



# THE BLIND RELIEF ASSOCIATION, DELHI



**Annual Report  
2014-15**



## TIMELINE

- 1944 Establishment of the Association by Smt. Anusuya & Sh. U.A. Basrurker, eminent freedom fighters and social workers
- 1946 Industrial Home and School for the Blind at Badarpur
- 1955 Foundation stone of the Association's buildings laid by Dr. Helen Keller
- 1966 Inauguration of the building by Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India
- 1967 Jormal Periwal Memorial School for the Blind; Technical Training Centre cum Workshop; Training Centre for Teachers of the Blind
- 1982 Studio for recording books for the blind; First National Sports Meet for the Blind
- 1986 Unit for Children with Multiple Disabilities; Establishment of Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA)
- 1991 Computerized Braille Printing
- 1994 Vocational training in book binding/ stationery making, repair of household electrical/ electronic appliances
- 1996 Computer training
- 2003 Massage training
- 2006 Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment)
- 2008 Call Centre training
- 2013 Best Institution National Award 2012
- 2014 Diploma Course in Computer Education
- 2014 Construction of new hostel block for school Children



## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, has completed 71 years on February 26, 2015. It was started with just two students Daya Ram and Murli Dhar on its rolls and functioned from an old rented building in Lal Kuan, Badarpur. The Association now serves well over 300 blind children and adults at its own sprawling campus in the heart of New Delhi.

The Association's multi-faceted activities encompass school-education, teacher-preparation, computer-education, vocational training, programs for visually impaired children with limited abilities, placement unit, production of reading material in Braille and audio formats, consultancy, awareness creation etc.



## Highlights

- JPM School registered cent-per-cent pass results in Class XII CBSE Examinations in the years 2013-14 and 2014-15. Govind Kaushik of 2014-15 batch secured an all time high score of 93.2 per cent for the School.
- 32 teacher trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education completed B. Ed. (Spl. Education-Visual Impairment) course with 25 trainees securing First Division.
- Launched RCI-Approved One-year Diploma Course in Computer Education (Visual Impairment) on pilot basis. The Association has designed the course. Enrolled 17 trainees in the first batch.
- Launched an upgraded On-the-Job Call Centre Training programme in collaboration with QUIKR.
- 35 vocational trainees were helped to secure job or get self-employed
- New hostel wing built in LGF Structure for junior school students
- Hosted the 19th National Sports Meet in December 2014 and National Football, Kabaddi, Powerlifting and Judo Championships in January 2015 in collaboration with IBSA.

# EDUCATION

## JORMAL PERIWAL MEMORIAL (JPM) SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Recognized and aided by the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT Delhi and affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the school offers free education, boarding, lodging, assistive devices, books and other services to blind boys from the pre-school stage to Class XII. It is recognized today as a leading institution in the country which has made a mark for itself as an excellent nurturing ground for the visually challenged children to become confident and forward looking, excelling in the field of academics, sports and co-curricular activities.



### Enrollment

The School had 207 students on its rolls during the year 2014 – 2015. Only 11 of them were day scholars, the rest stayed in the school hostel. 15 new students were admitted in various classes during the year. Eleven of them between the age of 5 and 7 years were admitted in the pre-school unit. The focus is on laying a broad foundation of tactile and Braille learning, daily living skills, developing and strengthening the children's spatial movement and concept development. The rest were admitted: two in class I and one each in II and IX.

### Academics

The school provides education in a wide variety of academic subjects as also physical exercises in accordance, by-and-large, with the curriculum laid down by the Directorate of Education, Delhi and the CBSE. Keeping abreast with the times, all students from class VII onwards are taught the use of computers. They are encouraged to take Informatics Practice as an additional subject in their senior classes. Teaching in Mathematics and Science is also being upgraded.



## Board Examination Results

In the Class XII Board Examination held in March 2015, the School registered excellent result with all the 19 students passing in First Division. Govind Kaushik topped in the class with an all-time high score of 93.2 per cent for the School, followed by Des Raj Laur with 91.6 per cent, and Sandeep Kumar with 91.4 per cent. Individually the students got 89 subject distinctions. The School is proud that its students join prestigious colleges in Delhi to pursue their higher studies. All the 20 students of Class X cleared the school-based CBSE Continuous Comprehensive Examination. Masoom Reza with 9.8 points secured the highest CGPA in the class.



## Co-curricular Activities

The School provides all facilities, support and encouragement to its students to take part in diverse co-curricular activities like dance, music, theatre, poetry, debating, eco-club, Rotaract Leadership Programmes etc.



- The students participated in 47 events in state, zonal and inter-school competitions in debate, declamation, music, mono-acting, essay writing, story writing, poetry recitation and computers. They won 28 first prizes, 17 second prizes and 25 third prizes.
- Personality Development Workshop for senior students was held in the School in September 2014.

## Sports Activities



The School has always given special attention to development of sporting skills of the school students. The School has two regular Physical Training Instructors. In addition, the services of Sri Ravinder Nagar a reputed and experienced visually challenged athletics coach, are also being availed.



The School participated in 4 National sports events, 4 state events and 2 zonal events. In all, the students won 6 Gold, 11 Silver and 6 Bronze medals adding up a total of 23 medals.

Sri Mehboob Alam, Judo Coach from Indian Blind and Para Judo Association trained 31 students during the year. Rajat Bidhuri of class X won the National Judo Competition and was selected to represent India in the Seoul 2015 IBSA World Games for the Blind from 12 to 16 May.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL

### Junior Choir

The Neemrana Music Foundation is conducting regular classes in choral singing in the western mode since 2010 for the primary school students. A devoted trainer Ms. Natasha Vaz of Neemrana Foundation is training them. Occasionally they attend



special classes arranged by Neemrana Foundation to practice with other children and prepare for special programs. Mr. Jasmin Martorell, a noted voice coach from France conducted voice training workshop.

