While the country seemed to be switching back to normalcy in early 2021, the second wave of COVID hit, more fiercely than before. For another time, institutions and organizations went through the regular drill of lockdown and curfew. Though the restrictions lasted much shorter than it did in 2020, the loss of lives was rapid and critical shortage of hospitals, oxygen cylinders and medicines triggered dread among the people. The Blind Relief Association, in addition to running all of its programmes online, also established and operationalized a COVID Helpline for the Visually Impaired exclusively with active participation of the school alumni. This report records the determination and perseverance of the Association in its commitment to serving the visually impaired regardless of the circumstances.

On 26 February 2022, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, completed 78 years of its existence. With a humble beginning in 1946, the Association opened an Industrial Home and School for the Blind in a rented premises at Lal Kuan, Badarpur with just two students, Daya Ram and Murlidhar. Over the years the range of services and the number of beneficiaries multiplied as the Association moved into its own sprawling campus in the heart of New Delhi. The Association now serves nearly 400 visually challenged children and adults in its various units. The Association's multi-faceted activities encompass school-education including special care programmes for visually impaired children with learning disabilities, teacher training, computer education, vocational training, placement services, production of resource materials in Braille, audio formats and E-books, orientation and mobility training, consultancy and awareness creation.
Jormal Periwal Memorial (JPM) Senior Secondary School for the Blind is a residential special school for visually impaired boys, established and administered by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi.

The school is 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 is widely renowned in the country for nurturing and grooming visually impaired children to be ambitious and competent individuals excelling in academics, sports and co-curricular activities. The school offers free education, boarding, lodging, assistive devices, books and other services to its students from Class I - XII.
PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE

The academic community by now became accustomed to online teaching. Teachers and students conducted their teaching-learning activities on online mode.

The school’s annual results for 2021-22 was declared successfully and posted in the respective class groups on 31 March 2022. The school embarked on online teaching from 1 April 2021, mostly on Zoom or Google Meet. Further, as the lockdown continued, students began to take online exams. CBSE introduced Term 1 (Half Yearly) Exams in the months of November and December 2021 and students of Class X and XII reported to School and successfully cleared the offline exam which was based on multiple choice questions.

To enhance the experience of online classes, special efforts were made by the School, as listed below:

- Tutorial videos on how to operate the online platforms were shared with the students and their parents.
- MP3 pendrives with audio study materials were given to students from Class VIII to XII.
- Needy students of Board classes were provided with smart phones. Internet charges for all Class X & XII students were paid by the school management.
- Braille text and other assistive devices like Braille slates, Taylor frames, etc. were provided to students.
- Children were encouraged to make videos and post them online in their respective class groups.
- Audio class sessions (a must as all our students with visual impairment cannot access videos and they will need support from others) and other connected links were made available on the school’s website for the benefit of students. The salient features of website are as follow:
  - Disabled-friendly powered with screen reader.
  - There is complete information of school as per DoE and CBSE guidelines.
  - All important links relevant to students of all classes are available including audio books by NCERT.
  - Complete study material in audio/video/mp3/pdf/doc format is available class-wise for students of Class I - XII.
  - The database is managed on cloud of One Drive facilitated by Microsoft.
  - Study material is regularly being updated by the teachers as per guidelines being issued by the Directorate of Education Govt. Of NCT of Delhi from time to time.

Website address: www.jpmschool.com

The school continued online mode of teaching till January 2022. The school community resumed offline teaching in February following the easing of restrictions by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority.
CO CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

• Despite the looming threat posed by the pandemic and the various restrictions enforced by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, JPM School students participated in a total of 30 co-curricular events of which only 2 were online. 4 students secured first position and a second position at the Zonal Level.

• Tushar Jindal and Prince Kumar of Class X received the Excellence in Education Award from the Hon'ble Education Minister, Shri Manish Sisodia, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

• In yoga and athletics, the school students participated in three Zonal events, four Delhi state events and one national event. Students won three gold, one silver and three bronze medals. On 21 June 2021, the school staff participated in the offline yogasanas on International Yoga Day and the school students participated online yoga sessions.

• Fit India movement was celebrated on 13 August 2021. The school students under the guidance of the PETs participated in the Fit India Freedom Run of 2 km organized by the Central Govt.

• On 27 December 2021 the school band performed at the opening ceremony of the sports meet organized by the Directorate of Education at Thyagaraj Stadium.
STAFF ACTIVITIES

- School teachers namely Ms. Komal, Ms. Aaliya Taskeen, Ms. Anshu Kumari, Ms. Suman Singh, Mr. Ashutosh Pandey, Mr. Sandesh Kapoor and Mr. Rajesh were trained at the Computer Section of the Association by Mr. Rajpal, on usage of Orbit Reader from 3 to 5 August 2021 and usage of KIBO XS on 6 August.

- In the month of July 2021, Ministry of Education, Govt of India, launched the (SIATP) “School Innovation Ambassador Training Program” for over 50,000 CBSE School teachers. It aimed at training school teachers in innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking, product development, and idea generation. Mr. Ashok Kumar, Ms Bhupinder Kaur Lamba, Ms. Anshu Kumari, Ms. Geeta Sharma, Ms. Satyendra Kumar Vajpai and Ms. Seema Arora successfully completed all the five modules in March 2022.

- SCERT imparted training on inclusive education to the principals and teachers under the Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi from 23 to 26 February 2022 at various centres across Delhi. Mr. K.J. Kuriyan, Mr. Sandesh Kapoor and Ms. Komal as subject experts trained the principals and teachers of the participating schools.

- On March 26, Dr. Manoj Kumar’s new novel ‘Ghaati Ko Grahan’ on Kashmir turmoil, published by reputed publishers Atmaram & Sons, was released by eminent linguist Professor Dilip Singh (Director, Centre for Endangered Languages, IITN) Amarkantak at an international seminar organized under the joint aegis of Central Hindi Directorate, Ministry of Education, ODI and Rajendra Prasad Academy.

- The trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (VI) had their teaching practice at the School. COVID 19 and the national lockdown instantaneously disrupted regular activities of the schools and institutions of higher education in many ways. As for the B.Ed. colleges, the most important component of providing school teaching practice experience to the trainees suffered the most, as schools across the country suspended their offline classes. Even under these circumstances, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (VI) could carry out the teaching practice of its teacher-trainees through online mode in JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind where online classes were being held for all classes and subjects on a regular basis. Besides facilitating the teaching practice for the second year B.Ed. students and allotting individual classes as per their pedagogy courses, the Principal also provided access to all college faculty members for its supervision. Further, the school also extended its help by allowing the trainees students to observe the online classes conducted by the regular school teachers.

