



Devoted to  
Comprehensive Development  
of Persons With Disabilities

For Private Circulation Only

# B.P.A.

## Quarterly Activities Report

YEAR 2025 ▲ VOLUME:II ▲ APRIL - JUNE - 2025

(This Bulletin is available on website: [www.bpaindia.org](http://www.bpaindia.org))

### QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (INDIA)

#### Sheth Jamnabhai Bhagubhai School of Optometry Building Inaugurated



Mr. Rajendra Vyas, Charity Commissioner of the state of Gujarat, inaugurated the JB school of optometry on the pious day of Rath Yatra which was also Helen Keller day 27 June 2025. The trustees of the JB trust namely Shri Rajiv Mehta & Smt. Aarti Mehta, Shri Shreyang Sutaria, Shri Saurin Palkhiwala, Shri Sajag Mehta & Jaynee Mehta were present. A small Pooja was organized, and the building ribbon and plaque were opened by Shri Rajendra Vyas, Charity Commissioner. This school was inaugurated at BPA Bareja Eye Hospital campus.

#### 75 Celebrations of BPA



BPA kicked off the 75 anniversary celebrations by holding a gala get to gather of former students. The celebration started with a rally for highlighting the rights of the blind and continued with a grand function at the Senate Hall of the Gujarat University. Around 550 former students came and stayed at the BPA campus for a night and shared their experiences.



A function was organized at the Senate Hall of the Gujarat University in which Dr. Nirja Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University, Dr. T S. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, Children's Research University; Mr. Kumarpal Desai, noted litterateur, were the Chief Guests.

The old students had formed a team comprising of Sunil Waghela, Nilesh Solanki, David Joshi, Bhailal Mahida, Dhirubhai Rojasra, Yoogesh Borse and Mukesh Parmar, Dhruv Bhatt. This team did a marvellous job of rounding up of alumni, speaking with them and arranging all the logistics for the grand meet. The team also invited former students like Yahya Sapatwala and Amit Shah to speak about their memories of school and life as a student.

### Football Premier League for The Blind



The BPA and the Indian Blind Football Federation organized the Football Premier League for the first time in Gujarat. A total of 8 teams- 4 Men's and 4 Women's teams participated.

The Premier League Football was inaugurated by Mr. Rajput, PWD Commissioner and Mr. Shukla, Charity Commissioner of Gujarat on 17-06-2025. Mrs. Nikita Shah of Prudent, the main sponsor, kicked off the Ball under blind fold to start the tournament.

The Prize distribution function was graced by Lt. Gen. Asit Mistry, AVSM; Mr. Sanjay Shah and Mrs. Nikitaben Shah, title sponsors of the Tournament.

Ms. Mansi Shah, Bright Foundation, who provided a team of volunteers; Mr. Vishwanath of Fedora who were the food partners and Dr. Parimal, Medical Partner were felicitated on this occasion. Glorious Gujarat Women's team won the Trophy and North East United won the Men's Trophy.

### Ratnamani Tubes and Metals Digital Classrooms



Blind People's Association has established "Digital Classroom" to enable all students with blindness to attain complete education through digital means. Shri Prakash Sanghvi, Managing Director; Shri Jayanti Bhai Sanghvi, Joint Managing Director, Ratnamani Ltd. and CSR Head, Shri Jagat Bhai Kinkhabwala, (Sparrow Man of India) inaugurated this innovative digital classroom. Ratnamani Ltd has extended support for 150 laptops for enabling students to access all educational material through digital means. The classroom was inaugurated on 20-06-2025

### Montecarlo Lift



A special new lift sponsored by Montecarlo Builders was inaugurated on 2 May, 2025 by Mr. Chintal Kumar, CSR Head and Mr. Kalpesh Desai, Company secretary of Montecarlo. Montecarlo has funded the entire fifth floor of building no 8 of BPA, which houses 5 conference rooms in the Montecarlo Convention Centre

### BPA SCORES IN SPORTS



BPA trainees participated in the National Powerlifting Championship for the Blind – 2025 at Udupi, Karnataka on 22 JUNE 2025

Our players won medals in all categories and heartfelt congratulations.

- Galcher Chetna - Gold,
- Mansuri Sahil - Silver,
- Keyur Agvan - Bronze



Vinit Mavani participated in the 50 mt run at the state level on 02-05-2025 and got 3rd prize Bronze Medal.

### Sadvichar And Bpa Collaboration



Sadvichar Parivar, one of the leading voluntary organizations providing humanitarian services in Gujarat has invited BPA to establish an early intervention Centre for children with multiple disabilities on its Eye Hospital campus at Naroda. An Agreement to this effect was signed between Sadvichar Parivar and BPA on 31-05-2025. The Trustees of Sadvichar Parivar, namely Shri P.K. Laheri, Shri Shailesh Patwari were present along with BPA Trustees Shri Rajendrabhai Shah, Shri Rohit Shah.

