



Devoted to  
Comprehensive Development  
Of Persons with Disabilities

For Private Circulation Only

# B.P.A.

## Bulletin

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BULLETIN  
BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

### MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER STOPS BY...



Prime Minister of Mauritius H.E. Mr. Pravind Jugnauth and First Lady Mrs Kobita Ramdane Jugnauth visited BPA on 20 April, 2022. Mrs. Sunaina Tomar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment Department, Government of Gujarat accompanied the Mauritian visitors. They were greeted by BPA officials, students with disabilities in various department, and staff. The Prime Minister was on a personal visit to BPA. The BPA family was charmed by the humanity and grace of the Prime Minister and his wife.

Shri Vishadbhai Mafatlal, Chairman Mafatlal Industries visited BPA and had discussions with the executives on 24 February, 2022. He was shown a presentation on BPA activities and also how the support provided by Mafatlal group had enriched lives of the beneficiaries. He visited the early intervention services on the campus and also had an interaction with the beneficiaries who received smart phone, medicines, economic support and assistive devices like hearing aids. The BPA family was touched by Vishadbhai's humility, his interest in learning and his attention to detail.



## Ground Breaking Ceremony of Sheth Shri Jamnabhai Bhagubhai BPA School of Optometry at Bareja

**16 April, 2022:** The Sheth Jamnabhai Bhagubhai BPA School of Optometry offers a four year professional degree of Bachelor in Optometry since 2018 and the first batch are ready to serve the sector by end of November 2022. The course is approved by Gujarat University and after completion of the course the students will get their Bachelor's Degree in Optometry from the university. Till date 29 students have been enrolled for the course and we anticipate that the number of students will be more in the coming year with completion of the building supported by SJB Charitable Trust. The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony took place on 16 April, 2022. The ground breaking was done at the hands of Shri Rajiv Vastupal, Shri Shreyang Sutaria, Shri Sajag Mehta and Shri Darshan Pinakin-Trustees of the Sheth Jamnabhai Bhagubhai Religious Trust who have sponsored this Project. Trustees of BPA were also present on this occasion.

This college building will be equipped with advance class rooms separately for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and internship year, Boy's and Girl's Common Room, Principal's Room, Staff Room, Refreshment Area, Physics Laboratory, Computer Laboratory, Office, Conference Room, Practical Room along with Staff and Student Residency.



## Inauguration of Rotary Phaco Emulsification Centre

**23 February, 2022:** BPA applied for an international grant for machines for conducting PHACO surgery and one BPA donor Dr. Ilaben Shah of USA gave 10000 \$ as 25 % contribution and the rest 75 % was matched by Rotary Club of Ahmedabad Supreme(D3054) and Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall (D7620).



## Inauguration of Thasra Vision Center

**15 March, 2022:** Thasra Vision Center supported by SEVA Foundation implemented by BPA Porecha Eye hospital was inaugurated. Two Vision Centres have been funded by Seva Foundation USA, one at Thasra and the other at Nakhtrana, Kutch.





## Inauguration of Nakhtrana Vision Centre in Bhuj

**26 MARCH, 2022** : The Centre was inaugurated by Shri Baldev Rajda, President Akhil Kutch Lohana Mandal; Shri Pankaj Thakker, Akhil Kutch Raghuvanshi, Social Group; Shri Vasantbhai Kodrani, former President, Akhil Kutch Raghuvanshi, Social Group and Riddhi Vaghela, Sarpanch. The centre was opened in the Lohana Samaj Sanchalit Dariyasthan Mandir . The space has been given free of charge to BPA for running the Vision Centre. The Centre is sponsored by Seva Foundation, USA.



## Inauguration of Home Science Room

**12 April, 2022:** Family members of Late Smt. Anjanaben and Shri Anantbhai Shastri donated funds for perpetuating her memory by naming the Home Science Department in her honour. Anjanaben was a very dedicated home science teacher at the BPA who taught blind students cooking, independent living, simple mending, ironing etc. The room was inaugurated on 12 April, her death anniversary.



## Inauguration of Centre for Visual Impairment with Additional Disabilities (VIAD) Supported by: Rameswar Udyog Private Limited

**25 April, 2022** : Mr. Janki Vaishnav from Rameswar Udyog inaugurated the Centre for Visually Impaired Persons with Additional Disabilities. All staff members and students of VIAD Centre were present on this occasion. Rameswar Udyog has sponsored this Centre.

