



## May & June 2024

### JPM SCHOOL MUSIC COMPETITION



An intraschool music competition was conducted by the JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind on 1 May at the Gandhi Hall .

With the participation of over 16 children in three different categories - solo, instrumental, and duet, it was a fun and lively day with impressive performances.

The winners under each category are

**Solo Song (Junior):** I - Aarij Ali Sahaid, II - Nishant Sharma, III - Zoravar

**Solo Song (Senior):** I - Krish Saini, II - Kanhaiya Lal Kumawat, III - Vansh

**Instrumental:** I - Shivam Arora, II - Aayush Jaina,

**Duet Song:** I - Ayush Jaina & Rehan, II - Aashu & Krish Saini

### TACTILE OLYMPIAD

JPM School students of Class V - VIII participated in the 'Ankuran' - an interschool tactile olympiad organized by Raised Lines Foundation on 4 May.

Raised Lines Foundation distributes tactile books and other accessible resources to visually impaired students.

The olympiad was a one-hour test where students had to answer multiple-choice questions curated from the tactile books prepared by the Foundation.



## VISIT FROM OPTUM'S TEAM



The Association hosted a wonderful team of volunteers from Optum India on 9 May 2024. The members enthusiastically participated in various activities, including library cataloging, e-book preparation, proofreading, candle making, sewing, and paper bag making.

Mr. Surinder Singh, Vice President - Operations led an engaging interactive session with trainees currently undergoing computer training.

The Association expresses sincere gratitude to Optum India for its constant support across various projects over the past two years.

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Japanese Language Classes at the Blind Relief Association appear to be growing in vibrancy and variety with each passing Sunday. On 12 May, the Group Sawaru Nihongo, as they are called, welcomed Prof. Eri Ikeda from IIT Delhi for a special lecture on economics.

This is what some of the students had to say about the lecture:

"Prof. Ikeda taught us a lot about the economy. It's essential for us citizens of a big economy to understand these things. I really enjoyed learning about inflation and deflation. Thanks to Professor Eri for the great lecture! - Sushil Sahrawat

"The lecture by Prof. Eri Ikeda was very fascinating and informative. It also brought memories of studying economics during my 11th and 12th standard schooling, a subject which I greatly enjoyed." - Anjali Rawat.

The class is a dynamic place where they don't just learn the Japanese Language but get to experience so much more. On 2 June, there was an origami session with the Japanese volunteers. The students enjoyed the process and were proud of their creations!



## SESSION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY



The vocational trainees of the Association attended a session on Banking & Financial Schemes led by Dheeraj Balyan, an alumnus of JPM Senior Secondary School.

Dheeraj is a law graduate presently working as Deputy Manager in SBI's branch at Baghra in Muzaffarnagar.

In the session held at noon on 11 May, Dheeraj gave a foresight into many areas of finance and investment, explaining them in simple terms to the trainees. He explained loan schemes and their benefits, elaborated on

investment schemes, highlighting their pros and cons, and provided relevant information for individuals interested in entrepreneurship. He also shared his life experiences, struggles, and journey to becoming a bank employee.

## BOARD EXAM RESULTS

Results of the Class XII and Class X CBSE examinations were announced on 14 May. It was again a cent percent result at the JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind. There are a total of 44 and 21 subject distinctions in Class XII and X respectively. The school toppers are:

### **Class XII**

- I - Khoobchand Nanda
- II - Mohammed Asif
- III - Krishna Kumar Jha

### **Class X**

- I - Nihal Sharma
- II - Tarun Kumar
- III - Samir Kumar Dhanka

## WORKSHOP ON TEACHING LEARNING MATERIALS

The Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education took the initiative to promote awareness by hosting a workshop on 14 May focused on teaching learning materials for sensory development among the computer trainees of the Association. Mr. Virender Kumar, a faculty member, delivered an engaging session on TLM presentation, which the students found informative.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING SESSION

A Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Building Training Program was organized at the Blind Relief Association on 15 May 2024.

