



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)

INDUBHAI D SHAH & VIPINCHANDRA D SHAH FURNITURE SHOWROOM

ATCB's new showroom was inaugurated on 30th January, 2024. The NATCB President Ushaben's family sponsored the setting up of this Showroom. Upasana Chavda, our volunteer helped in the interior decoration and added her personal touch. Yogesh Purohit, Architect and his son Keval did the designing of the Showroom totally gratis. This Showroom is as beautiful and attractive as any commercial one!

Thanks to President of ATCB, Ushaben Atulkumar for sponsoring this showroom in memory of Indubhai D Shah and Vipin Chandra D Shah. Thanks to all family members of Smt Ushaben for remaining present during inauguration function.

ATCB Handika has a new well furnished showroom.



GIFT FROM EMAMI AND LOTUS TRUST



BPA thanks Emami Limited and Lotus Trust, Mumbai for donating an Innova Car to BPA. Smt. Anjuben Trustee of Emami Trust and Lotus Trust handed over this vehicle to BPA in the presence of Trustees and Directors of BPA on 30 Jan, 2024.



GYAN PRABHA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES



BPA thanks Arvind Mafatlal Foundation for sponsoring scholarship for 100 meritorious girls with disabilities on the occasion of celebration of Birth Centenary of Visionary and Legendary Corporate Tycoon and dedicated Social Worker, Late Shri Arvind Mafatlal. BPA thanks Mr. Niraj Mankad, President, Legal and Mr Suresh Nair, Vice President, Legal, who specially came from Mumbai and represented Padmanabh Mafatlal Group on this occasion. A SCHOLARSHIP OF Rs. 18000

was given to every disabled girl to enable her to pursue her dream.

DOCTORATE FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Mr. Bharat Joshi, Deputy Director of BPA was conferred Ph.D for his thesis on " Inclusive Work Environment for Persons with Disabilities" by S. P. University in February, 2024. BPA congratulates Bharat and wishes him the best for the future.

MOU WITH AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY

Dr. Ami Trivedi Vice-Chancellor, BAOU, signed an MoU with BPA and Sense for holding the World Conference of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairments from 14-16 November, 2024 at the University Campus.





JMMT CERTIFICATE

Mr. Naoshi Terakasi distributed certificates to blind students completing the Japanese Medical Manual Therapy a two year course. These certificates are given by Tsukaba University, Japan.

BPA STALL AT HAAT

Products of BPA Family at display in the Ahmedabad Haat, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad. Thanks to our volunteer Upasana Chavda for availing this facility and BPA team for managing the stall on **5 Jan, 2024**.



SWABHIMAN SUPPORT



Swabhimaan Group in Action: The team led by Shri Kintu Bhai Shah distributed scholarships, travel support and employment kits to 141 persons with disabilities on 6th January at 11 at BPA, Vastrapur.



GUJARAT GAS CSR

Gujarat Gas LTD supported artificial limbs to 20 persons With Disabilities . They were provided artificial limbs with k 2 high performance carbon foot In Ashirvad Viklang Trust Sayla on 21 February, 2024. BPA organized the CSR support from Gujarat Gas and the BPA Workshop made the limbs.

LIFT GROUND BREAKING

The 5th floor of building number 8 of the B BPA has been sponsored by Montecarlo builders for setting up a huge conference facility on this floor. There are 5 conference rooms with different seating capacities. it was realized that the existing lifts would not be enough for the participants off the Conference Center. The Monte Carlo company very kindly agreed to install a large lift which can house 16 persons. Land breaking for new lift was performed on **22 Jan, 2024**



EXCO MEETINGS IN THE LAP OF NATURE



The Executive Meetings of BPA, NATCB, Sadbhavna Trust, ICEVI were held at Alloha Farms near Gandhinagar kindly hosted by Shri Rohit Shah, BPA Trustee on 20 January, 2023.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS



75th Republic Day was celebrated at BPA with flag hoisting by Former Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, Shri Kalpesh Bhai Jhaveri. He was felicitated by Special Educators of IEDSS as he delivered a landmark judgment granting stay on termination of jobs of these teachers when their jobs were to be terminated by Ministry of Education. Because of this judgment, all these 1000 or more Special Educators got confirmed in regular employment of Govt of Gujarat with salaries as per 7th Pay Commission with pensionary benefits.

TRUSTED DONORS



Our trusted donors, Dr Ajay Parikh and Mrs Rina Parikh of USA visited BPA on **31 Jan, 2024** along with their son, Dr. Pujan and daughter, Payal and donated Rs 4,00,000 to Mahesh Chandra Ratilal Parikh Fund. Both Pujan and Payal provided their voluntary services to BPA while studying at Ahmedabad International School - BPA Family appreciates support of all their family members.

LCIF VIP

Mr Brian E Sheehan, Chairman of Lions Clubs International Foundation from USA visited Blind People's Association along with Mr Vikas Jain, District Presidents, members of District cabinet and members of Lions Club of Vastrapur on 31 January, 2024.. He was given a rousing welcome by the members and presented Guard of Honour by the band of our blind students. He very much appreciated use of latest technology in production of Braille Books. He also attended a prayer meeting where he was honoured by our blind students. He also interacted with our students. He distributed 5 tricycles 1 EV Tricycle, artificial limbs and mobility canes among needy persons with disabilities.



AWARD FOR PRINCIPAL

Our Principal, Dr Manubhai Ramanlal Chaudhari was conferred Dr. Navnit Thakkar Acharyaratna Award, on 15 February, 2024. This honour which conferred on the Principals of Secondary Schools in Ahmedabad District who complete their Ph.D. Heartiest congratulations Dr Manubhai.