EXPOSURE VISIT

- An exposure visit was paid by the School Development Planning - Ladakh and officials of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education to observe the residential facility of the Blind Relief Association’s JPM Senior Secondary School. The team comprising Ms. Rinchen Dolma, Ms. Nahida Bani from Ladakh accompanied by Ms. Sonal Sankhla and Mr. Devendra Chaudhury from Ministry of Education, ODI visited the facilities such as the resource room, sports area, residential spaces, kitchen & dining hall and interacted with the students on 10 March 2022.
Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, which was established in 2005, has been a forerunner for meaningful high quality teacher preparation in special education. Majority of the trainees who have completed their course from the College are working as special teachers in inclusive and special schools. Some former trainees are also engaged as teacher educators in university and diploma courses.

Despite the odds of conducting only online classes due to the pandemic, the College tried to continue all the regular activities and made efforts to provide hands-on-exposure to trainees to complement the theoretical inputs.

Annual examination – 2021 and result

Online open book examination of II year students of 2019-2021 batch was conducted from 10 - 21 June 2021. All 29 trainees who appeared in the examination passed in First Division.

Admission 2021-2023

As usual, the admission process was done through online mode under a centralized system of the University of Delhi. The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted the entrance test. The faculty members of the College were involved in the admission process in various capacities. A total of 34 students were admitted following the reservation policy. Out of 34 students, 15 are visually impaired. The online classes of the first year students started from 7 January 2021 whereas the admission process continued till 31 December 2021. The offline classes started from 17 February 2022.
MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE COLLEGE

1. The College and the Blind Relief Association Delhi organized a webinar on 4 January, ‘World Braille Day’ on the occasion of 213th birth anniversary of Louis Braille. Prof. S.R. Mittal was the Chief Guest of the programme.

2. 20 trainees of the College participated in Deshbhakti Geet, Patriotic Lori and Rangoli making in an initiative by the Ministry of Culture to mark Azad Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

3. The College organized community awareness programme on visual impairment ‘Just Enough to Know Us Better’ at the Spring Bazar of the Blind Relief Association held on 11 -13 March 2022. Students wrote ad enacted a nukkad natak (street play) on disability on the second day of the Spring Bazar. The trainees also took part in various cultural activities organized during the Bazar.


STUDENTS’ ACHIEVEMENTS

The teacher trainees participated in various activities during the year:

1. Vibha Gupta – II year student was awarded third prize in the Talent Hunt, Swataha 2021 held on 27-28 April 2021 organized by the Enabling Unit of Miranda House College (University of Delhi).

2. Ankita Sehdev a first-year student received third prize in oratory competition organized by Harshraj College Enabling Unit (University of Delhi) on 4 January 2022, second prize in Open Mic competition organized by Ram Lal Anand College (University of Delhi). She also won the National Talent Hunt - IMPACT on 20 March, 2022 in Singing. Ankita has been selected as a member-UNICEF, YPAT (YuWaals Young People Action Team).

3. Manisha a first-year student, participated and secured third position in a virtual speech competition on the topic ‘Braille vs Computer’ held on the occasion of Louis Braille day. The online competition was organized by Premia Educational Centre, a project of North Bengal Council for the Disabled, Siliguri.

4. Ishwara Joshi of first-year received a certificate for exemplary performance in writing and stood one among the top 5 participants at Unuttered Locations, Chandigarh on 26 February 2022.

Library development:

Total Number of Books (Print + Braille) 4560
Total Number of Titles (Print + Braille) 2320
Print Journals on Special Education as well as Education 15
Total Number of Books added during 2021-2022 37
Total No. of talking books (DAISY+ MP3 format) 134
Total No. of Braille Books 241
MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS

All the staff members of the College were down with COVID-19 during the second wave of pandemic with various degrees of severity. In spite of that, the faculty members and the research associate participated in various academic and related activities.

All the faculty members have worked as resource persons in webinars and offline training programmes organized by various NGOs and institutions like SCERT, INYAS, etc. They were also involved in preparation of question paper of entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). Dr. Swati Sanyal acted as Ph.D thesis examiner and was also a member of the Moderation Committee of University of Delhi & Jamia Millia Islamia for B.Ed Bpl. Edn. – VI course. Dr. Sudheep Kumar Dubey published two books “Visual Impairment: Our Concerns” and “Disability Curriculum” on visual impairment. Dr. Pubali Agarwal translated a chapter on Independent Living Skills for publication in the Resource Book for Teachers Vol. 2 to be published by NIEPVD, Dehradun. Mr. Narendra Kumar Jha conducted inspection of B.Ed & D. Ed Special Education courses - VI (H.L) in many institutions.

Administrative Highlights:
- Mr. P.C.Dash who was looking after all the official correspondence of the College and was a great help to the college for smooth conduct of the administrative work during the pandemic times, superannuated in June 2021. He is now replaced by Mr. Tejender Singh Bisht.
- Dr. Swati Sanyal, Course Director of the College superannuated from her regular service in January 2022. She has been employed afresh for one year on a contractual basis and continues to be the Course Director.

COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE

The Association is among the pioneering institutions in the country to introduce computer literacy programmes for the visually impaired. Launched in 1996 to cater to the needs of educated adult blind, the Computer Training Centre is presently conducting a diploma and short-term computer literacy courses. 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. The trainees are encouraged to keep abreast with the technological advancements made in the IT and Communication sectors.

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 practical office operations, the trainees are given hands-on experience in the Association’s offices and units. They are given practical tasks such as conducting surveys and organizing events.

Five trainees, out of 9 admitted, successfully completed the course that began in January 2021. The training of the next batch of 11 trainees commenced in July 2021 and had to switch online for four months due to the pandemic. 7 trainees successfully completed the training.
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

MULTI SKILL TRAINING

Introduced in 2014, this one-year holistic training programme is open to both male and female adults who are visually impaired, even if they have additional disabilities. With no minimum educational requirement, those who have either missed out on school education or marginally educated are also admitted. The range of skills included in the training programme seek to prepare the trainees to be able to work in diverse workplaces, or become self-employed. The one-year programme is kept flexible enough to adjust the training schedule to suit the capacity, interest, and capability of the trainee.

Inspired by the Gandhiji’s concept of Buniyadi Shiksha, 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. An important aspect of the training programme is the equal emphasis given to 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. This training program has been successful in turning around lives of many visually-impaired and continues to be an important component of the Association’s endeavours in enabling its trainees to become independent and confident citizens.

Other Updates

Through the AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) Code the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment offers scholarship to persons with disabilities to pursue approved courses. Two trainees who applied under National Scholarship Portal received a handsome scholarship of Rs. 47300 each.

