



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-20





Dear Friends,

India is home to a third of the world's blind population. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that India has around 63 million people who are blind or suffer from low vision. For millions of Indians who suffer from visual impairment, the COVID-19 related 'new normal' has posed several new challenges to everyday life.

At the Blind Relief Association (B.R.A.), Delhi, we have undertaken numerous measures to help our students and trainees tide over these challenging times. I salute the resilience of our students and trainees, who have not only accepted but have taken this challenge head-on.

It is gratifying that our students continue to make us proud and I am happy to share that the School recorded 100 percent results in Class X and XII CBSE examinations in 2020. Furthermore, two of our brightest students were awarded the 'Excellence at Education' Award for outstanding academic performance in the year 2018-19 by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi, Shri Manish Sisodia Ji. Another alumnus of the Jormal Perival Memorial(JPM) Senior Secondary School, belonging to the 2012 batch cleared the UPSC civil services exam 2018 in the first attempt.

During the year, we continued to make strides in the area of training programs. Twenty-seven teacher trainees at the Durgabai Deshmukh College were awarded B.Ed. (Special Education) degree. Fifteen trainees of the V Batch (2019-20) completed Diploma in Computer Education. We are

aware that we must work to expand opportunities for blind and partially sighted people everywhere and in this regard, I am happy to share that thirty-six trainees who completed their training secured jobs or became self-employed during the year. Three trainees, who completed computer course at B.R.A., Delhi got placed with Microsoft India. Also, during the year, The Blind Relief Association, Delhi introduced Baking Classes for the Multi-Skill trainees in partnership with Youth4Jobs Foundation.

We recognize that sports opportunities allow people who are visually impaired to develop independence through competition and I am happy to share that one of our students of the JPM Senior Secondary School won gold and silver medals in the World Para Athletic Junior Championship held in Switzerland in August 2019.

Our work is amplified by our many generous supporters. The Ambassador of Japan, H. E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu and his wife, Mrs. Patricia Hiramatsu visited the Association in April 2019. A four-member team from the Lotus Initiative for the Blind, Nigeria also spent time with our students and trainees.

During the year, B.R.A. partnered with the Indian Blind Sports Association in conducting IBSA National Kabaddi and Powerlifting Championship 2020, which received support and encouragement from people and organizations that back the spirit of sports and encourage the passion and zeal of visually impaired to take up challenges.

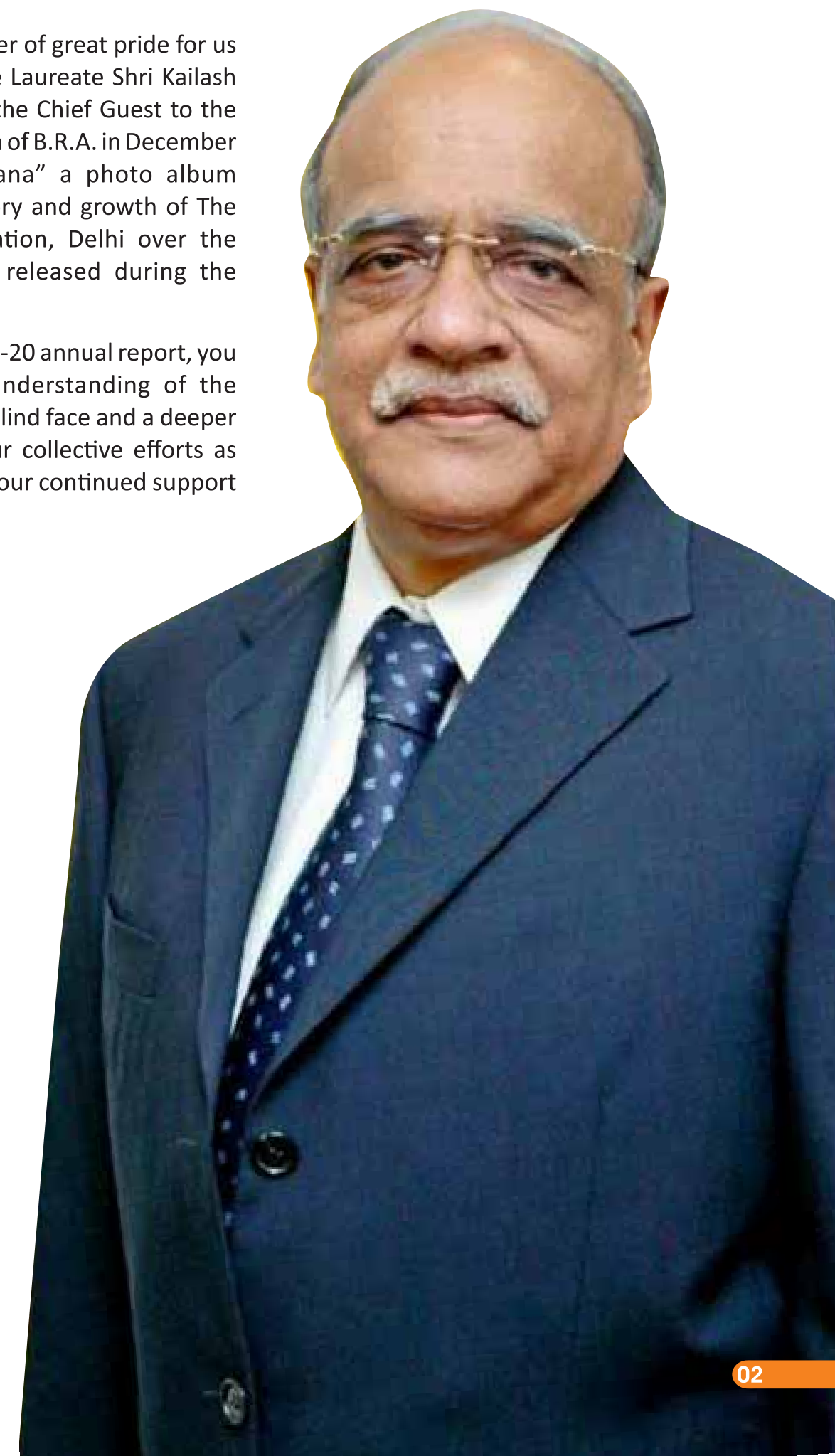
It was indeed a matter of great pride for us to have Nobel Peace Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi join us as the Chief Guest to the 75th year celebration of B.R.A. in December 2019. "Simhavalokana" a photo album chronicling the history and growth of The Blind Relief Association, Delhi over the past 75 years was released during the celebrations.

As you read our 2019-20 annual report, you will gain a fuller understanding of the challenges that the blind face and a deeper understanding of our collective efforts as we look forward to your continued support in the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arun Bharat Ram



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, completed 76 years of its existence and service on 26 February 2020. The Association had a humble start in 1946 with the establishment of Industrial Home and School for the Blind in a rented premises at Lal Kuan, Badarpur with an admission of just two students, Daya Ram and Murli Dhar. The services multiplied over the years, and so did the impact on people's lives. The Association now serves nearly 400 visually challenged children and adults at its own sprawling campus in the heart of New Delhi. With most of its programmes being residential, the Association's multi-faceted activities encompass school-education including special care programs for visually impaired children with limited abilities, teacher-training, computer education, vocational training, placement services, production of reading material in Braille and audio formats, orientation and mobility training, consultancy and awareness creation. The Association campus is vibrant throughout the year with cultural, sports and other events.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 The School recorded 100 percent results in the Class X and XII CBSE examinations in the year 2020. Ajay Gupta topped Class XII with 92.8 percent and Vishal Saini and Tushar Jindal jointly topped Class X with 93.6 percent.
- 2 Shashank Gupta (Class X) and Abhishek Chaurasiya (Class XII) were awarded Excellence at Education Awards for outstanding academic performance in the year 2018-19 by the Deputy Chief Minister and the Education Minister of Delhi, Shri Manish Sisodia.
- 3 25 teacher trainees (2018-20) of Durgabai Deshmukh College completed I year, and 27 (2017-19) completed the II year successfully to be awarded B.Ed. (Spl. Education) degree.
- 4 15 trainees of the V Batch (2019-20) completed Diploma in Computer Education (V.I.)
- 5 37 vocational trainees completed their training programmes.
- 6 36 passed out trainees were helped to secure jobs or become self-employed.
- 7 The Blind Relief Association introduced Baking Classes for the Multi-Skill trainees in partnership with Youth4Jobs Foundation.
- 8 Govind Kumar, a student of JPM School won gold and silver medals in the World Para Athletic Junior Championship held at Nottwil, Switzerland in August 2019.
- 9 Partnered with the Indian Blind Sports Association in conducting IBSA National Kabaddi and Powerlifting Championship 2020 in New Delhi.



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



JPM Senior Secondary School has been offering free education, boarding, lodging, assistive devices, books, and other services to visually impaired boys from Nursery to Class XII. Recognized and aided by the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT Delhi since 1969 and affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) since 1974, JPM has been widely renowned in the country for nurturing and grooming visually challenged children to be optimistic and ambitious citizens excelling in academics, sports, and co-curricular activities.

Enrolment: The school had 212 students on its rolls during the year. While the majority of students resided in the school hostel, only 28 were day scholars. The school admitted 24 new students in different classes this year: Two between the ages of 5-7 years were admitted in kindergarten, which focuses 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 remaining twenty-two entrants were - four in Class I, five in II, one in III, three in IV, one in V, one in VII, one in VIII, six in IX.

Academics: The school has been imparting education in a wide array of academic subjects and physical exercises in accordance, by and large with the curriculum laid down by the Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and CBSE. Keeping abreast with the times, all students from Class VI onward are taught and trained in computers. They are encouraged to take Informatics Practice as an additional subject

in their senior classes. The teaching system in mathematics and science is also being strengthened and upgraded in tune with the contemporary requirements.

Board Examination 2020: The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the abrupt closure of the school and all students were sent home on 19 March 2020. Class XII students could not complete two of their exam papers. The Supreme Court issued orders to CBSE to publish the results of Class XII and X based on the previous exam results.

With a 100 percent pass percentage, all Class XII students passed with first division. Five students scored above 90 percent with Ajay Gupta topping the class at 92.8 percent. The school also had 80 subject distinctions.

The School recorded 100 percent results in the Class X examinations as well. The school had 67 subject distinctions, with two students, Vishal Saini and Tushar Jindal topping the school at 93.6 percent.

Annual School Examination Results (2020): Due to the pandemic, the school exams were suspended since 19 March 2020. As the lockdown continued beyond 31 March, the Delhi government passed orders to promote students to the next respective classes in the month of April without any further exams.

Co-curricular activities: The school provides all facilities, support, and encouragement to its students to take part in diverse co-curricular activities that include dance, music, theatre, poetry, debating, and eco-club.