Conducted by Mr. Pranav Sethi, a Climate and Disaster Risk Mitigation Specialist from GeoHazards Society, the session spread awareness on dealing with different disaster situations like fire, earthquake, and flood; and taking appropriate precautionary measures to minimize loss of lives and properties.

Attended by trainers, office, and hostel staff, the session proved to be insightful and engaging.



A second session was held on 28 June '24 for the teachers and staff of The J.P.M. School for the Blind.

## VISIT FROM MERCER

A team of 20 members from Mercer Consulting Pvt. Ltd along with Mr. Prosanjit Mallick from the leadership team visited and volunteered with the Blind Relief Association on 17 May.

Mercer has extended its CSR support to the Association in the Multi-Skill Training and Relaxation Massage Training for the past couple of years.

The Association is truly thankful for Mercer's commitment and support.



## TOPPER GIFTED LAPTOP



Sanjay, the topper of the 9th batch (2023-24) of the Diploma in Computer Education & Assistive Technology was awarded a laptop on 29 May 2024.

The laptop is a gift by Smt. Prabhjot Menon in memory of her late mother Smt. Gurjit Mehta. Smt. Menon has taken it upon herself to award the topper of every batch with a laptop since the inception of the diploma program in 2014.

Since she could not be present physically for the felicitation, the laptop was handed over by Mr. K.C. Pande, Executive Secretary.

Sanjay now employed with Saksham as an Assistive Technology Trainer also had some words of wisdom and experience to share with his junior batch who were present at the felicitation.

## REMEMBERING THE FOUNDERS

In remembering and honoring the life of Mrs. Anusuyabai Basrurker, who along with her husband Mr. Basrurker founded the Blind Relief Association, a havan ceremony was held on 4 June, her 66th death anniversary.



## SEMINAR ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

As a significant step towards empowering visually impaired individuals through technology and education, a seminar on Assistive Technology for the Visually Challenged was organized by Anand Singh Smarak Khel Evam Sanskritk Samiti in collaboration with the Blind Relief Association, Delhi.

Held on 30th May, the Samiti's Annual Day, the day-long seminar divided into four sessions and addressed by experts explored and discussed the latest advancements in new assistive technologies; energy healing and stress relieving techniques; and changes in service rules for teachers & educators.



Chaired by Mr. K.C. Pande (Hony. Executive Secretary, The Blind Relief Association, Delhi), the distinguished guests were Ms. Pranjal Patil, IAS (First Female Visually Challenged IAS, Additional Director of Education) and Professor Sujata Tripathi from Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University.

Ms. Pranjal Patil before inaugurating the event was taken around the vocational training facilities in the BRA.

On this occasion Samiti also honored visually impaired boys and girls from Delhi for their outstanding performance in the Class XII CBSE Examination 2024, presenting them with cash awards.

Nearly 100 Samiti members, well-wishers, and supporters participated in the event.

## FAREWELL TO DURGABAI DESHMUKH TRAINEES



The Durgabai Deshmukh College hosted a heartfelt farewell party for its outgoing batch of trainees(session 2022-24) on 4 June.

Several trainees shared their poignant experiences and fond memories of their two-year journey at the college. They appreciated the institution's dedication to societal welfare, particularly its remarkable efforts in supporting individuals with visual impairments.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



On World Environment Day, the Association's trainees took a creative approach by personifying trees – Pilkhan, Kachnar, and Amaltas – and later proceeded to plant saplings of these very trees on the premises.

The trainees gave speeches sharing insights into the vital role of the environment and raising awareness of the current issues affecting it.

Mr. K.C. Pande, Executive Secretary recited the heartfelt poem "चिड़ियों को पता नहीं" by Bhagwat Rawat, which talks about the vanishing sparrows due to environmental degradation.

## VOLUNTEERING BY MASTERCARD EMPLOYEES



A team of Mastercard employees visited the Blind Relief Association on 14 June for a day of volunteering. Besides assisting at the vocational training center, the team also had a sensitization session in the morning conducted by Mr. David, Dy. Executive Secretary (Operations).

In an engaging noon session, the team conducted small-group sessions for the vocational trainees on financial literacy, followed by indoor board games for some enjoyable downtime.

