



Devoted to  
Comprehensive Development  
Of Persons with Disabilities

For Private Circulation Only

# B.P.A.

## Bulletin

YEAR 2022-23 ▲ VOLUME : II ▲ OCT - DEC-2023 (This Bulletin is available on website : [www.bpaindia.org](http://www.bpaindia.org))

**BULLETIN**  
**BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)**

### EV Tricycles Donated

Shri Piyush Bhai from Mumbai sponsored distribution of 11 Handika Ev Tricycles and 3 Neo Motion tricycles to needy persons with disabilities on 29th September at 12.30 p.m. This is the first time that a single donor has donated so many such EV Tricycles. He invited his



family members and friends to this event. His generous support for this very humanitarian task is much appreciated.

Motivation for distribution of Ev Tricycles by Shri Piyush Bhai Shah came from his brother Shri Upendra Bhai Shah who acquired disability of lower limbs and remained wheelchair bound his whole life. He had to go through a great struggle for attaining financial independence. Shri Piyush Bhai desired that other such persons who have disability in lower limbs must not struggle like his brother. Shri Upendra Bhai travelled all the way from Mumbai to attend this function. Keep up great spirit Shri Upendrabhai.



## Blind Footballer

Best of luck to Nirma and Asha, our 2 girls with visual impairment who are part of India Blind Women Football Team. The first-ever match of the Indian blind football team at the IBSA World Games 2023 was held in August, 2023. This marked the start of a new and inspiring chapter in Indian sports, and it's time to show our support and appreciation for our blind football team.



## T-Shirts Donation

Athflex Apparels celebrated Independence Day by donating tee-shirts to our students. The team led by Founder & CEO Mr Andrew Leo met students to seek inspiration from them. Thanks to Athflex team for this gesture.

## Independence Day, 2023

BPA Family saluted the National Flag on the occasion of 77th Independence Day at Vastrapur, Bareja, Bavla, Bhuj and Vatrak campuses. Shri Ramesh Bhai Shah, CEO, Ekal Schools India led the celebrations at Vastrapur. VoiceofSAP also distributed assistive devices on this occasion.



## Helping the Needy

BPA thanks Smt Gitaben Dipakbhai Gandhi Parivar (UK) for distributing sweets, umbrella and garlands among old and needy women during this pious month on 16 August, 2023

## Stride Support

BPA reached village Bapodar near Porbandar and completed renovation of school building with the support of Stride Climate Investments as a CSR Initiative. Meritorious school children were honoured in the presence of Sarpanches from 10 villages and CSR Head of Stride. The Programme was conducted on **19 August, 2023**





## Jail Project

Demonstration at Bhuj Jail of the prowess of prisoners in producing audio books at Sabarmati Jai was organized on **27 August, 2023**

This unique initiative helps persons with visual impairment to get audio books by recording the same by prisoners. Ranchhod Soni, Bharat Joshi, Arvind Sinh and Bhadresh attended and explained the Project to the visitors.



## Rakhi Competition

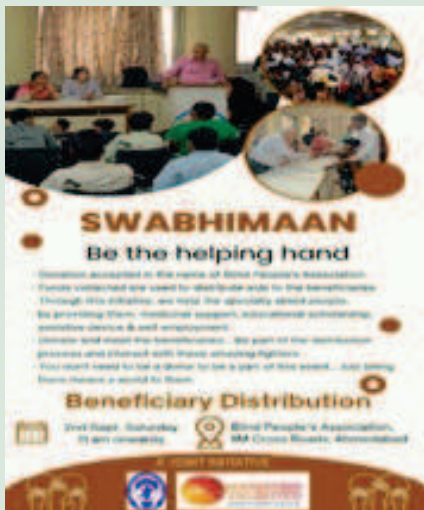
Blindness is no bar to making colourful Rakhis. Women with blindness participated in Rakhi Making Competition on **27 August, 2023** organized by Blind Women's Association and sponsored by Lions Club of Vastrapur (Mostly of the Blind)

## Inclusive Chess

BPA promotes inclusive chess: Our four visually impaired chess players played chess on **29 August, 2023** with sighted **570** chess players at KVBR Stadium, Hyderabad on **25 AUGUST** in SLAN 1ST International Chess Tournament. Aniket Pattani got 2nd and Himanshi Rathi got 3rd prize in Special Category - congrats to the winners.



## SWABHIMAN DISTRIBUTION



Swabhimaan Group organized a mega event in which 84 persons with disabilities were provided assistive devices; 87 such persons were provided self-employment kits and equipment and 60 persons were extended support for medicines and another 23 young persons scholarship and support for travel. This is the first time that 250 such persons were extended such generous support. With this distribution, Swabhimaan group led by Mr Kintu Bhai Shah shall achieve a target of extending total support to persons with disabilities to the extent of Rs 2 crores - Event was held at BPA on 2nd September at 11 a.m.

