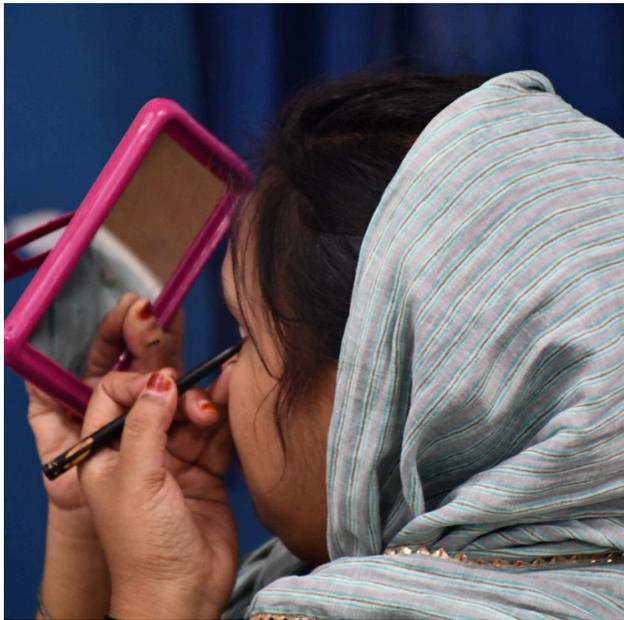




March & April 2025

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



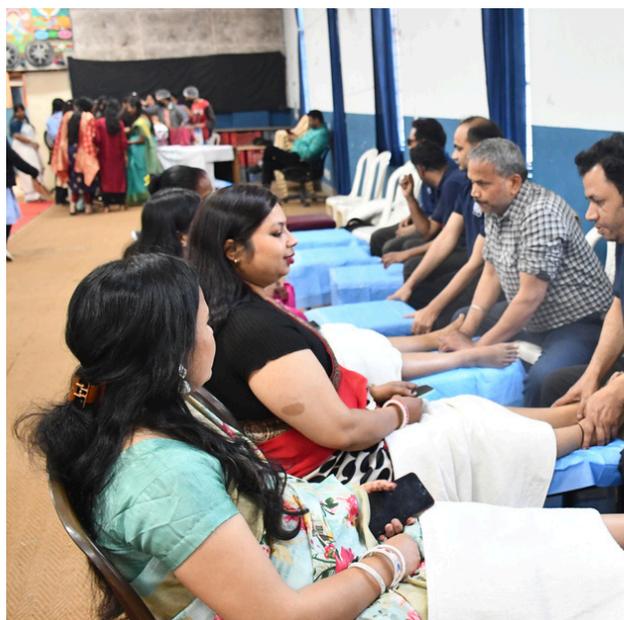
The Blind Relief Association celebrated Women's Day this year with great enthusiasm and a vibrant spirit of togetherness.

The day began with trainees, volunteers, and staff gathering at the Association's Centenary Gandhi Hall. Ms. Sangeeta, Assistant Instructor (Sewing), warmly welcomed everyone and hosted the event. Ms. Tanu added a festive touch by greeting the women with a traditional tikka and extending heartfelt wishes before kicking off the day's celebrations.

The morning began with a joyful beauty and makeup session. At each table, volunteers assisted 3-4 trainees with their makeup, creating an atmosphere of laughter and bonding. Words of encouragement and inspiration followed, delivered by Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande (Executive Secretary), Ms. Benu Nath (General Secretary), and Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram (Joint Secretary), who all praised the spirit and strength of the women present.

A special highlight of the day was the visit of Ms. Shahnaz Husain, Chairperson and Managing Director of the Shahnaz Husain Beauty Academy. She joined the celebrations, cut a cake with the trainees, and took time to personally interact with them — an experience that left everyone feeling truly valued.

As a token of appreciation, all the women were treated to relaxing foot massages by trained masseurs from the Association's Relaxation Massage Training program, and to a delicious round of gulgappas. The celebrations concluded on a high note with lively music and dancing, as everyone came together to enjoy some favourite tunes.