CSR  
Initiative  
2021-22





## INAUGURATION OF MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT IN VATRAK SUPPORTED BY K. K. SHAH SABARKANTHA AROGYA MANDAL, VATRAK

**9 February, 2022:** BPA Mental health services were started with a check-up camp in Bayad Taluka. Assistive Devices such as Tricycles, Wheel Chairs, and Livelihood Tool Kits were given to People with Disabilities at Vatrak Hospital, Sabarkantha, supported By Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited under their CSR initiative. Mr. P.S. Rabari, Managing Director of Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited and Mr. Jasubhai Patel, MLA Bayad and Malpur were the Chief Guests. Mr. Rameshbhai Shah, CEO, Ekal Foundation and Mr. P. K. Laheri, Former Chief Secretary, were the Guests of Honour.



## Lotus Hearing Assessment Department, Bareja

**6 April, 2022:** Audiometry services were restarted after Covid Pandemic at BPA Porecha Lotus Hearing Assessment Department



## Launching of New Digital Libraries

**5 February, 2022:** ICEVI launched 4 New Digital Libraries at Dahod, Kapadwanj, Palanpur, Sayla; 2 Such Libraries have already been established at Surat and Bharuch







# ACHIEVEMENT CORNER



**25 March, 2022:** NASEOH, INDIA has conferred Dr. Amar Nath Tandon Award for the year 2021 to Ms. **Upasna Chavda**, Volunteer and Executive Committee Member of BPA in recognition of her Outstanding Voluntary Services for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.



**25 March, 2022:** NASEOH, INDIA has conferred Sulakshana Ramjanam Pandey Award for the year 2021 to **BPA** for its outstanding sustained contribution for the rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities. The awards presentation was held on 25 March, 2022 at NASEOH, Postal Colony Road, Chembur, Mumbai. Ms. Kinnari Desai, Senior Manager, Inclusion accepted the Award on behalf of BPA.



**26 March, 2022:** GLS University felicitated outstanding women from different sectors for their excellent work. Kinnari Desai was also conferred an Award on this occasion.



**Appointment:** Rehabilitation Council of India has selected **Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director of BPA** as an Expert Committee Member for the development of Training Program for Special Teachers/Orientation & Mobility Specialists for educating and training the Blind & Persons with Low Vision.

Mrs. Vimal Thawani and Mrs. Nandini Rawal were invited as Experts by Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for developing curricular frame work for early identification and intervention.





**13 March, 2022:** Dr. Dharmendra Jena, Deputy Director of BPA Porecha Eye Hospital was felicitated by NAB, Bharuch Branch in the program organized with the theme of "Pragyane Sathvare, Purnatano Pravas". Dharmendra and the Porecha Hospital conducted series of eye camps in and around Bhuj, Narmada districts as part of CSR activity funded by Navin Flourine.



Navjivan Charitable Trust organized Mr. Gujarat and Miss Gujarat pageant. Mr. Mansoori Sahil was conferred the title of Mr. Gujarat and got Rs. 5000 as cash prize and Rs. 2500 for his dress.



Gift Article Showroom was inaugurated in Ahmedabad by blind students of BPA



Sahil & Urvi participated in the Josh Dance Competition and cleared two rounds. The show was held in Mumbai. The judges were Prabhu Deva and Malaika Arora.

## 25th Anniversary of Sense India



**29 March, 2022:** BPA deafblind students wishing Sense India on its Silver Jubilee Celebration.



**1 April, 2022:** Akhil Paul, Director of Sense International India enjoying his birthday with deafblind students and staff of BPA.



## Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) to Children with Disabilities by NIID

The National Institute for Intellectual Disabilities, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, provided teaching - learning kits to different categories of children with disabilities of various departments of BPA.



**28 March, 2022:** 32 Teaching Learning kits were distributed to children with intellectual disabilities at BPA main campus by Shri Darshan Desai from Department of Social Defence, Government of Gujarat, General Secretary of BPA Dr. Bhushan Punani, Project Director Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mr. Subesh Chaudhary and Mr. Rajendrasinh from M. S. E. C, Noida and the Coordinator of Ahmedabad Rural for Education were present at this distribution function.

**29 March, 2022:** 23 Teaching Learning kits distributed among children with intellectual disabilities of Khushio Nu Sarnamu-1, Deesa in the presence of District Social Defense Officer.



**30 March, 2022:** Teaching Learning kits distributed among 57 children with intellectual disabilities of Khushio Nu Sarnamu-1, Deesa in the presence of District Social Defense Officer



## UPCOMING PROJECT Comprehensive Vision Centre (Unava)

Supported by: Bhagwati Spherocast Private Limited  
Space Courtesy: Vidyarthi Ashram, Unava  
Run by: BPA – Porecha Eye Hospital, Bareja

**14 March, 2022:** Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, Dr. Dharmendrakumar Jena, Deputy Director, Mr. Ramesh Patel, Employment Officer met the Trustees of Sheth Shree C. C. Shah School, Unava for finalization of Vision Center to be supported by Ms. Reena Bhagwati. Unava is a village located in Gandhinagar District of Gujarat. The Trustees not only agreed to give the space but also agreed to make aluminium partitions for the vision centre at their own cost. Bhagwati Spherocast has donated Rs. 20 lakhs for the equipment and running costs. This will be the first Vision Centre in that area. Now it will be inaugurated on 20th May, 2022.