The Children took part in the Foundation's 10th Anniversary Opera Gala event held on 6 December 2014 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Weight Lifting Auditorium. This mega event presented in co-operation with European Union had a live orchestra consisting of 48 musicians of which 38 were from Europe. It was conducted by Ms Claire Levacher. It was a grand tribute to Late Mr. Francis Wacziarg who established The Neemrana Music Foundation.

### Japanese Language Classes



Mrs. Itsuko Nandi, a professional language teacher from Japan is conducting regular after-school classes in Japanese language for the students of Class XI and XII on voluntary basis.

### Interaction

Students from the American Embassy School continued their Saturday interaction with students of class V and VI to improve spoken English language skills.

Master Deepak Gupta of class XII read out the Vote of Thanks at the National Awards Function for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities presided over by the President of India at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 3 December 2014.

JPM school students along with trainees from other units of BRA enthusiastically participated in Raahgiri Day of Disability held at Connaught Place on 1 February 2015. The students played cricket, football, walked on stilts and presented a street play and gave a scintillating Qawwali performance.

## **Student Initiatives**

Leadership and organizational acumen of the students was evident in several events managed entirely by them. Some of the prominent events organized were:

- 21st Subodh Kant Trophy Cricket Match in the school grounds on 10-11 April 2015, by class IX.
- Janmashtami celebrations on 17 - 18 August 2014, which included mass 24-hour recitation of the Ramcharitmanas, by class XII.
- 16th K.N. Nayar Memorial Trophy cricket played from 1 - 4 October 2014 between three teams formed by the present students of the School and the alumni.
- Basant Panchami and Saraswati Puja on 24 January 2015, by class X.
- Shivratri celebrations on 17 February 2015, by class XI.

## **House Activities**

The school students are divided into four House groups, namely, Basrurker House, Deshmukh House, Bharat Ram House and Nayar House. The Houses take up month-wise responsibility of conducting daily morning assembly and cultural activities in the School. Such activities provide them with good opportunity to utilize and develop their cultural abilities and bring out their leadership qualities.

## **Staff**

The School, headed by the Principal Sri K.J. Kuriyan, has a staff strength of 31. Sri K.S. Dhiman, Craft Teacher retired on 31 August 2014 and was re-employed for a period of two years. As on 31st March 2015, there were 14 staff vacancies, namely, Vice Principal, 3 Post Graduate Teachers (English, Computer Science and Sanskrit), 1 Trained Graduate Teacher (English), 1 Special Educator, 5 Assistant Teachers, 1 Librarian, 1 Nursery Teacher and 1 Chowkidar. It is hoped that the Directorate of Education will take expeditious steps in facilitating filling up of the posts.

## **Management**

The functioning of the school is overseen by a Managing Committee constituted in accordance with the Delhi School Education Act and Rules. The Committee is chaired by Smt. Benu Nath, Hony. General Secretary of the Blind Relief Association. The School also has a separate 16-member committee called "The RTE SMC" covering education up to Class VIII under the terms of the Right to Education Act 2009.



## **UNIT FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES**

To cater to the special needs of visually impaired children with mild mental retardation the Blind Relief Association runs a Unit for Visually Impaired children with Multiple Disabilities. The Unit provides individual care and gives remedial teaching to such identified children of J.P.M. School.

The unit has two full-time qualified special teachers and two part-time teachers in Music, Art and Craft. For the pre and post-school-hour care of the students there is one resident house parent.

In order to facilitate appropriate need-based intervention, the Unit divides the beneficiary students into two groups:

- Functional Academic Group
- Remedial Teaching Group

In the academic session 2014-15, the Functional Academic Group had 9 students and the Remedial Teaching Group had 15 students.

### **Functional Academic Group**

This group has visually impaired children with mild mental retardation. They are trained in functional academics like number, money and, time concepts, activities of daily living, orientation and mobility, personal hygiene, pre-vocational activities etc. In consonance with the provisions of the PWD Act 1995 and the basic tenets of the Right to Education Act 2009 the existing norm of maximum age of 16 years was relaxed. Wherever possible, the students under Functional Academic Group were given the opportunity to attend, even if nominally, classes with their age group students in the school up to class X. 9 students from class II to X in the group attended maximum classes in the unit yet they were not segregated from the regular school. They attended some classes like art and craft, clay modeling, music and physical education etc. together with other children of the school. Thereafter, in consultation with their parents, some students are appropriately encouraged and advised to continue their education as fully integrated students while some are advised to join appropriate vocational training.

### **Remedial Teaching Group**

15 children from classes I and II of the JPM School benefitted from services under the program to improve their Braille and Taylor Frame skills. Individual attention was given to basic Braille reading and writing. While Hindi is their primary language they were also taught basics of English Braille. The students showed marked improvement in Hindi Braille reading and writing and are developing basic understanding of writing numbers using Taylor Frame.

## **DURGABAI DESHMUKH COLLEGE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)**



Established in 2005 by The Blind Relief Association, the College is affiliated to the University of Delhi, offering study programs leading to the degree of Bachelor of Education, Special Education (Visual Impairment). The College has permanent recognition from the University of Delhi, University

Grants Commission (UGC) as well as Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). It receives partial support from National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and some development grant from University Grants Commission. At present the capacity is of 33 students. As a Trust-run Institution, its 19-member Governing Body constituted under the terms of the relevant University statutes manages the College. Sri. Ranjit Puri was Chairperson of the Governing Body during the year 2014-15.

### **New Admission**

33 students were admitted to the course for the academic year 2014-15. One student dropped out. Of the 32 teacher trainees 10 male and 4 female were visually impaired,.

