



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)

VISIT OF SECRETARY OF M S J & E



4 February, 2023: The Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability Government of India Shri Rajesh Aggarwal paid an official visit to BPA. BPA has risen to great heights due to cooperation and support from the state and central governments, technically qualified team, good donors and excellent team work. Mr. Aggarwal visited the Braille press, the Orthotic Workshops, Technology Room, ITI, Early Intervention, Vocational Training, School of Physiotherapy, but could not visit all departments due to lack of time but has promised to come again.

HAPPENINGS



15 March, 2023: Mrs. Chaitali Patel, Special Teacher of BPA VIMD Unit received The award for best caregiver on behalf of Bhagwatiben rom Sense International (India) at National Conclave of Networks concluding session, New Delhi. Bhagwatiben is the grandmother of Kishan one of the students of deafblind unit.

15 March, 2023: Blind People's Association received the Best Excellence NGO Award from Sense International (India) at National Conclave of Networks concluding session, New Delhi .



7 April, 2023: Divyang Protsahan Samaroh at Ravindranath Tagore Hall, Paldi, Ahmedabad was organized and sponsored by Lions Clubs International-3232 B1 – 2022-23. Dr. Punani was felicitated for extraordinary services provided to persons with disabilities

Women Empowerment in a Different Way. Dr. K L N Rao, IPS, Director General of Prison inaugurated most innovative project of audio recording by women of Mahila Prisons, Sabarmati. This project sponsored by Inductotherm Group India and managed by BPA shall enable persons with visual impairment to receive audio books from this unique audio recording studio.



ICEVI Joint Meeting on 2024 World Conference : 16 March 2023: A virtual joint meeting of the Host Committee, Program Committee And Principal Officers was held to evolve strategies for the conference to be held at Ahmedabad in November 2024. Dr. Bhushan Punani, Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mrs. Vimal Thawani and Mr. Akhil S. Paul attended this meeting. The Team then proceeded to Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar University and met the Vice Chancellor Dr. Ami Upadhyay for requesting the university to join the conference as collaborating partner.



HAPPENINGS

1 February, 2023: BPA has started the custom of having joint birthday celebrations of staff every month. Birthday celebrations of staff whose birthdays are in February were celebrated along with the birthday of the BPA President Shri Rajendrabhai Shah who hosted a picnic and lunch for the entire BPA staff, Trustees and volunteers at Anand Dham, a residential centre for persons with intellectual impairments.



11 March 2023: 100 students with visual impairment were invited to Shri Narendra Modi Stadium to witness Cricket Tournament between India vs Australia. The students were provided VIP treatment by the organizers.



19 March, 2023: BPA-Lioness Karnavati Hostel students with Hostel Supervisor Mrs. Kusumben Waghela were invited for a special lunch at the launch of Barbeque Nation in South Bopal, Ahmedabad.



25-26 March, 2023: Ms. Kinnari Desai addressed a State Level Convention for Blind Women at Varanasi, UP.



International Abilympics 2023

Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary Blind People's Association was invited as a judge of International Abilympics 2023 in Metz, France. Persons with disabilities from India participated and won 1 Gold, 2 silvers, 3 Bronze and 1 medal of excellence.

Visit to TACTILE MUSEUM



Blind students visited the tactile museum of L.D. Institute of Indology and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they could touch and feel every exhibit!!

DISTRIBUTION



31 January, 2023: 108 self employment kits were distributed under CSR budget of Mafatlal Group at Shivarimal to poor and needy persons with disabilities.



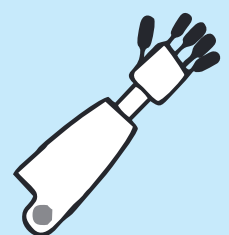
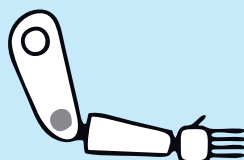
6 February, 2023: Assessment camp for artificial limbs was conducted at Dahod. The beneficiaries were assessed and measurements were taken for giving devices. 20 clients were given these devices under CSR budget of Mafatlal Group.




13 March, 2023: EPS TEAM AT PATDI Distribution of self employment support donated by Lodestone under CSR to 75 beneficiaries. Food was served to all beneficiaries and their families courtesy Shri Kanubhai Gadhvi of NAB Surendranagar.




5 February, 2023: Sewing machine Distribution Program was organized at BPA-KCRC Bhuj supported by Samasara Group. Mr. Mukesh Oza(CEO, Samasara group) and BPA Deputy Director Mr. Bharat Joshi joined online.




TRAININGS




1 February 2023: Krupa Velani attended the National Training on Project Management organised by Sense India. The training introduced participants to newer methods in Project Management, Theory of change and PMEL.




13-15 March 2023: Sense India organized a National Workshop for professional on making vocational curriculum module in which Ms. Krupa Velani, Ms. Jigna Joshi and Ms. Chaitali Patel participated at Delhi.