## Sillai School News

**9 March, 2022:** Inauguration program of 7- days Residential Sillai Training for Women with Disabilities of Banaskantha District at Palanpur. Training program was organized by Blind People's Association and supported by Usha International and Aawas Foundation. A total of 25 women with disabilities were trained during the training workshop.



**9 February, 2022:** Sillai training was started at Deesa supported by Aawas Foundation and Usha International.



**11 February, 2022:** 25 disabled women of Bavla taluka within Naaz village were given seven days training and provided Usha Sewing Machines under Usha Sillai School at BPA MSM-Naaz Center. The program was implemented in collaboration with Aawas Foundation's CSR grant.



The second batch of Usha Sillai School Program was conducted from 11-19 February, 2022. Shri Atul Jain (Usha State Head), Shri Dipakbhai Sharma (Usha Silai School Assistant Head), Shri Sandel Sakshana (Department Head) Shri Vijaybhai and Shri Bharatbhai Joshi (Deputy Director, BPA) were present on the last day.

**17 March, 2022:** Closing Ceremony of Samsara Group supported Sillai School Project was organized to coincide with the birthday celebration of Shri Mukesh Oza, Chairman and CEO of Samsara Group. The group supported the training of 90 disabled women in tailoring. The programme was organized at NAB Bhavnagar Branch. Nandini Rawal and Dr. Bhushan Punani addressed the august gathering and Bharat Joshi arranged this meeting. 1008 Sillai Schools will be opened in next 5 years in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Mr. Labhubhai Soni was the local host.





# VISITORS



**10 February, 2022:** Joint verification of ITI was done by **Shri S.S Patel**, State Representative DET Gujarat and **Miss Sonam Sankar** RDSDE Representative.

**1 April, 2022:** **Dr. Anilbhai V Shah**, President of Small Village Initiative of USA visited BPA along with SVCT team and his high profile group.



**4 April, 2022 :** **Shri Pradyumansinh Jadeja**, MLA of Abadsa visited Nakhtrana Vision Center run by Andhajan Mandal and blessed this centre.



**7 April, 2022:** **Mrs. Nimaben Acharya**, The Speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly, paid a visit to the Nakhtrana Vision Center run by Andhajan Mandal and interacted with the staff about the work of BPA and she expressed her desire to visit Vision in the Dark.



**22 February, 2022:** **Shri Rameshbhai Shah**, CEO, Ekal Vidyalaya and Trustees of Friends of Tribal Society on the occasion of launching of Office of Ekal Foundation.







**16 March, 2022:** 44 students of Social Service Forum of Ahmedabad University spent half a day at Vision-in-the-Dark at the BPA. They all appreciated the concept of Vision-in-the-Dark

45 students from Nirma University Institute of Science from MSc. Bio Technology spent half day at BPA and Vision-in-the-Dark



**23 April, 2022: Samta Vikas Charitable Trust (SVCT) Board Members** visited BPA Porecha Eye Hospital and observed the services in each unit of hospital and held their Executive Board Meeting. SVCT sponsors cataract surgery at the Porecha hospital as part of the Motiya Mukta Sabarkantha –Aravalli Project.

### Students from Various Institutes:



R.K. Institute students



Silver Oak College students



RSI Institute students

### Nursing Students from Various Colleges:





## ASSISTIVE DEVICES DISTRIBUTION



**15 March, 2022:** Mafatlal Assistive devices distribution at NAB Surat: A total of 92 people with disabilities were given support for self-employment. A team of Employment and Self Employment from BPA - Kinnari Desai, Ramesh Patel, Jyotish Choudhary, Sangita Patel and Hemangi attended.

**13 April, 2022:** Manojbhai, 30 years old from Mahuva District, Bhavnagar having below knee amputation due to crush injury before 2 years was fitted with modular prosthesis financially supported by Mafatlal Group and technically supported by ATCB Workshop, Blind People's Association.



**9 March, 2022:** The BPA Orthotic-Prosthetic team consisting of Jagannath Mallik, Vasantbhai and Trikam went to Bhuj for taking measurement of 22 persons with amputated limbs. These limbs are being funded by Navin Flourine-Mafatlal Padmanabh Group.



**29 March, 2022:** Mafatlal Distribution Function at Shivarimal. Total 138 people with disabilities were given support of self-employment with the help of Padmanabh Mafatlal Group.