VISIT BY FRIENDS FROM MOC, LONDON



Two friends from London, Dr. Jose Martines and Mr. Stephen Monte from the Military Order of the Collar Foundation, London visited the Blind Relief Association on 18th March 2025.

Accompanied by Ms. Katrin Glaubitt, the trio toured various units, including the school, college library, computer training center, and vocational training center. They were greeted and accompanied by Mr. K.C. Pande, Executive Secretary; Mr. Mohanan, Deputy Executive Secretary (Admin); and Mr. David, Deputy Executive Secretary (Operations).

During their visit, they spent time in the JPM Senior Secondary School's Special Care Unit, which the Military Order of the Collar has supported for many years. The trio met with Mr. Kuriyan, School Principal, and Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi, Head of Academia, Planning, and Research.

They took the time to understand and learn about the new Braille assistive devices used by students, music classes, the new science and math lab, and other recent updates. The visitors were delighted to learn about the recent developments since their last visit.

WORKSHOP ON SCREEN READING SOFTWARE

On 12th and 13th March 2025, the IT Department of The Blind Relief Association successfully conducted a two-day training session on "NVDA - Open Source Screen Reader".

The session was conducted by Mr. Subhas Kumar, an expert in Assistive Technology. He provided detailed guidance on the effective use of NVDA, covering important features and practical tips to enhance computer accessibility for visually impaired users.



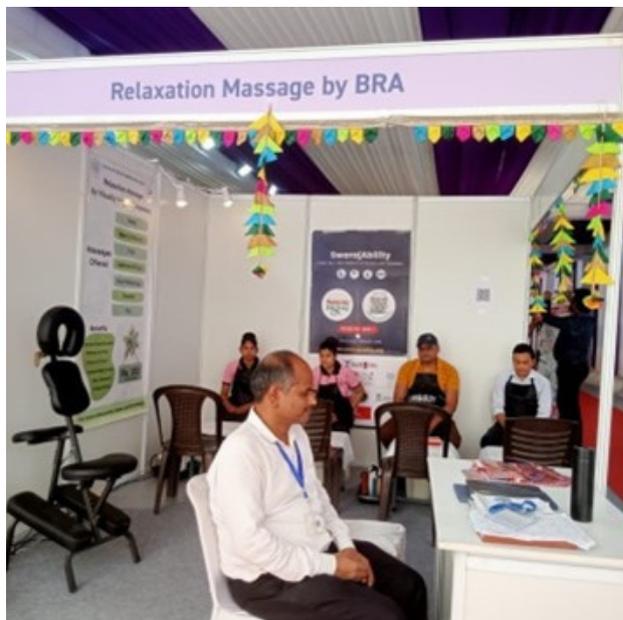
Participants from various courses, including Diploma in Computer Education, 6-Month Basic Computer Applications and Office Operations, and 4-Month Basic Computer Course, actively took part in the training.

The training was well-received by all attendees and enhanced their digital accessibility.

PURPLE FEST

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi proudly participated in Purple Fest 2025, held on 21st March at Rashtrapati Bhavan, organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The event was graced by President Droupadi Murmu and featured inclusive activities celebrating the talents and rights of persons with disabilities.

The Association set up a massage stall, café, and supported inclusive sports events. Seven skilled visually impaired masseurs conducted over 50 massages, earning praise for their professionalism and effectiveness. The Café, run by trainees and staff, offered fresh snacks and a warm, inclusive space for visitors.





Visitors also engaged in sports activities like 5-a-side football and blindfolded cricket, coordinated by the Indian Blind Sports Association, promoting awareness and inclusion through experience.

The Association's contributions were well-received, highlighting the capabilities of persons with visual impairments and reinforcing the Association's commitment to empowerment through participation.