S.No	DATE	EVENT	NAME OF STUDENT	CLASS	PRIZE
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION (ZONAL LEVEL COMPETITION)					
1.	17.07.2019	EXTEMPORE(HINDI)	ANKIT KUMAR SINGH	IX	I
2.	18.07.2019	POEM RECITATION (HINDI)	KANHAIYA LAL KUMAVAT	V	III
3.	25.07.2019	VOCAL SOLO (LIGHT)	MANJEET KUMAR	VIII	II
			KRISHNA MADAN	IX	III
		VOCAL SOLO (SEMI CLASSICAL)	AYUSH JENA	VII	I
			ABHISHEK BHOLA	XII	III
4.	27.07.2019	POEM RECITATION (HINDI)	ANKIT	VII	II
			ANKIT KUMAR SINGH	IX	I
5.	02.08.2019	VOCAL SOLO (CLASSICAL)	PARTIK SARAF	X	I
			SANJEEV KUMAR	XII	I
6.	03.08.2019	INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	TUSHAR JINDAL	X	II
			ABHISHEK BHOLA	XII	II
7.	05.08.2019	POEM RECITATION (SANSKRIT)	ANKIT	VII	II
			GAURAV KUMAR	IX	I
8.	19.08.2019	DECLAMATION (HINDI)	AYUSH KUMAR SINGH	VII	II
			SONU	XII	II
9.	22.08.2019	PATRIOTIC SONG (GROUP)	TEAM OF 20 STUDENTS		III
10.	26.08.2019	FOLK SONG (GROUP)	TEAM OF 20 STUDENTS		II
11.	27.08.2019	QAWWALI (GROUP)	TEAM OF 20 STUDENTS		I
12.	29.08.2019	DEBATE (HINDI)	AYUSH KUMAR SINGH	VII	
			SANKET THAKUR	VII	I
			KARTIK BANSAL	X	
			SONU	XII	II

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION (DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITION)					
13.	10.10.2019	EXTEMPORE (HINDI)	ANKIT KUMAR SINGH	IX	I
14.	10.10.2019	INSTRUMENTAL (MUSIC)	ABHISHEK BHOLA	XII	II
15.	11.10.2019	DEBATE (HINDI)	SONU	XII	I
			KARTIK BANSAL	X	
16.	14.10.2019	VOCAL SOLO: LIGHT	MANJEET KUMAR	VIII	III
			AYUSH JENA	VII	I
		SEMI CLASSICAL	ABHISHEK BHOLA	XII	III
			PARTIK SARAF	VIII	I
		CLASSICAL	SANJEEV KUMAR	XII	III
17.	14.10.2019	DECLAMATION (HINDI)	SONU	XII	II
18.	18.10.2019	PATRIOTIC SONG (GROUP)	TEAM OF 20 STUDENTS		II
19.	18.10.2019	POEM RECITATION (HINDI)	ANKIT KUMAR SINGH	IX	I
20.	21.10.2019	FOLK SONG (GROUP)	TEAM OF 20 STUDENTS		II
21.	21.10.2019	POEM RECITATION (SANSKRIT)	GAURAV KUMAR	IX	I
22.	22.11.2019	QAWWALI	TEAM OF 20 STUDENTS		I
23.	06.11.2019	EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD (DTE. OF EDUCATION)	SHASHANK GUPTA	X	5000/- EACH
			ABHISHEK CHAURASIYA	XII	
KALA UTSAV - MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT					
24.	22.10.2019	INSTRUMENTAL (SOLO)	ABHISHEK BHOLA	XII	III
25.	24.10.2019	VOCAL (SOLO)	KRISHNA MADAN	IX	III
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND					
26.	03.01.2020	HINDI BRAILLE WRITING	VISHAL SAINI	X	I
ALL INDIA CONFEDERATION OF THE BLIND					
27.	03.01.2020	HINDI BRAILLE READING	VISHAL SAINI	X	III
			SUMIT JHA	V	II

Sports Activities: The school has always been focusing on and giving special attention to developing the sporting skills of students. Two regular physical training instructors monitor various sports and games. In the morning hours, students from different classes practice athletics regularly at the Thyagaraj stadium under the guidance of Shri Pawan, PET while others practice yoga under the guidance of Shri Moolchand, PET and Shri Suresh Kumar, Activity Teacher.

During the year, the school participated in 16 sports activities ranging from intra-school to zonal, national and international levels and the students bagged 1 first, 4 second and 6 third prizes, adding up to a total of 11 medals.

Participation in Quarter Marathon: Madan of Class XII and Govind Kumar of Class X stood II and IV in the 9th Yamuna Quarter Marathon. The marathon covering a



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distance of 3.5km was held on 21 April 2019 at Yamuna Sports Complex.

Medals in World Para Athletic Junior Championship: Representing India in the World Para Athletic Junior Championship organized by the International Paralympic Committee in Nottwil, Switzerland in August 2019, Madan of Class XII and Govind Kumar of Class X participated in 100m, 200m and in 1500m, shot put respectively. Govind won gold medal in shot put and silver in 1500m.

Other Activities

Japanese Language Classes: Introduced in 2012 as an after-school activity with the support of volunteers from Japan, the Japanese language classes have evolved into “Sawaru Nihongo” (Touch Japanese) Group recently formed by the ex-students and present students. The members pursue Japanese language study using “Tenji” or Japanese Braille. A team of volunteer-teachers, both Japanese as well as Indian, is involved in teaching and preparing accessible study material in Braille.

A remarkable achievement was that four students of the Sawaru Nihongo Group cleared the globally conducted Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) held on 7 July 2019. While Deepak Gupta and Ramdas Shivhare cleared Level 4, Gaurav Kumar and Mohit Pande cleared Level 5. All of them are former students of JPM Senior Secondary School and are pursuing under graduation/post-graduation at the University of Delhi and one of them is a banker.

Sawaru Nihongo Group also participated in KIZUNA 2019, an annual festival of Japanese culture organized by the Centre for Japanese Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University with the support of Embassy of Japan, The Japan Foundation and Japanese Association in Delhi on 27-28 September 2019. The Group made an impressive presence in this mega event presenting a

popular Japanese song and Japanese-Hindi bilingual version of Saare Jahaan Se Achhaa, which received loud applause from the audience. The Group used the opportunity to demonstrate and tell about Japanese Tenji (Braille) that they use to learn the language.

Interactions: Students from the American Embassy School continue to interact with students of the junior school on Saturdays to improve the students’ spoken English and expressive skills.

Student Initiatives: The leadership and organization acumen of the students stood out in several events managed entirely by them. Some of the prominent events were:

- 26th Subodh Trophy (Cricket Match) organized by Class IX in the school grounds on 11 & 12 April 2019.
- Janmashtami celebrations organized by Class XII on 23 August 2019, which included mass 24-hour recitation of the Ramcharitmanas.
- Basant Panchami and Saraswati Puja organized by Class X on 30 January 2020.
- Shivratri celebrations organized by Class XI on 21 February 2020.

House Activities: The school-students are divided into four houses, 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. This provides the youngsters with a favorable opportunity of utilizing and developing their cultural abilities besides bringing out their leadership qualities.

Mock Drill : Officials from the Delhi Fire Service conducted a safety-awareness fire

drill for the students, trainees and staff of the Association on 27 April 2019. The students were taught the basic techniques of evacuation and first aid. The teachers of JPM Senior Secondary School were also given hands-on training in handling fires caused by different sources.

Visit to Hindan Air Force Station : JPM School students of Class VI - VIII visited Hindan Air Force Station on 1 May 2019 and had first-hand experience of seeing a chopper and C17 globe trotter from inside. Smt. Mridula Pant, ex-Principal, Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan felicitated the visit.

Staff: Headed by Principal Shri K.J. Kuriyan, the school has 28 staff members. Vice-Principal Shri S Keshav Kumar, superannuated in December 2019 and the requested extension of his services awaits approval of the Directorate of Education. Dr. Ravinder Partap, PGT Music, rendered surplus in the Post Fixation 2019 was transferred to RA Geeta Senior Secondary School, Shankar Nagar, Delhi on 31 December 2019.

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. Radhika Bharat Ram, a noted educationist, who took over from Smt. Benu Nath in September 2019. In addition, the school has a separate 16-member committee 'The RTE SMC' (The School Managing Committee mandated under the Right to Education Act) functioning as an advisory body for Classes I to VIII in terms of the Right to Education Act 2009.

Special Care Unit: The unit is run by the Blind Relief Association as a special support service for the benefit of JPM School students who require individual, personalized attention in academic and co-curricular activities. The children are

referred to the unit by the School. The unit has two full-time qualified special educators and two part-time teachers in music, art and craft. One resident house parent takes care of the students in the pre and post-school hours. To make appropriate need-based interventions, the beneficiary students are divided into two groups:

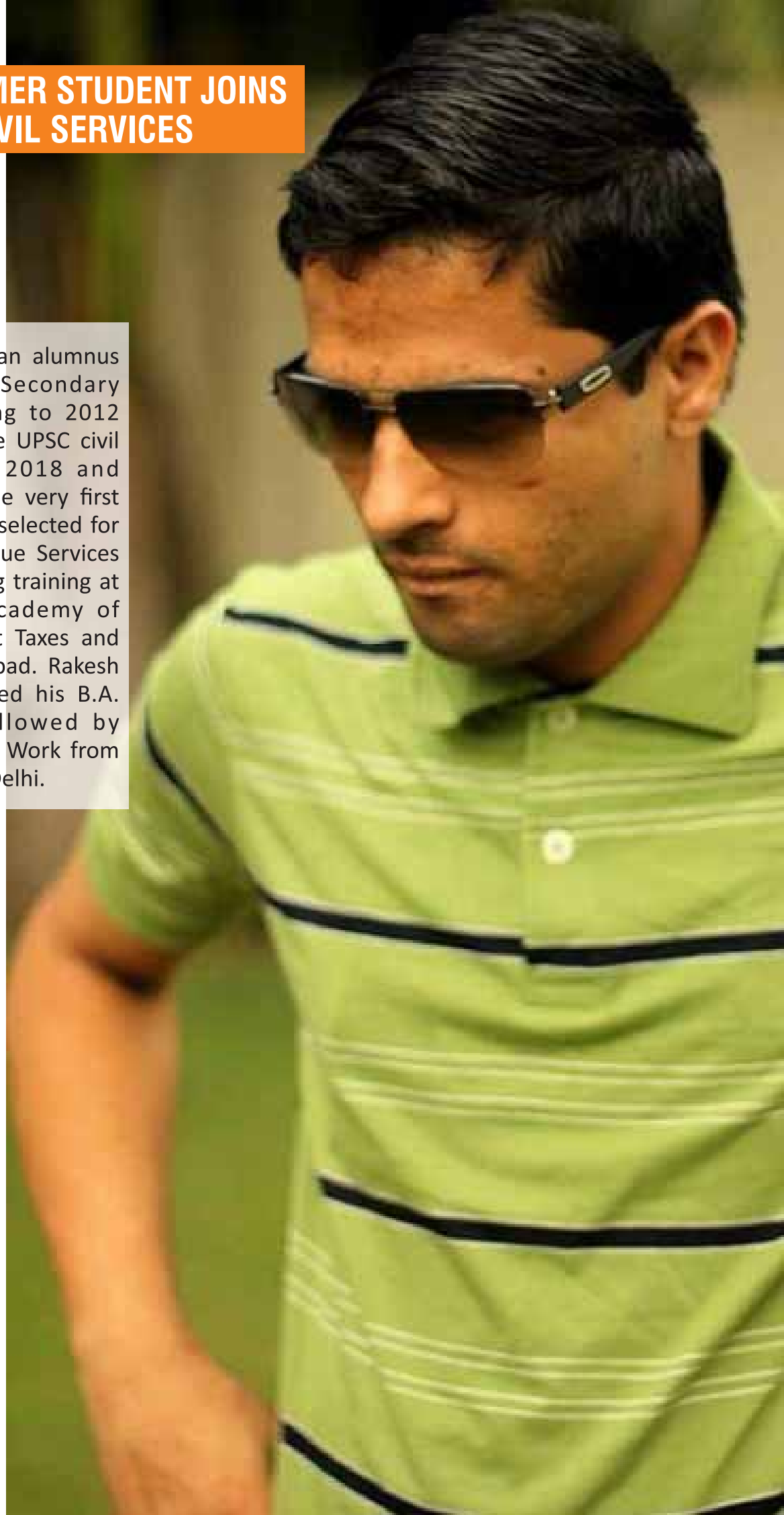
- 1. Functional Academic Group:** The students are trained in functional academics like number, money and time concepts and activities of daily living such as orientation and mobility, personal hygiene, and pre-vocational activities. The group had five students this year. Whenever possible, the students under the group are given the opportunity to attend, even if nominally, classes with their age group students in the school. They attend classes in art and craft, clay modelling, music and physical education along with the other children. Thereafter, in consultation with their parents, some students are encouraged and advised to continue the study as fully integrated students, while some are advised to join appropriate vocational training.
- 2. Remedial Teaching Group:** As a remedial teaching initiative, the children are provided with individual care to improve their reading and writing skills. 17 children from Nursery to Class V of the JPM School were a part of this teaching group in the academic year. Personal attention is given to basic Braille reading and writing, writing numbers using Taylor Frame. While Hindi is their primary language, they are also taught the basics of English Braille.