## GUJARAT STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LTD UNDER CSR INITIATIVE- DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited Supported Surgery Program was inaugurated at BPA Porecha Eye Hospital by Shri. P. S. Rabari, Managing Director and Shri. Hiteshbhai Babariya, Deputy Director From GSSCL. The Corporation also funded self-employment kits & assistive devices. The distribution was done at Thasra, Deesa, Bhuj, Sayla.

**22  
Feb. 2022  
Thasra**



**22  
Feb. 2022  
Deesa**



**9 March, 2022:** Assistive Devices & Self Employment Kits Distribution Program at BPA-KCRC Bhuj. Ghanshyambhai Thakkar, GSSCL Kachchh Manager Dashrathbhai Prajapati, SDO Rohadiya, CDSO-Dr. Kashyap Buch, BPA Manager Kinnari Desai.



**Inauguration by District President Parulben Kara,  
Nagar Palika President**



**Mr. Dashrathbhai Prajapati,  
Manager, Seeds Corporation, Kachchh**



**11 March, 2022:** Assistive Devices and Self-employment kits distribution function held at Sayla, supported by GSSCL.



**30 March, 2022:** 40 Self Employment kits- Booth, Agriculture & Beauty Parlour distributed at Prayas Day Care Center Jodhpur Rajasthan.



**26 February, 2022:** 50 self employment kits were distributed with the help of Mrs. Anju Gulati on behalf of Praween Gulati Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., under its CSR at Thasra.



**28 February, 2022:** Camp was arranged for identification of 106 candidates at Andhjan Mandal, Surat from different districts of South Gujarat for self employment support.



## VISITS/TRAININGS/MEETINGS/ WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY STAFF

### Dr. Bhushan Punani's Presentation:

- Chief Guest, Mahadev Desai Award Function, Gujarat Vidyapith, 1st January, 2022
- Mainstreaming Disability into Disaster Risk Reduction: Practical Recommendations, Gujarat Institute Of Disaster Management, Gandhinagar, 28th January, 2022
- Salient Features of RoPwD Act, 2016: Virtual Civil service society Meeting and Media Awareness Program, Regional Learning Centre, Sense India, 11th February 2022
- Empowerment Issue in CBR for PwDs, National Webinar organized by B M Institute of Mental Health, 3-4th March, 2022
- Rights & Entitlements, Benefits and Reservations for the Stakeholders with Disabilities, International Workshop on Equal Opportunity Policy National Webinar by Manovikas Charitable Trust, 4-6 March, 2022
- Review of NEP 2020; State Level Meeting convened by GCERT, 10th March, 2022
- Response to Covid By ICEVI West Asia, Global Inclusive Education Network, 21-22 March, 2022 (Virtual)
- Disability - a Rights Based Approach, National Webinar on the theme Ecosystem Around the field of Special & Inclusive Education, K L Deaf Institute, Bhavnagar 23 April, 2022 (Virtual)
- Guardianship and Right to Inheritance - Seminar for parents of children with intellectual disability, Society for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded, Ahmedabad, 25th April, 2022



**25-26 March, 2022:** Community Radio Association (CRA) - Radio Awaj Dahod and Blind Welfare Council Dahod jointly organized the two days seminar on “Role of Community Radio in the Disability Sector”. The programme was held at Conference Hall, Blind Welfare Council, Mandav Road, Dahod Gujarat. Mr. Tarak Luhar, Secretary, NAB Gujarat State Branch attended as a Guest of Honour.



**8 January, 2022:** Get-together of BPA-Nadiad Donors at Swami Muditvandanandji Anand Ashram, Nadiad. Mr. Chandrakant Solanki, all Trustees of BPA-Nadiad Branch and major local donors attended the function. All main donors and BPA Executive Committee Members were given Trophy by the worthy hands of Shri Manu Maharaj, Jai Manav Seva Parivar, Nadiad. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Kintubhai Patel, Vice President of Nadiad Nagarpalika. Chandrakantbhai Solanki was awarded for his 25 years services in BPA Nadiad Centre.



**5 February, 2022:** The Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society (GMERS) of Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat in Gandhinagar, Gujarat inaugurated a program of Cataract Free Gujarat



at Gandhinagar by the Chief minister of Gujarat - Shri. Bhupendrabhai Patel. Dr. Utpal Jani and the National Program for Control of Blindness had invited Mrs. Nandini Rawal and Dr. Dharmendrakumar Jena for attending the programme.



**11 February, 2022:** Nandini Rawal, Vimal Thawani, Bharat Joshi, Rambhai Jadav and Harmish Modi visited the Deafblind Rehabilitation Project in Porbandar, conducted a meeting with staff and visited Nizham who is a person with deafblindness at his home.