### **Annual Examination and Results**

The Annual Examination for B. Ed Special Education (V.I) (2013-14 batch) was conducted in April/May 2014. Of the 32 students, including one ex-student, who took the examination, 25 students passed with First Division while 7 students got Second Division.

### **Co-curricular Activities**

- The trainees presented a group song at the Independence Day function held in the Association on 14 August 2014.
- The College and Association jointly organized an interactive session with special education students of Edinburgh University, Scotland; Kings College, London and EOC (University of Delhi) on 4 September, 2014 as a part of the Connect to India programme on "Disability and Inclusion: Perceptions & Issues in Contemporary India".

- The faculty, staff and trainees of the College undertook a cleanliness drive on 2 October, 2014 in the College premises as a part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan .
- Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Founder President, Global Rainbow Foundation, an NGO in Mauritius visited the College and interacted with teacher trainees on 14 November, 2014. This NGO works for empowering differently abled persons and vulnerable groups through education and training.

- Teacher trainees enacted a play titled Goli Le Lo at the 71st Annual Day function of the Association on 22 November 2014.



- 6 visually impaired trainees participated in the 19th IBSA National Sports Meet for the Blind held from 13-16 December 2014 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. Shubhra Niti won silver medal in Long Jump B-1 category. She also won silver medals in Long Jump and Discus Throw under Sr. Women F-11 category in 7th Delhi State Para Athletics Meet held on 14-15th February 2015. Ishwanti got bronze medal in Long Jump F-II category.
- Trainees and the faculty participated in 'Antardhvani', an event organised by the University of Delhi on 14 February 2015.
- Trainees attended a two-day programme on 'Perspective in Special and Inclusive Education on 23 & 24 February, 2015 organized by CIE, University of Delhi.
- The trainees participated in several national and local debate and essay competitions. Manoj Yadav, a visually challenged trainee won third prize in Essay Competition, one consolation prize and one Certificate of appreciation in Debate/Declamation competitions.

## **Educational Tour/Visits**

The students of the College went for an educational tour to Mumbai from 19 to 26 March 2015. They visited National Association of the Blind, Kamla Mehta Blind School for Girls, Victoria Memorial School for the Blind, Hellen Keller Institute for the Deaf Blind. They went sightseeing to some famous tourist spots in Mumbai including the Elephanta Island.

In Delhi the students were taken to National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, National Institute of Hearing Handicapped and NAB's multi-handicap and deaf-blind units.

## Library

The College has a well-stocked Library with a large collection of books and journals on special education. During the year, 159 volumes of books (Print and Braille) were added with grant from UGC and other sources. As on 31 March 2015, there was a stock of 3898 volumes of print and Braille books. The library subscribes to 23 Indian and foreign journals on education and special education, and offers e-resources to its students, faculty members and other scholars through NLIST program of UGC.INFONET Digital Library Consortium.



## Faculty

The faculty members were invited to render their services as experts and resource persons to universities and other institutions, namely, Delhi University, IGNOU, Jamia Millia Islamia, RCI, NIVH, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB), Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust.

Dr. Swati Sanyal, Course Director is a member of RCI's expert committee on visual impairment. She is engaged in syllabus preparation for the two-year B.Ed and M.Ed programmes in Special Education.

Dr. S. K. Dubey, Assistant Professor authored a book titled "Alpdrishti Vidyarthiyon Ki Siksha" - Education of Low Vision Students published by Kanishka Publication, New Delhi. The book was released by the President of the Blind Relief Association at the Annual Day Function held on 22 November 2014.

## COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE

The Association is one of the pioneer institutions in the country to introduce computer literacy programs for the visually challenged. Launched in 1996, as a project for imparting computer training for the adult blind, the Centre conducts courses for blind adults and also caters to the computer-related curricular needs of the Association's J.P.M. School students. It takes care of IT related services and requirements of the Association.

### Diploma Course In Computer Education (visual Impairment)



The year 2014-15 has been a landmark year for the Centre. A new program titled "Diploma Course in Computer Education (Visual Impairment)" has been introduced. This one-year course has been approved by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) to be run on a pilot basis for two academic years. The objective is to prepare a cadre of personnel

who could provide education and vocation in computers. The course has been designed under the guidance of two leading experts in the field of special education, Sri. A.K. Mittal and Prof. S.R. Mittal. Sri. P.C. Mehta, Dy. Executive Secretary led the team supported by Smt. Neelu Suneja and Sri. Rajpal, faculty of the Centre in designing the course. The draft curriculum of the course was considered and finalised at a workshop which included experts from organisations like NIVH, AICB, Saksham and B.R.A. A representative of RCI was also present. The Chairperson of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Prof. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay did the formal inauguration of the course on 5 September 2014.

17 students are undergoing training in the first batch. The final examination will be conducted by the Board of Examination, R.C.I. in July 2015. The Association has employed the requisite faculty and provided infrastructural facilities including practice teaching arrangements with J.P.M. School as per norms laid down by R.C.I.

## **Computer Training for Adult Blind**

There were 18 trainees in the 2-month summer training program and 8 in the 4-month training course conducted during the year in May-June and July-Nov 2014. The 4-month training program is being discontinued due starting of the Diploma course.

## **Computer Training for School Students**

Students from Class VII to XII of JPM School are taught the use of computers in graded programs. There is a special arrangement for students of JPM School who opt for Informatics Practice as a subject at the Senior Secondary level. 54 students were trained in the use of computers. 2 students of Class IX, 4 students of class X and 1 student of Class XII took Informatics Practices as one of their main subjects.