22 April, 2023: BPA conducted a training on Due Diligence, Governance and Fund Raising. Bharat Joshi and Harmish Modi gave brilliant presentations which were very much appreciated.



27 April, 2023: Ms. Kinnari Desai, Senior Manager of BPA lectured on Leadership in IIM Seminar for Blind Women. Seminar was arranged by IIM for blind women from AICB and BPA Other faculty were Dr. Punani, Nandini Rawal, Ranchhod Soni and Vidhi Shah



16 February, 2023: A Session on understanding Sex, Sexuality and Gender was conducted by Ms. Chaitali Patel, Ms. Dharti Vyas and Ms. Ranjan Thakor, three Educators who had attended a Master Trainers' Training organized by Sense India. 24 staff members from Special Need Centres, Inclusive School were present and participated actively.



23 February, 2023: Social Defence Office, Himmatnagar invited Mr. Vanraj Chavda, Project Coordinator of BPA Banaskantha Units for the training program of parents and provided information about National Trust act as well as major schemes. BPA is the State Nodal Agency Centre(SNAC) of the National Trust for Gujarat in charge of the operations of SNAC.





20 March, 2023: The AYJNISHD Mumbai and PRATHAM have developed a Handbook on "Curricular Framework for Cross Disability Early Intervention and School Readiness and published by the Council. Nandini Rawal attended the meetings as an expert Member of the Core Committee for the development and dissemination of this book.



6 March 2023: A Parents meeting held at Sanjivani Day Care Centre- Dholka in which 25 Parents attended. Ms. Krupa Velani discussed various issues on hygiene, regular attendance at the centre, functional activities, epilepsy management.



23 February, 2023: Students of Tanya Computer Centre for the Visually Impaired enjoyed their orientation visit to Ahmedabad campus of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).



1-2 April, 2023: A workshop on project planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring including evaluation was held for some AICB executive members and affiliates organized by the All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB), New Delhi. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mr. Bharat Joshi and Ms. Kinnari Desai conducted the training in Project Proposal Writing, due diligence and Resource Mobilization for Board Members of AICB.



BPA held a sensitization and Indian sign language workshop for ITC NARMADA staff. Deputy Director Mr. Bharat Joshi led a session on sensitization, and Ms. Mittal Thaker addressed a session on Indian sign language. The entire programme was planned and coordinated by Dr. Rajeshwari. There were 20 employees present for this workshop. The programme was quite effective, and employers have responded positively to it. A thorough module on ISL will be prepared in the following phase, and a training programme on the same module will be conducted as needed.



1-2 April, 2023: A workshop on project planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring including evaluation was held for some AICB executive members and affiliates organized by the All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB), New Delhi. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Mr. Bharat Joshi and Ms. Kinnari Desai conducted the training in Project Proposal Writing, due diligence and Resource Mobilization for Board Members of AICB.

SPORTS STARS



20-22 February, 2023: Mr. Khodaji Thakor, student of BPA got Silver Medal in Sharjah 2023 International Open Para Athletics Championship



14 February 2023: Visually Challenged Sports Stars participated in National Para Junior and Sub Junior Athletic Championship 2023.



Students with visual impairment of BPA stood second place in Kutch Cricket Tournament, Rapar, Gujarat.



14-16 April, 2023: Second Men's & First Women's Edition of the Indian Blind Football Federation South West Zonal Tournament was held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. BPA girls team won Gold and boys team won Silver Medal.



14-17 March, 2023: BPA-ITI Trainees participated in National Para Table Tennis Competition at Indore. Ms. Noor got Gold Medal and Ms. Vidhya & Ms. Shital Darji got Bronze.



25 January, 2023: BPA organized an inter friendly football match for visually impaired sports persons in collaboration with Smart Group and St. Xavier's High School.

DONORS / VISITORS



31 January, 2023: Consul General of Japan, Dr. Fukahori Yasukata and Vice-Consul Mr. Noritaka Tauchi visited Porecha Eye Hospital to inspect the usage of the OCT and Lasree Machines donated by the people of Japan. They were happy to see the large number of patients served by the hospital and the usage of the machines for the poor.



22 March, 2023: Inauguration of 3 new sewing machines was held at the tailoring department at BPA. The trainees will now become more proficient in their work due to this.



29 March, 2023: New utensils for BPA Hostel for the Blind were supported by Union Bank of India under CSR donation



29 March, 2023: Unison Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd., distributed sewing machines under their CSR initiative. Shri Nitinbhai and his wife Kalpanaben, owners, graced the occasion and blessed the beneficiaries.



6-7 April, 2023: Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Ms. Kinnari Desai, Mrs. Krupa Velani and Mrs. Dipa Joshi visited KCRC Day Care Centre, Bhuj. Then Vimal Thawani and Kinnari Desai visited Nakhattrana centre. They had a visit to Nakhtrana vision center and a meeting with Logana Mahajan Team.



6 April, 2023: ISKCON Mandir President Sri Chaitanya Prabhu gifted the Srimad Bhagavad Gita prepared in Braille in a Presentation Ceremony at the BPA. The edition was sponsored by IFFCO.