Late Dr. M.L. Gupta donated 5 Kibo and 15 Orbit reader devices to the Computer Training Center. 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 refreshable Braille display device with its large storage capacity is a convenient substitute to voluminous hard copies of Braille books. It works independently as well as

Gift for Toppers

The pandemic having hindered her annual visits, Smt. Prabhjot Menon, a well-wisher accompanied by her sister visited the Association after two years on 16 March to meet with the trainees of batch 2019-20 and 2020-21 of Diploma in Computer Education course. She presented laptops to the toppers Ankur Kumar (2019-20) and Umar Siddique (2020-21).

Operation Blue

The Association is proud of Irfan Mir, a part of 8-member adventure team of Operation Blue Freedom. The team set a world record by being the largest number of people with disabilities to scale the world’s highest battlefield - the Siachen Glacier. Irfan who hails from Kashmir was a trainee who successfully completed Diploma in Computer Education Course at the Blind Relief Association.

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Pran Nathji Candle Making Unit

The Candle Unit produces round the year a large variety of candles in different shapes and sizes. These candles are available for sale throughout the year as well as during the Association’s annual Diwali Bazaar. 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 them training and logistic support in setting up such programs in candle making. The Multi-Skill 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.

Sewing Unit

The sewing training has acquired an important and exciting place under the Association’s Multi-Skill Training programme. Each year scores of visually impaired young women and men master the skill of working on sewing machines and making a variety of products. Training curriculum followed by the unit is designed and evaluated by USHA Silai School. The trainers handhold their students to make them proficient in stitching products like sling bags, coin pouches, zip pouches, shoe bags, and saree covers. Even old rags are recycled to make beautiful cloth bags. The past year saw the introduction of new products like laptop bags, potlis, vanity boxes of different sizes, etc. The sewing unit trained a total of 29 trainees from April 2021 to March 2022.
New initiatives

With a view to reaching out to the visually impaired youth needing skill training the Blind Relief Association incorporated some new projects and programs this year. This enlarged the horizons for the trainees’ experiences and offered them new learning opportunities.

1. Partnership with Project Prakash

Project Prakash Foundation is a premier organisation serving since 2005 for sight treatment free of cost to children who are too poor to afford it or are not aware that their condition can be corrected. The Foundation has entered into collaboration with Blind Relief Association for vocational rehabilitation of visually impaired youth. Project Prakash is sponsoring 7 trainees, including 5 boys and 2 girls who while seeking to complete their school education (Class X/ XII) are undergoing training in the Multi-Skill training program or Relaxation Massage Training imparted at the Association. The Project supports sponsorship of the trainees, salary of a Sewing instructor, visiting Orientation and Mobility instructor, as well as that of project coordinator/consultant.

2. Livelihood Project- Kit Distribution

Responding to the severe impact of pandemic conditions resulting in loss of employment opportunities, the Association initiated Livelihood Projects to encourage and support enterprising vocational trainees towards self-employment/small-scale ventures at their own place, to be able to earn a livelihood.

Funds were raised to prepare and donate kits of essential consumables and accessories for masseurs-on-call, also electric sewing machines for trainees trained by the Association. Under the Project, 8 massage kits and 2 electric sewing machine were distributed to the vocational trainees at the Graduation Ceremony held on 18 September 2021. Also, on 12 February 2022 another Livelihood Kit Distribution Ceremony was held with a Fashion Show by the trainees. 8 massage kits and 2 electric sewing machines were presented to the trainees.

3. Partnership with Pladis Global

Pladis Global, an international snacking company entered into a partnership with the Association in assisting the baking initiative of the Multi-Skill Training by providing professional trainers. Mr. Rohit Shukla and Mr. Abhinav from Pladis - Chandigarh initiated the training sessions in November 2021. Since 2 March 2022 Ms Tanvi Gupta, Baker Chef engaged by Pladis Global has been conducting training sessions for the trainees every week.

Statistics on Trainees during FY 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Admissions</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
<th>Dropouts</th>
<th>In-Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As on 1 April 2021</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July/August 2021</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2022</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As on 31 March 2022</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Trainers:

In January 2022, The Blind Relief Association welcomed Smt. Sangeeta Satyashivam as the Assistant Instructor in the sewing unit who has joined under Project Prakash. With an experience in tailoring of more than a decade at her own boutique, Smt. Sangeeta is a valuable addition to the organisation. Apart from teaching sewing and tailoring, she is also the Instructor for Beautician and Styling course held on weekends for the female trainees.

CSR Support:

M/s Mercer Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. through its CSR Grant has been consistently supporting the Association's Multi Skill Training programme since 2016-17. Beyond sustained financial support, the partnership with Mercer manifests itself in volunteering, knowledge sharing of the company employees.
RELAXATION MASSAGE TRAINING

The massage section offers a six-month training course to prepare visually impaired persons to become professional masseurs and therapists. The training covers Thai, Swedish, and Japanese, aroma, head and face massage techniques imparted by Mr. Shyam Kishor, a visually impaired expert teacher. Additionally, the trainees learn human anatomy and physiology, techniques of pain management by applying foot reflexology and Sujok therapy. In parallel famous Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy focussing supplements the training by teaching beauty care face massage, manicure, pedicure techniques. For the purpose, services of the trainer and required consumables are made available free by the Academy, which also awards certificates to the trainees. To give public exposure to the skills acquired by the trainees, the Association offers them opportunity at events frequently held in the Association as well as outside.

2021-22 comprised of two batches of 6 months each. As until 31 March 2022, as many as 10 trainees took up massage as their profession during the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batch</th>
<th>Total Trainees</th>
<th>Graduated</th>
<th>Drop Outs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2021-Sept 2021</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2021-Jan 2022</td>
<td>12*</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Project Prakash trainees included

ACTIVITIES

World Braille Day

The World Braille Day was celebrated on 4 January, 2022. The trainees participated in a Braille reading/writing competitions held by the Association. The winners and the participants were given prizes.

Demo Class by Usha Silai School

A demonstration by USHA Silai School was held on 24 January 2022 for the benefit of Multi-Skill trainees. The trainees learnt new techniques such as pico stitching, buttonhole making, neck design, embroidery, etc. The session was conducted by Mr. Sandeep and Mr. Atul Pandey.

Mobility Workshop/Clinic

On 5 February 2022 trainers Mr. Anil and Ms. Vijaya from the National Association for Blind, Delhi conducted a workshop in orientation & mobility for the trainees of the Blind Relief Association. They were taught the use of canes, and techniques of treading footpaths, traffic signals, etc. 50 white canes were gifted to the trainees.

