



Devoted to
Comprehensive Development
Of Persons with Disabilities

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BULLETIN

BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

NEW EYE HOSPITAL OPENS ITS DOORS



The Hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat , **Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel** inaugurated the **SMT. BELLABEN & SHRI YOGESHBHAI PATEL EYE HOSPITAL**, Vatrak at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 12 August, 2023 at Vatrak, Dist. Aravalli. This Hospital is a joint Project of BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA), Shri K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal & Samta Vikas Charitable Trust, Ahmedabad.

The Blind People's association is one of the largest NGOs working in the field of disability in Asia. The BPA has its head office at Vastrapur, and 15 Units all over Gujarat. It works for all categories of disability-physical, mental and emotional. The BPA has a large Eye Hospital at Bareja which it started in 2003. In just a span of 18 years, the BPA Porecha Eye Hospital has already conducted more than 1,00,000 cataract surgeries and treated more than 5,00,000 outdoor patients having different eye ailments. The Porecha Hospital is doing Keratoplasty surgeries where the cornea of a dead person is transplanted to give sight to a blind person. Retina, glaucoma and cataract surgeries are done daily as well as other minor surgeries. The BPA in collaboration with the Samata Vikas Charitable Trust started a Cataract Free Sabarkantha Campaign known as "Motiyan Mukta Sabarkantha" in 2011.. Under this campaign more than 13000 cataract surgeries have been performed and sight saved. Vision Centres have been set up in Vatrak, Modasa Bhiloda, Kalol, Bavla, Dholka, Matar, Mehemdabad, Unava, Nakhtrana, Thasra and at BPA. The hospital has been bringing the patients for surgery from remote villages of Sabarkantha and Aravalli districts to Bareja for surgery. The local community felt an eye hospital was needed locally for the benefit of patients of Sabarkantha.

The K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal at Vatrak, District Aravalli offered the Blind People's Association, 9181 sq. meter land free of cost for setting up the eye hospital. This land is on the Modasa-Bayad Highway, very close to the Trust hospital at Vatrak. This project is part of a triangular partnership between the Blind People's Association, K.K. Shah Sabarkantha Arogya Mandal and Samata Vikas Charitable Trust.

Our donors in the USA and in India like Bellaben & Yogeshbhai and Dineshbhai responded immediately. Their generosity was followed by our committed donors who rushed in to support most parts of the hospital. The Hospital is named after donors Bellaben and Yogeshbhai Patel who donated Rs. 2 crores for the naming of the Project. For the adjoining building a donation of Rs. 1.5 crore has been received from Dr. Shashikant Patel and Geetaben Patel in the memory of their son Dr. Achyut Patel

The Eye Hospital has Ground Floor plus 2 Floors and a similar adjoining building of the Research and Training Centre, Staff Quarters and Bhojanshala. The Eye Hospital building will have OPD and diagnostic facilities on the ground floor, other services and operation theatre facilities, plus dormitory and special rooms and one ward on the first floor.

There are three Operation Theatres with the latest laminar, modular systems.

This Eye Hospital will serve lakhs of poor and needy people from Sabarkantha, Aravalli and neighbouring state of Rajasthan to get premier eye care at no cost. This will be the first such hospital in this area. The local community will help in mobilization of patients and other resources for the successful implementation of the project.

Balasinor Centre Inauguration



The Urja Skill Development centre for persons with Disabilities was Inaugurated on 2nd August 2023 by Shri Hiren Chouhan, Prant Officer (GAS). SDO Bhargaviben , Mrs Nidhi Raj Patel, TDO, Mr. Junneid Vakil (Donor) were present on the occasion. The place has been given for use by Mallek family and the entire painting and partitioning was done by BPA Staff. The recurring expense will be met by Shark Tank Donation and Perkins.



The Akansha Rehabilitation Centre



The Akansha Rehabilitation Centre inspired by Matushri Amtiben Medat and Shri Laxmipura Yuvak Mandal and Shri Laxmipura Yuvak Mandal was inaugurated on 21st September 2023 by Shir Aniketbhai Thaker, MLA, Palanpur at Laxmipura Palanpur. This property has been given for use to BPA BY Laxmipura Yuvak Mandal Nearly by 60 persons with multiple disabilities will benefit on a daily basis and hundred in their homes. A beautiful sensory park has been developed and built by Mr. Mihir Jani, Mr. Vanraj Chavada and team.

It is a record that the entire top management of BPA consisting of President, General Secretary Executive Director, Project Directors and all Deputy Director were present at one place.