JPM'S FORMER STUDENT JOINS CENTRAL CIVIL SERVICES

Rakesh Sharma, an alumnus of JPM Senior Secondary School belonging to 2012 batch cleared the UPSC civil services exam 2018 and ranked 608 in the very first attempt. He was selected for the Indian Revenue Services and is undergoing training at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics, Faridabad. Rakesh Sharma completed his B.A. programme followed by Masters in Social Work from the University of Delhi.



EXCELLENCE AT EDUCATION AWARDS

“ Shashank Gupta (Class X) and Abhishek Chaurasiya (Class XII) of JPM Senior Secondary School were awarded the Excellence at Education Awards for their outstanding academic performance in the year 2018-19. The awards were presented by Shri Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi on 6 November 2019. ”



GANGA KA PATTHAR

“ Shri Manoj Kumar, a teacher at JPM Senior Secondary School published his first novel titled 'Ganga Ka Patthar'. The novel was released by Smt. Madhu Dixit and Prof. Umapati Dixit, Head of Department, Antarashtriya Hindi Shikshan Vibhag, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra on 14 September 2019. ”



CROSS-DISABILITY TRAINING

“ Cross-Disability Training of special education teachers was held in the school under the aegis of the Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi on areas of visual impairment. 120 special educators from other disability streams working in the schools under the Directorate were trained at the school in four batches of 30 teachers each. These teachers had specializations in Hearing Impairment, Mental Retardation, Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability and Cerebral Palsy. The training of the first batch was held for five working days from 25-29 November 2019; the second from 9-13 December 2019, the third from 24-28 February 2020, and the fourth from 2-6 March 2020. The fifth batch scheduled for 23-27 March was cancelled due to the imposition of national lockdown by the Govt. of India in the face of global pandemic COVID-19. Coordinated by the JPM School Principal, the training schedule focused on identification, screening and assessment of Children With Special Needs (CWSN), expanded core curriculum activities, teaching method, teaching materials, aids & appliances, evaluation and visit to the various units of the Blind Relief Association. ”

DURGABAI DESHMUKH COLLEGE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (V.I.)

Established in 2005 by the Blind Relief Association, the College is affiliated to the University of Delhi and offers a two-year post-graduate degree program in 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 financial support from the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) (NIEPVD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and some development grants from the University Grants Commission.

Many former trainees are now successfully working as special educators in various government schools of Delhi and neighboring states. A trainee from the first batch is now the Vice-Principal and Acting Head of Model School, NIEPVD Dehradun.



NEW ADMISSION

28 aspirant trainees selected through the centralized admission process of the University of Delhi were admitted to the course for the academic year 2019-21. Of the 28 trainees, 4 trainees are visually impaired.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION AND RESULTS

Annual University Examination for B. Ed. Special Education (Visual Impairment) was conducted in the College in May 2019.

First-Year (2018-2020)

Out of 27 students who appeared, 25 students cleared the examinations. Two of the 25 students discontinued the course as they found employment.

Second-Year (2017-2019)

27 students appeared and all passed the final examination (24 in First Division and 3 in Second Division)

EDUCATION TOURS/VISITS

As a part of their curriculum, the first year teacher trainees of the college visited and observed classes at

- Ananth Centre for Learning and Development, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi 110016
- National Association for the Blind (NAB), Sector 5, R.K.Puram, Delhi 110022
- Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, Karkardooma, Delhi 110092

Second year teacher trainees of college did teaching practices at

- Ananth Centre for Learning and Development, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi 110016
- National Association for the Blind (NAB), Sector 5, R.K.Puram, Delhi 110022
- (Male trainees) Govt. Boys Senior Secondary School, Pandara Road, New Delhi 110003
- (Female trainees) Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, Pandara Road, New Delhi 110003

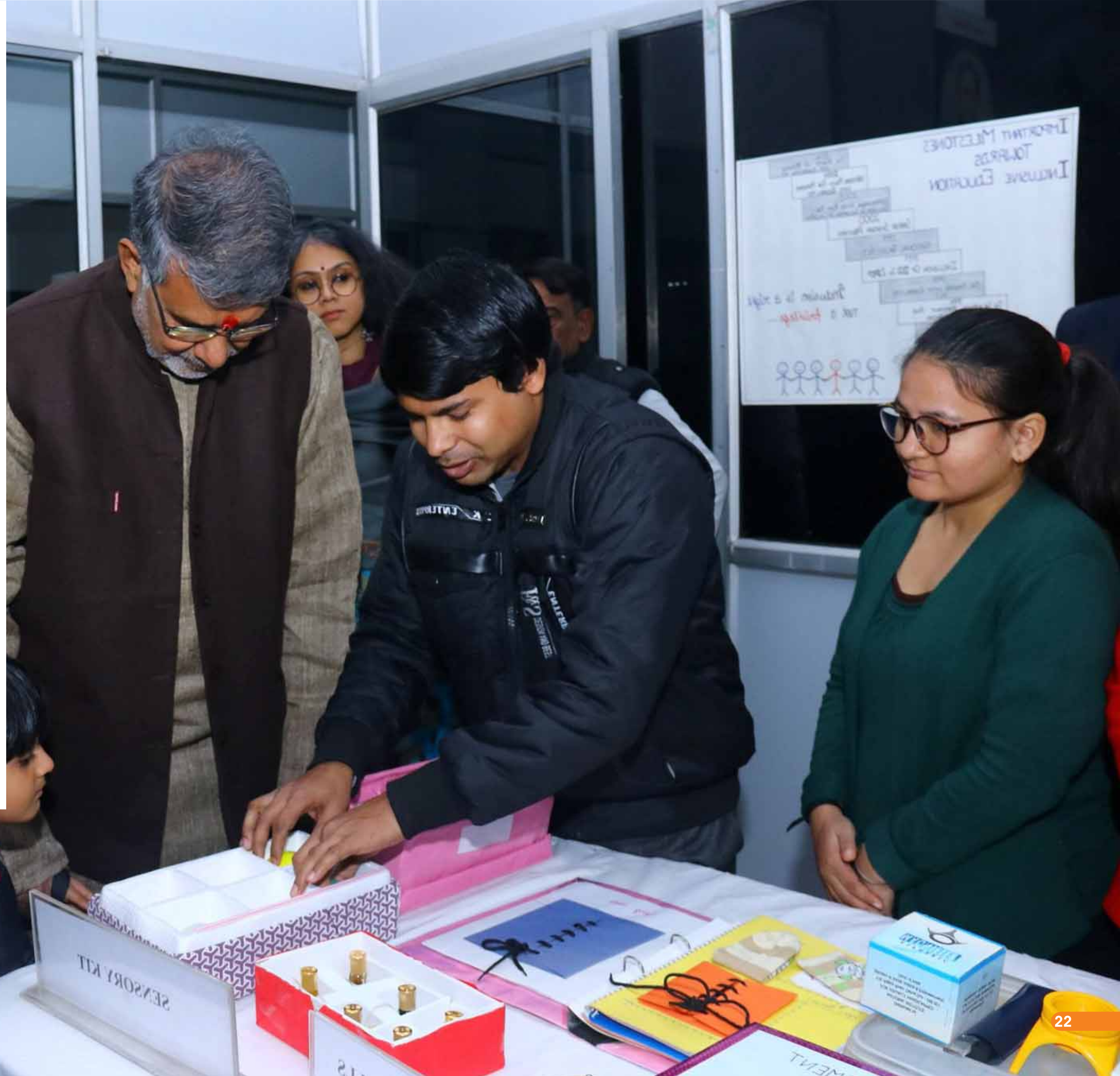


ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- The College organized demonstration and display of various teaching & learning materials and devices for the visually impaired on the Association's Platinum Jubilee Function on 14 December 2019.
- The College organized the World Braille Day programme on 4 January 2020.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Second-year trainees attended a seminar at Jawaharlal Nehru University on "Role of Young and Adolescent Girls with Disabilities in National Integration of India" on 25 and 26 July 2019.
- The first Alumni Association was constituted by the teacher trainees and a meeting for that was held in Gandhi Hall on 27 July 2019.
- Anupam Verma and Aakanksha Joshi stood first and second respectively in the Braille writing competition held by the Blind Relief Association on 4 January 2020.
- Students prepared and played a nukad natak on a social issue at the Association's Annual Picnic on 1 February 2020.





FACULTY

“ The College has an experienced regular faculty comprising:-

- (a) Course Director - Dr. Swati Sanyal
- (b) Assistant Professors - Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey
- Dr. Pubali Agarwal
- (c) Research Associate - Shri Narendra Kumar Jha
- (d) Librarian - Shri Shanti Bhushan

”

The faculty members acted as resource persons, presented papers, contributed articles, and conducted training programmes in various institutions such as Jamia Millia Islamia, Kurukshetra University, Punjab University, NIEPVD Dehradun, National Law University, University of Delhi, Amity University, Tech Mahindra Foundation etc. Faculty members have also undertaken inspection work of various institutions under the directive of the Rehabilitation Council of India.

Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey authored a book titled “Drishti Divyangata Avm Samudayika Dayitwa” published by Innova, New Delhi in 2020 (ISBN 978-93-89484-03-8).

COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE



The Association is among the pioneering institutions in the country to introduce computer literacy programmes for the visually challenged. Launched in 1996 to cater to the needs of educated adult blind, the Computer Training Centre has been conducting short-term computer literacy courses since then. The Centre also supports the computer-related curricular needs of the JPM School. Additionally, the Centre manages the IT-related requirements of the Association.

DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER EDUCATION (V.I.)

The Centre runs a ten-month academic course named Diploma in Computer Education (Visual Impairment) to prepare a cadre of personnel specially equipped to provide education in computer and related services to the visually impaired.

Designed by the Association and started in 2014-15 as a pilot project, the course was regularized in 2016 and enlisted among the recognized courses by the Rehabilitation Council of India. The trainees are encouraged to keep abreast with the technological advancements in the IT and Communication sectors.

Of the 19 trainees of the V Batch (2019-20), 15 passed the final examination held in June 2019. 14 trainees were admitted to VI Batch (2020-21), of which nine are visually impaired.

Sudhanshu Kumar Rath, the topper of V Batch was awarded a laptop by Smt. Prabhjot Menon, in memory of her late mother. Rath has secured a job with the Indian Railways in Bhusawal, Maharashtra.