## VAN DONATED

BPA thanks Mr. Rajendrakumar Sharda donated his pre-used Maruti Van to BPA ON 7 September, 2023



## SIHL RASOTSAV 2023

BPA and its allied Trusts and Centres from all over Gujarat and Rajasthan celebrated Rasotsav - a celebration of talent of people with disabilities - on 14th September (NAB All India Flag Day for the Blind) on 14th September, 2023 at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya Hall, Sindhu Bhawan Road from 2 p.m. onwards. BPA thanks Shah Investors Home Ltd for sponsoring this event every year and enabling our students to showcase their abilities.

306 children with disabilities performed variety of dances, skits and mimes and showed their talent. Dr. Manish Kumar Bansal, IAS was the Chief Guest and shared his own personal experiences of disability with the audience and appealed to parents to remain positive and energetic.



## Boot Camp

BPA team of Vimal, Krupa, Jigna, Mihir and Kavina participated in Boot-camp 2 organized by Perkins India in Mumbai on 26 & 27 September, 2023. The aim of the Boot Camp was to plan for inclusive education children with multiple disabilities and deafblindness.

## Amity University Visit

33 Students and 2 Faculty Members of B Ed (Special) Integrated Program of Amity University, NOIDA campus visited BPA from 28 September, 2023 for educational tour and one week placement as a curriculum requirement of the course.





## Smart - Ons

Smt. Ushaben A Bajaj and Smt. Seemaben J Patel of Ahmedabad Sarvar Mandal presented a cheque for sponsoring 10 SmartOns on **26 September, 2023**

BPA thanks the Gujarat and Ahmedabad Sarvar Mandals for their consistent support.



## Seva Foundation Cross Learning

**Cross Learning Meeting** - sponsored by Seva Foundation, USA and coordinated by PBMA H.V. Desai Eye Hospital was hosted by BPA on **25th & 26th September 2023**. There were a total of 24 participants who shared and learnt about good

practices in eye hospitals and how to improve quality in eye care. The first day, 25 September, was at BPA and the 26 Meeting was at Porecha Eye Hospital, Bareja. Dr. Dole from Poona and Dr. Uday Gajiwala guided the participants as experts and Mr. Kuldeep and Mr. Saikat from Seva were also present.

## Teleswitchgear Donataion

Shri Prashant Shah of Teleswitchgear has donated a Bolero for patients of Sabarkantha and Aravalli. The vehicle will be kept at Bellaben & Yogeshbhai Eye Hospital, Vatrak. Prashantbhai has donated the vehicle in the memory of his parent's, Pratibhaben and Shantilalbhai and his son Atit Prashantbhai has been a BPA supporter for almost 30 years.



## Drum Donation

Our Trusted Volunteer, Ms Tina Nikhil Parikh and her team donated Roto Drum set to our students. What a great gift for our students who wish to play music during Garba events. Thanks Tinaben, Sudhaben and team - keep inspiring our students.

## Visit to Goa Deafblind Project

Ms Nandini Rawal, Executive Director of BPA and Member of Sense India Board visited Caritas Goa Deafblind Project along with Mr Akhil Paul, Director, Sense India and his entire team on 1 October, 2023. The Board Meeting of Sense India Trust was also held at this time.





### Stalwarts Visit BPA:

Mr Rajeev Agrawal, Founder, Majha Ghar Foundation, Pune and Prof Rajesh Agrawal, faculty at IIM, Udaipur visited BPA on 2 October, 2023, to understand BPA's approach to resource mobilization. It was a great pleasure for BPA Family to share its approach towards resource mobilization and good governance of NGOs.

### Danutsav Celebrations

Danotsav is celebrated in India from 2-8 October to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and encourage people to give. The Management and Employees of Light Finance Simple celebrated Daan Utsav with Kids with multiple Disability in BPA Naaz campus on 5 October, 2023. They celebrated by giving shoes and school stationary. The Top Management includes Managing Director Shri Dipak Amin, CEO Rakeshkumar Jha and CFO Aviral Saini and Vikram Bhai CHRO attended the events and spread happiness.



### 7 October, 2023

Thanks to the Management of Nirma University for inviting our students on the occasion of 29th Foundation Day - they also enthralled audience by their singing and dance performance

### 8 October, 2023

Little Angel Kaivalyaa celebrated her birthday with our students in the presence of her family members Ms Mrunalini Devi Gohil, Mr Dedeepya Gohil, Shri Ashoksinh Gohil, Smt Shobhnadevi Gohil and Mr Harshvardhan S Rahore The students blessed Kaivalyaa.