## **Facilities**

There are three well-equipped computer labs. One of the labs named “Vardhman Jain Computer Centre” is being supported by the Times Eye Research Foundation and Ashok Jain Charitable Trust. Another lab is being supported by Smt. Kamla Devi Charitable Trust run by INOX Group. The Association is grateful to them for supporting the Association's computer training programs.



# VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## Technical Training Centre

Vocational training along with the education of the visually challenged has been a major activity of the Association from the very beginning. The Association's vocational training programmes have expanded manifold over the years covering a variety of engineering and traditional skills. The curriculum is continuously upgraded to keep abreast with the times. New skills are introduced so that the trainees can avail the best employment opportunities or opt for self-employment.

The courses are fulltime. Training and hostel facilities are provided free of cost. Brief report on individual training programmes is as follows:

### General Mechanic-cum-Machine Operator's Course (GMMO)

Open for visually challenged persons in the age group of 17-30 years who have passed Class VIII. Training covers areas of factory work like assembly jobs, inspection work, operating such machines as power press, drilling and tapping machines. The Course is recognized by the Board of Technical Education, Government of Delhi as a regular I.T.I. Course. The trainees are inducted in July every year.

Of the 2013-14 batch 6 trainees completed the course in July 2014. They were awarded certificates by the Board of Technical Education. 10 trainees were admitted to the 2014-15 batch of which 3 trainees have dropped out due to various reasons.

4 persons from the course have got employment in Delhi.



## Multi-skill Training

This 1-year programme was introduced in 2014 for adult blind (even those with additional disabilities) who have either missed-out on school education or are marginally educated. During this year they acquired various skills



to enable them to work in industry, become self-employed or work with family support. As an individual trainee-focussed programme the schedule is kept flexible to suit the capacity, interest and capability of the trainee. Skills taught are: 1. book binding and paper craft; 2. basic massage; 3. chair caning; 4. candle making; and 5. packaging. Plans are afoot to add: 1. stitching/tailoring; 2. soap-making; 3. Bakery; and 4.

making simple food items like badi, Moongori. Sessions on personality development, Braille, music, orientation and mobility are conducted from time to time, with the objective of holistic development. The trainees are encouraged and helped in completing school education under open school system.

Integral to the programme is the skill-related production work to gain experience in factory-like situations. The trainees are involved in production of paper-crafted items, candles and accessories etc. During the year the production of paper crafted products amounted to Rs.12,56,437/- as against the previous year's production of Rs.7,85,739/-. Volunteers also lend their hand in decorating and adding value to some of the products.

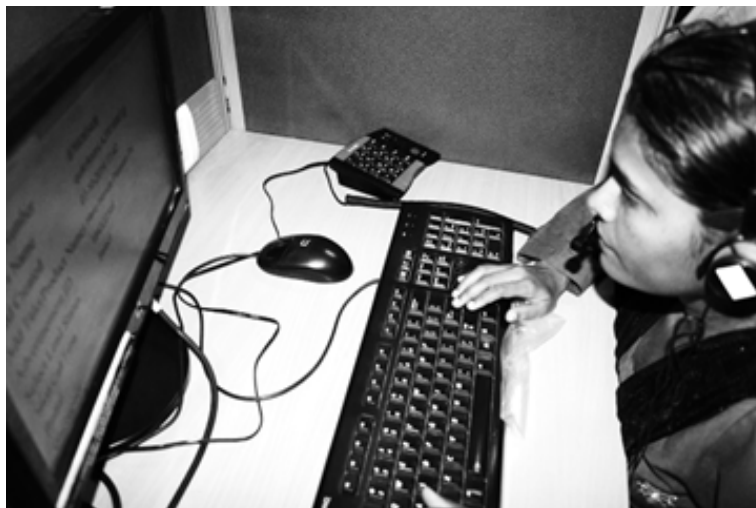
The trainees are usually inducted in July and January. 5 were admitted in July 2014 and 4 in January 2015. 4 of the trainees completed the training programme, out of which 1 trainee got employment.





## Call Centre Training

The call centre-training programme introduced in 2008 in cooperation with Tata Telecom Services Ltd. (TTSL) was discontinued in 2011 due to technical reasons. From August 2014 an upgraded call centre training designed for computer-literate visually challenged persons has been introduced in association with QUIKR, a leading e-commerce company. Through imparting training in soft-skills, knowledge and



practical experience of working on auto-dialling CRM process the trainees are being prepared to work in the mainstream call centres. Under the 6-month training programme the trainees receive stipend and incentive as they master the skills of telemarketing. There are 10 booths for the trainee-agents and both male and female blind adults who have completed senior secondary education and are computer literate are admitted. The major part of expenses incurred in the training programme is covered by the remuneration received from QUIKR.

During the period August 2014 and March 2015, 14 trainees were admitted out of which 6 have got employment.

## Electronics Training Course

This one-year course is for the orthopedically handicapped and low-vision adults (age 17 to 35 years). A



minimum education of X Standard is required. The trainees are inducted in July and January every year. They are trained in repair and maintenance of household electrical and electronic appliances and cell phones.

9 trainees were admitted in two batches starting in July 2014 and January 2015. 4 of them completed their respective one-year training in June 2014 and December 2014.

## Relaxation Massage Training



This is a 4-month training course which prepares visually challenged persons to become professional masseurs. It is designed in collaboration with VLCC Institute. The basic training covers Swedish, Thai, Aroma and Head massage. The trainees are also familiarized with the techniques of pain management by employing reflexology, magneto-therapy and Sujok therapy. Such value add-on skills have proved greatly beneficial to them in improving their professional profile.

To upgrade the skills of former trainees, a part-time Ayurvedic massage training programme is being conducted in the Association by Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy. The Academy provides free services of a trainer and makes available all the required consumables. Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy jointly with the Blind Relief Association awards certificates to the successful trainees.