### Computational Thinking in Schools (VE Regional CTIS 2025).



Accessible Resource Centre (ARC), IIIT Bangalore and Vision Empower (Delhi) were associated with the education conference organized by Vision Empower to recognize math activity. Kinjal Ben and Swati Ben from the Pravin Mandakini Bhagwati BPA School were invited to Bangalore on 14-06-2025 and felicitated. Many congratulations to both.

### AWARD TO JIGNA



Jigna Joshi was conferred the best professional Award in the field of disability services by Rotary Club of Ahmedabad Metro Congratulations!! BPA is very proud of Jigna.

**Perimetry Machine at Bpa Bhuj Eye Hospital**



BPA KCRC Eye Hospital has acquired a machine for carrying out a Perimetry for checking the field of vision specially for patients diagnosed with glaucoma. This machine has been purchased with financial assistance of Deendayal Port Authority.

**CHESS CHAMPIONS**



The National Premium Chess Tournament was organized at Cuttack- Odisha from 2 to 6th April. BPA chess heroes like Rahul Vaghela, Ashwin Makwana and Darpan Inani participated.



Nexus Ahmedabad One organized an open grand chess festival on 19-05-2025. The youngest chess players of BPA, Het and Hardev participated in this chess festival tournament.



Manav Patel both studying std 11 in Mini Cama secondary and Higher secondary school for the Blind, Vastrapur participated in the Gujarat state Khel Maha Kumbh Chess championship for the Blind. Manav Patel is a person who has visual and hearing impairment. He had cochlear surgery, and he is finding it easier to communicate.

**GARDEN WARRIORS**



BPA is thankful to all members of Rohini & Ashwini Garden Mitra Mandal, Bodakdev for collecting supporting BPA through donations for the past two decades. The members conduct a donation drive every year and collect old clothes. The drive was held on 4 April, 2025. All the senior citizens showed that their energy and spirit is equal to more than the young members of their colony. The BPA in turn provided Japanese Medical Manual Therapy and eye checkup services to the members. All members have collaborated on making this programme an unforgettable one!!

**SWINGING SIXTY**



Akhil Paul, Executive Director of Sense International, turned sixty on 1 April 2025. Akhil worked with the National Association for the Blind and BPA in 1990 before joining the newly established Sense International India in 1997. A grand party was held and all staff members whose birthdays fall in February, March and April were jointly celebrated. It was a walk down memory lane where staff shared fond memories of and with Akhil.

**CONCORD BIOTECH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**



6th Gujarat state chess championship sponsored by CONCORD BIOTECH was held at bpa. The prize distribution ceremony took place on 08-06-2025. A total of Rs. 1 lakh were distributed to the participants by Concord Biotech.

### STUDENTS EXCEL IN SCIENCE



The Science Fair was organized by the students of ATCB School on 7 April 2025. Students demonstrated their understanding of biology, the human body, and the environment through diagrams, maps and small models.

### TRAINING IN INCLUSION



BPA is motivating regular schools to admit children with disabilities in their schools. Rachna School has agreed to start with 5 children with special needs initially. BPA invited 50 teachers from Rachna school on 01/04/2025 for orientation training on needs of children with disabilities.

### SILAI TRAINING IN U.P.



BPA distributed 36 sewing machines to women with disabilities at RSETI under the umbrella of the National Rural Livelihood Mission with the support of Arvind Mafatlal Foundation on 9 April, 2025. These girls underwent 1 month Silai training at 3 Gram Panchayats of a Arajilne block in Uttar Pradesh.

### SENSITIZATION FOR STATE TRANSPORT STAFF



The bus drivers and conductors of Gujarat Road Transport Corporation were invited to the BPA for a sensitization programme on disability issues on 2 June 2025. The participants were blindfolded to help them to understand blindness, sat on wheelchairs to understand the problems in physical barriers and in boarding buses and understood other issues faced by people with disability on a regular basis.

### PLANNING FOR SUCCESS



The strategic planning meeting for BPA KCRC Eye Hospital was carried out on 12-04-2025. A comprehensive one-year work outline has been developed, including detailed strategies specifying what will be done, when, how, and by whom.