**11 February, 2022:** Nandini Rawal, Rambhai Jadav, Harmish Modi had a meeting with Stride Climate Investment at Ranavav for funding for CSR.



**27-28 April, 2022:** Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mrs. Krupa Velani, Mrs. Deepa Joshi visited BPA-KCRC Vocational Training Centre, Day Care Centre and Residential Centre for girls with disabilities in Mansi, Bidada.



**4 March, 2022:** Shri Virendrakumar Khatik, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and Secretary visited BPA SNAC Stall at Kevadia Awareness Program. Mihir & team showed them the various products made by disabled people and also explained the activities of the BPA.



**19 April, 2022:** A Training Session was conducted at BPA by the BPA Technology Department on how to effectively use zoom and other online platforms. All the participants benefitted enormously from this training.





**23 March, 2022:** Nandini Rawal graced the Inauguration Programme on the Training in Jaws for blind employees of UCO Bank at their training centre in Ahmedabad. Ranchhod Soni and Vidhi Shah conducted the training.



**26 March, 2022:** Mrs. Nandini Rawal & Dr. Dharmendrakumar Jena of Blind People's Association having meeting with the eye care team of KCRC Bhuj.

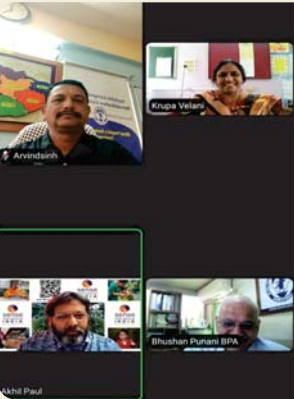
**24 March, 2022:** Nandini Rawal attended the Online Sasakawa India Trust Board Meeting



**6-7 April 2022:** BPA Bareja students of School of Optometry celebrated World Health Day by screening the participants of Special Olympics.



## VISITS/TRAININGS/MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED AT BPA



**11 February, 2022:** BPA (RLC, West) organised a Virtual Civil Service Society Meeting and Media Awareness Program supported by Sense International India, funded by Commonwealth Foundation. Head of organizations, Coordinators, Principals, Adult deafblind, Parents and Media Persons from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Madhya pradesh participated in the meeting. Representatives from different organizations and Media attended this meeting.



**2 March, 2022:** Talk on cyber crime and how to prevent it was organized by Cyber Crime Prevention and Awareness Seminar at Blind People's Association (India).

**8 March, 2022:** Women's Day Celebrations at BPA



Cornea Surgery Services were started at BPA-KCRC Eye Hospital Bhuj. Dr. Sumit, Corneal Surgeon is visiting regularly.





**8 March, 2022:** Blind women celebrated International Women's Day in a different way. They were given dry ration kits, Garima Sanitary napkins sponsored by Prudent India Limited. The owner of Prudent Mrs. Nikita Shah was present and spent quality time with the beneficiaries



**6 April, 2022:** Final exam of 4<sup>th</sup> Batch of Tanya Computer Centre Ahmedabad.



**7 April, 2022:** Annual practical examination of Final Year Physiotherapy students



**31 March, 2022 :** The Visionary Founder of Blind People's Association Padmashree Dr. Jagdishbhai Patel's 23<sup>rd</sup> Death Anniversary.



Jagdishbhai's Death Anniversary was commemorated with an eye check-up camp organized in Gram Panchayat Baithwasia, Block Osian, Jodhpur, Rajasthan with the courtesy of Wagh Bakri Chai family, The Director of Prayas Day Care Prof. O.P.N. Kalla and all other personnel were present in the camp.





NAB Gujarat State Branch organizes very special award function every year with the support of district branches. This award function is real tribute and recognition to great personalities like Late Shri Bhikhabhai Chimanlal Shah; Late Padmshri Dr. Jagdishbhai Patel and Late Shri Mukundbhai Vadilal Gandhi. This year NAB Gujarat state branch organized award function on 11 March, 2022 at Raj Saubhag Ashram, Sayla. The Programme was organized by NAB Gujarat State Branch and arranged by Ashirwad Trust for Disabled (ATD)

**LATE MUKUNDBHAI VADLAL GANDHI PRAGNACHAKSHU WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AWARD:** Late Mukundbhai Gandhi was resident at Kapadwanj-Kheda district in Gujarat, was Gandhian follower, and joined freedom movement. As he was much inclined and committed to social cause, he formed Shri V.S Gandhi Charitable trust in Kapadwanj from his savings. He always talked about women empowerment, girls' education. V.S. Gandhi Charitable Trust has set up three awards in the memory of their Founder Shri Mukundbhai Gandhi who initiated innovative services for the blind and disabled. The three recipients are **Ms. Daksha Tadv (Gandhinagar), Smt. Ketna D. Pithva (Rajkot) and Ms. Radha K. Patel (Anand)** for their extra ordinary achievements and victory over disability.