The current as well as former trainees were provided with opportunities to demonstrate their skills at the Association's Diwali Bazar; American Embassy School; American Embassy; Aircel Christmas Bazaar; and IAS Officers Wives Association (IASOWA) Winter Carnival.

17 trainees were enrolled during 2014-15, in courses commencing in April, September 2014 and January 2015. 16 trainees successfully completed the training.

5 trainees got employment in Delhi NCR. 16 are working independently as masseurs on call.

## **Pran Nath ji Candle Making Unit**

The Candle unit produces a large variety of candles in different shapes and sizes round the year. These candles are available for sale throughout the year as well as during the Association's annual Diwali Bazar. The trainees and many volunteers join hands in the production work, diya painting, and packing. The Unit helps other NGO's working for the needy sections of society by providing training and logistic support in setting up such programmes in candle



making. With the introduction of the Multi-Skill Training Programme, a larger number of trainees are being given practical knowledge and experience in different processes of candle making. They are involved in actual production, finishing, sorting and packaging of candles.

### **Sub-Contract and Other Production Work**

With a view to giving actual production experience to the trainees, and thereby enabling them to understand the importance of productivity and quality, TTC takes sub-contract assignments from companies. It manufactures long canes and folding canes for the visually impaired, which are in great demand. Diya stands, which are a huge hit in the Association's Diwali Bazaar, are also made here. The workshop produced goods worth Rs. 2,06,437/- during the year.

### **Other Activities**

The vocational trainees are encouraged to take part in diverse sports and cultural activities. Every Saturday afternoon they have a cultural session in which they display their musical and other talents. They take part in different functions of the Association. Athletes from the Technical Training Centre participated in the 19th IBSA National Sports Meet and the 3rd IBSA National Kabaddi Tournament held in December 2014 and January 2015 respectively. The TTC team was placed in third position in the Kabaddi Tournament.

### **Internship**

A number of students pursuing courses in Social Work in the University of Delhi, IGNOU, and other institutions are placed with the Technical Training Centre to do their practical field training. They have a good opportunity to study the different aspects of vocational training programmes for persons with disabilities. They also work side-by-side with the visually challenged trainees and gain insight about the capabilities of persons with disabilities.

# SERVICES

## Placement

Securing employment for the trainees is an important task entrusted with the Placement Cell. In order to scout for jobs the Placement Cell interacts with industrial associations, potential employers, and a network of individuals and organizations. Representatives from the Cell visit industries to identify and ascertain suitability of the available jobs for the candidates. The Cell not only locates suitable jobs for the trainees completing their respective training courses, but also provides hand-holding services to those who work independently. Matching the skills with job requirement, the Cell recommends to the employer appropriate trainees for the job.

The newly employed are helped in familiarizing with the work and workplace environment, as also in settling down in the new place, finding appropriate accommodation, providing basic requirements like beddings and utensils, as also guidance on commuting. Follow-up contacts are maintained with the employers as well as the trainees to sort out any difficulties that may arise.

The Cell provides hand-holding services to those work independently. The services of the Cell are also available to other visually challenged individuals seeking job counselling and assistance.

During the year, 20 trainees got jobs and 15 were self-employed.

- General Mechanic-cum-Machine Operator Course -- 4
- Multi-skill Training -- 1
- Computer Training -- 3
- Massage Training -- 21 (including 15 self-employed)
- Call Centre Training -- 6
- JPM School -- 1 (ex-student)

## Orientation and Mobility

An experienced and professional Mobility Instructor provides regular orientation and mobility training to the vocational trainees. The newly-employed are given on-site orientation. Free O & M Training is also given to recently blinded persons on request.

## Braille Production

The Association is among the pioneering institutions in the country to have introduced computerized Braille printing facility as far back as 1990. The Unit has been meeting the requirement of books and other education material for the students of J.P.M. Sr. Sec. School, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, Diploma Course in Computer Education, Vocational training programmes as well as specific requests from outside. Reading material of general interest such as poetry, fiction and miscellaneous articles were brought out in Braille. During the year 2014- 2015 a total of 113 Titles in Hindi and English running into 1896 volumes were produced.



## Audio Recording

The facility for recording audio books was established in 1982 to make study material available to students and trainees. A team of devoted volunteers read out the material for recording. Since its inception, the Association's studio has produced a total of 764 titles in Hindi, English and Sanskrit. These comprise school textbooks, University-level books, fiction, non-fiction, competitive exam material, books related to personality development and current affairs. The recorded books are available in digital MP3 CDs as well as in audio-cassette (old titles only). For the convenience of the students from class X, XI and XII the recorded study material is provided in pen-drive digital players. For other classes audio material is provided in MP3 CDs along with CD players for listening. Similar service is also available for the visually impaired students of the Association's Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education and Diploma in Computer Education (V.I.).

Recorded study material was also provided on request to a large number of college-going and other students from Delhi and elsewhere.

During the year 2014 - 2015, 38 new titles, including 13 in DAISY format, were recorded. 8 titles of various subjects were converted from Cassettes to CD's. A total of 756GB of data in CD's/DVDs/Memory Sticks were copied and supplied to students and trainees.

## Health Care Unit

The Unit looks after the primary health care needs of the students and trainees of the Association. The team comprises a visiting physician, a round-the-clock male nurse, a female nurse and an assistant. Regular medical check-up of students and trainees is conducted, and medicines are provided free of cost. There are arrangements with reputed hospitals and health centers like Dr. Shroff Charitable Eye Hospital and Sai Bhakta Samaj Polyclinic for diagnostic assistance and treatment.

Eye check-up of 214 students and trainees from JPM School and other units of Blind Relief Association was conducted by Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye hospital on 19 April and 1 August 2014.