Key outcomes of the meeting include:

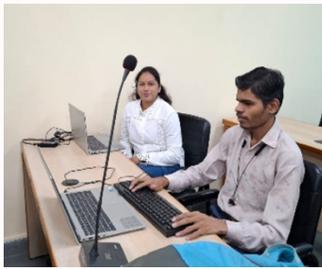
- A structured plan for strengthening new OPD services and protocols
- Detailed roadmap for the establishment of new Vision Centers at Lakhpat and Bhachau with the support of SEVA Foundation
- Strategic training plans for staff in eye collection and promoting awareness on eye donation

### ACCESSIBILITY WORKSHOP



A Workshop on Accessibility and Universal Design was held by Mr. Rajput, PWD Commissioner, Government of Gujarat at the BPA on 12 June 2025. Around 50 representatives of disability NGOs and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities participated and acquainted the Commissioner with need for implementing Sugamya Bharat guidelines for removing physical and attitudinal barriers.

## E-BOOKS TRAINING



Kunjla Tirgar and Rahul Vaniya from the BPA Tanya Computer Training Project attended a 5-day workshop on the production of accessible eBooks conducted by DAISY Consortium at Delhi from 23-06-2025

## WORKSHOP ON HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT



Seva Foundation USA funded a Workshop for its 11 Eye Hospital partners at Pune. The Trustees and Heads of these Hospitals participated. The Workshop was facilitated by H.V. Desai Eye Hospital and the Trainers of Seva. The issues discussed were increasing social media coverage, increasing patient satisfaction, branding and pricing of surgeries. Mrs. Nandini Rawal and Mrs. Sonia Jena attended this important training course on 9 and 10 June 2025.

## TANYA COMPUTER TRAINEES' CERTIFICATION



A 3-day Learning by Doing Workshop was organized by Tanya Computer from 16-18 June 2025 at Ashirwad Viklang Trust Centre, Sayla. Students completing the Course were awarded certificates. Lectures were also given on soft skills, preparedness for interviews and personality development.

## TRAINING FOR TEACHERS



Mrs. Jigna Joshi conducted a training on yearly planning for the teachers of the MSM Naaz School and the Pravin Mandakini Bhagwati School on 25/04/2025.

## TEACHER TRAINING



The BPA organizes in-service training programmes from time to time. The staff are exposed to newer techniques, new knowledge and skills. A Capacity building training course for outreach centers teachers was held at Ashirwad Viklang trust, Sayl from 7th to 9th May 2025

## ADVANCED TRAINING FOR PHYSIO ASSISTANTS



16 Physiotherapists from day care centers (run by BPA) participated in the advanced training at Blind People's Association, on 21st and 22nd May 2025. Mr. Sunil Gaurier and Mr. Archit Shah facilitated the practical sessions on vestibular rehabilitation, handling positioning while doing therapy, and group therapy sensory Integration.

### STORY MAKING TRAINING



A four-day story making workshop was organized at BPA under the guidance of Abhaben Joshi, from May 27th to 30th, in which special educators from different departments of BPA participated. Teachers explained the importance of stories in the development of children with disabilities. Emphasis was laid on developing stories which were in tactile form for children with visual impairment and additional disabilities. A lot of tactile picture stories were developed.

### HEALTH FOR BLIND WOMEN



Blind Women's Association organized a one-day seminar at BPA prayer hall on 25-05-2025. Women were given health, hygiene and tips for living a healthy and stress-free life.

### CAPACITY BUILDING AT BAREJA



Vimal Thawani and Nandini Rawal conducted training for the staff of the BPA Porecha Eye hospital on 7 June, 2025. Participants learnt about team building and interpersonal relations.

### VISHARAD 2025 PRACTICAL EXAM



The BPA has a music school which offers courses up to the Visharad level. The exams are conducted by the Gandharva Vishwa Vidyalaya, and certificates are then issued to students who clear the exams. The exams were conducted on 27/04/2025

### MUMBAI MAZAA



The students of the school were invited to Mumbai on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya on 29/04/2025. The Amar Prem Trust invited them and showed them around Mumbai, arranged cultural events and ensured that the kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves

### UNIQUE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Padmashri Dr Sudhir Bhai Shah, renowned Neurologist and supporter of BPA for the past 4 decades, celebrated his birthday along with his family by donating six tricycles to needy people with disabilities on 8 June 2025

**SHAILESH SHAH-A SILENT SUPPORTER**



Shaileshbhai Shah from the USA who is BPA's regular donor supported assistive devices to number of disabled persons at Deesa. This distribution was organized on 11-04-2025. In spite of the time difference and the late hours in USA, Shaileshbhai was present online and spoke with the recipients.



Another distribution was held at BPA on 21-04-2025 with funds donated by Shaileshbhai Shah at which 25 hand carts and 12 sewing machines were given to persons who will use these devices for their self-employment and self-reliance.