Picnic

The trainees had an outing to the Lodhi Gardens on 16 February 2022. The arrangements were sponsored by the Earth Angels Welfare Foundation. The trainees walked around the park and explored monuments in the area. This was followed by a yoga session and entertainment programme including a talent show wherein the trainees showcased their singing, dancing and acting skills.
PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH4JOBS FOUNDATION

The Blind Relief Association’s collaboration with the Youth4Jobs Foundation to empower the visually impaired youth has yielded impressive results over the years. This year, the Foundation created new curriculums during the pandemic and implemented it in stages during the year in all the interventions as under:

- Functional English Communication
- Digital Literacy
- Life Skills
- Interview Skills
- Open School Exams (Class X & XII)

The trainees who attended classes during the period April 2021 – March 2022 are as under:

Programs were conducted for a 360-degree preparation of the students for gainful employment such as:

1. PEHEL: Continuing Education
   This year with the help of volunteers, 13 vocational trainees were prepared for the open Class X (5 Trainees) and Class XII CBSE boards (8 Trainees) and all passed the requisite exams.

2. Multilingual Computer Usage
   On the suggestion of the Association, Hindi Computer usage was introduced to the trainees, so that they could clear the Govt Jobs exams with ease. Trainees are trained on both English and Hindi applications.

3. Use of Internet Applications
   This helps the trainees to source information and learn from various portals and service providers. They are also being taught to use Gmail, browsing the internet, Zoom & Google Meet, YouTube, WhatsApp, etc. Use of digital payment platforms like Google Pay has been facilitated.

4. Applicants for Govt Jobs
   Having ascertained the readiness of the candidates for Govt. Jobs, 16 applications have been filled.

5. Interview Preparedness
   As part of interview skills, Y4J has started preparing candidates for employment by conducting Mock Interview Sessions at regular intervals. Sessions include training on their interview etiquette, answering interview questions, work place awareness and grooming.

6. Saarthi: Mentor4Inclusion
   The mentorship program was conducted virtually from September

SERVICES

PLACEMENT

The national lockdown imposed by the government to control the spread of second wave continued to impact the manufacturing and service industries. As a result, the opportunity for placements got severely affected, and added to it, the concept of social distancing made employments challenging for the visually impaired as they are primarily dependent on physical touch for all their activities.

Realizing this reduced scope for employment in the market, special efforts were made by the Association to encourage the visually impaired towards self-employment and micro-business/entrepreneurship. In this way, masseurs trained by the Association were provided opportunity at the Select City Walk mall in Saket, New Delhi to offer their professional services to the visitors. The masseurs receive a steady flow of visitors availing their services, and they are now able to make a respectable earning.

A total of 13 trainees who completed their Relaxation Massage Training have found jobs, with 4 of them being self-employed. In addition, 3 trainees from the previous batches also got placed in the year under record.

Three Multi-Skill trainees and one orthopedically challenged trainee who completed his Electronics Training from the Association a few years ago were placed as semi-skilled workers in the packaging unit of Tangerina Designs Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram - a manufacturer of leather goods.
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. Also, for the students studying Japanese language, study material in Japanese Braille is being prepared. Volunteers render their free services in preparing e-text to be converted into Japanese Braille. From time to time reading material of general interest such as poetry, fiction and miscellaneous articles are also produced in Braille. During the year a total of 39 titles in Hindi, English, and Japanese running into 7680 volumes were produced.

Audio Recording

The facility for recording audiobooks 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. The recordings are available in digital MP3, Daisy and e-text 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.

Since its inception, the Association's studio has produced a total of 927 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. During the year under report, 12 new titles: 10 in Hindi and 2 in English were recorded. A total of 236 GB of data in MP3 Players were copied and supplied to students and trainees.

E-Text Production

This year we have also started preparing

HEALTH CARE: The Association has arrangements to monitor and provide primary medical and health care to its students and trainees. The health care team comprising a visiting physician, a round-the-clock male 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 centers such as Dr. Shroff Charitable Eye Hospital and Sai Bhakti Sarjani 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 provides dental care services to the Association's school children, trainees, and staff.

Pandemic Preparedness: During the pandemic period, the medical team undertook the responsibility of ensuring that the Association campus was well protected against the virus infection. With the help of volunteer-doctors, the team was also actively involved in providing

Dental Care Unit.
BOARDING AND LODGING: The Association runs a large hostel in its premises, which provides free boarding and lodging facilities to around 300 visually impaired 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 inclusion, equality of rights, capabilities and potentials of persons with physical/sensory disability, especially visual impairment, is an important mandate of the Association. The Association’s school students and the vocational trainees participate in different events and present their talents on equal footing with their counterparts. Even under the pandemic situation such talents and potential continue to be demonstrated by way of online events and through the sales of diverse products made by the trainees in the Association.

The Association liberally shares its expertise with other institutions and organizations seeking guidance on establishing disability services and also provides training to the trainees from such institutions.

Training of Trainers Programme

The Blind Relief Association conducted a 15-day long training program from 20 January to 5 February 2022 for the benefit of three visiting trainers from C.L. Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad, namely, Ms. Binni Kumari - Communication CUM Rehabilitation Officer; Ms. Asma - Asst. VRS and Mr. Deepak Sharma - Rehabilitation Support Staff.

The Institute aims to set up a training center at Moradabad which will help visually impaired persons procure study materials and other equipment and for the purpose it has sought cooperation/advice from the Association. The Institute will initially impart basic level skill training to trainees registered with it. Subsequently, interested trainees will be referred to the Blind Relief Association for 6-months of skill specific training. Those who have completed the two-level training will be assisted and supported by C.L. Gupta Eye Institute to start livelihood projects in their respective hometowns.

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 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. Each year the Blind Relief Association receives volunteers from different walks of life and driven by their desire to work for a noble cause, they contribute in many ways.
New Building Block

The construction work of the New Building including interiors, air conditioning and installation of lifts is completed. The building has a water-recycling system which has been installed and for the external area, rainwater harvesting system comprising three interconnected wells has been constructed and is functioning. The Inner Courtyard landscaping work is in progress. Efforts are being made to obtain the Completion Certificate for occupancy.

Reactions of Volunteers

Anita Chopra - Candle Unit

“Having served in the NGO sector for 7 years, I was disappointed when the organization I worked for was shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic. I found contentment in the Blind Relief Association and have been a volunteer here ever since. I have helped in the candle-making unit for a year and half and love each day there. A sense of fulfillment engulfs me as I learn to make different things from scratch.”

Alka Aggarwal - Teaching English

“My love for teaching drove me to pursue it even after retirement. I have an experience of 34 years as a school teacher. I wanted to empower children and what better way than imparting knowledge to the visually impaired. I have been a part of the Association for 9 months and am delighted with my time spent here. Watching the trainees learn and grow is a unique and joyful encounter for me.”