**LATE SHRI BHIKHABHAI C. SHAH AWARD:** Shri Bhikhabhai was Secretary, President, Managing Trustees in various organization like N.A.B Rajkot, Jamnagar, Gujarat state branch, N.A.B India, Andhajan Vividhalaxi Talim Kendra etc. In memory of most outstanding worker of the blind in Saurashtra, Late Shri Bhikhabhai Shah was conferred on **Smt. Vasantiben Diwanji (Bharuch) and Shri Manoj J. Joshi (Kutch, Bhuj)** for their meritorious services in the field of education and rehabilitation of persons with visual impairment.

**LATE SHRI JAGDISH PATEL AWARD:** Late Padmshri Jagdishbhai Patel is source of inspiration to many people and organizations working. This Award was conferred on **Shri Abhishek Pandya (Mumbai) and Shri Hemantkumar Panchal (Surat)** for their outstanding contribution to education, development and empowerment of persons with blindness and disability for his vision, competence and victory over disability.

**LATE CHANDRIKABEN SUMANTBHAI SHAH OUTSTANDING NAB DISTRICT BRANCH AWARD OF GUJARAT:** In the memory of Smt. Chandrikaben Sumant Shah, mother of Dr. Nitin Shah, President of NAB Gujarat District Branch conferred this Award on **NAB Bhavnagar District Branch** for its extra-ordinary work for the rehabilitation of persons with blindness. The Chief Guest of the function was Shri Param Pujya Bhaishri. Before this Award function, Shri Vikrambhai Shah spoke about Raj Saubhag Ashram - Spiritual Oasis; Brahmanisht Smt. Minalben gave a demonstration on Meditation & Spirituality. Shri Rambhai Jadav, Director, Ashirwad Trust for Disabled. Shri G.J. Vachhani, General Secretary, NAB Gujarat explained about each Award and announced about new NAB Branch in Sayla Taluka.



## PYCT's Generosity

The Paramhansa Yogananda Charitable Trust (PYCT) has been a long and dedicated supporter and friend of the Blind People's Association (BPA). Mr. Khazanchi, the Founder of the PYCT was a follower of Paramhans Yogananda and he always dedicated all that he did and all that he donated to his Guru. He always said that it is not any human being who does anything but it is the Guru who always guides and helps in raising donation. The PYCT has been instrumental in giving wheel chairs, uniforms, shoes sweaters, grain kits and many other such items worth more than three crore rupees over the past years. Unfortunately, Mr. Khazanchi passed away last year but the PYCT is still going full steam ahead under the leadership of Mrs. Sudha Khazaanji and her team of dedicated followers. On 7th March PYCT distributed school uniforms and grains. BPA thanks PYCT for this generous support.



## Covid Vaccination for children in Bavla & Naaz Centres



Children of STD 6 to 8 (12 -14 age) of the Pravin Mandakini Bhagwati Savinay Sammilit Vidyalyaya, Bavla & MSM-Naaz centre were given information about the Covid vaccine and given the vaccine by PHC Centre of Bavla.



Clothes distribution by Nimishaben Mehta, Sreekunj Group for R.M. Parikh Day Care Centre, Sumeru. Programme was organized by Smt. Sudhaben Joshi, Former Teacher of BPA.

## SPORTS STARS

### Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) Football Team to UK



**Mr. Vishnu Tejabhai Vaghela**, totally blind Footballer has been selected by IBSA for the 3 match international friendly UK Tour 3 - 9 May'22 at Kochi with a blind football demo game with the Paralympic India Secretary General Mr Gursharan Singh and Addl Secretary Mr Ashok Bedi. The movement becomes stronger with India set to participate first time ever in a team sport at the next Asian Para Games 2022 in China later this year with the PCI backing further development of the sport and support on all fronts. Vishnu Vaghela 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 alongwith his training in computers also started Football practice.





Mayabhai & Others 5 BPA sports star for participating in the Kolkata weightlifting tournament.

Ms. Sapna Shah won bronze in National Para Power Lifting at Kolkata.



Reshma won Silver Medal in National Weight Lifting Championship held at Kolkata.



**28 -31 March 2022:** National Para Athletics Championships held at Odisha, Bhubaneswar. *The following participants got Medals in various category:*



Ms. Bhavana Chaudhary in Javelin Throw (Gold)



Ms. Thaku Kukadiya Javelin Throw (Gold)



Mr. Jagdish Parmar Long Jump (Silver)



Indian Open Para Athletics Championships 2021 , Khodaji Thakor in Long Jump (Silver) & in 400 meters run (Bronze)



Ms. Bhavina Patel and Ms. Sonal Patel won Gold Medals in Para Abilimpics Table Tennis in Egypt Open 2022 Singles.