Smit Daycare Center Inaugurated



The Daycare Center for Children with Autism, C.P, Intellectual impairment , Multiple disabilities and deafblindness was inaugurated at Unava, near Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 11th July, 2023 by the worthy hands of Shri PP Swami, Mahant shri Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur , Ahmedabad. Shri



Narayanbhai B. Patel ,Chairman Pukhraj Hospital gave the inaugural address . Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary, BPA and Shri Mangaldas Patel, President, Dehgam Kelavani Mandal were the Guests of Honor. Free space for the center is provided by Vidyarthi Ashram / Sanskar Mandal. Blind People's Association will identify children from Unava and near by villages and provide rehabilitation services.

Inauguration of DDU-GKY Centre

Inauguration of DDUGKY Special Project for people with disabilities was held on 2nd September 2023 by the Hon. Commissioner and Secretary, Rural Development - Ms Manisha Chandra . The Managing Director of GLPC Ltd Dr Manish Bansal was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Bhushan Punani, General secretary; Nandini Rawal, Executive Director ; Bharat Joshi , Deputy Director; Dr Rajeshwari Shrimali and DDUGKY staff team was present. Welcome kit was distributed to all students and the students performed by first batch of candidates on this special occasion.



"RASOTSAV-2023" - ALL INDIA FLAG DAY FOR THE BLIND

The Flag Day serves as the Annual Day function of the National Association for the Blind, Blind People's Association and its associated Trusts in which hundreds of blind and disabled students of 30 campuses of the BPA come together and show their abilities through singing and dancing like classical dances, Bollywood dances, Fashion Show, other performances and much more..... It is a talent evening of special kids to showcase their abilities and creativity. It is also a celebration of the teacher's hard work of the whole year to train the students and help their abilities to blossom..

The programme was held at 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on 14th September 2023 at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay AMC Community Hall and was inaugurated by Managing Director of GLPC Ltd Dr Manish Bansal, who has personal experience of disability. The 4 major donors of 2022-23 were felicitated with a plaque as a thanks giving gesture. The Companies are

- Inductotherm
- Montecarlo Limited
- Navin Fluorine
- Astral Pipes Ltd

Their representatives were present on behalf of the Companies. Dr. Manish Kumar addressed the audience and held them spell bound by giving examples of his own childhood, his struggles and his ultimate triumph. He urged parents having a disabled child to remember that disability is more in the mind. The day you accept it is your first day of success.

The complete event was sponsored by Mr. Upendra Shah & Mrs. Purnimaben Upendrabhai Shah of Shah Investors Home Limited (SIHL) which is a company with a very big heart . They have sponsored this Programme since the past decade.



3 June 2023- TCC CONVOCATION

The convocation ceremony of the last batches was organized of the students who had successfully completed three months training course in Tanya Computer Course. The Principal of Government Polytechnic Ahmedabad Mr. Bhaskar Aiyar was the Chief Guest. 40 trainees were awarded certificates. Mr. Aiyar visited the centre and was impressed by the students working on computers and performing other activities.



8th June, 2023 Unison Pharma Donation

Shri Nitinbhai Patel, owner of Unison Pharma donated 5 EV tricycles to needy disabled persons. All the tricycles are operated on battery so the disabled person does not have to row. The vehicle can go 30 kms after charging. Each tricycle costs Rs. 30000. BPA thanks Nitinbhai for this generosity.



12 June, 2023 : Mr Kaushikbhai friend of Rohitbhai Shah donated Rs 77,000 for gifting Smarton Glasses for blind persons. This Device developed by Suket costs only Rs 7000 and helps the blind person in reading, identifying objects through a camera placed in the glasses through the Android Smart App.



CHESS CHAMPIONS

Rahul Vaghela studying in std.12, 16 year old created history, recently. He has been titled Gujarat State Champion in visually impaired chess. Mesariya Chirantan very senior chess player, recently got 6 rank in West Zone visually impaired chess championship at Goa. Chirantan is our staff and working as Physiotherapist at Sumeru, Paldi unit.



Inclusive chess tournament was organized on 9th July in which sighted players played with 22 selected visually impaired chess players. It was an eye opening experience for the sighted players and a great learning opportunity for the visually impaired players.



Children Welcomed Back to School

Students were welcomed back to Pravin Mandakini Bhagwati Savinay Sammilit Vidhyalaya at Bavla with the traditional welcome on 8 July 2023.



JUNE 5 : Praveshotsav was held in new building at our Sanjeevani day care centre, Jodhpur, Rajasthan in the space provided by the head of Mandor Mandi Shri Rajendraji Parihar. He attended the programme along with Shri O.P.N. Culla head of Jodhpur Centre.