VISITORS FROM GERMANY

On 22nd March, a group of 2 faculty members and 12 students pursuing Master's in International Social Work from the University of Applied Sciences, Germany Fachhochschule Erfurt visited the Blind Relief Association as part of an academic exchange program with the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia.

At Jamia's request, the Association sensitized the German students to the experiences of the visually impaired. Mr. K.C. Pande and Mr. David Absalom gave the visitors a warm welcome and helped them experience firsthand the challenges faced by visually impaired persons. The students actively participated in activities such as using a sewing machine and navigating stairs blindfolded.



JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES



23rd March 2025 was a wonderful day for the Sawaru Nihongo Japanese Language Group students, who had the pleasure of welcoming back former teacher Yuga Uehara Sensei and dear friend Professor. Yoshiro Azuma Sensei.

They were also joined by Ms. Apoova Agrahari, a renowned expert in Japanese language and cross-cultural communication.

DAISY & E-PUB WORKSHOP

On 24th and 25th March 2025, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, in collaboration with Saksham Trust, conducted a two-day DAISY & EPUB Workshop: Creating Accessible Digital Content for students of the Association's Diploma in Computer Education programme.

Led by Ms. Sangeeta Kanu and Mr, Harinder from NAB, the sessions introduced participants to the DAISY and EPUB formats—essential tools for making digital reading materials accessible to persons with visual and print disabilities. The training was designed to equip students with practical technical skills and a deeper understanding of inclusive content creation.

A total of 21 students with visual impairments took part in the workshop, engaging in hands-on learning focused on Accessible Word and EPUB creation.

Key areas of training included:

- Converting Word documents to EPUB format
- Organizing documents using proper heading structures
- Incorporating tables, lists, images, and page numbers effectively
- Exporting and validating content in accessible formats



The highlight of the workshop was a practical test, where participants successfully demonstrated their learning by completing a 10-page EPUB creation assignment.

CSR VOLUNTEERING DAY

On 29th March, the Blind Relief Association warmly welcomed volunteers from All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Taj SATS. The visit began with a guided tour of the Association's various units — including the BRA Café, Vocational Training Centre, JPM Senior Secondary School, and Durgabai Deshmukh College and its libraries — giving the visitors a first-hand view of the Association's work and impact.



The volunteers actively participated in vocational workshops, working alongside trainees in various skill areas. Their enthusiasm and willingness to engage added great energy to the sessions, creating a meaningful experience for all involved.

A special interaction was also arranged between the Japanese staff from ANA and the students enrolled in the Association's Japanese language course. The visitors were highly impressed by the students' language skills and their eagerness to learn, and shared their appreciation and best wishes with the group.

Later in the day, the volunteers spent time with the vocational trainees in an open interaction session filled with conversation, learning, and warmth. As a generous gesture, both All Nippon Airways and Taj SATS made donations to the Association, for which the Association expressed sincere gratitude.

WORKSHOP ON ASSISTIVE DEVICES & DIGITAL SKILLS

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi successfully conducted a two-day Workshop on Assistive Technologies and Digital Skills for visually impaired participants on 28th–29th March 2025. Held at the Association's Resource Room, the workshop aimed to build awareness of modern assistive tools and introduce participants to emerging opportunities in the digital space.

Led by Aaryan Kumar Andarpa, a dedicated software developer and accessibility advocate, the sessions offered participants hands-on experience with assistive devices

that support learning, employment, and daily living. Aaryan is the creator of Tech-Freedom, an accessibility-focused app with over 45,000 downloads, and has developed inclusive solutions across Android, Windows, and web platforms.

On the second day, the focus shifted to digital tools and inclusive career paths, with Aaryan introducing programming as a viable option for the visually impaired and sparking engaging discussions on digital independence and opportunity.



SAARTHI SMART CANES DISTRIBUTION

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, in partnership with Hyundai India Insurance Broking and Torchit Electronics Pvt. Ltd., successfully hosted a transformative event that positively impacted the lives of visually impaired persons.