**7 April, 2022:** Bhavina Patel got a cash award of Rs 5,00,000 by Gujarat State Table Tennis Association.

# KHEL MAHAKUMBH

**21 April, 2022:** Khel Mahakumbh for the blind was organized at St. Xavier's School, Loyola Athletics for Ahmedabad District & Taluka level games.



Dhruvi Kalpeshbhai Pandya from Center for Persons with Deafblindness won in three games.

100 Mtr Run - First      Disc Throw- Second      Javelin Throw - Third

**12 March, 2022:** Presence of BPA staff on inauguration of Khel Mahakumbh by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at GMDC Ground, Ahmedabad.



Thanks - for - giving your services to make Khel Mahakumbh a great success



**9 April, 2022:** Kush Raghvani, Urvi Rathi won the first prize in the Student Friends Elocution Competition of BPA at the Science Outreach Program, Science City and Jaydev Gohil won the first prize in the Drawing Competition.



**7 April, 2022:** After conducting a health checkup of the children at Karnavati Medical College, Uvasad Gandhinagar, the children participated in the Special Olympics - Fit Fight program at the Modi Stadium in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patel and other leaders and the children enjoyed there.





**13 April, 2022:** Shri Kunj Group organized a drawing competition and 40 children participated. Sudhaben Joshi, Former Teacher of BPA and Nimishaben Mehta are the main contributors in organizing this program. The children who won in the drawing competition were given cash prizes and kits as prizes and snacks were also arranged. Every teacher had a huge contribution to make the drawing competition a grand success.



**31 March, 2022:** 10 Persons with Visual Impairment got employment opportunities as Lift Operator in Times Square Group after the Covid pandemic.

**Times Square 1:**

- Rohit Dipak
- Mr Panchal Bhagwandas
- Patel Pankaj

**Times Square 2:**

- Pandor Bharat
- Thakor Suresh
- Roopala Bhavik

**Times Square Grand:**

- Uttekar Nagesh
- Soni Chandrakant
- Baraiya Chehuji
- Mahida Bhailal



**4 April, 2022:** After Covid Pandemic, Rohini -Ashwini Garden Senior Citizens Mitra Mandal organized 19<sup>th</sup> charity camp on establishment day of their Mandal which is also the registration date of BPA in 1950. To entertain them, BPA organized dance and cultural programme. The group handed over their collection of Rs. 3,02,500 for cataract operation. For 19 years they have gathered and got involved in activities beneficial to society. The members often go to homes and collect goods and gave charity goods like clothes, utensils, etc for NGOs.



## FAREWELL FUNCTION



**13 April, 2022:** A farewell ceremony was organized for the children of Std. VIII in BPA-MSM-Naaz school. Mr. Bharat Joshi, Deputy Director and Mrs. Jigna Joshi, VIMD Coordinator were present and a parent's meeting was also organized.



**9 April, 2022:** Farewell ceremony of children in VIII standard was celebrated in Pravin Mandakini Savinay School, Bavla. Shri Vimalbhai from Bhagwati Spherocast blessed the students. Mrs. Jignaben Joshi and Kinjalben from Naaz School attended the programme.



## ENTERTAINMENT OF CHILDREN & STAFF



**1 March, 2022:** Shivratri Darshan of BPA blind students.



**17-18 March, 2022:** All Bareja Staff did their picnic with family at Somnath & Dwarka.



**7 April, 2022:** Parents, children and staff of Jit Mehta & Sumeru Centres visited Karnavati University, Vavol Uvarsad as part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahostav.



**13 March, 2022:** BPA Lioness Karnavati Hostel students and staff in picnic to Poicha. This trip arranged by Sindhi Group Ahmedabad.



**27 February, 2022:** Trainees with deafblindness and staff visited Koteswar Mahadev Temple and enjoyed beautiful carvings by touch.



**After two years, students of BPA suddenly enjoyed picnic !!**





## Divya Kala Shakti Cultural Programme in Mumbai

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India organized the "Divya Kala Shakti" cultural program for the Western Zone. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disability was the hosting organization and it appointed Blind People's Association ( India), Vastrapur as the nodal agency for Gujarat for the "Divya Kala Shakti" cultural program. This was a great opportunity to showcase the artistic power of the Divyangajans of Gujarat. Children with severe disabilities gave "solo performances" in which they could perform other arts like dance, song, mimicry, music. Divyang children and persons from Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Diu-Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli participated. "Divya Kala Shakti" cultural program in Mumbai was held on 27 April, 2022 in which the children exhibited their work in the presence of the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari. 12 children with disabilities from Gujarat participated. The students of BPA performed Garba. Anvi from Surat was a yoga performer. Irfan won the hearts of the people by playing the piano. The children were taken to the program by Sudha Joshi, Jigna