## VISIT TO MICROSOFT OFFICE



The computer trainees of the Blind Relief Association had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Microsoft office in Gurgaon for a conference on 'How can AI help the disabled?'

Held on 10 June, the conference was graced by Prof. Lee Sang-mook, a Professor at Seoul National University, Korea who shared his inspiring story of how he has overcome his severe disability with the help of technology.

The trainees also enjoyed lunch and the gifts!

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The teacher trainees and vocational trainees of the Association participated in the 10th International Day of Yoga on June 21, organized by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities at Modern School, Barakhamba Road.

This celebration united over 750 participants, including 550 individuals with disabilities, staff, and students. The event was honored by the presence of distinguished dignitaries, including Shri B.L. Verma, Minister of State for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, and Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, as the Guest of Honour.

The faculty members and trainees felt privileged to be part of this enriching experience, celebrating the transformative power of yoga for individual and societal well-being.





## NEW BATCH OF KARM FELLOWS!



A new batch of KARM fellows began their journey with the Blind Relief Association on 22nd June.

The orientation began with a sensitization session that involved blindfolding the fellows and navigating the campus, exploring the vocational training center, and working alongside the trainees.

Welcome fellows, once again!

## FAREWELL TO PROF AZUMA

On 23 June, the Sawaru Nihongo group of the Blind Relief Association hosted a heartfelt farewell class to their esteemed Japanese volunteer teachers, Professor Yoshiro Azuma from IIT Delhi, and his wife, Ms. Sanae Azuma.

In sharing their gratitude, the students appreciated the dedication of Prof. Azuma & his wife in teaching about Japan and its rich culture. Their kindness and approachability were frequently mentioned. They also fondly recall the moments we shared, especially the haikus they composed together.

Students Vidyanand appreciated their friendliness, Ghanshyam enjoyed the lively and fun-filled classes, and Suman felt a familial bond with the Azumas, expressing deep gratitude for their warmth and support. Susheel remarked on the good fortune of meeting such wonderful educators.



## INCLUSIVE JOB FAIR

As part of their employment assistance programs, the Blind Relief Association collaborated with the Samarthanam Trust For The Disabled to organize an inclusive job fair for persons with disabilities on 26 June 2024 at the Association's campus.



The event saw an impressive turnout of over 500 job aspirants from Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. A total of 23 employers came forward to offer various job roles, resulting in 147 candidates being shortlisted and selected for positions in diverse fields such as IT, retail, BPO, back office, and warehousing.

Some of the renowned recruiters were Amazon, Indigo, IBM, LIC and Aadhaar Housing.

## HELEN KELLER DAY



On the occasion of Helen Keller Day - 27 June, the vocational & computer trainees had a wonderful time enjoying the movie 'Barfi', a heartwarming romantic comedy made accessible with audio descriptions. The film's humorous moments had the entire hall filled with laughter and joy.

Before the film screening, Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi, Head of Academia, Research & Planning narrated the inspiring life of Helen Keller to the trainees.

## VISIT BY JICA TEAM



Senior executives from JICA - Japan International Cooperative Agency, Mr. Wakamatsu (Director), Mr. Yazawa (Volunteer Coordinator), and Mr. Joyanto Rabha (National Staff) visited the Blind Relief Association on 28 June.

Besides observing the work of Mr. Hisashi Seki, a JOCV Massage Trainer, who trains the massage trainees in Shiatsu techniques, they observed various other activities and vocational training programs offered by the Association.

## FAREWELL TO COMPUTER TRAINEES

A joint farewell was given to the computer trainees of the Blind Relief Association on 29 June 2024.

The group comprised trainees from the one-year Diploma in Computer Education & Assistive Technology (V.I.), six-month Basic Computer & Office Operations, and two-month courses for working professionals.

Shri K C Pande, Executive Secretary gave away the certificates to the trainees. Also present at the occasion were Mr. C. P. Mohanan, Dy. Executive Secretary (Admin); Mr. David A, Dy. Executive Secretary (Operations), and Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi, Head of Academia, Planning & Research.



## Catch up on social media