ICEVI Digital Library

ICEVI India gave the hardware and software to NAB Bhuj and NAB Chhota Udepur for starting Digital Libraries for the Blind.

6th June Shri Nikung Group distributed Books to our two inclusive Schools at Naaz and Savinay School Bavla. They have distributed around 3500 textbooks and 4000 notebooks to the students of Std.1st to 8th.

2ND JUNE - 23 Staff of ANALOG DEVICES Gandhinagar spent half day visiting BPA and Vision-in-the-dark. They are interested in hiring persons with disabilities at their office.



Strategic Meeting

9th June : Dr. Dharmendra Jena, Deputy Director; Shri Soumen Maity, Manager of Vision Centres; Shri Arvind Singh, Project Coordinator, Bhuj; Shri Jignesh Tigar, Accountant; attended a Meeting with DP World, which is a major donor in the Bhuj Unit.

7th June 2023 -Mihir Jani, BPA Project Coordinator selected by Perkins School for the Blind, USA for the 9 Month Educational Leadership programme. He returned in May 2023. Mihir made a presentation about his experiences in Perkins School for the Blind, USA



Award for Naaz

5TH JUNE- Our BPA-MSM Naaz Centre was selected one of the best residential institution for Mano DIVYANGJAN BY JJCT. Mahendrabhai and Jignaben received this honor on behalf of BPA.



8TH- JUNE : A Slide and a swing was donated and installed by Tamanna Sukhdevbhai Gelot at Khushio Nu Sarnamu -1, Deesa. Thanks to the Gelot Family Deesa for this wonderful gift to the children of Deesa center.



Tree Plantation at BPA



5TH JUNE Karnavati Hostel girls planting trees on environment day.



10th June Shri Mayank Shukla, Shri Dixitji and Smt. Rency madam from Godrej & Boyce mfg.co. Ltd, did tree plantation with our Divyangjan in campus today.



15th June: Students of Dept of Special Education SNDT University had a 6 day visit at the BPA. Students were exposed to the

different centre based programmes, vision in the dark, rural programme and management of programme.



Infection Control OUC 4 days workshop arranged - Zamindar Microsurgical Eye hospital, Bangalore, supported by SEVA Foundation. Mrs Sonia D Jena, Dr.Sumit And Mr. Somen participated on behalf of BPA porecha eye hospital.



14th June IIM-A students of Executive Program Strategy for Growth visited Vision in the Dark at the BPA.

H o s p i t a l Management program 2023- IIM-A Officers Today visit BPA Vision in the Dark.





Samsara Women's Empowerment Programme

Training Programme for Disabled Women was inaugurated by Shri Mukesh Oza Chairman, Samsara Group at Jasdan. Training in Sewing and 15 Sewing machines were awarded to disabled women in the premises of Patidar Educational Complex. Shri Tahirbhai of Samsara Group, Smt. Nandiniben Rawal, Shri Bharat Joshi of BPA; Shri Labhubhai Sonani, of NAB Bhavnagar were present in person. and Dr. Punani & Vimalben joined online from BPA. Mukeshbhai deserves to be congratulated as he takes part in every inauguration either virtually or physically.

Helen Keller Day Celebrated



BPA celebrated Helen Keller day at Ahmedabad One Nexus Mall by holding a live exhibition of the talents of persons with deaf blindness. Various awareness activities & sales of vocational products were conducted.



25th June : Sense International India organized a fun filled awareness event : "Messengers on Cycles" to celebrate Helen Keller Day and create awareness on deaf blindness and the needs of persons with deaf blindness. The programme was organized in the BPA Campus.



28th June: Mrs. Krupa & Mrs. Chaithali along with two students conducted Sensitization awareness program on deaf-blindness at Adani Vidhyamandir, Makarba



Regional network meeting of Abhiprerna, Prayaas, Udaan (west): organised by Blind People's Association, supported and funded by

Sense India on 5th to 7th July 2023, 90 participants (parents, teachers, adult deafblind, adult with visual impairment and girls with visual impairment) participated actively. Topics : Mental health, physical health, sexual health, LGBT, sexual health, menstrual hygiene, Abuse, social story through safe touch unsafe touch and myths about sexuality related disabilities. Vocational rehabilitation for persons with deafblindness.



TOUCHING DIVYANGJAN --- CHANGING LIFE :On Helen Keller Day, The Times Square group recruiting one more Blind man as liftman.