Teaching Volunteers

A number of volunteers helped in teaching the trainees of the Association in preparing them for board examinations of Class X & XII and under graduation.

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INDIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Association is proud of having played the key role in the establishment of the Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA), a national level body for the promotion of sports for the blind in 1986 and in consistently supporting its activities. With 243 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, kabbadi, and chess, besides identifying and sending talented athletes to participate in international sports events. The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country continued to hamper the events, camps and competitions planned by the Indian Blind Sports Association. However, with the available resources, the Association and its affiliate organizations made the best out of the year as recorded in this report.

NAB MADHU SHARMA YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD 2021: ANKUR DHAMA

Mr. Ankur Dhama was felicitated with the Madhu Sharma Young Achiever Award on 2 December 2021 by National Association for the Blind, Delhi.

Ankur Dhama, a paralympian trained and coached by the Indian Blind Sports Association, was awarded the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2018. Ankur is also an alumnus of the JPM Senior Secondary School.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR ROLE MODEL

The National Award for Role Model was presented to Ms. Neha Nalin Pawaskar by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment by the President of India, Sri Ram Nath Kovind, on 3 December 2021. Ms. Neha Nalin Pawaskar, an active female sportsperson from Maharashtra and an Executive Committee member of the Indian Blind Sports Association. She has made a mark in adventure sports besides having received several awards.

ONLINE SIGHT CLASSIFIER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Indian Blind Sports Association in collaboration with the International Blind Sports Federation and International Paralympic Committee, conducted a Sight Classifier Training Program on online mode from 11 - 23 January, 2022. The event had 13 participants from India and other countries like Bahrain, Myanmar, South Africa, Japan, and Azerbaijan, and 11 successfully completed the training. A Sight Classification Software developed by the Indian Blind Sports Association was formally launched online on 15 January 2022 by Hony. Chairperson IBSA - Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram.
EVENTS

COVID Helpline for the Visually Impaired

In the wake of the huge spike in cases during the second wave of the pandemic, the Blind Relief Association, as a leading organization working for the welfare and empowerment of the visually impaired and an earnest partner in the development sector launched a COVID Helpline for the Visually Impaired on 28 April 2021.

Depending heavily on the sense of touch, a visually impaired person is much more vulnerable and needs special care/attention to be able to fight the pandemic. They lived through the widespread fears and unforeseen difficulties more so during the second wave. A visually impaired person has to struggle much more to access and avail basic common amenities, assured food, and primary health care facilities. Many working in private and unorganized sectors also lost their jobs and faced financial uncertainties resulting in serious worries and anxieties.

The Helpline was conceived and executed with the active participation of the alumni of the Association, partnering with the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. The Helpline Team comprised the Association's staff, counsellors (majorly comprising the alumni), volunteer doctors, and students from the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi.

Through this Helpline the team reached out to the visually impaired persons and their families in distress and offered them the needed psychological/medical counseling; got them connected with hospital/medical services, and as far as possible provided basic medicine kits and ration.

The team delivered ration packets and medicines using the Association's staff and also through partnering organizations like Saksham Seva (सक्षम सेवा विकास मण्डल) and Family of Disabled to persons with other disabilities as well. These services were provided in Delhi NCR area. The Helpline also received requests from needy persons in several other states such as Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Assam, Jharkhand, and Haryana. Using contacts in these states, the

SIGHT CLASSIFICATION FOR PCI

The sight classification team from IBSA was invited by the Para Olympic Committee of India to conduct sight classification for the PCI National Para Athletics Championship held from 28 - 31 March in Bhubaneshwar. This is the first time the sight classification was done for the visually impaired category in the PCI national meet, and IBSA is proud to have partnered.

FOOTBALL FIELD FOR THE VISUALLY-IMPAIRED

The AFC- Praful Patel Blind Football Centre at Delhi constructed in the premises of the Blind Relief Association was completed on 15 October 2021. This will be the Centre in the Northern India for all blind football activities along with facilities to host tournaments, trainings and coaching for people with differing abilities.
Sessions & Webinars

1. Counselling session for the Helpline Team with Dr Pragati Pandey, Assistant Professor (Clinical Psychology), National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, Madhya Pradesh on 29 April, 2021.

2. Webinar on ‘Understanding and Dealing with Challenges of the Disabled’ with Dr Pragati Pandey, Assistant Professor (Clinical Psychology), National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation, Madhya Pradesh and Special Invitee – Mr. K.V.S. Rao, Director, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India on 18 May, 2021.

3. Delhi: ‘Pranayama & Aasaan – How to Make the Most of Pranayama’ with Dr Sumita Arora MBBS, MD (Obstetrician & Gynaecologist), Professor (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), Directo, Aastha Maternity and Laparoscopy Centre, Lucknow on 25 May, 2021.

4. Webinar on ‘Coping with Anxieties and Tensions during Covid-19’ with Dr. Geetanjali Kumar, Counselling Psychologist as the Speaker on 1 June, 2021.

5. Webinar on ‘Understanding and Dealing with COVID-19’ with Dr. Mathew Varghese, Former Director and Consultant, St. Stephen’s Hospital, Delhi on 14 August, 2021.

6. Webinar on ‘Dealing with Post-Covid Issues’ with Dr. Mathew Varghese, Former Director, and Consultant, St. Stephen’s Hospital, Delhi on 14 August 2021.

7. The Blind Relief Association along with Enabling Unit, Madhya Pradesh and Special Invitee – Mr. K.V.S. Rao, Director, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India on 18 May, 2021.

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Microsoft’s Education Transformation Framework (ETF)

The Blind Relief Association was invited to be a speaker for Microsoft’s ‘Education Transformation Framework (ETF)’ workshop held on 16 May, 2021. A presentation on the usage and accessibility of Office 365 & Teams in the Association’s JPM Senior Secondary School and the Computer training center was presented at the workshop by Mrs. Neelu Suja, Head – IT.

Microsoft Azure Vouchers

The Blind Relief Association conducted a virtual training on Microsoft programs for its students, trainees and interested outsiders with the help of Navika Chhauda, a Gold Microsoft Student Ambassador in November 2020. The training was a 15-day program held every day for two hours.

The topics covered were Microsoft Seeing AI app, MS Office 365 tools such as MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Word, MS Outlook, MS OneNote and OneDrive. Out of the class of 12 students, three students – Parmeet Singh, Vishal Saini, Pawan, volunteered and took the initiative to complete the Microsoft Azure’s (Cloud Computing Service) Learning Path under the guidance of Navika and bagged the MTC vouchers.