### Nexus Programme

We are thankful to Ahmedabad Nexus Mall for inviting our children for an awareness program on food safety. Around 60 students with special needs

participated in the event on 11 October, 2023 They filled colour on the given drawing. After the program, they were provided a certificate and lunch.





### BIS Visit

Thanks to officers of BIS Ahmedabad for visiting our campus on 14 October 2024.



### Enable Mart

Torch It, a Award Winning Start-up, brainchild of Hunny Bhagchandani has established its First Enable Mart, an initiative to provide assistive devices and technology products to people with disabilities at the campus of BPA. It was inaugurated by Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad City, Mr. Gyanender Singh Malik, IPS on 16 October, 2023

### BPA Loses a Great Donor and Friend

Shri Parag Desai (seen in check shirt), Executive Director, Wagh Bakri Tea Company left for his heavenly abode on 22 October, 2023 at young age of 49 years. Due to his philanthropic bent of mind, he assisted, guided and supported number of charities in Gujarat. The Company very gracefully established "Save Sight Fund" in the BPA, provided support to 106 persons with disabilities in Sayla, supported BPA for installing Solar Power System and



established a Vision Centre at Memdabad; provided Smart Glasses to 200 youth with visual impairment; distributed grain kits during Biporjoy and supported disaster management efforts of BPA. Shri Parag who was a rising star of Company whole hearted supported concept of CSR. With the untimely demise of Parag, BPA Family has lost a great friend, supporter, and enthusiastic donor. We pray to Almighty God to grant peace to divine departed soul and give strength to his family members, friends and admirers to bear this irreparable loss with courage. He shall always remain in our thoughts and prayers. Om Shanti.

### Shakti Pooja at BPA

#### SHAKTIPOOJA AT BPA

BPA Family celebrates Dussehra on 24 October, 2023 by doing Shakti Puja at BPA Campus . All present enjoyed Fafda & Jalebi - traditional savouries of this occasion. BPA Trustees Ushaben and Sunitaben performed the Pooja.



### Chess World Champions

New Records in Asia Para Games: While country has won 111 medals, highest ever in such event; Friends of BPA have set a new record in the game "Chess for the Blind" by winning 2 Gold and 3 Bronze medals.. Heartiest congratulations to Darpan, Ashwini, Hemanshi and Bhavina doing pride to BPA, Gujarat, our country.





### Supporter Awarded Ph.D

A friend, well wisher and donor of BPA, Shri Sunil Parekh has been conferred Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature on 10 November, 2023 by Karnavati University to recognize his outstanding contribution in Innovations, Leadership and Global Impact - BPA Family and Swabhimaan are truly proud of you. Heartiest Congrats Sunil Bhai.

### Governor Felicitates BPA

The Governor of Gujarat Acharya Devvrat felicitated BPA for starting audio recording facilities for the inmates of Sabarmati Jail. Kudos to Ranchhod Soni and Bharat Joshi conceptualizing the Project and Bhadresh and Technology team for implementation. Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director accepted the Award on behalf of BPA on 10 November, 2023.



### Adani Marathon

Thanks to the Corporate Giant "Adani" for making Adani Ahmedabad Marathon inclusive by inviting Persons with Disabilities to participate in this event. This part of event was sponsored by Hyundai under their Samarth Program on 26 November, 2023.

### Bhuj Truckers Project



The Truckers Project at Bhuj supported by DP World through Mission for Vision was inaugurated by Mr Avinash Iyer, CEO, DP World on 1 December, 2023, Megha Raghuvansi HR head, DP World along with the whole team were present. Mr Sabitra Kundu and Gaurangi Kolzarkar attended the inauguration ceremony from Mission for vision.

### 25 November, 2023

Thanks to Authorities for including Vision in the Dark in the Museums of Ahmedabad.





## TRICYCLES DISTRIBUTION TO PWD:



BPA is grateful to Mifamed Medical Private Limited for donating 9 Tricycles to poor and needy People with Disabilities on

**1 December, 2023** On this occasion Ms. Helle Bak Sanden, Chief Human Resource Officer; Mr. Sudesh Zingde, General Manager India; Ms. Mital Shukla, HR Manager India; and Mr. Ankit Prajapati, GS1 Admin remained present and interacted with beneficiaries. Special thanks to MissionPharma EMT Team for this generous contribution.