Visit: The diploma trainees visited the National Association for the Blind, Delhi on 5 March 2020 to see Technological Lab - Experience Zone and explore the various assistive devices for the visually impaired.



COMPUTER TRAINING AND OFFICE OPERATIONS COURSE

Launched in July 2019, this six-month training cum work experience programme prepares trainees to be able to work on computers and perform diverse office tasks including tele-calling. To familiarize them with diverse office operations, the trainees are given hands-on experience in the Association's offices and units. They are taught about and given practical tasks like conducting surveys and organizing events.

Seven trainees, out of eight admitted, successfully completed the course. The second batch starting in January 2020 admitted nine trainees.

An evidence of the IT training proving beneficial is the fact that 6 of the trainees from V Batch of Diploma Course managed to secure jobs in various establishments. Notably, Microsoft offices in Gurugram and Mumbai not only employed Neelam and Sulekha of Diploma Course, but also upgraded their position. Similarly, Microsoft placed Gunjan Verma of Computer Training & Office Operation Course in their Gurugram office.





WORKSHOPS & TRAINING SESSIONS

- Microsoft conducted a week-long Cloud Technology Training for the staff and teachers of the Association. Held in two batches on 17-22 June and 23-28 September 2019, the participants received Microsoft Innovative Educator certification at the end of the training.
- Google provided a training session on Google Drive and Google Forms on 26 June 2019 as a part of their volunteering service with the Association.
- Workshop on Road Safety and Mobility Training was held on 30 January 2020. It was organized in collaboration with the National Association for the Blind, Delhi. Over 60 visually impaired trainees participated and all participants received white canes, while some girls were gifted smartphones.
- To introduce “Divya Nayan”, a multi-language scanning and reading device, newly developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIR- CSIO), Chandigarh, a session was conducted on 21 February 2020 for the benefit of the trainees of Diploma in Computer Education and Durgabai Deshmukh College. CSIO also presented a device to the IT Department, for trial and feedback.

“The Association is now registered with the Government of India and has AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) Code. This will entitle disabled persons receiving training in the Association to avail scholarships offered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. This was made possible through the special efforts of the IT Department.”

NEW ACQUISITION

The Association has acquired KIBO and ORBIT, two recently developed technological devices. KIBO can scan, convert and speak printed or handwritten texts in English and a number of Indian languages. ORBIT is a handy note-taker and a Braille display device. With its large storage capacity, it has emerged as a convenient substitute to voluminous hard copies of Braille books. It works independently as well as connected to a computer.

MULTI-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Introduced in 2014, this one-year holistic training programme is open to both male and female adult blind, even if they have an additional disability. With no minimum educational qualification restrictions, even those who have either missed out on school education or marginally educated are admitted. The variety of skills included in the training seeks to prepare the trainees to be able to work in diverse workplaces, or become self-employed. The one-year programme is flexible enough to adjust the training schedule to suit the capacity, interest and capability of the trainee. The range of vocational skills taught includes book-binding and paper-craft, chair-caning, candle-making, working on light machines, packaging, sewing, papier-mâché crafts, basic massage, soap-making, bakery etc. The training curriculum followed by the Sewing Unit is designed and evaluated by USHA Silai School. An important aspect of the training programme is the equal emphasis given to soft-skills and activities such as orientation and mobility, daily life skills, English conversation, personality development, basic computer, Braille, and music. While they are getting trained in vocational skills, the trainees are encouraged and helped in completing school education as private candidates or under open school system.

Beginning this year, for the female trainees undergoing Multi-Skill training, an additional training in basic face massage was introduced, courtesy Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy. The Academy has provided a female massage trainer who comes thrice a week.





Statistical Highlights

	New Admissions	Pass-outs	Drop-outs	In-training
As on 1 April 2019	0	0	0	25
July 2019	19	14	1	29
January 2020	11	10	1	29
As on 31 March 2020	0	0	0	29

Note: New trainees are admitted in the months of July and January for one-year course concluding respectively in July and January next year.

A total of 40 male and 15 female trainees underwent training during the year. 12 trainees (including ex-trainees) were placed in regular employment.

While undergoing their vocational training program, 4 trainees cleared Class XII and 12 trainees passed Class X Board Examinations in 2019-20, as private candidates.

“ **Bakery Classes:** Launched in January 2020, in partnership with Youth4Jobs Foundation the Bakery Classes seek to add another possible self-employment skill for the Multi-Skill trainees. A small kitchen has been set up in the Association’s dining hall equipped with gas stove, oven, and necessary utensils and groceries. Two to three classes are conducted per week to teach baking items like cookies, cupcakes, and muffins etc. ”

“ **Cooking Workshop:** Volunteers from Mercer India Pvt. Ltd were in the Blind Relief Association for a week in May 2019 to conduct cooking workshops for the Multi-Skill trainees in batches. The trainees were taught and enjoyed taking part in preparing items like jeera aloo, rice, dal, halwa, noodles, and tea. ”

Integral to the vocational training is the skill-related production work, which provides the trainees a bit of factory-like experience. They are involved in the production of paper-crafted items, candles and accessories etc. which are available on sale. Volunteers also join and lend their hand in decorating and adding value to some of the products.



CALL CENTRE TRAINING

Open to computer-literate and Class XII pass visually challenged persons, the training program prepares them to be able to work in mainstream call centres. The training centre has the requisite facilities like calling booths equipped with auto-dialers and computers installed with screen-readers needed for visually challenged trainee-agents. After a basic introduction of normal call centre functions and processes, the trainee-agents are gradually given actual tasks to perform on real assignments sourced by the Association from outside. Learning and refining communication skills, both in English and Hindi are an important part of the training. The trainees are also given a stipend.

Earlier, telecom companies like Tata Teleservices and Vodafone were associated and provided assignments, but owing to slump in the telecom service sector their association discontinued. In March 2019 the Association entered into an arrangement with Essilor India Private Ltd. to provide service for their initiative 2.5 NVG India Eye Mitra. The trainees performed follow-up tasks of collecting feedback from the customers of 2.5 NVG India. The arrangement lasted only till July 2019. Four trainees passed out of the training during the year.





RELAXATION MASSAGE TRAINING

Introduced by the Association in 2003, massage training has been a consistently successful program benefitting a large number of visually challenged persons. This full-time six-month training admits visually challenged adults having minimum education of Class VIII who are willing to become professional masseurs. The core training includes Swedish, Thai, aroma and head massage. In addition, the trainees are also taught techniques of pain management, reflexology, magneto-therapy and Sujok therapy. Such value add-on skills and knowledge additionally benefit the trainees in improving their professional profile. Communication skills, mobility training and personality grooming are integral to the training programme.

To upgrade the skills of passed out trainees, a four-month part-time Ayurvedic Massage Training programme is also 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. Successful trainees are awarded certificates by Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy and the Blind Relief Association.

The current as well as former trainees were provided opportunities to demonstrate their skills at public events like the Association's Diwali Bazar, U.S. Embassy, Golf Club Noida, EKAM Fest 2020 organized by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) and Job Fair organized by National Skill Development Council (NSDC) and NHFDC in Dwarka, and the Sunder Nursery.

“The professional skills of our trained visually challenged masseurs were greatly appreciated by visitors to the week-end Nature Bazar in the Sunder Nursery during January - March 2020 who availed relaxation massage service at the Blind Relief Association booth set up there. This novel initiative was made possible through a collaboration between The Earth Collective, Youth4Jobs Foundation and the Blind Relief Association. Visually challenged trainer Shri Shyam Kishore commendably led the masseurs team.”



STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

	New Admissions	Pass-outs	Drop-outs	In-Training
As on 1 April 2019	0	0	0	6
July 2019	8	5	1	8
January 2020	10	8	0	10
As on 31 March 2020	0	0	0	10

Note: New trainees are admitted in the months of July and January for the six-month course concluding respectively in January and July next year.

PRAN NATHJI CANDLE MAKING UNIT

The Candle Unit produces a large variety of candles in different shapes and sizes around 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 NGOs 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, 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.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The vocational trainees are encouraged to take part in different sports and cultural activities. On Saturday afternoons, they have cultural sessions in which they display their musical and other talents. They also take part in different events of the Association.

PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH4JOBS FOUNDATION

The Blind Relief Association is in its fourth year of a unique partnership with Youth4Jobs. This synergy has been strengthening and adding value to the Association's regular vocational skill-training programs through various interventions that help the trainees to become confident individuals ready to join the mainstream and find gainful employment. Dedicated trainers engaged by Youth4jobs were involved in the following activities conducted during the year:

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Training in basic English communication skill, life and soft skills, which help them adapt easily to their new workplace.

DIGITAL LITERACY

The world is now very digitally oriented and any mainstreaming of visually impaired persons has to take into consideration the need to get them ready for the new world. Besides basic computer skills, additional digital literacy classes were also introduced to include:

- **Multilingual Computer Adaptability:** The trainees were taught the usage of computers in Hindi to prepare them for government jobs.
- **Internet Applications:** This course was introduced to enable trainees to source information from various portals and service providers.





PEHEL

Encouraging and providing coaching and other support to the trainees to simultaneously pursue their discontinued school education. During the year, 16 trainees successfully passed Class X and 4 trainees passed the Class XII CBSE examination, as private candidates. Significantly, three trainees who decided to pursue higher studies were enrolled in university undergraduate courses.

SAARTHI : MENTOR4INCLUSION

Conceived and initiated in 2018-19 by Youth4Jobs and supported by the Blind Relief Association, the second edition of the Saarthi mentorship program, run in partnership with HSBC, was conducted this year with a fresh set of Association's vocational trainees paired with mentors from HSBC. This relationship helps the mentee-trainees open up, share their aspirations and hopes with their mentors, and avail their valuable guidance and moral support. The trainees also get a different perspective from their respective mentors who are actively involved in corporate life and have great exposure in life skills.

SPECIAL COACHING FOR PUBLIC RECRUITMENT EXAMS

Special evening classes were conducted by expert coaches for the benefit of Association's trainees and students preparing to appear for various competitive exams for public recruitment. Occasionally, mock interviews were conducted.

Youth4Jobs Foundation has also been instrumental in the initiation of Baking Classes, masseurs demo at the week-end Nature Bazar at Sunder Nursery.

Beneficiaries during the year

S. No.	Training	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Relaxation Massage Training	24
2	Multi-Skill Training	55
3	Basic Computer & Office Operations (Spoken English Classes)	8
4	Pehel 3.0	23
5	Saarthi 2.0	39
6	Baking Initiative	10
7	Masseurs Initiative	16

The Association has a Placement Cell which performs the important task of securing jobs for its trainees as well as others seeking its assistance. The Cell not only locates suitable jobs for the trainees but also guides those who wish to work independently. 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 available jobs for the candidates. Matching the skills with job requirements, the Cell recommends to the employer appropriate trainees for the job.

The newly employed are familiarized with the work and workplace environment, helped in finding appropriate accommodation, provided basic requirement like beddings and utensils to settle down in the new place, and also guided on how to commute to their place of work. Follow-up contacts are maintained with the employers as well as the trainees to sort out any difficulties that may arise. The Cell not only serves the trainees and students of the Association, but also other visually challenged persons seeking job counselling and assistance.

DURING THE YEAR, 23 TRAINEES WERE HELPED IN GETTING JOBS AND 13 IN SELF-EMPLOYMENT.