Under Chacha Nehru Health Scheme of the Government of NCT of Delhi the JPM School Students received Iron Folate tablets every week and deworming tablets once a year.



## Dental Clinic

A well-equipped Dental Care Unit set up by Sri Govind Tricentenary Dental College has been providing dental care services for the benefit of the Association's school children, trainees and staff. A doctor and support staff hold weekly clinics on Saturdays and educate them on oral hygiene.

## Boarding and Lodging

The Association has a large hostel, which accommodates around 300 persons. These include students of the school, teacher trainees, vocational trainees and visually impaired workers of the Association. The boarding and lodging services are provided free of cost. The hostel has a large dining hall and a well-equipped kitchen serving 3 meals (breakfast/lunch/dinner) and afternoon tea. Visually impaired visitors are also provided accommodation and food at subsidized rates.

## **PROMOTION OF SPORTS (INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION)**

The Association is proud of its initiative of having established the Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) in 1986. This national level body promotes sports for the blind. BRA consistently supports the activities of IBSA. With 184 institutions and organizations from 25 states as its members IBSA is one of the oldest, largest and most active disability sports organizations in the country. It represents India in the International Blind Sports Federation, the apex blind-sports body, and is affiliated with the Paralympic Committee of India.

IBSA organizes national-level sports meets and coaching camps in athletics, powerlifting, football, kabaddi, chess and swimming. Talented athletes are identified and sent to participate in international sports events.

During the year 2014-15 the Association partnered with and supported IBSA to organize the following sports events and activities:

### **19th National Sports Meet for the Blind:**

The Meet was held from 13 to 16 December 2014 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. Around 600 athletes and officials from 60 institutions/organizations belonging to 16 States/Union Territories participated in athletics and chess events. It was inaugurated on 13 December by Shri Sarbanand Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports,



Government of India. Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament was the Guest of Honour. A total of 30 new records were set during this 4-day event, including national records of which Women created 11 new records. The valedictory ceremony was held on 16 December and was presided over by Mr. Ajit Mohan Sharan, Secretary (Sports) Government of India, who awarded the Championship Trophies to the winning teams and formally declared the Meet closed.

## National Sports Championships of Football, Judo, Kabaddi, Powerlifting & Coaching Camp:



The Association provided the facilities for the special sports arena, boarding and lodging, as well as financial, manpower and logistic support for these major national level sports events organized by IBSA.

The events 9th IBSA National Football Tournament for the Blind, 3rd IBSA National Kabaddi Tournament for the Blind, 6th IBSA Powerlifting Championships (10 January

only), 1st National Judo Championships and Athletics Coaching Camp and Seminar on Blind Sports were held from 5 to 10 January 2015.

Around 300 sportspersons and support officials participated. Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament inaugurated the events. At the Closing Ceremony on 10 January, 2015, Mr. Rajesh Tomar, President of Paralympic Committee of India was the Chief Guest and gave away the Championship trophies to the winners and runner up teams of Kabaddi as well as Football Tournament.





## **AWARENESS AND CONSULTANCY**

Spreading awareness in the society on the equality of rights, capabilities and potentials of persons with physical/sensory disability, especially visual impairment is an important mandate of the Association.

JPM School is proactively sending its students to other schools to present their talent and interact with their counterparts on equal footing. They also participate in open talent contests with other school children. The vocational trainees too participate in different public events and demonstrate their professional skills and dexterity. The annual Diwali Bazar brings the Association and the society closer to each other and helps in spreading awareness on disability in a very big way. Free space is provided in the Diwali Bazar to NGO's to showcase their activities and sell their products.

The Association shares its expertise with institutions or organizations seeking guidance on establishing disability services and training.

Recently-blinded persons approaching the Association are given counselling in coping with their blindness and rehabilitation through acquiring orientation and mobility skill, and availing educational and vocational training.

The faculty from the Association's JPM School and Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, as well as other vocational trainers are frequently invited as experts in consultative groups and as participants in seminars and media programmes concerning disabilities.

A large number of visitors, individual and groups, from schools, colleges and other institutions came to observe and participate in the activities and programmes of the Association. The employees of Google India rendered voluntary service as part of CSR activity on 6 June 2014. Such activities helped in sensitizing and spreading awareness in the society.

## MAJOR EVENTS

### The 71st Annual Function

The Association's 71st Annual Function was held on 22 November 2014. Students and trainees from the JPM School, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment) and Computer Training Centre presented cultural programmes comprising of song, dance and drama. The audience included a large number of guests, volunteers and friends of the BRA, besides the members of management, staff, students and trainees from different units of the Association. Dr. Anil Aneja, Associate Professor, University of Delhi, a recipient of the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities – 2014 was the Chief Guest. He is an alumnus of the JPM School. Sri. Ankur Dhama, a Star Para Athlete and alumnus of JPM School was the Guest of Honour. Justice Dr.A.S.Anand, President of B.R.A. presided over the Function. Padmashree recipient Sri.Jawahar Lal Kaul, Secretary General of All India Confederation of Blind (A.I.C.B.), Sri. A.K.Mittal, President, A.I.C.B., were among the distinguished guests. The Association's Vice-Presidents Sri. Ranjit Puri and Sri. Lalit Nirula; Hony. General Secretary Smt.Benu Nath, Hony.Treasurer Sri. S.K.Misra were present.

On this occasion students of JPM School, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (V.I.), and vocational trainees from different courses received prizes for their academic and vocational excellence. A book titled अल्पदृष्टि विद्यार्थियों की शिक्षा (Education of Low Vision Students) authored by Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey, Asstt. Professor, Durgabai Deshmukh College was also released.