## Kinnari Felicitated

Our Senior Manager, Ms Kinnari Desai was felicitated by Adani Foundation by Mr Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Group of Companies for her outstanding achievements in the field of advocacy and employment of people with disabilities on 7 December, 2023. Adani Foundation presented a wonderful citation to her.

## Two Giant's Meet

Dr. Punani had the opportunity of meeting Corporate Giant, Shri Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group after a Panel Discussion along with other Panelists at Global HQ of Adani on 10 December, 2023. BPA thanks Adani Group for promoting accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.



## Laptop Distribution

Help the Blind Foundation distributed 14 Laptops among college level students with visual impairment at the BPA campus on 14 December, 2023. Accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.



## Disabled Women Empowered through Samasara

Thanks to Mr Mukesh Oza, CEO, Samsara Group for sponsoring empowerment of 1008 women with disabilities through their intensive training in sewing and then presenting sewing machines. this training for 15 such women was concluded at Lakshimpura Youth Mandal Centre, Palanpur on 23 December, 2023. Mr Shailesh Bhai Prajapati, Mamalatdar was Chief Guest, as also officials of Laksmipura Yuvak Mandal, Lions Club and BPA in the virtual presence of Mukesh Oza, Chairman, Samsara Group.

## Award to Volunteer

Mr M L Gupta , RETIRED Officer from Air India has been serving BPA as volunteer since two decades. Mr. Gupta was conferred an award by Narayan Seva Sansthan, Udaipur from the worthy hands of renowned film personality, Mr Anupam Kher on 26 December, 2023 Heartiest congratulations Shri M L Gupta – keep up your good work!!



## Birthday Celebration



Rahul Jitubhai Chandwani (Satnam Agro Vegetables) near Chiloda celebrate his son's Birthday on 16 October, 2023.. He and his Dad has been donating vegetables for our hostel every week - a great contribution indeed!!

Ashish Sharma, promoter of Devi Bag Shopping Mall Pvt Ltd celebrated his birthday with our students on 9 September, 2023 and gave bags to each and every student.



Mahamandleshwar Swami Shri Girdhar Giriraj Majoraj visited BPA on the invitation of Mr Harshad Bhai Shah who donated 3 tricycles on the occasion of his birthday, on 11 September, 2023. . Impressed with the work of BPA, respected Swamiji himself donated Rs 21,000 as his blessings. Kind gesture of Swamiji is much appreciated.

Ms Divya Thakkar, a well known TV Anchor celebrated her birthday with our students on 20 August, 2023.



## Diwali Celebration



Diwali was celebrated in a unique way on 10 November, 2023 By "Sparkle and Rise (Children Empowering Children)" by donating 5 Tricycles to Persons with Disabilities. Donor & her family remained present and interacted with beneficiaries.

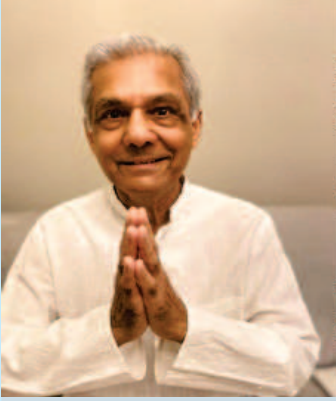
## Shantiniketan Placement

4 students of MSW from Shanti Niketan completed their one month placement successfully at BPA in November, 2023. It was a pleasure having students from the East of India to the West of our country.





## A Dear Friend Passes Away



Dr. Rajni Shah and Dr Jayshree Shah, both Founders of "Positive Sight" - a charity registered in UK for the benefit of Save Sight Project of BPA have been mobilizing resources over the last 3 decades. Recently, Dr. Rajni Shah left for his heavenly abode. BPA Family pays tributes to great friend and donor of BPA in the following words as penned by his son Mr Ruchir Shah: Obituary Dr. Rajni Shah was a remarkable individual whose humanitarian efforts since 1997 have touched countless lives. As the co-founder of Positive Sight, a UK charity dedicated to restoring eyesight for the elderly, he worked tirelessly alongside his wife Dr. Jayashree Shah.

Their organisation partnered with the Blind People's Association in India to raise funds and deliver essential services, including cataract surgeries, which dramatically improved the quality of life for the disadvantaged.

Born in the village of Sasam, Dr. Shah never forgot his roots, actively engaging in its development by improving amenities and infrastructure. He and his wife committed their energy to enhancing village life, from health care to computer literacy, and by example inspiring village students to seek further education and professional development, ensuring his legacy would continue to foster growth and hope.

Dr. Shah's dedication to service, his compassion for the less fortunate, and his drive to make a positive impact will be deeply missed. His life's work stands as a testament to the power of kindness and the profound difference one person can make in the world.

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