Multi-Skill Training	----	12
Relaxation Massage Training	----	18 (including 13 self-employed)
Diploma in Computer Education	----	03
Basic Computer & Office Operations	----	01
Call Centre Training	----	01
Outsiders	----	01

To prepare the visually impaired youth for competitive recruitment examinations for government, public sector undertaking and bank employment, special coaching classes were started in May 2019, in collaboration with the Youth4Jobs Foundation. Three-days a week evening classes cover English, Mathematics, Reasoning, and General Science. 45 trainees and students from different units of the Association, as well as from outside availed this coaching facility. One of them was selected for employment in the Food Corporation of India and another student cleared the Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) Recruitment Examination of the Indian Railways.



ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

An experienced professional mobility instructor provides regular orientation and mobility training to vocational trainees. The newly employed are given onsite orientation. Newly blinded persons approaching the Association are given counselling in coping with their blindness and rehabilitation through acquiring orientation and mobility skills.



BRaille PRODUCTION

The Association is among the pioneering institutions in the country to introduce computerized Braille printing facility as far back as 1990. The Braille production unit has a modest capacity, primarily utilized for meeting the educational and other Braille material requirements of JPM School, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, Computer Training Centre, Vocational Training Centre as well as specific requests from outside. From time to time reading material of general interest such as poetry, fiction and miscellaneous articles are produced in Braille. During the year a total of 61 titles in Hindi, English, and Japanese running into 983 volumes were produced. Marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi the Association published the Braille version of "एकथामोहन" a book on Mahatma's life written for children by Shri Sopan Joshi. Copies of the book were gifted to various schools for the blind in Hindi speaking states and Maharashtra. The Association also brought out a volume titled "बिंदु-बिंदुसंचय" containing a collection of selected articles, stories and poems earlier published independently in Braille. The volume was released on the occasion of the 211th birthday of Louis Braille, along with Braille copies of the Association's brochure.

AUDIO RECORDING

The facility for recording audio books was established in 1982 to make study materials available to students and trainees. Devoted volunteers render their services free of cost to read out material for recording. Since its inception, the Association's studio has produced a total of 883 titles in Hindi, English, and Sanskrit languages. These comprise school textbooks, university-level books, fiction, non-fiction, competitive exam material, books related to personality development and current affairs.

The recordings are available in digital MP3 and Daisy formats. The students of JPM School from Class VIII onward are provided study material in pen drive digital players. Similar service is available to the computer trainees, vocational trainees appearing for Class X & XII board exams as well as to the Association's Durgabai Deshmukh College trainees. Some of the recordings are shared on online accessible libraries like Sugamya Pustakalaya.

Apart from the Association's own students and trainees, a large number of college-going and other students from Delhi and outside are provided recorded study material on request. During the year under report, 16 new titles: 15 in Hindi and 1 in English were recorded. A total of 896 GB of data in CDs/Memory Sticks were copied and supplied to students and trainees.

HEALTH CARE

The Association has arrangements to monitor and provide primary medical and health care to the students and trainees. The health care team comprising a visiting physician Dr. R. K. Baijal, a round-the-clock male nurse, a female nurse, and an assistant form the core of services. Regular medical check-ups are conducted and free medicines provided. There are arrangements with reputed hospitals and health centres such as Dr. Shroff

Charitable Eye Hospital and Sai Bhakta Samaj Polyclinic for specialized diagnostic assistance and treatment.

Dental Clinic: A well-equipped Dental Care Unit set up by Sri Govind Tricentenary Dental College (now SGT University) Gurugram has been providing dental care services to the Association's school children, trainees, and staff. A doctor and support staff hold weekly clinics on Saturdays and educate the students and staff on oral health. Students, trainees as well as the staff of the Association benefit from the clinic's services.

BOARDING AND LODGING

The Association runs a hostel in its premises, which provides free boarding and lodging facilities to around 300 visually challenged children and adults. They include students of the school, teacher trainees, vocational trainees and visually impaired workers of the Association. The Association has a large dining hall and a well-equipped and hygienic kitchen serving three wholesome meals (breakfast/ lunch/dinner) and afternoon tea. Visually impaired visitors are also provided accommodation and food at subsidized rates.

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 talents and interact with their counterparts on equal footing. They also participate in open talent contests and compete with other school children. The vocational trainees too participate in different public events and demonstrate their professional skills and dexterity. The Association's popular Diwali Bazar brings the Association and the society closer to each other in a big way and thus helps in spreading awareness on disability among the general public. Fellow NGOs are provided space without any rent to showcase activities and sell their products in the Diwali Bazar.

The Association liberally shares its expertise with other institutions and organizations seeking guidance on establishing disability services, and also provides training to the trainers from such institutions. The faculty members from the Association's JPM School and Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, as well as the vocational trainers are frequently invited as experts in consultative groups and as participants in seminars and media programmes concerning disabilities. The Association receives a large number of visitors, coming as individuals or in groups from schools, colleges and other institutions to see the activities of the Association and interact with its students and trainees.

INTERNSHIP

A number of students pursuing courses in Social Work in Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Department of Social Work - University of Delhi, IGNOU, Jamia Millia Islamia University and other institutions are placed with the Association to do their practical field training. They find a good opportunity to study the different aspects of vocational training programmes for persons with visual impairment. They also work side by side with the trainees and gain insight into the capabilities of persons with disabilities.

VOLUNTEERING

The Association is fortunate to have a large number of individuals rendering regular voluntary services. They lend services to perform different tasks in the recording studio, dining hall, vocational training workshops, school, medical unit, teacher training college, and the Association's offices. Executives and staff from several corporate houses also render voluntary services on select days. They include Mercer, Google India, and HSBC etc.





Indian Blind Sports Association

The Association is proud of its initiative of having established in 1986 the Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA), a national level body for the promotion of sports for the blind, and consistently supporting its activities. With 236 institutions and organizations from 27 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. With support from the Blind Relief Association, IBSA organizes national-level sports meets and coaching camps in athletics, powerlifting, football, kabaddi, and chess, besides identifying and sending talented athletes to participate in international sports events. Currently Smt. Radhika Bharat Ram is serving as the Chairperson.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES:

IBSA National Sports Championships (6 – 11 January)

Co-hosted by the Blind Relief Association, a week-long national level sports event was held from 6 to 11 January 2020. The events included

- 5th IBSA Kabaddi Championships For Men (6-11 January)
- 2nd IBSA Kabaddi Championships For Women (6-11 January)
- 8th IBSA Powerlifting Championships (8 January)
- Coaching Camp and Seminar on Blind Sports (6-11 January)

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi which hosted the events in its premises provided logistics and other support, including boarding and lodging facilities to the outstation teams. 400 participants including 85 female players and 20 team officials from seven states – Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana participated in the event.

Southern Region Coaching Camp for the Blind

A Southern Region Coaching Camp for the Visually Impaired Female Athletes was held in Hyderabad from 27 January - 2 February 2020. This camp was organized by IBSA in partnership with Netra Vidhyalaya Degree College for the Blind. 15 athletes from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala participated in the camp. An Inter-University Athletic Competition was held after the Camp.

1st IBSA National Lawn Tennis Championship

Having conducted two lawn tennis coaching camps in Delhi and Mumbai in 2018 and 2019, IBSA organized the 1st National Lawn Tennis Championship for the Blind in Patiala from 20-21 February 2020 in partnership with Patiala School for the Blind and Punjabi University.

12 players in B1 and 2 players in B2 Category participated in the Championship played at Lawn Tennis Courts of Punjabi University. The Championship trophy was won by Nibin Mathew (B1 Category) and Manoj Kataria (B2 Category).

INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

World Para Athletes Junior Championship 2019

India ranked second with 23 medals in the World Para Athletic Junior Championship 2019 held at Nottwil, Switzerland from 1-4 August 2019. Eight of the 23 medals were won by six visually impaired athletes trained under Dr. Satyapal Singh, Chief Coach of IBSA. In the under-17 men category Govind Kumar, Class X student of JPM Senior Secondary School won a gold medal in shot put F11-13 and silver in 1500m T11-13.

2019 IBSA World Powerlifting & Bench Press Championships

Triptpal Singh won the bronze medal under 125kg category in the 2019 IBSA World and 1st Africa Powerlifting & Bench Press Championships held in Giza, Egypt on 15-22 November 2019. 75 athletes representing 10 countries participated in this event.





The construction work of the new building was interrupted and slowed down for various reasons. In the meantime, the management also felt it necessary to revisit the original interior and exterior design of the new building. Services of a new architectural consultant M/s P. Arora & Associates were engaged and several modifications/changes in the interior and exterior designs and services were made.

Among the main reasons for the project to slow down were the intermittent governmental bans on construction activities and the need to accommodate the Association's important fundraising event Diwali Bazar. Building activities resumed in late October 2019, after Diwali Bazar. But, breaks had to be applied again in November 2019 due to an order forced by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) prohibiting construction activities in Delhi and NCR, to control air pollution. Post-NGT ban, the construction activities could hardly recommence, the work had to be stopped again in March 2020 due to the national lockdown declared by the Government of India owing to the global pandemic COVID-19. By that time the superstructure, roof waterproofing, internal plaster had been completed. Also, Kota stone flooring in the rooms, external plaster, plumbing and electrical works had begun.

In view of the uncertain situation created as a result of COVID-19 lockdown, the non-availability/scarcity of skilled labor, and material supply conditions, it was decided to give first priority to finishing certain identified works in order that the new building is at least boxed and protected. The remaining works including landscaping are to be taken up when the situation becomes normal.

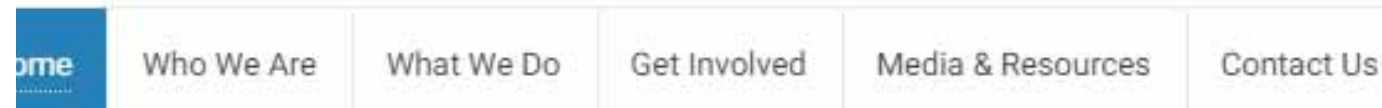
WEBSITE

The revamped website of the Blind Relief Association was launched in July 2019. The goal of this revamped site is to offer the visitors an easy and organized means to know the Association's various programmes, services, and day-to-day activities. The new website is also made accessible for visitors with visual impairment and is compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0. Besides presenting information about the Association's units and services, the site also has a page dedicated to vocational trainees ready for employment.

The site has new features such as integration of payment gateway for online donation, registration forms for volunteers and interns, etc. Amongst other fresh elements, the site contains integrated social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn. The content of the site is frequently updated with helpful information, events, newsletters, annual reports, and interesting success stories.

In order to foster improved contact with the public, the Association is also active on social media, particularly with a new entry to Instagram and LinkedIn. Updates in the form of videos, photographs, etc. are shared regularly on the pages. 16 short videos portraying the Association's functions, activities, and individual stories were shared online during the year.

The Association maintains a warm relationship with the media. Reporters from leading electronic and print media frequently appear in the Association throughout the year to cover new ventures, events, and write inspiring stories of the Association's students and trainees.



*Let it not be said of us that we had eyes yet failed to see,
that we had ears yet failed to hear,
that we had the God given gift of understanding, yet failed to understand
the miseries of the afflicted and handicapped children of God.*

– Shri U. A. Basrurker, Founder

Celebrating
Platinum Jubilee
 The Blind Relief Association, Delhi



**PLATINUM
 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

Sarod Recital

On 4 May 2019, a Sarod Recital by the celebrated artist Pt. Biswajit Roy Chawdhury was organized in the Gandhi Hall as one of the many events to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee Year of the Association. Biswajit ji was accompanied by Pt. Shoumitra Paul on the tabla. Prior to the sarod recital, Shri Satyakam Mohkamsing, a student of Biswajit ji played violin with Shri Divyanshu accompanying him on the tabla.

