program was conducted on 29-30 December by Ms. Nandini Rawal, Ms. Vimal Thawani, Ms. Jyoti Doshi and Ms. Krupa Velani at Ananddham . The topics consisted of understanding of intellectual disabilities, health and psychological needs of these persons, elements of caregiving and importance of activities of daily living and leisure time management.



Blind People's Association has been implementing an ADIP scheme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India since 1982. BPA has been awarded a sanction of grant of Rs 32,25,000 for the year 2020-2021. The ADIP Scheme was implemented in the year 2021-2022. BPA has organized assessment and distribution camps of

assistive devices to people with disabilities in Porbandar, Mahisagar, Sabarkantha, Aravalli and BPA campus. A total of 567 persons with disabilities were covered in this distribution. One distribution was organized at Lunavada (Mahisagar) on 4th October 2021 in the presence of Member of Parliament, LA, Collector- Sri, BJP- Pramukh, SDO, Lions President and other dignitaries.

23-24 October, 2021: New opportunity for persons with disabilities e-Shram Card - an initiative of Ministry of Labour, Govt of India and Govt of Gujarat. 160 persons with disabilities were provided e-Shram Cards in 2 days at BPA. Authorities of the department appreciated BPA's team work and extended provision of these one more day. This information was uploaded on the official Facebook of Ministry of Labour.



LEARNING-BY-DOING WORKSHOP

Learning-By-Doing Workshop is a part of basic course in computer education. This four-day workshop allowed visually impaired students of all the Tanya Computer Centers together to come to BPA and learn at one place & to develop acquaintance with one another. It also provided them the opportunity to learn those topics which they can otherwise not learn at their own centers. This workshop was conducted at the campus of Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad from 13-16 December, 2021. A total of 36 participants from all centers attended this workshop and participated in a variety of activities.

- The workshop started with the introductory session of Mrs. Vimal Thawani (Project Director of BPA) gave an outline and the importance of this four day workshop
- The session was followed by a lecture by Mr. Ranchhod P.Soni (Coordinator of Technology center of Blind) on role of assistive technology in the life of visually challenged persons. He discussed at length how assistive technology proves a great leveler and enhances their capabilities in education, employment and everyday life also talked about some recent tools and software.
- Mr. Dhruv Bhatt (Assistant of Technology Center for Blind) explained the functions of various tools and divided the students into six groups. So that they can learn the use of products in small groups.
- Ms. Kinnari Desai (Senior Manager) explained them how to identify their strengths, skills & weaknesses & how to transform these weakness into strengths.
- Mrs. Nandini Rawal (Executive Director of BPA) explained the basic principle of management and leadership through stories.
- Mr. Bharat Joshi (Deputy Director) explain the importance of knowledge for total development. He also explained the role of RPWD Act in their education and employment.
- Mrs. Vimal Thawani (Project Director) explained the causes and consequences of stress and explained that some amount of stress may be good.
- Mrs. Anju Gulati who is the volunteer of BPA gave a lecture on basic communication skills and explained the participants how to introduce themselves in public, how to communicate in different situations, places and contexts. She kept the session interactive and practical.
- The last day students were shown various games & puzzles with necessary adaptations & modifications. The purpose of these games was to enhance their logical thinking with interest in games & puzzles.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date	Name of Trust
29 October, 2021 & 21 January, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jit Mehta Adult Training Centre for the Blind Blind People's Association Saddbhawna Rural Development Trust
30 October, 2021 & 22 January, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) National Association for the Blind

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT - SAMSARA GROUP

Samsara Group has initiated Women Empowerment project with Blind People's Association. This was under CSR initiative of the RCL Agencies (India) Pvt Ltd and Sea Trade Agencies India Pvt Ltd. 90 women with disabilities from 5 districts were provided stitching and tailoring skills, and after completion of training sewing machine was given to the women with disabilities for setting up business activities. The Sea Trade Agencies India Pvt limited has supported 30 women with disabilities, 10 from Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, and Kachchh District each. RCL agency has supported 60 women with disabilities; 20 from Surendranagar District, 30 from Morbi District, 10 from Rajkot District. The top management of Samsara Group Shri Mukesh bhai Oza Chairman, Shri Manu Nagpal and other officials attended the inauguration and distribution function virtually and physically.

The Aawas Foundation

BPA is proud partner of USHA International Limited for its flagship program Sillai School. The Aawas Foundation, USHA International and BPA have joined hands to empower 100 women with Disabilities in Gujarat. The first batch of training program 25 women with disabilities was inaugurated, Mr. Manish Tiwari, Head CSR Aawas Foundation, Mr Mohanlal from USHA International attended the event. It was documented by NDTV for its prime show Kushalta ke Kadam. Ms. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director shared works of BPA with USHA International, and impacted lives of people with Disabilities.

NDTV Interview with BPA Executive Director



28 December, 2021: NDTV interview with Nandini Rawal for Usha Silai Training Program run by BPA at Naaz with the support of Usha International and Aawas Foundation.