Independent Day

Independent Day celebrations is a big annual event at the Blind Relief Association. However, this year due to the pandemic; the school students could not participate in the celebrations. Nevertheless, the school administration arranged a virtual programme for the trainees joined by the staff were there; a 13-minute celebration marked the national day. After the national flag hoisting ceremony and lecture by the Executive Secretary, the trainees in displaying their talent presented patriotic songs, poems, which

Pranayama – Video Illustration

Mobility Exercises to do in a Pandemic

Steam Inhalation

Corporate Citizenship

The Blind Relief Association’s COVID Helpline Team collaborated with hospitals, organizations, and government centers to get the pupils, staff of the Association & its Helpline, and their families vaccinated. The Helpline joined hands with Max Hospital Saket, Apollo Hospital Jasola; National Association for the Blind, New Delhi; and the government vaccination centers at Govt. School, Pandara Road and Safdarjung Vidyalaya Nis, R.K. Puram and vaccinated a total of 251 persons between July – September 2021.

Apart from this, COVID vaccination drives were organized at the Blind Relief Association in collaboration with the HOPE Oncology Clinic on 1 October 2021, 12 January 2022 and 16 February 2022. A total of 212 doses were administered to the trainees, staff of the Association, and outsiders. The vaccination included the first dose for those within 15-18 years of age, the second dose for persons 19-49 years old, and booster doses for the elderly. The outsiders were also provided a ration kit sponsored by The Akshya Patra Foundation and DBS Foundation.

Microsoft’s Education Transformation Framework (ETF) – Virtual Training

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Janmashtami Celebrations
The Janmashtami celebrations at the Blind Relief Association is one of the most awaited moments of the year for the students and alumni. However, this year, amidst the COVID protocols, it was a new experience with the festivity planned in a different format.
The Class XII students in collaboration with the alumni, who are also a part of the COVID Helpline team run by the Association, planned and executed the celebrations on 30 August in the Gandhi Hall of the Association. Besides the limited number of students and alumni who could visit the Association, many others joined the event live on Zoom.

It was a day-long event which started off with the students and alumni reciting the Sundarkand, instead of round-the-clock recital of entire Ramcharitmanas (as it used to be done in the past). The afternoon was filled with online and offline cultural programmes such as bhajan, poetry and skit. Some parts of it were relayed live on YouTube. The final and most exciting event was the “Dahi Handi” participated by the students. The day ended with the distribution of prasad.

Gandhi Jayanti
In remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary, the Blind Relief Association on 2 October 2021 organized a small event with the trainees in its Gandhi Centenary Memorial Hall. The trainees participated in reciting prayers of 5 different religions, narrated events from the life of Mahatma Gandhi, recited poems and sang songs. Being also the birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the life and contribution of Shastriji was fondly remembered. The students of the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi interning with the Association connected with the trainees in organizing the programme.

Livelihood Project Launch
Owing to the pandemic resulting in the melting down of employment opportunities, the Association initiated a new Livelihood Project to motivate, encourage and support self-employment/ small businesses that could be set up in the vocational trainees’ native places.

Under the Project, massage and sewing kits were distributed to 12 vocational trainees at the Graduation Ceremony held on 18 September 2021 in the Gandhi Hall of the Association.

The occasion was graced by Ms. Arpita, Mr. Manikandan and Mr. TakChand from the HSBC, whose staff was involved in mentoring the Association’s vocational trainees, Ms. Rupa Teto and Mr. Alok Shukla from USHA Social Services involved in the sewing training programme, Mr. Dushyant Meher from Yogada Satsang Society of India, Mr. Hari Parmar from Youth 4 Jobs Foundation, and Ms Sukhmani Bhandari one of the volunteers who helped in raising funds for the Project.

Nepal Visitors
The Blind Relief Association was happy to receive two special and unexpected visitors from Blind Youth Association Nepal-BYAN - Mr. Ram Galhis, General Secretary, and Mr. Vishwo Shrestha, Director on 5 October 2021. The duo met and interacted with Mr. Pandya, Executive Secretary and visited the various educational & training units, exchanging ideas & thoughts.
"Make Happy Be Happy" with Pladis Global

For the Blind Relief Association to have Pladis brand involved in its Baking initiative was an unexpected yet perfect collaboration. Pladis Global, an international snacking company chose to celebrate their "Make Happy Be Happy" day with the trainees of the Blind Relief Association. On 18 November, a team of 30 staff members including Mr. Kemal Gul – Emerging Market, Managing Director; Mr. Abhishek Sharma – Emerging Market, General Manager – India and Ms. Bhawana Dhawan – Head – HR and Admin visited the organization.

The day began with an orientation session conducted by Mr. A. David, Deputy Executive Secretary (Operations) in which the team from Pladis were blindfolded and made to walk alone a certain distance. Then each of them was paired with a trainee to walk the same distance. This brought forward to them a glimpse into the lives of the visually impaired and their confidence. The team was also taught the basic etiquette while handling visually impaired persons in the public.

Two of the Pladis officers Mr. Rajat Vermani and Mr. Anil Mishra presented stories to the trainees in a short storytelling session, followed by a group song and poem recitation by the Multi-Skill trainees.

Pladis Global entered into a partnership with the Association to assist in the Baking initiative by providing professional trainers. Mr. Rohit Shukla and Mr. Abhisav from Chandigarh initiated the training sessions. Mr. Gul handed over a cheque of Rs. 50k to Mrs. Benu Nath, General Secretary, and Mr. Pande, Executive Secretary, and as their contribution towards the Paper Craft Unit. In addition, they also donated 10 laptops to the Association. The team later visited the training units of the Association and purchased candles, paper, and sewing products made by the trainees.

Online Sale

The E-commerce site which is active throughout the year was fully operational during the Diwali season. As a new feature, an ‘In-store Pick Up’ option was introduced for the Delhi NCR customers who wished to pay online and pick their packages from the gate.
On the Ramp

A Fashion Show and second Livelihood Kit Distribution Ceremony was held on 12 February 2022. The small yet impressive event made immense impact on the participant vocational trainees. For the female contestants, it was an exciting first-time-in-life experience. Participation in the show, greatly boosted the confidence and spirit of female trainees, several of them coming from remote areas. The preparations started with training them on how to wear a sari gracefully and presenting themselves before the audience elegantly. Mrs. Benu Nath, Hony. General Secretary of B.R.A., Dr. Swati Sanyal, Course Director, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education and Mrs. Meera Mittal acted as judges.

Also, on the occasion, under the Livelihood Project, seven massage kits were presented to professional independent masseurs trained at the Association. Similarly, electric sewing machines were gifted to two female trainees to help them start independent livelihood initiatives from their homes.

On the fun side, the program included group songs presented by the vocational trainees trained by Mohd. Saad from Manzil Mystic who also accompanied the group on guitar.