The Chief Guest Dr.Anil Kumar Aneja, fondly recalled his school days. He attributed his achievements to the solid foundation laid in the JPM School where he spent formative years of his life and had the benefit of receiving the best of education and guidance from his teachers, especially from the then Principal Sri.A.K.Mittal. He said that he is proud to be an alumnus of this institution, which is regarded as among the finest schools, not only within the country but outside as well.

Justice Dr. A.S.Anand in his Presidential address lauded the students and trainees for presenting a superb cultural programme and thanked the teachers for all their hard work in training them. On this occasion he recalled the great vision of the founders Smt. Anusuya and Sri. Basrurker. He said that the Association recognizes the contribution of its employees who have served this institution with distinction for many years. On this occasion 21 employees who completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service were honoured with Meritorious Long Service Award.



## Independence Day Celebration



The students, trainees and staff of the Association celebrated the 67th anniversary of India's Independence at an impressive function held in the Association's premises on 14th August. Smt. Arvind Manjit Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of India was the Chief Guest. Ms. Priya Aude Wacziarg, Trustee, Neemrana Music Foundation was the Guest of Honour. Following the ceremonial hoisting of the national flag by the Chief Guest, a programme of patriotic songs, dance, poetry, speeches and choral singing was presented by the students of JPM School and Durgabai Deshmukh College. The students of JPM School were presented prizes in academic, sports and co-curricular activities.

## Children's Day

A cultural programme was held on 14 November, 2014 on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru observed as Children's Day. The Chief Guest was Smt. Vinita Shankar, Deputy Director of Education, New Delhi. Smt. Omeshwara Singh, Education

Officer, Zone 26, Smt. Leena Vyas, SPE Zone 26, Directorate of Education, Sri. William Raeder, former President, National Braille Press, Boston (USA) and Smt Jeanne Flannery were the guests of honour. The Cultural programme presented by the students of JPM School and Computer Trainees enthralled the audience.

## Diwali Bazaar



The Association's Diwali Bazar, held from 14 to 20 October 2014, yet again established its immense popularity as a premier event in the capital. The skills and abilities of the Association's vocational trainees and workers was visible in the wide range of products made by them, such as candles, Diyas and paper products including

attractive carry bags, envelopes, notepads, lampshades. Masseurs trained by the Association demonstrated their relaxation massage skills during the Bazar. However, the prime centre of attraction of the Bazar, as always, was the Association's stall, doing a brisk business selling over 70 different varieties of candles. There were nearly 200



other stalls selling a variety of exclusive items. Being an "Event with a Cause" 90 NGO's were provided free tables. As a major resource generation event, the Association earned a sizable income from the stall rentals and the sale of the Association's own products.

## Annual Picnic



The Annual Picnic of the Blind Relief Association was held on 6 February 2015 at the picturesque Nehru Park, New Delhi. It was a big get-together for the BRA family with over 500 students, trainees and staff with their family members, including former students and trainees. Arrangements were made to bring everyone from the BRA to the Nehru Park. It was a balmy day of the spring season,

perfect for a fun-filled day in the midst of nature.

## Grand Reunion of JPM School Alumni

Nearly 150 ex-students of JPM Senior Secondary School and its predecessor Industrial Home and School for the Blind gathered on 1 November 2014 in BRA for the first grand reunion. A meeting was held in the Gandhi Centenary Memorial Hall where they deliberated on forming an alumni association. The meeting was followed by high tea held in the lawns.

## Delhi Government felicitates Paralympic Medallist Ankur Dhama an alumnus of JPM School

At a ceremony held on 4 November 2014 the Chief Secretary of the Government of NCT of Delhi D.M. Spolia honoured Ankur Dhama for winning one silver and two bronze medals in the 2014 Asian Paralympic Games held in Incheon, South Korea from 18 to 24 October 2014.

## Graduation Ceremony of Japanese Language Class 2014

To celebrate the successful completion of 2014 session of Japanese Language and Culture Classes and to award certificates to students of JPM School, a ceremony was held in the Association on 6 December 2014. Along with the

teacher Smt. Itsuko Nandi and lady volunteers assisting in classroom and outdoor programmes, Okuyama Sensei from Japan Foundation and others with their families attended the ceremony. They interacted with the students and performed music at the party that followed.



## **BRA Remembers Mahatma Gandhi on The Martyrs Day**

A solemn ceremony to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi and other martyrs was held in the Blind Relief Association on 30th January 2015. The location was 'Shanti Niketan' – a mini garden corner in the Association's premises, created through shramdaan by the students of JPM School. Exactly at 5:14 p.m. as the bell rang, students, trainees and staff from different units of the Association who had assembled at 'Shanti Niketan' observed two-minute silence in memory of the freedom fighters who had laid down their lives for the sake of liberation of the motherland from the British rule.

## **DRISHTIKON Talent Competition for University Students**

B.R.A. partnered with the Social Service League, St. Stephens College for DRISHTIKON, an Annual Competition for Differently-abled University Students held in the College on 3 and 4 February 2015. In this popular event, University students demonstrated their diverse talents competing in oratory, stand-up comedy, writing poems, general knowledge, mimicry etc.



## **BRA AT THE RAAHGIRI DAY**

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi was among the prominent participants in the Raahgiri Day for Persons with Disabilities held in the morning of Sunday, 1 February 2015, at Connaught Place, New Delhi. Being the first of its kind, the event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to create awareness about their talents and achievements as well as to establish dignity and equality for Persons with Disabilities.

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Sri Thawar Chandra Gehlot and Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Sri Krishan Pal Gurjar also witnessed the blind football and cricket matches. A photo report on BRA's participation in Raahgiri was published in the 1 April 2015 issue of the Japanese journal 'Normalization' published by DINF (Disability Information Resources), Tokyo.