The programme commenced with Saraswati Vandana followed by melodious rendering of selected verses from Kalidas' famous poem Meghdoot set to music and sung by the alumni of the Association, Vaibhav Shukla with Shubham Arya on the tabla.

Remembering Shri K N Nayar

On 9 September 2019, recalling the invaluable services of late Shri K. N. Nayar, a former Hony. Executive Secretary of the Association, his 101st birth anniversary was commemorated in Gandhi Hall of the Association. A number of his admirers who served under him or received education and training in the Association's different units and whose lives were touched by him assembled for this meeting.

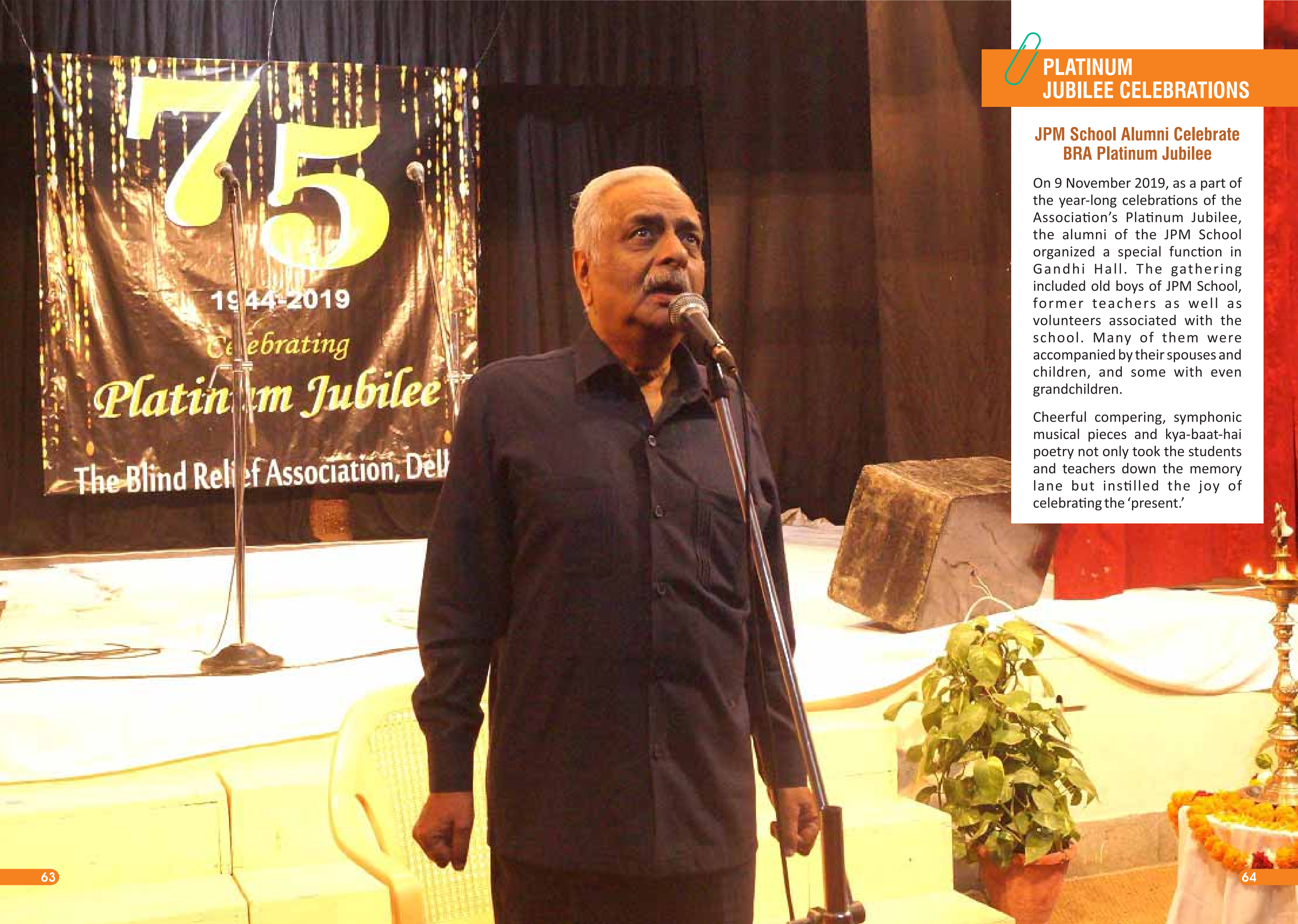
The special Braille edition of the book "एकथामोहन" prepared by the Association on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary and the Platinum Jubilee of the Association was formally released. Shri Sopan Joshi, the author of the book handed over the first copies to Shri A.K.Mittal and Shri Kamalbeer Singh, who received copies respectively for the AICB School, Gurugram and NIEPVD Model School, Dehradun. Also, representatives of Delhi Public Braille Library, and the Association's JPM School and Durgabai Deshmukh College received the first copies.



**JPM School Alumni Celebrate
BRA Platinum Jubilee**

On 9 November 2019, as a part of the year-long celebrations of the Association's Platinum Jubilee, the alumni of the JPM School organized a special function in Gandhi Hall. The gathering included old boys of JPM School, former teachers as well as volunteers associated with the school. Many of them were accompanied by their spouses and children, and some with even grandchildren.

Cheerful compering, symphonic musical pieces and kya-baat-hai poetry not only took the students and teachers down the memory lane but instilled the joy of celebrating the 'present.'





PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Grand Platinum Jubilee Function

14 December 2019 was a much awaited day and will remain a memorable day when the Association held a grand concluding function to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee Year.

The Chief Guest of the colorful Platinum Jubilee Function, held in the lawns of the Association, was the renowned child rights activist and Nobel Peace Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi. In his impassioned and inspiring speech, Shri Satyarthi quoting the Rigveda mantra "संगच्छध्वंसंबदध्वं" appealed for compassion, harmony and sensitivity in the society where all speak in one voice for the good of all, especially for children, where they will not be marginalized or exploited.

For the Association it was a very special occasion to honour its students and alumni for their outstanding achievements, as well as express gratitude and appreciation to the supporters, volunteers and individuals who have been associated for long and have played significant roles in the development and growth of the Association.

Another highlight of the function was the release of "Simhavalokana" a photo album recording the history and growth of the Blind Relief Association over the last 75 years. The album contains rare documents of 1940s and 50s such as the first student register, the first audited accounts, and old photographs of the activities of Industrial Home and School for the Blind at Badarpur, the founders Shri Umesh and Smt. Anusuya Basrurker, distinguished visitors such as Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vinoba Bhave, Commander in Chief K.M. Cariappa.

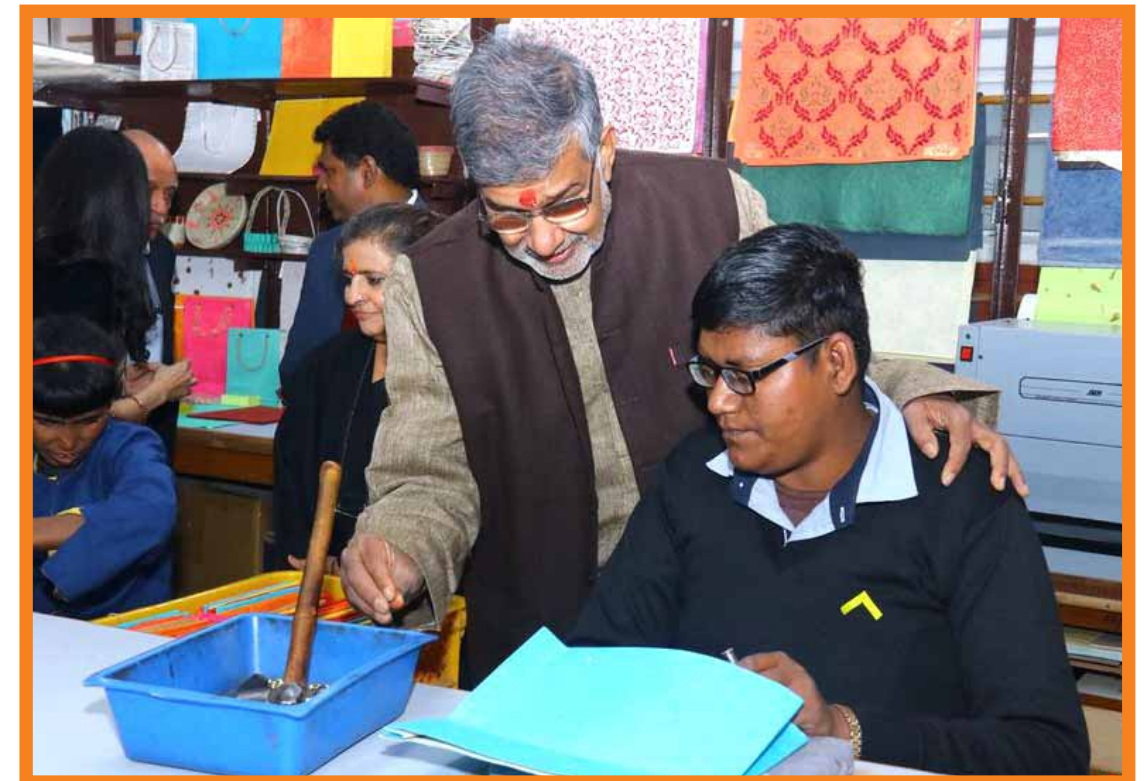
A short film made on the 75-year journey of the Association was also screened. For the JPM School it was a proud moment to release the 2018-19 year issue of School Magazine Anubhuti in print, Braille as well as audio formats.

In expressing their joy and gratitude to the Association, the ex-students presented Amazon Alexa for the use of present students and trainees.

Shri Kailash Satyarthi accompanied by his wife Smt. Sumedha went around and witnessed the programmes run by the Association and interacted with the trainees, before attending the function.