Funds for the massage kits and sewing machines were raised by Udayveer Khurana, a Class XI student of Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. The gifts for fashion show contestants and the beauticians who stylishly groomed them came from Shahnaz Husain Academy.

Christmas Celebrations

The Youth Ministry of Prabhu Prakash Giri, Trilok Puri celebrated Christmas with the trainees on 23 December 2021 with a musical morning. Delhi Bible Fellowship - Central visited the Association on 23 December to celebrate Christmas with the students and trainees. The exuberant carols under the winter sun brought in joy and warmth of Christmas.

Martyrs’ Day

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi and all the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the country’s, independence, the Martyrs’ Day was commemorated at the ‘Shanti Niketan’ park of the Blind Relief Association on 30 January 2022. In paying homage, the vocational trainees joined by the members from C. L. Gupta Eye Institute undergoing Training of Trainers at the Association recited prayers of seven different faiths: Zoroastrian, Jain, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Christian, and Sikh.

The gathering observed a minute of silence timed at 5:17 PM when Mahatma was shot at 74 years ago.
Spring Bazaar

The ‘Blind School Diwali Mela’ has been a well-known and established event in the fraternity of Delhi shoppers. As a new initiative, this year, the Association organized a Spring Bazaar from 11-13 March 2022. In welcoming the pleasant weather and celebrating the spring season with a shopping and cultural event, the three-day bazaar was organized just the weekend before Holi.

In addition to showcasing the products made by the visually impaired trainees and workers of the Association such as colorful candles and diyas, scented candles, a range of paper products including bags, envelopes, papier-mache plates & cups and cloth products including sling bags, potli bags, pouches, purses, the Bazaar also had a range of stalls with vendors from across the country selling designer wear, jewelry, footwear, home decor, traditional crafts etc.

To spread awareness, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education set up a stall where the trainees shared many interesting facts about the lives of the visually impaired through games and activities. Professionally trained masseurs offered relaxing head, foot, neck, or shoulder massages at a nominal price to the visitors of the bazaar.

Open Mic evenings saw the students and trainees perform songs, dance, mimicry, and yoga. The female trainees also ramp walked on the evenings of the second and third day of the bazaar. Vivaan Creations, one of the stall holders sponsored the outfits for the female trainees’ Fashion Show on the second day.

SSB Wives Visit

A team from SSB Wives Welfare Association (Sandiksha) Sashastra Seema Bal visited the Blind Relief Association on 9 March 2022. The team comprised Smt. Jaswinder Bhumbla, Hon Secretary, Smt. Seema Singh, Hony Jt. Secretary, Smt. Monika Jaswal, Hony Treasurer, Smt. Richa Bhut, Smt. Rani Verma and Smt. Seema Gautam. After visiting the different units of the Association, the team also interacted with the trainees and distributed goodies.

Canes from Torchit

The team from Torchit along with the Blind People’s Association provided the visually impaired students and trainees of the Blind Relief Association with smart canes in a CSR distribution event supported by ONGC and held on 23 March 2022.

An assistive aid named “Saarthi” is an innovative product attached to the white cane by which the visually impaired user can sense obstacles through feedback in the form of a buzz sound and vibrating sensations.
FAREWELL

Five staff members of the Blind Relief Association retired from their services with the Association and one was transferred. Staff get-togethers were held to honour them for their dedication to the Association for many years.

1. Sri Gabbar Singh – Mechanic cum Fitter retired on 31 May 2021 after 43 years of service.
2. Sri Purna Chandra Dash - Retired as Office Assistant on 20 June 2021 after serving 17 years.
3. Sri Sunesh Kumar – Served as Sweeper and retired after 38 years on 30 June 2021.
4. Sri Sunesh Kumar Nagar - Crafts Teacher in the JPM Senior Secondary School retired on 30 November 2021 after a service of 26 years.
5. Sri Jagmohan Singh – Under Division Clerk of JPM School was bid farewell on 31 January 2022 on his repatriation to his home school.
6. Mr. C.B. Dubey - Retired on 31 March 2022 as the TGT Social Studies, JPM School after a service of 32 years.

The Association would like to thank the staff for their sincerity and significant years of contribution.

Obituary

Sri Banwari Lal Bharadwaj, one of the founding members of Indian Blind Sports Association and a friend and member of the Blind Relief Association passed away on 29 April 2021 at the age of 82 years. Having recovered from COVID-19 he succumbed to a heart attack in Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital in New Delhi.

We will always miss a dear friend and an enthusiastic supporter of Blind Sports. His historic contribution to the promotion of blind sports can never be forgotten.
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.

**Government:**
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.
- New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
- National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun.
- National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC).
- Rajendra Prasad Eye Institute, All India Institute of Medical Sciences for referring visually impaired for skilling.

**Corporate Supporters:**
- SRF Foundation for the generous support of Rs. 4 Crores towards the New Building Project – Phase II.
- NDTV’s associate company NDTV Convergence Limited for supporting the New Building with Rs 31 lakhs.
- Hope Trust for donating Rs. 21.2 lakhs to the COVID-19 relief work undertaken by the Association.
- Mercer Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. for supporting the Multi-Skill Training programme.
- Rajasthani Antibiotics, Macmillan Publisher (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Subros Pvt. Ltd for their contribution to the construction of the New Building.
- SRF Investments & Financial Consultant and Ajitco, Trading & Finance Pvt. Ltd. for supporting Diploma in Computer Education course.

**Partners & Well-wishers:**
- 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.
- Pladis Global for assistance in baking course for the Multi-Skill trainees.
- Japanese language volunteer teachers Mrs. Naomi Furampu, Ms. Himani, Ms. Anupreet Kaur, Mr. Yogesh Dayal (based in the USA), and Mr. Kazuma Oura (student in the British School) for continuing classes online during the lockdown.
- SRF Foundation for supporting English proficiency classes for JPM school students.
- P. Arora & Associates, an architectural firm for taking up the completion of Phase II of the Association’s new building.

**NGO Supporters & Partners:**
- YouthMills Foundation for their support in skilling the visually impaired youth.
- Project Prakash for their financial support in training the visually impaired.
- Military Order of the Collar Charitable Foundation, Switzerland for the sustained support to the Association’s varied activities, namely Special Care Unit, Braiilo 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.

**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.
COVID Helpline

- Narmada Foundation for donating 600 ration kits
- Yogoda Satsanga Society of India for donating 30 ration kits and medicines and Mr Dushyant Meher for coordinating it.
- Saksham Seva (समदृष्ट क्षमता विकास एिं अन ुसन्ान मण्डल) and Family of Disabled for providing logistic support within Delhi & NCR.
- Love Care Share Foundation, Prerana Trust, National Association for the Blind, Mumbai, etc. and individual donors for partnering in delivering ration/medicines outside Delhi NCR.
- Ms Ahaana Bharat Ram and the team at Spot On & OFF for donating 500 sanitary kits. The kits contain four reusable sanitary napkins and a Braille information booklet prepared by the Spot On & Off team and printed at the Blind Relief Association.
- All the eminent speakers & panellists of the COVID webinars organized by the Helpline.