**VISIT TO DEDIYAPADA**



Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Ms. Kin-nari Desai, Ms. Hemangini Parmar, Mr. Jyotish Choudhary visited Dediypada and Saagbara on 30 April and 1 May 2025. The team visited disabled kids in their homes and met parents and discussed their problems and aspirations. The parents, in spite of their poverty, were very positive and proactive and asked so many questions!!! This programme is supported by Navin Fluorine Ltd.

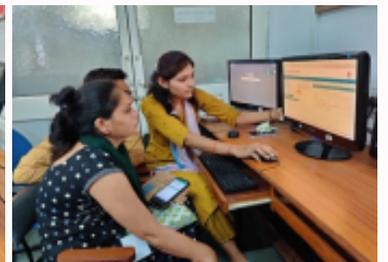


**WOMAN ACHIEVER**



Congratulations to Shruti who was recognized as women achiever by Times of India. Shruti is deafblind and was trained by BPA in Physiotherapy. She is the first deafblind Physio in the world. She is now an Advocacy Officer with Sense International India.

**GOVERNMENT JOBS**



Many government job advertisements have been released for the disabled. For this, a form filling camp was organized by the BPA. All candidates preparing for GPSC or other government exams could apply. The form filling camp was held from 14th to 16th April 2025 at the DDU GKY Centre at BPA.

## PARENTS' MEET AT VARIOUS CENTRES



The Annual Parent Meeting was organized at BPA special needs center on 15 April 2025. The activities conducted with and for the children during the year and the stories of their development were presented. Along with this, the graduation ceremony of 11 children was also held. A total of 108 parents were present at the meeting.

A Parents Meeting was held at Jit Mehta Bal Shala Trust on 18 April 2025 in which Mrs. Vimal Thawani and Mrs Jigna Joshi interacted with parents and guided them.

A Parents Meeting was also conducted at M S M Naaz Primary School on 25 April 2025.

## NADIAD PARENTS MEET



Mrs. Vimal Thawani conducted the Parents meeting at BPA Nadiad center on 9 June 2025. BPA Nadiad runs a day care centre where 35 children are being given training in daily living.

## WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE



Mr. Tarak Luhar and Mrs. Nandini Rawal visited Kapadwanj and spoke at a function to pay homage to Mr. J. K. Parikh, Secretary of V.S. Gandhi Trust, on 22 April 2025. Parikh Uncle as he was popularly known, was instrumental in initiating community based services for people with disabilities in Kapadwanj Taluka. Mr. Parikh's daughters and their families were present along with Trustees of the V.S. Gandhi Trust. It was a very sentimental occasion for the staff and the family who reminisced about Parikh Uncle and his contribution to humanity.

## CHANGE OF GUARD AT SII



Akhil Paul, the man who shaped and built Sense International India has retired! Heartiest congratulations to Ut-tam Kumar on stepping into the role of CEO and to Biju Mathew as the new COO of Sense India! Wishing you both great success in leading the organization forward with vision, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the cause of deafblindness. Your dedication and leadership will surely inspire many and bring renewed energy to the mission. Wishing you both a fulfilling and impactful journey ahead. Here's to new beginnings, bold ideas, and continued impact.

## EMPLOYMENT DRIVE



On 9th May 2025, an interview drive was successfully conducted at Blind People's Association for Zydus Plant under the DDUGKY project. A total of 24 candidates with disabilities participated in the drive, out of which 16 were shortlisted. The next step in the process will involve medical check-ups for the selected candidates, which will be coordinated accordingly.

## TREKKING



Students of the Adult Training Primary School for the Blind along with their teachers went on a trekking trip to Mount Abu. They learnt the basics of types of rocks, safe and systematic way of climbing rocks and importance of physical fitness.



BPA blind students went to Nagar in Himachal Pradesh for a seven-day trekking experience FROM 22-05-2025. They enjoyed the cool winds, the high treks and the feeling of freedom!!

## SHELTER HOME STAFF TRAINING AT BPA



BPA conducted one day workshop on Accessibility for the Managers and Engineers of Shelter Homes managed by GULM. The aim of this workshop was to make the existing Shelter Homes more accessible and inclusive for all. Each participant got the opportunity to experience various disability and different devices used by them. This orientation would help them understand disability; their needs and modifications require in Shelter Homes to make it for everyone who is homeless!!!



## Digital Hearing Aids

Daksha Vakharia, USA distributed Digital Hearing aids to children with hearing impairment at BPA. She distributed 3 pairs (6 Units) to needy children whose parents had applied for free hearing aids. Dakshaben interacted with each parent and children received hearing aids. She also gave some tips to maintain them for effective use.

## BPA Bulletin is issued every quarter

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## ONLINE SUPPORT



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