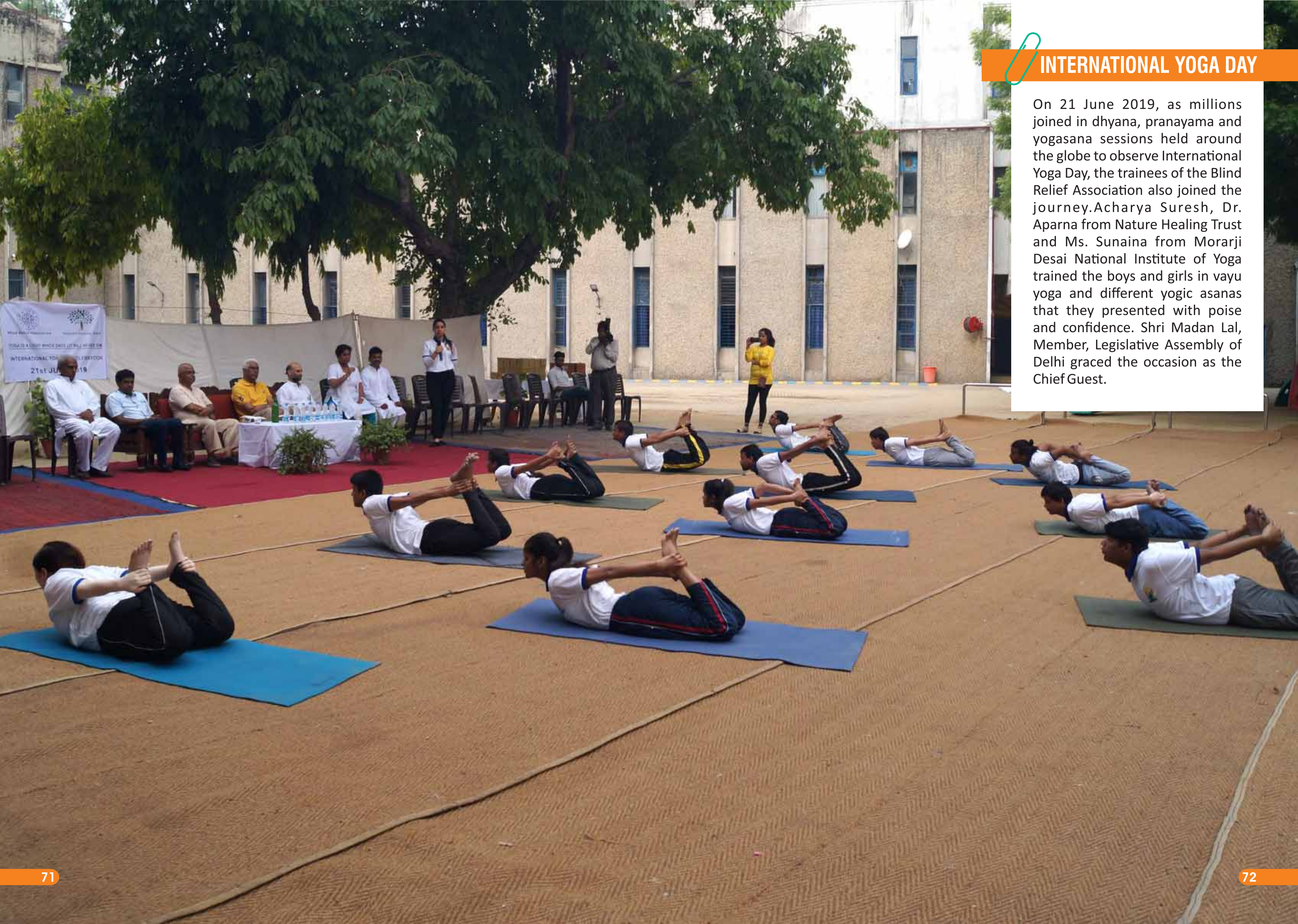






INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

On 21 June 2019, as millions joined in dhyana, pranayama and yogasana sessions held around the globe to observe International Yoga Day, the trainees of the Blind Relief Association also joined the journey. Acharya Suresh, Dr. Aparna from Nature Healing Trust and Ms. Sunaina from Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga trained the boys and girls in vayu yoga and different yogic asanas that they presented with poise and confidence. Shri Madan Lal, Member, Legislative Assembly of Delhi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.





FIRST ALUMNI REUNION OF DURGABAI DESHMUKH COLLEGE

On 27 July 2019, the alumni of the Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education had their first meeting at the Association's Gandhi Hall. Over 50 alumni belonging to different batches came together for the reunion from various parts of the country. Dr. Swati Sanyal, Course Director greeted and interacted with the alumni. Also present in the occasion was Shri K.C. Pande, Executive Secretary of the Blind Relief Association. The alumni currently working as special education teachers, bank employees etc. shared their reminiscences with the Blind Relief Association and Durgabai Deshmukh College. The alumni also shared their experiences at workplaces and about the new opportunities of employment for special education teachers.



WORKSHOP FOR VALIDATION OF FOLDING CANE

On 10 August 2019, a workshop was organized in the Blind Relief Association to validate the effectiveness of a cane designed and developed by the Association.

Resource persons and representatives of organizations in Delhi such as Saksham and National Association for the Blind attended the workshop and experimented the cane. Around 25 participants from JPM Senior Secondary School, and colleges such as Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, Dayal Singh College, Bhimrao Ambedkar College, Khalsa College, National Association of the Blind, Delhi and Canara Bank participated in the workshop and recorded their feedback. Details including the length, weight, price etc., were discussed in the feedback session.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

14 August 2019 marked the commencement of 73rd Independence Day celebrations at the Blind Relief Association.

The Chief Guest of the occasion was Dr. Dayal Singh Pawar, Associate Professor, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University and a distinguished alumnus of JPM School. Major Gen. Alok Raj PVSM, Chief Project Coordinator, Directorate of National War Memorial & Museum and Shri Rakesh Sharma, an alumnus of JPM School and Civil Service Rank Holder added glory as the Guests of Honour.

Beginning with the national song Vande Mataram, every performance of the students and trainees brought the joy of independence to better lights. Besides the singing, dancing and acting, few students also put forth the struggle and victory of independence in deep and meaningful speech and poetry.

JANMASHTAMI

On 24 August 2019, the occasion was Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna according to the calendar, but in the Blind Relief Association the festivity started a day earlier with the 24-hour mass recitation of the Ramcharitmanas resounding in the Association's Gandhi Hall. Recitation of Ramcharitmanas on this occasion is a unique tradition started by the students of JPM School way back in 1978.

While the gathering of alumni has become an unsaid regular event on Janmashtami every year, this year saw the largest number come together – around 150 alumni in addition to the present students and trainees of the Association.

GANDHI JAYANTI WALK

While many participated in plugging across the country including JPM School boys of Class IX – XII, the Association's trainees took a walk to the nearby places of worship of different faiths on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

On the morn of October 2, the trainees accompanied by a few staff members took an 8 km walk from the Blind Relief Association visiting on the way the Gurudwara Damdama Sahib, Chilla Hazrat Nizamuddin, Centenary Methodist Church, Pandara Road Masjid, and the Ram Mandir.

In every place, the trainees were exposed to the different kinds of practices, prayer and worship. Beyond that, it was time of exploring the roads of Delhi and intermingling with trainees of different programmes. For many of them, the visit to religious places other their own, was a first time experience.



DIWALI BAZAR 2019

Popularly known by the name 'Blind School Diwali Mela,' the Diwali Bazar organized by the Blind Relief Association is one of the oldest, well-known and most awaited events in Delhi. The week-long Bazar organized regularly since 1980 in the season of Diwali was held from 18–24 October in 2019.

In what started as a small event to showcase the products made by the visually impaired trainees and staff of the Association, the Bazar has grown into one of the biggest festive shopping paradises in Delhi. This year, the Bazar housed more than 250 stalls with vendors from across the country selling a range of eye-catching designer wear, home décor, traditional crafts, gift items, gardening materials, herbal products etc.

The Bazar is most popular for its colorful candles and diyas made by the visually impaired trainees and staff of the Association in more than seventy-five varieties. In addition, a range of paper products including bags, envelopes, papier-mâché plates & cups and cloth products stitched by the trainees was a special attraction.

The Bazar was also made open to NGOs at no charge to exhibit and sell products made by differently-abled persons or artisans from underprivileged backgrounds.

Trainees undergoing Relaxation Massage Training programme at the Association provided soothing head, shoulder and foot massage to the visitors.

Another interesting spot was the 'Story-Tent' where the visitors got to listen to stories enacted by the Association's vocational trainees in groups. They were trained by Foster & Forge Foundation to enact and narrate stories.

In showing its contribution to a greener planet, plants were sold along with papier-mâché pots. No plastics were used and the products of the Association were packaged in old Braille papers.





WORLD BRAILLE DAY 2020

4 January, the birthday of Louis Braille, now designated as the World Braille Day was celebrated at the Blind Relief Association, by holding Braille competitions as a way of paying tribute to the inventor of the revolutionary universal script for the blind. On this occasion the Association released its two Braille publications, namely, "बिंदु-बिंदुसंचय" containing a collection of articles, stories and poems, and the Association's new brochure.

Shri Sansari Lal Sharma, an alumnus of the Association's JPM School and retired Principal of Government School in Delhi was the Chief Guest. Author Sopan Joshi also graced the function with his presence.

ANNUAL PICNIC

On 1 February 2020, the Annual Picnic of the Association was organized at the Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park, New Delhi. It was a one-time sight to see parents, teachers, students, trainees, staff, volunteers, siblings and friends gather to celebrate the Association which brought them all together.

Six to seven buses were hired, to carry all its students, alumni, trainees and staff from its campus to the park. In addition, many other volunteers, and friends reached the venue directly. Lunch was prepared for more than 600 people, with special efforts for its famous halwa.

This year, an additional special occurrence was a play put up by the trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education.



Visit of the Ambassador of Japan

On 12 April 2019, the Ambassador of Japan, H.E.Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu along with his spouse Mrs. Patricia Hiramatsu visited the Association and presented Japanese Braille study materials for the Sawaru Nihongo Group. The Japanese language students interacted with the Ambassador and shared their passion for the language and experiences from their visit to Japan in 2016 under the Cultural Exchange Programme by the Association. Mrs. Itsuko Nandi, and other volunteer teachers connected with the Blind Relief Association were also present at the discussion.

The Ambassador and his wife also observed the various programmes run by the Association. This visit from the Embassy of Japan followed the visit of the wife of the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mrs. Kaori Kono on 8 January 2019, when she promised to send these Braille books for the students.

Visit of Dr. Christopher Nwanoro from Nigeria

On 31 July 2019, a four-member team from the Lotus Initiative for the Blind, Nigeria paid a visit to the Blind Relief Association, Delhi. This included Dr. Christopher Nwanoro – President, Mr. Maduagum Okechukwu – Director (Programmes), Mr. Emmanuel Ogar Ojung – IT Consultant and Mr. Mnamdi Mdu – Consultant. A trip around the campus and observance of the various programmes run by the Association greatly interested the team to look for opportunities to collaborate.

Lotus Initiative for the Blind (LIB) is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organization that caters to the need of persons living with disabilities in Nigeria and globally. The NGO was established in the year 2012, and has since been very keen towards improving the lives of people living with disability.



STAFF SEND-OFF



- Candle Unit worker Shri Rajkumar retired after a service of 40 years and was given a warm farewell on 6 April 2019. Connected with the Association since 1965, as a boy of just eight joining in the Industrial Home for the Blind in Badarpur, Shri Rajkumar continued his life with the Association - first as a school student, then as a vocational trainee, and later as a staff.
- Shri Sampath Keshav Kumar, Vice-Principal of JPM Senior Secondary School superannuated on 31 December 2019 after serving the school for 32 years teaching music. He came to the Association in 1968 as a child, and completed his schooling in JPM School.
- Massage Instructor Shri Rampal Singh superannuated on 31 December 2019. He served the Association since the establishment of the massage training program in 2003, and played key role in its development.
- Shri Bachu Singh, Safai Karamchari working with the Association since 2 September 1983 resigned on 27 January 2020 due to reasons concerning health.
- Orientation and Mobility Instructor Shri Ramashray Ram Vishwakarma superannuated on 31 March 2020 after a very distinguished long service of 39 years.

The Association wishes to record its appreciation of their dedication and valuable contributions made to the Association's activities and development of services.