Donors

- Times Eye Research Foundation for donating 4 ORBIT refreshable Braille devices for the use of JPM School Students.
- IAS Officers Wives Association for presenting a donation cheque of Rs. One lakh to the Association.
- Punjab National Bank for supporting the Blind Relief Association with a grant of Rs. One lakh.
- Smt Manohari Lehri (Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture) for the thoughtful gift of eight smart canes, kits of face masks, and 50 T-shirts for the students/trainees of the Association given on the happy occasion of the 75th birthday of Hon’ble Prime Minister Sri. Narendra Modi.
- USAID Limited for donating their office furniture and office vehicle to the Association.
- SRF Limited and Microsoft India for donating their office furniture.
- Lions Clubs India - Delhi Capital for donation of shoes, blazers, and bathing soaps to the Blind Relief Association.

- The Association is sincerely thankful to all the donors who stood by through this challenging year and helped the Association continue its services to the visually impaired without disruption. The Association is grateful for every good thing and appreciates the love and support it has received from its well-wishers.

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 canes and paper products, cloth bags and other items made by the visually challenged, in sharing their knowledge and expertise through online mentorship sessions and webinars 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.

Last but not the least, the Association wishes to record its deep sense of appreciation to all the employees who managed to strive despite the virtual switches and carried out their duties with commendable commitment.

When situations turn to be demanding, unforeseen growth is displayed and that is what this year was about. As the world is healing, we look forward to a better year, bigger progress and a healthier inclusive environment for persons with disabilities.

The Association is sincerely thankful to all the donors who stood by through this challenging year and helped the Association continue its services to the visually impaired without disruption. The Association is grateful for every good thing and appreciates the love and support it has received from its well-wishers.
Independent Auditor’s Report

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Blind Relief Association, Delhi which comprise the Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2022, Income and Expenditure statements and the Receipt & Payment Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Management of the Association. Our responsibility in conducting the audit was to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). The standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a basis for you to form a judgement about the financial statements.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements of the Association, have been prepared in accordance with the applicable laws, in genuine as required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India.

(a) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Association as at 31st March, 2022;
(b) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date; and
(c) in the case of the Receipt and Payment Account, of the Receipts & Payments for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Constitution of India and the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, and we believe that we are so independent as to maintain our objects of carrying out the audit without let or hindrance. As a result of our audit, we have not obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to the following matters:

(a) Note 4 of Schedule 2 of the Financial Statements regarding the short-term deposits in the Bank accounts of government viability at 1.50,65,363. Our opinion has not been modified in respect of the above matter

(b) Note No 1 of the Schedule 30 regarding the short-term investment, with a value of 452.34 Lakhs, held as an investment to the blind to generate income for the welfare of the Association. The management of the Association has stated that these investments are made for welfare purposes by considering the actual rental income for the FY 2022-23 and the same is being foreseen the NABARD for withdrawal settlement.

Our opinion is expressed with reference to the above matters.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management of the Association is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the Accounting Standards and, on such internal control as management determines, necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account, in respect of the entity, events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on its ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account, in respect of the entity, events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on its ability to continue as a going concern. Management is also responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary for the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity’s financial reporting process.

Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our report thereon in accordance with the ISAs. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation and the manner in which the financial statements fairly present the financial position as at 31st March 2022, and the results and cash flows for the year then ended. This is our responsibility in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in India.
Individuality in the approach, test results that are necessary being expected to influence the overall conclusions that are drawn, based on all the available evidence. The audit is performed in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing and maintains professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures in response to those risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may remain undetected. 
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the matters related to the financial statements or in our report, but the report does not express an opinion or a conclusion on the financial statements. 
- Evaluate the conclusions drawn from and the context of the financial statements, including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that allows fair presentation. 

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the internal control and timing of the audit and significant audit findings. Including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all understandings of the nature and extent of our audit work, thought to be on our independence, and review applicable ethical safeguards.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Arun Bharat Ram  Chairman & Life Trustee
Ranjit Puri  Life Trustee
Lalit Niula  Life Trustee
Benu Nath  Life Trustee
Radhika Bharat Ram  Life Trustee
S.K. Misra  Elected Trustee
Sanjeev Anand  Elected Trustee

MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

NAME  DESIGNATION  OCCUPATION
Arun Bharat Ram  President  Industrialist & Philanthropist
Ranjit Puri  Vice President  Company Chairman
Lalit Niula  Vice President  Social Worker
Benu Nath  Hony. General Secretary  Social Worker
Arun Bharat Ram  Hony. Treasurer  Social Worker
Radhika Bharat Ram  Hony. Joint Secretary  Vice Chairperson, The Shri Shri Ram Schools
Kalash Chandra Panda  Hony. Executive Secretary  Social Worker
Sanjeev Anand  Member  Social Entrepreneur
Ardi Khilri  Member  Dental Surgeon
Sushil Ramola  Member  Social Entrepreneur
Chander Prakash  Member  Addl. Member/Project (Rtd.), Railway Board
Rutu Bahl  Member  Chartered Accountant
Ajay Kumar Dixit  Member  Service
Mahender Kumar Saxi  Member  Chartered Accountant, Ex-Consultant - World Bank, Africa
Amir Kanim  Member  Retired
Alok Vishlok Thaker  Member  Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

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Radhika Bharat Ram  Hony. Joint Secretary  Vice Chairperson, The Shri Shri Ram Schools
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Sanjeev Anand  Member  Social Entrepreneur
Ardi Khilri  Member  Dental Surgeon
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Amir Kanim  Member  Retired
Alok Vishlok Thaker  Member  Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

TIMELINE

2019  Platinum Jubilee  Computer Training & Office Operations Course
2016  Khushi Ek Ehsaas musical presentation by the children of J.P.M. School
2014  Best Institution National Award 2013
2008  Gold Centre Training
2006  Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment)
1996  Computer Training
1994  Computerised Braille Printing
1988  Unit for Children with Multiple Disabilities; Establishment of Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA)
1982  Studio for recording books for the blind; First National Sports Meet for the Blind
1967  Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment)
1955  Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment)
1946  Foundation stone of the Association’s buildings laid by Dr. Helen Keller
The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
(Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1960)
Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Near Hotel Oberoi, New Delhi 110003.
Phone: 91 11 24361376/24360480/24364730
Email: info@blindrelief.org, Website: blindrelief.org

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