Held on 3rd April 2025 at the Association's Gandhi Hall, the event featured the distribution of the Saarthi Smart Cane, an assistive device designed to enhance mobility and independence.

Shri. S. Govindaraj, Commissioner, Office of the Chief Commissioner for PWD, DEPwD, MSJE (Govt. of India) and Shri. Praveen Prakash Ambashta, Dy. Chief Commissioner for PwD & Chief Vigilance Officer (PT), CCPD, Government of India Former faculty member graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively, along with esteemed representatives from Hyundai India Insurance Broking, Torchit Electronics Pvt. Ltd., and the Blind Relief Association.

Thanks to Insurance Broking and Torchit Electronics Pvt. Ltd for the donation of 275 canes for our school students and trainees.



FAREWELL TO CLASS XII STUDENTS



On 2nd April 2025, the farewell ceremony for the outgoing Class XII students at JPM Senior Secondary School was a memorable and heartfelt event.

The program began with an inspiring speech by the Principal, who encouraged students to dream big and work hard. As a gesture of appreciation, each student was presented with a red rose and a folding cane. Mr. K.C. Pande added to the celebration by distributing congratulatory letters, wishing the students success in their future endeavours.

Several students also took the stage to share their experiences and cherished memories from their time at the school. The event concluded on a cheerful note, with everyone enjoying snacks like pakodas and chips, and sharing laughter and goodbyes.

BRAILLE COMPETITION RESULTS

On 8th April 2025, during the morning assembly at JPM School, the Association presented cash awards to the winners of the Braille Reading and Writing Competitions held in March and April 2025. Prizes for first, second, and third place were awarded to students from Classes III to VIII. These awards were generously sponsored by Dr. Avnish Chopra, a resident of Delhi.



AWARENESS SESSION ON TB



An informative awareness session on Tuberculosis was conducted at the Blind Relief Association's Gandhi Hall on 22nd April by the Delhi Tuberculosis Association.

The session was led by Mr. P.S. Kumar, Administrative Officer of DTO, who spoke about the causes, risk factors, and preventive measures of TB. Students and staff from JPM School along with vocational trainees and faculty actively participated in the session, which began around 9:30 AM.

UNMESH 2.0

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi hosted the second edition of उन्मेष (Unmesh) on Wednesday, 23rd April, at 2:00 p.m. in Gandhi Hall.

The program commenced with a remarkable sitar recital by Shri Fateh Ali Khan, son of Ustad Sabir Khan of the renowned Muradabad Gharana, accompanied by the masterful tabla rhythms of Shri Zakir Husain Khan Warsi. The duo enchanted everyone with their soulful rendition of Raag Bhimpalasi, showcasing the depth and beauty of classical Indian music. Following this, the young talents of JPM School took center stage. Class 5 students mesmerized the audience with a vibrant group dance. Their energy and grace brought a delightful charm to the event.



The celebration concluded with a heartfelt presentation by the outgoing Class XII students (Batch 2024-25) of JPM School. Their performances showcased their talent and passion as they skillfully played the harmonium and guitar, leaving the audience captivated.

उन्मेष was a true demonstration to the spirit of artistic expression and collaboration, making it a cherished memory for all present.



NEW E-BOOKS

Continuing its commitment to making books accessible for persons with visual impairments, the Blind Relief Association's #LetsERead series features e-text titles accompanied by brief introductions, available on platforms like Bookshare and Sugamya Pustakalaya.

We're excited to share the next two titles in the series!



Bhartiya Sangeet by Girish Chandra Upreti

A rich exploration of Indian classical music, this book delves into its traditions and development—highlighting how this timeless art form continues to evolve with changing contexts.

The Dalai Lama's Cat by David Michie

Told from the perspective of a rescued Himalayan kitten, this charming novel brings together humor, philosophy, and spiritual insight in a gentle tale set in the peaceful world of the Dalai Lama.

Catch up on social media



Copyright © 2025 The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
All rights reserved