28 April, 2023: The Hon'ble Governor of UP Smt. Anandiben Patel suggested to Shakuntala Mishra University, Lucknow to send a panel of 3 persons to visit BPA. The panel visited and observed all activities of the BPA. The University is likely to collaborate with BPA in the future.

BAREJA NEWS



23 March, 2023: World Optometry day 2023 celebrated at Sheth Jamnabhai Bhagubhai BPA SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, Bareja .



Team from Indian Oil Corporation-Mr.Piyush Patel and Mr. Mahesh Suthar visited BPA Porecha Eye Hospital to observe work of corneal department and support for Keratoplasty under CSR.



4 April, 2023: BPA Porecha Hospital started a free food services for needy poor persons at Bareja village. It is supported by Azure Foundation.

VATRAK NEWS



25 April, 2023: Visit of upcoming BYP Eye Hospital Vatrak by Dr. Bhushan Punani General secretary; Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director; Dr. Dharmendra Jena, Director BPA-Porecha Hospital and Shri Rohit Shah, the Trustee of Blind People's Association had a meeting with the Board Members of K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya DMandal and SVCT.

EVENTS



7 March, 2023: Shri Vijay Kumar Mahato, COSP; Dr. Haridevi C.K, Senior Scientist; Mrs. Vandana Kurtikar, AEE from CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography along with Mr. Nilesh (Engineering section) from PRL Ahmedabad office visited BPA. This team wished to see the various furniture items made by the BPA as they want to purchase them for their departments all over India.



23-25 March, 2023: Inauguration of Teachers Training sponsored by VMWARES by Mr. Rex Shah, Chairman, Sense International UK. This training was organized for teachers of regular schools who have children with disabilities in their class rooms. The teachers were given permission to attend this training thanks to the good wishes of Mr. Chaudhary, District Education Officer, Ahmedabad.



23 March, 2023: Mr. Bharat Joshi and Ms. Kinnari Desai of BPA attended this Accessibility Audit Meeting to check the accessibility of public spaces such as bus stands, public toilets, railway stations, parking spaces, malls, ticket counters etc.



11 February 2023: Special Aadhaar Camp at BPA Campus. Services Available in this Camp. A lot of children with disabilities are not able to get an Aadhaar Card due to their shaky movements or the

movement of the iris. The Aadhaar Card staff were specially made aware of these problems and they cooperated with the children and took time in taking all the parameters. Parents were very happy that finally their child got an Aadhaar Card.



4 April, 2023: Ashwini-Rohini Garden Senior Citizens Mitra Mandal collected Rs. 2,14,400 and donated to BPA for cataract surgeries. These residents collect cash and different household goods like furniture, equipment, toys, clothes and donate it to the BPA. They have been doing this kind act since the past 20 years. God bless such kind hearted souls. The Blind students demonstrated playing of chess, Japanese medical massage therapies and showed their potentials.

EVENTS



13 April, 2023: Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mrs. Krupa Velani and Mrs. Jigna Joshi attended the Perkins India Meeting in New Delhi



12 April, 2023: Visit of Shrey Nursing College Students.



The Navin Fluorine Limited had sanctioned almost Rs. 90 Lakhs to BPA for various welfare activities under CSR. An External impact assessment agency was appointed by the team to visit the projects and to verify whether the fruits of development have truly reached the beneficiaries. The evaluation team visited the beneficiaries of the project in various places like Ahmedabad and South Gujarat. Ms. Kinnari Desai and team accompanied the evaluators.



17-20 April, 2023: Educational tour of 14 students from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai. 2 students in this group are from Myanmar.



14 April, 2023: Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat Shri Acharya Devvrat visited Exhibition at Dr. Ambedkar University, Ahmedabad. He visited the stall of BPA Vocational Training Unit in this exhibition.



14 March, 2023: Students appearing for X and XII Board Exam students were applied tilak by BPA Executive Director, Mrs. Nandini Rawal and Mr. Tarak Luhar Retired Principal of Secondary and the school staff, readers, volunteers and teachers.



JEET MEHTA ADDS UNITS



Naming Ceremony of Advocate Shri Poonamchand Shah & Smt. Suvarnaben V. Shah Therapeutic Intervention Centre for Children with Special Needs was organized on 30 March, 2023: at Dr. Jeet Mehta Balshala Campus, Usmanpura, Ahmedabad. The donors had visited BPA on 23rd March, 2023 and had a meeting with Trustees and Directors of BPA for setting up of this Unit. The donors will donate a total sum of Rs. 1 crore for this purpose.



Mr. Prabhat Bhoi,
Itinerant Teacher,
Integrated Education.



IN MEMORIAM

Both these young BPA family members were dedicated, honest and much loved persons. We pray for the salvation of the souls and strength to the family members to bear this untimely loss.



Mr. Rohit Matbar Singh,
Optometrist,
BPA-Porecha Hospital

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