SMART ON

Wagh Bakri Tea company distributed SmartON devices to 200 persons with visual impairment. BPA thanks WB Family for this generous support. This device involves a pair of spectacles with a mounted camera which takes images and converts them into audio information for persons with visual impairment. Each device costs Rs. 8500.

DIVYA KALA FAIR

The students with multiple disabilities and their parents participated in Divya Kala Melo at River Front Ahmedabad organized by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India ON 15 February, 2024. There was a wonderful display of products made by BPA persons with disabilities.



SKOCH AWARD



Dhwani project was initiated in the Sabarmati Jail to teach recording of audio books by inmates of Central Jail by BPA with support of Jail Authorities. The Project is funded by Inductotherm. The inmates have been reading and recording books diligently for the past two years. Skoch Award was given by Dr. K.L.N Rao Sir, DGP and IG, Prisons, Gujarat Police to BPA for the recording project on 27-02-24.

ICEVI WEST ASIA CONFERENCE

CSID Bangladesh hosted ICEVI West Asia Conference. 120 participants from India attended this conference through virtual mode. 45 participants attended the conference at Ganga Montecarlo Auditorium at BPA on 28 and 29 February, 2024.



ICEVI LUCKNOW

Dr. Punani, Dr. Mani, Nandini Rawal and Akhil Paul participated in the international Conference organized by Shakuntala Devi Rehabilitation University, Lucknow 22 & 23 February, 2024. ICEVI organized a Plenary Session in the Conference where the above were plenary speakers.



AMRUT DRISHTI VAN LAUNCHED

BPA and Porecha Eye Hospital launched the Amrut Dhristi Mobile Van with the support of SightSavers to provide free services of eye health to urban poor of Ahmedabad City. The Van was flagged off by Mr. Devang Dani, Chairman, Standing Committee, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Mr. R.N. Mohanty CEO of Sightsavers on 8 March, 2024, World Women's Day.



CONSUMER RIGHTS



The World Consumers Rights Day is observed on 15th March every year. Bureau of Indian Standards, Ahmedabad organized various activities on this Day for Special kids. BIS Director Shri Sumit Sengar, Joint Director Amitkumar, Deputy Director, Amit Chandel, Hon.General Secretary, Dr.Bhushan Punani, Blind People's Association (India) were present as guests. Special kids participated in various activities like Quiz, Patriotic Song, BIS Song, etc. At the end, Director Shri Sumit Sengar and Dr.Bhushan Punani addressed on this special occasion and also guided the students about "Make in India" and Inclusion of society in large terms. Amit Kumar and Ajay Chandel introduced functionaries of BIS.

US CONSULATE

The US Consulate General Mr. Mike Hankey visited Enable Mart and BPA today. He was very much impressed with newer assistive devices, education devices and technology based devices being displayed there. He appreciated smart glasses "Jyoti" developed by Mr Hunny Bhagchandani, Founder of start-up "Torchit". It is matter of pride for BPA that first Enable Mall has been established in our campus.



15 March, 2024

Hon'ble Supreme Court invites details of Special Educators working under State Governments on Contract Basis - a great step towards ensuring appointment of Special Educators on Regular Basis SUPREMECOURTOFINDIARECORD OF PROCEEDINGS Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 132/2016 RAJNEESH KUMAR PANDEY & ORS.



Petitioner(s) VERSUS UNION OF INDIA & ORS. Respondent(s) Date : 12-03-2024: UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following O R D E R All the States shall file an additional affidavit within a period of four weeks specifying the number of special teachers who are R.C.I. trained and eligible to be appointed, who are presently working on contractual basis under them. The affidavit shall also contain the service conditions including the pay-scale/consolidated wage being given to them, number of years they have been working on contract basis and the steps, if any, taken to regularise their service imbibing the spirit of the judgment. Needless to say that they shall also state the number of sanctioned posts, and if the sanctioned posts are lesser in number, then the steps taken to sanction further posts to ensure appointment of such teachers on regular basis.



PARA COMEPTITION WINNERS

We are proud of Yezdi for winning 2 Golds and 1 Bronze and Shital Darji for winning to 2 Gold and 1 Bronze in UTT Para Table Tennis National Championship 2023-24 held at Indore - Congratulations to all winners.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN VARANASI

BPA started the work of empowering women with disabilities after a visit to Varanasi. The Ex. Director, BPA met women who asked for help. BPA applied to the Arvind Mafatlal Foundation for supporting training in leadership and economic self-sufficiency.

First batch of 1 month silai training on 27th Dec, 23. 50 participants were enrolled in the training but only 43 could complete the training. The second batch started from 5th Feb'24 and 50 participants enrolled in the silai training. 44 participants completed the training on 14th March'24. This is to inform that 100 women with disabilities were enrolled but due to some social problems 13 women with disabilities couldn't continue training

BPA distributed 87 sewing machines at Varanasi on 17th March, 24 at Shri Hanuman Prasad Podar Blind School, Durga Kund, and Varanasi. Though, the elections were announced, all Government officers were present during the distribution

Two days, Leadership Workshop was conducted at NAB Valsad for women with visual impairment sponsored by a grant of THE Arvind Mafatlal Foundation. In March, 2024



SUPER SEVENTY !!

The BPA staff, students and trainees celebrated the 70th birthday of Dr. Punani Birthday Jan 3, 2024 with great gusto. There were skits which illustrated his life, his achievements, and his great sacrifice in leaving corporate jobs and money to head BPA. The staff from the various BPA centres, eye hospitals, day care centres, CBR projects and other activities came together and celebrated his life and times with enthusiasm and love.



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