26th June Principal of Bhula na Muvada who was trained under VMWARE training made videos of the training that he imparted to his students to sensitize them about blindness and disability. The children also related their experience of not being able to see..



July 3- BPA Family is proud of our star player, Bhavina Patel who has organised Para Table Tennis Rating tournament at Ahmedabad for the first time in India.



July 1- The Fund Raising event organised by NAB Bharuch - Narmada Branch. Complete program effectively compèred by Tarak Luhar. Orchestra and singers from Surdhara Orchestra - inspired by ATCB School

July 17- CSR Partners Meet of DP World at Mundra. New projects were presented and appreciated by the Management.



July 3 -BPA congratulates all the medal winners of this event.



Sightsaver Visitor

July 7 - Mr. Jatin from sight saver visited Bareja and BPA and finalised truckers project in Bhuj, urban eye health program in Ahmedabad slums, 100 trucker camps in Kandla, Bhuj, Gandhinagar and Baroda.

BPA is a partner with Sightsavers in community Ophthalmology and saving sight of truck drivers, school children and the rural poor.

Neemuch Visit

Dr. Dharmendra Jena, Mr. Soumen Maity and Mr. Arvindsinh Gohil attended 17th Annual

Conference of Vision 2020-The Right to Sight India. The team made two presentations on the role of Vision Center and disability inclusion They met and Interacted with many dignitaries from eye care groups and learnt from them.





Biporjoy Relief Work

Cyclone Biporjoy struck Gujarat in June but luckily only a few districts were affected. BPA rose to the challenge and the staff and students packed survival kits for the affected. Kit distribution at Sasan... total 48 persons with disabilities were present in the distribution programme and received helping hand kits. We also got potential clients for self employment during the distribution programme. With the support of BPA, we could reach out to really needy people by giving them helping hand kits.



July 11 - Health Hygiene kits & Tadpatri Distribution for Persons with Disabilities and Biparjoy Affected people in Abdasa Block. Supported by Americare India Foundation Mumbai



Blind People's Association in collaboration with Americare Foundation Mumbai honored 250 Asha worker sisters in Nakhtrana Lohana Mahajanwadi with health hygiene kits and certificates.



July 10- Mrs.Urmilaben Kalantry donated portable ultra sound machine to physiotherapy department.



Swabhiman DJ Night at BPA

Swabhiman Group distributed support to around 300 needy disabled persons on 2 September 2023. The group also organized DJ night on 22 July 2023 for all the students and trainees of BPA and its branches all over Gujarat.





JULY 21 - Mahila Police conducted a training on Help line for staff at Porecha Auditorium at BPA. They gave very useful tips on domestic violence reporting as also protection of women's rights.



Perkins Visitors

8th august 2023 Visitors from Perkins India Anuradhaben , Ms. Sampada Shevde, Mrs. Anuradha Mungi, executives of Perkins India Trust visited BPA and saw various inclusive education

programmes. BPA and Perkins are entering into a MOU for starting a model programme on Inclusive education. Ms. Krupa, Ms Jigna and Mr. Mihir will assist in this project.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The students and trainees of BPA and its various units all over Gujarat celebrated Independence Day. Hope committee sponsored token prizes. Mr. Ramesh Shah, CEO of Ekal Foundation India did the flag hoisting at the BPA campus. Indian Institute of Material Management donated Rs.

10,000/- on this occasion and Lions Clubs of Vastrapur, Ellisbridge hosted the event and sponsored snacks for all present.



ADANI COLLABORATION

BPA celebrated the birthday of Mr Pranav Adani, the Chairman Adani Gas by singing melodious songs and showing off their talents through dance and other performing arts. Shri Adaniji was very impressed and touched and donated Rs.3,00,000 to Blind People's Association on this occasion. A stall was arranged with BPA products displayed and the staff very generously bought the articles and encouraged the students and trainees. BPA looks forward to more collaboration with the Adani Group for employing persons with disabilities in their various units.





Stride Support

19 August - Mr. Bharat Joshi and Mr. Harmish Modi attended a function for creating awareness about disability and the rights of disabled persons near Porbander. The local sarpanches of 10 villages attended the function, and appreciated BPA intervention. New CSR head of Stride was present and showed happiness with project activities and achievements. They will involve BPA for other state CSR Activities.



19 August - Exhibition of BPA Vocational Training Unit Products was held at iFedora Services Pvt Ltd, Thaltej, Ahmedabad. A sensitization programme was also arranged on disability on this occasion.

Jigna's story on her work at BPA was published in a book by Varsha Majethiya and was released at AMA on 20 August. Congrats Jigna on this achievement.



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