## HOLI CELEBRATIONS OF SPECIAL NEED CHILDREN

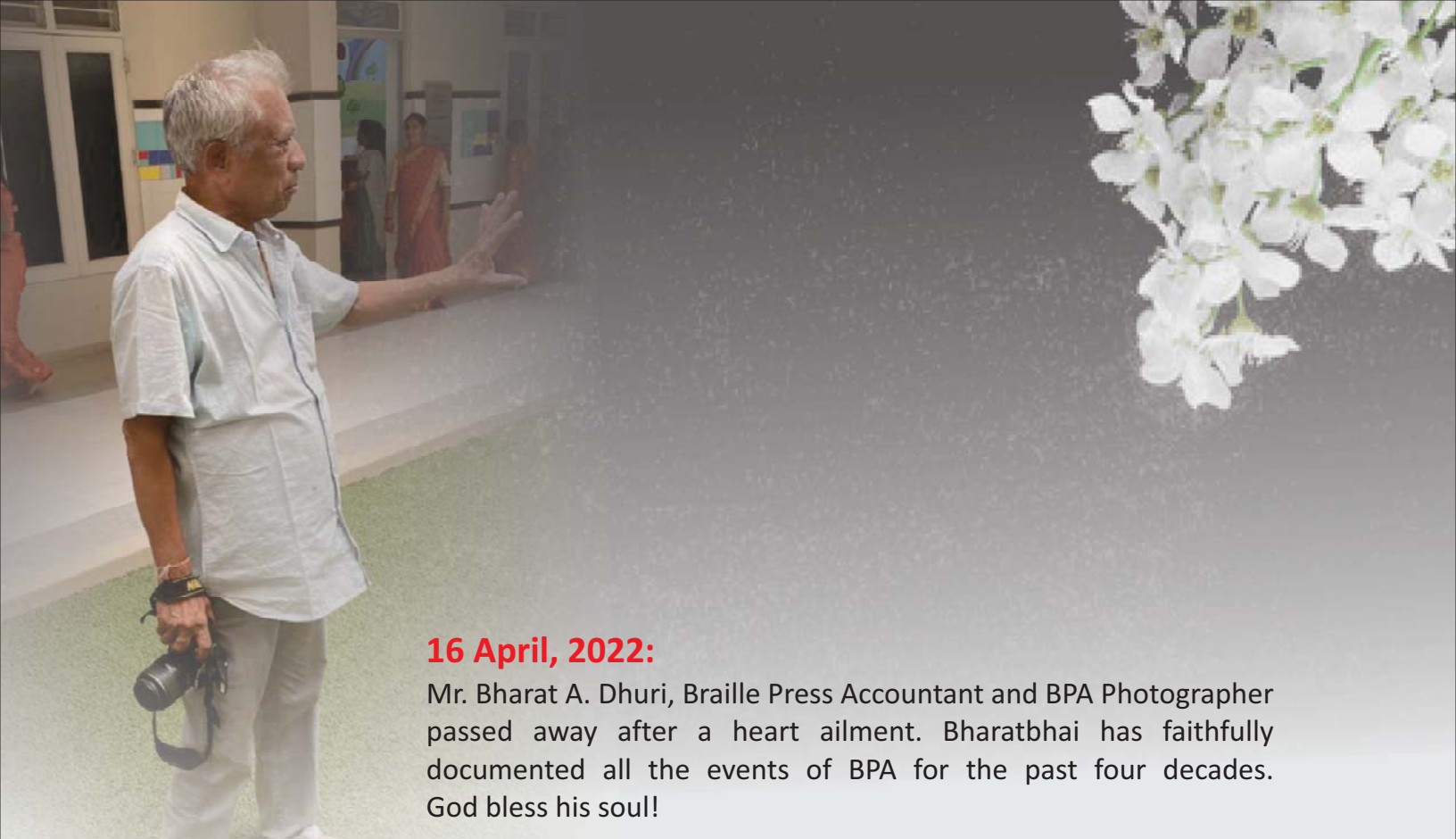


## Month-wise Birthday Celebration of all Members of BPA Family



BPA has started a Joint Birthday Celebration of its staff members. One day of each month , a party is organized and all staff members having birthdays in that month are felicitated and a cake is cut and snacks are provided to all staff. The celebrations for the quarter took place on 1 February, 2022, 4 March, 2022 and 8 April, 2022.





**16 April, 2022:**

Mr. Bharat A. Dhuri, Braille Press Accountant and BPA Photographer passed away after a heart ailment. Bharatbhai has faithfully documented all the events of BPA for the past four decades. God bless his soul!

BPA Bulletin is issued every quarter.

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