EYE CAMPS



Hapa, Himmathnagar, Sabarkantha



By Wagh Bakri



Checkup Camp for Auto drivers supported by Sight



Itadi camp by SVCT



At KCRC, Bhuj



At Kankaria



Patients after surgery



The BPA Porecha Eye Hospital at Bareja continued its work of preventing and curing blindness without a pause. In spite of the pandemic, the hospital went to all corners of Gujarat and conducted checkups sponsored by various donors, agencies at local camps followed by surgery at the BPA Porecha Eye Hospital



Parampujya Mahantshri P.P. Swamishri of Jetalpur Swaminarayan Mandir kindly donated an ECCO 5 seater AC CNG vehicle from their Narnarayan Shastri Institute of Technology (NSIT), Jetalpur on 1 October, 2021. This vehicle will be used for plying patients and providing the best quality medical care of the Porecha Eye Hospital at Bareja, a Unit of Blind People's Association (India), Ahmedabad. BPA thanks Mahantshri for espousing this cause of the Porecha Eye Hospital

COVID VACCINATION

BPA organized a special Drive-through Covid-19 Vaccination Camp for persons with disability. Lot of such people participated and took free vaccine at the BPA campus within a span of 18-19 December 2021. The first dose was given 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, and the Blind People's Association and Akhil Hindustan Viklang Sangh. Shri J.T. Panchal Manager of BPA arranged this camp.



Vaccination for below 18 age of persons with disabilities



8 January 2022: Covid vaccination camp for age group between 15 to 18 yrs was organized at BPA-Khushio Nu Sarnamu-1, Deesa. A total of 10 children were vaccinated with 1st dose by Taluka Health Office Deesa. Also dental check up was done for all students by Dr. Sagar Modi, Dentist, Deesa.



LATE SHRI RAMESHBHAI P. SHODHAN



Shri Rameshbhai Purushottamdas Shodhan had come to the BPA requesting help as he was losing his vision due to glaucoma. The BPA rehabilitation team arranged for his training in orientation and mobility so that he could move around independently. At the age of 82, he was taught by the BPA Technology team to use an Android phone effectively for communicating with his family and loved ones. In spite of his trembling fingers, Rameshbhai learnt how to use the mobile phone very effectively. He also understood

and appreciated the various activities of the BPA. Shri Rameshbhai recently passed away and his daughter donated Rs. 5 lakhs to the BPA in his name for initiating the "Shri Rameshbhai Purushottamdas Shodhan Scholarship Fund". Shri Rameshbhai has so faithfully remembered BPA and blessed it even in leaving this world. His fund will help students with visual impairment to pursue new careers. BPA family offers prayers to the soul of Rameshbhai and strength to his family to bear the loss.

TRULY INSPIRATIONAL NONAGERIAN



When most people in their 90's are languishing in the bed and are not mobile and not very functional and independent, we have a nonagenarian with a difference. We have **Shri Kaushikbhai Chokshi** who is a patriot, a follower of Gandhiji who has spun yarn all his life and worn clothes only of yarn spun by him. He recently spun the yarn and sent it to Saurashtra for weaving and then processing in Mumbai. 50 meters which are the fruits of

Kaushikbhai's labour have been donated to Blind People's Association by his son Shri Devangbhai. We salute the true sons of India like Kaushikbhai who are an inspiration in discipline and love of the country to today's generation. We have uploaded his story in our website. He was impressed by our activities and has sent a donation of Rs. 20,000 for the benefit of persons with disabilities. BPA thanks Shri Kaushikbhai and wishes that he continues to remain in good health and busy as ever...



Bakeri city and Vejalpur area are to be thanked for making charity collection drive successful. Special thanks to Shri Hashmukhbhai for organizing this drive.

AS COVID WAS LOW BETWEEN OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, VISITORS FLOCKED TO BPA



Students of Kanoria Centre of Psychology



Visit of Mr. Pandya, Librarian of Gandhinagar



Students of L.J. College, Ahmedabad



Nursing Students



Visit of Mr. Sunit Sengar, Mr. S.K Singh and Mr. Ashutosh, Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi



Son and Daughter-in law of Shri Natubhai Shah (Trustee of BPA)



Daughter & Grandchildren of Smt. Sunitaben Thakor (Trustee of BPA)



Veena Tours and Travels had added visit of BPA and Vision-in-the-Dark as part of the Ahmedabad City visits. More than 300 Veena Tours and Travels visitors have visited the BPA. They have been greatly motivated by the visit.



Ms Ritu Sen, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt of India visited BPA and interacted with the participants of Training Programs for Master Trainers of Special Educators under Samagra Shiksha.



Blind students of BPA performed in the Annual Awards Event – ESTRELLAS 2021 which was held on 19th Nov'2021 in Baroda. Special thanks to Mrs. Sudha Joshi former teacher of the BPA school who arranged the visit of these 6 performers of BPA along with 1 Choreographer and accompanied them.

CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAY of staff- October, November & December

SNEH MILAN after Diwali



NAVRATRI October: Dushera Pooja Garba



CHRISTMAS Celebration

BPA celebrates of birthday of staff having a joint celebrations to mark that months birthday. BPA also has a get-together for staff after Diwali called Sneh-Milan. All festivals irrespective of religion are celebrated at BPA.

NEW YEAR GIFTS



Winter Jacket to all cricket players by Laxmiben Agrawal and students enjoying the food



Manish Yadav is the regular visitor and donor of BPA. Since last 3 years he is staying in Philippines. Even he is far from the BPA, he keeps sending his contribution regularly. Every Diwali he is sending the money for Diwali gift for the inmates of BPA. This time students organized a cricket match and enjoyed panipuri and bhel from his contribution.

ON REPUBLIC DAY



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

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BOOK POST

To,