## **Remembering the Founders**

The students, trainees and staff observed a solemn ceremony in memory of the founders of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi. Havan was performed on 4 June 2015 the day of passing away of Smt. Anusuya Basrurker and for Sri Umesh A. Basrurker on 19 February, 2015 the day of his passing away.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Infrastructure**

Phase-1 of the building project comprising construction of hostel block for school children situated atop Gandhi Hall Block of the Association was completed in the first week of December 2014. This new building with a covered area of 7152 sq. ft. has been built in LGFS structure. This facility was utilised to lodge the participants in the 19th IBSA National Sports Meet for the Blind in December 2014 and other sports events held in January and February 2015. After the summer vacation is over, the new facility will be occupied exclusively by the students of JPM School. With this additional space available the Association is now in a position to accommodate a growing number of trainees in the Diploma in Computer Education Programme, Multi-skill Training Programme as well as B.Ed. Special Education Training Programme.

Phase-2 involves construction of a new block connecting the main office block and the school building. This will be stilt plus 3 floors in RCC and brickwork. The plans are being finalised to be submitted to NDMC for approval.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An account of our activities will remain incomplete without acknowledging the debt of gratitude the Association owes to a large number of individuals and organizations--from home and abroad--for the invaluable co-operation and assistance extended by them. The Association could not possibly have achieved whatever it has but for the willing and unstinting support from these generous benefactors.

From the government:

- Department of Education and Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi
- New Delhi Municipal Council
- National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
- University Grants Commission

They all have extended valued assistance to the Association for which we are most thankful to each of these authorities.

A large number of self-effacing ladies and gentlemen have been giving of their time and energy in a totally voluntary capacity to provide useful services for us, such as:

Reading and recording textbook, helping in Braille book preparation, tutoring, lending a hand in adding value to the candles and paper products made by the visually challenged, sharing their knowledge and expertise for improving and enriching our various programmes and services.

Space-constraint does not permit us to acknowledge the contributions of each one of them by name. However, the Association expresses its deepest gratitude to all of them.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

1. Military Order of Collar Charitable Foundation, Switzerland for the sustained support to the Association's varied activities, namely Unit for Visually Impaired Children with Multiple Disabilities, Community Outreach Programme, Braille Production Centre and Recording Studio.
2. Ms. Sofia Paulson, MOC Terra Nordica, Sweden for the financial support to the Placement Project.
3. The Times Eye Research Foundation and Ashok Jain Charitable Trust for their continued support to Vardhman Jain Computer Centre set up by them for the benefit of the students of J.P.M. School.
4. M/s Petronet LNG Limited for donating daily use items for JPM School students staying in Association's hostel
5. Smt. Kamla Devi Charitable Trust run by INOX Group for re-equipping the old Computer lab, and supporting the salary of a Computer Instructor.
6. VLCC Institute for providing technical support to the Massage Training programme.
7. Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy for fully supporting Ayurvedic Massage training with the free services of trainer and required consumables.
8. Neemrana Music Foundation and especially Ms Natasha A Vaz for teaching with great love and devotion, western choir music, and conducting their performances.
9. Sri. Kavi Jain, Architect for planning and supervising execution of Phase-1 of the Association's plan for renovation and expansion of its buildings, comprising LGFS structure to house new hostel wing for JPM School, and for preparing architectural plans for Phase-2.
10. Smt. Itsuko Nandi for teaching and her team of Japanese lady volunteers for assisting her in teaching Japanese language to JPM School students.

**The Association also thanks the Statutory Auditors M/s. Thakur Vaidyanath Aiyar and Co. for having conducted the periodical and annual audit work on time.**

**The Association wishes to record its deep sense of appreciation and a big "THANKYOU" to all the employees, who have carried out their duties with commendable commitment and devotion. We look forward to the same commitment and the spirit of dedication to their tasks in future also.**

**And the journey continues...**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Justice Dr. Adarsh Sein Anand	Chairman & Life Trustee
Mr. H. M. Periwal	Life Trustee
Mr. Ranjit Puri	Life Trustee
Mr. Arun Bharat Ram	Life Trustee
Mr. Lalit Nirula	Life Trustee
Mr. S.K. Misra	Elected Trustee
Mrs. Benu Nath	Elected Trustee

## MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

	NAME	DESIGNATION	OCCUPATION
1.	Justice Dr. A. S. Anand,	President	Former Chief Justice of India (Retd.) & Former Chairperson, NHRC
2.	Mr. Ranjit Puri,	Vice President	Social Worker
3.	Mr. Lalit Nirula,	Vice President	Social Worker
4.	Mrs. Benu Nath,	Hony. General Secretary	Social Worker
5.	Mr. S.K. Misra,	Hony. Treasurer	Social Worker
6.	Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram,	Hony. Joint Secretary	Vice Chairperson The Shri Ram School
7.	Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande,	Hony. Executive Secretary	Social Worker
8.	Mr. A.K. Mittal,	Member	Disability Activist
9.	Mrs. Usha Ravi Sen,	Member	Social Worker
10.	Mr. Sanjeev Anand,	Member	Advocate
11.	Dr. Anil Kohli,	Member	Dental Surgeon
12.	Mr. Sushil Ramola,	Member	Social Entrepreneur
13.	Mr. Chander Parkash,	Member	Addl. Member/Project (Rtd.) Railway Board
14.	Mr. Navin Bahl,	Member	Chartered Accountant
15.	Mr. Ajay Kumar Dixit,	Member	Service
16.	Sri Mahender Kumar Sarin,	Member	Chartered Accountant Ex-Consultant World Bank-Africa



And the journey continues...



## **The Blind Relief Association, Delhi**

(Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1960)

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