- Shri Satya Pal Bharti passed away on 21 October 2019. In 1952, he joined the Industrial Home & School for the Blind, Lal Kuan Badarpur as a student. He was also a pupil-teacher and then worked as a teacher in JPM School till 2001. As a Fulbright scholar he went to Perkins School of Blind in the US. At the Get-Together organized on 26 February 2019 marking the completion of the Association's 75 years, Bharti ji shared memories of the early years of the Association and the founders Shri and Smt. Basrurker.
- Shri Amarnath De, working as Braille Proofreader in the JPM Senior Secondary School passed away on 14 December 2019, suddenly within hours of attending the Association's grand Platinum Jubilee celebration. Shri De joined the school on 27 July 1994 and served as a Braille Proofreader for 25 years.
- Smt. Usha Ravi Sen, former Managing Committee Member passed away on 29 December 2019. Smt. Sen joined the Association as a Life Member in December 2000 and served in the Managing Committee from 2002 to 2017. She had also been rendering volunteer service by way of recording and reading books to the school students. She was instrumental in getting The Times of India to support the Computer Training programme for many years.
- Smt. Nalini Verma passed away on 10 February 2020. Having been a Managing Committee member in the 90s, and a volunteer for the past many years, she was closely associated like a dear family member. She had led a group of women who used to manually emboss Braille books for school children. She played a key role in introducing computerized Braille production facilities in the Association, way back in 1991. She was among the distinguished persons felicitated by the Association at its Platinum Jubilee function on 14 December 2019.

The Blind Relief Association offers its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An account of the Blind Relief Association's happenings 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 their invaluable cooperation and cordial assistance extended throughout the year. The Association could not possibly have accomplished whatever it has but for the unstinting support from these generous benefactors.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT

- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.
- Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi
- Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi
- New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)
- National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun
- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)

OUR SUPPORTERS

- Military Order of the Collar Charitable Foundation, Switzerland for the sustained support to the Association's varied activities, namely Unit for Visually Impaired Children with Multiple Disabilities, Braille Production Centre and Recording Studio.
- MOC Terra Nordica, Sweden for the financial support to the Placement Project.
- Smt. Kamla Devi Charitable Trust run by INOX Group for re-equipping the Computer Lab, and supporting the salary of a Computer Instructor.
- Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy for fully supporting Ayurvedic Massage training with the free services of a trainer and required consumables, and also providing a female trainer for the Multi-Skill trainees.
- Ms. Himani, Shri Yogesh Dayal, Mrs. Naomi Furampu, Ms. Anupreet Kaur, Ms. Yuga Uehara, and Mr. Ogura for teaching Japanese to the Sawaru Nihongo (Touch Japanese) Group.
- The Robin Raina Foundation for providing scholarships to college-going visually challenged students.
- Shri Sanjeev Saroha and Shri Vikas Batra, advocates for providing scholarships to college-going visually challenged students.
- P. Arora & Associates, an architectural firm for taking up the completion of Phase II of the Association's new building.
- Ekta Khanna Design Studio for helping in designing the interiors of the New Building.
- Shri Saikat Chakravarty, Digital Banjara Media Pvt. Ltd. for developing the new website, Shri Mukesh Kumar for providing Accessibility Services, and Ms. Nitika Dhawan, SRF Limited for her guidance.
- Ms. Sonal Sood and Shri Harpreet Singh for lending their voluntary services in photography.
- Ms. Devika Mehra & Dr. R. K. Baijal for their generous donation of books to the library of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education.





CSR SUPPORT

- SRF Foundation for the generous support of Rs. 3.20 Crores towards the New Building Project – Phase II.
- Mercer Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. for supporting the Multi-Skill training programme.
- SRF Foundation for supporting English proficiency classes for JPM school students.
- USHA International for providing electric sewing machines for the Multi-Skill training programme.

A large number of self-effacing ladies and gentlemen have given their time and energy in a totally voluntary capacity to provide useful services such as reading and recording textbooks, helping in Braille book preparation, tutoring, lending a hand in adding value to the candles and paper products, cloth bags and other items made by the visually challenged, sharing their knowledge and expertise for improving and enriching our various programmes and services. A dearth of space 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.

The Association also thanks the statutory auditors M/s. Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co., for having conducted the periodical and annual audit work on time.

The Association wishes to record its deep sense of appreciation to all the employees, who have carried out their duties with commendable commitment and devotion. We look forward to the same spirit of dedication to creating a fruitful year ahead.

And the best is yet to come!



BENEFICIARIES DURING THE YEAR

Jormal Perival Memorial Senior Secondary School for the Blind (Nursery to Class XII)	212
Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education for Visually Impaired (B.Ed. Special Education)	54
Diploma in Computer Education(V.I.)	33
Computer Training & Office Operations	17

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Multi-Skill Training	55
Relaxation Massage Training	24
Call Centre Training	4
Total	399
Placements (including 13 self-employed)	36





HOW YOU CAN HELP US

For running such a large number of programmes and services for the visually impaired the Association depends largely on the goodwill and philanthropy of the society. You too can lend your support to us in a number of ways:

01 VOLUNTEER WITH US

You can share in the joy of serving by volunteering in a number of ways. Fill the form found in <https://blindrelief.org/volunteer-4/>

02 PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT

Contact or visit us for a spot assessment of our trainees or allow our representative to visit you to help identifying places where you can gainfully employ persons with visual disability and make your's an inclusive establishment

03 CORPORATE FUNDING (CSR)

Our intentional approach to cater to visually impaired children and adults in every facet has resulted in various programmes. Partner with us by supporting one of them.

04 DONATE

(Monetary donations to the Association are exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961)

- Contributions from within India can be made in the name of 'The Blind Relief Association, Delhi' by Demand Draft or multicity Cheque and sent by registered or speed post.
- Donate online through our website www.blindrelief.org/donate/
- For direct credit or transfer using NEFT/ RTGS, the details are:

Bank: State Bank of India, IOC Branch, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

Account Holder: The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

Account Number: 30003044419

IFSC Code: SBIN0006564

(Kindly note that tax exemption as per law is available only if PAN is quoted)

- For sending funds from abroad please write to us and use the following details:
Bank: United Bank of India, Hotel Oberoi, Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi – 110003.

Account Holder: The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

FON Contribution Account /IBAN No: 0277010024783

Swift Code: UTBIINBBICH

AD Code: 0310277290009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

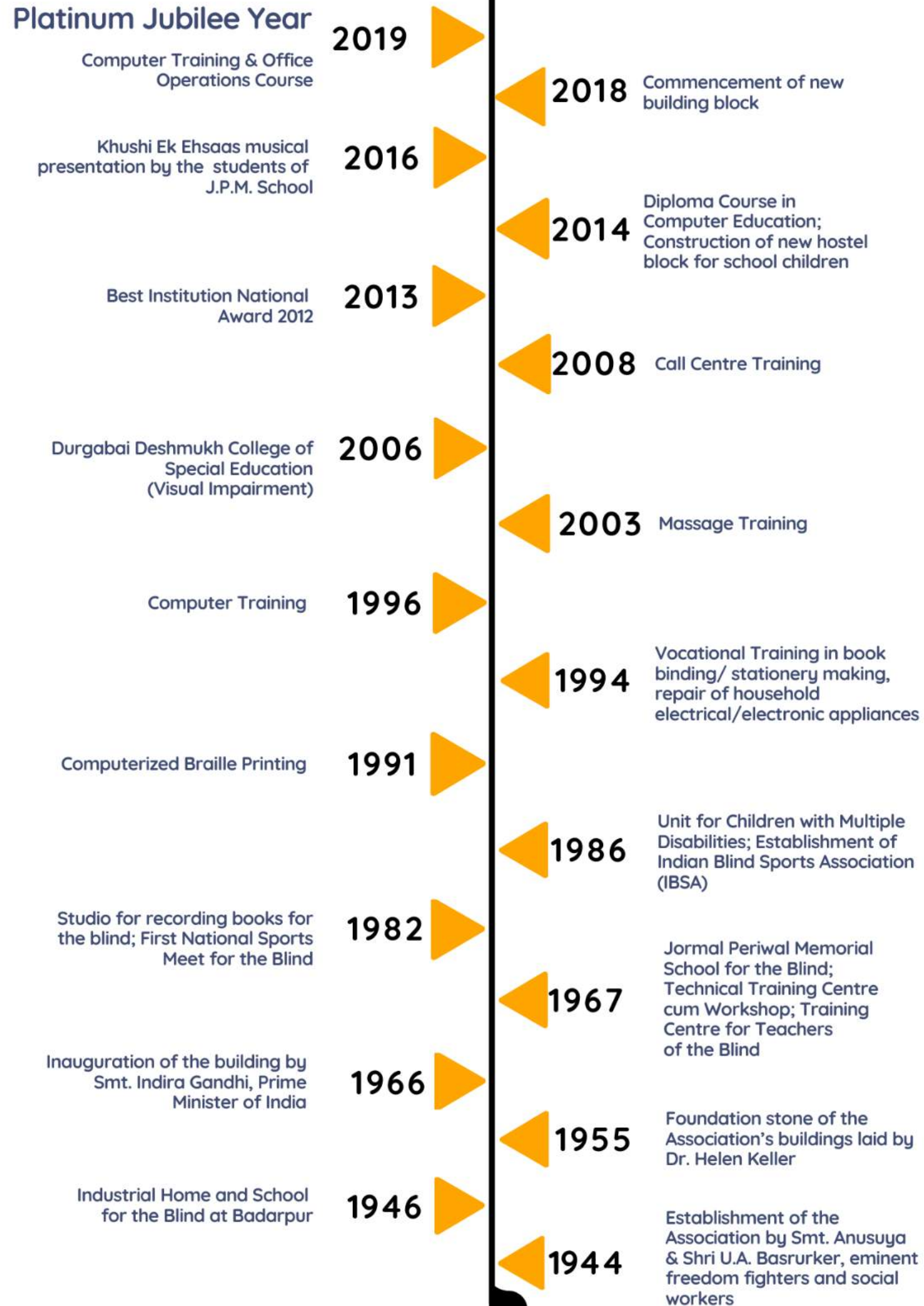
Shri Arun Bharat Ram	Chairman & Life Trustee
Shri Ranjit Puri	Life Trustee
Shri Lalit Nirula	Life Trustee
Smt. Benu Nath	Life Trustee
Smt. Radhika Bharat Ram	Life Trustee
Shri S.K. Misra	Elected Trustee

MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

S. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	OCCUPATION
1.	Shri Arun Bharat Ram	President	Industrialist & Philanthropist
2.	Shri Ranjit Puri	Vice President	Social Worker
3.	Shri Lalit Nirula	Vice President	Social Worker
4.	Smt. Benu Nath	Hony. General Secretary	Social Worker
5.	Shri S.K. Misra	Hony. Treasurer	Social Worker
6.	Smt. Radhika Bharat Ram	Hony. Joint Secretary	Jt. Vice Chairperson, The Shri Ram School
7.	Shri Kailash Chandra Pande	Hony. Executive Secretary	Social Worker
8.	Shri A.K. Mittal	Member	Disability Activist
9.	Shri Sanjeev Anand	Member	Advocate
10.	Dr. Anil Kohli	Member	Dental Surgeon
11.	Shri Sushil Ramola	Member	Social Entrepreneur
12.	Shri Chander Prakash	Member	Addl. Member/Project (Rtd.) Railway Board
13.	Shri Navin Bahl	Member	Chartered Accountant
14.	Shri Ajay Kumar Dixit	Member	Service
15.	Shri Mahender Kumar Sarin	Member	Chartered Accountant, Ex-Consultant, World Bank-Africa

TIMELINE

Platinum Jubilee Year





Images Credit: Sonal Sood Photography



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi






(Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860)

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