



Newsletter

MAY - JUNE 2025

VOLUNTEERING BY MERCER



On 2nd May, a team of senior leaders from Mercer Consulting visited the Blind Relief Association, bringing their spirit of service and commitment to making a difference. Continuing their initiative of active engagement, 19 volunteers from Mercer, Noida, participated in various volunteering activities on 19th May.

As part of their volunteering efforts, they participated in the Association's Multi-Skill Units, engaging in sewing, bookbinding, and candle-making activities.

The Blind Relief Association deeply appreciates Mercer's dedication to this cause, as their consistent engagement will contribute to the growth and sustainability of these vital skill-building programs.

CBSE RESULTS

The Association is proud to announce that JPM students of Class XII & Class X have aced their exams with outstanding results, achieving a centum result! The toppers are

Class XII

1. Prashant Chaudhary (89.9%)
2. Amaan (87.4%)
3. Krish Saini (87.2%)

Class X

1. Nikesh Sharma (81.8%)
2. Kunal Kumar (73.4%)
3. Sumit Kumar Jha (73%)

Kudos to the hard work of all the students and teachers!



AI WORKSHOP

On May 16th, the Association hosted an Orientation Session on Artificial Intelligence (AI), where trainees and staff came together to explore the impact of AI on accessibility and inclusivity. Conducted by members of Compton Computers, Mr. Sandeep Vahi, Mr. Jitesh Kumar, Mr. Govind Sharma, and Mr. Yash Vahi—the session highlighted AI's growing role in shaping the future and empowering individuals with special needs, covering its fundamentals, real-world applications, and how it enhances accessibility, learning, and independence for people with disabilities.



MESSAGE THERAPISTS GREETED BY MS. SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Ten newly graduated masseurs from the Relaxation Massage Training Program at the Blind Relief Association visited the residence of Ms. Shahnaz Husain, Founder and Managing Director of the Shahnaz Husain Group, on 20th May, accompanied by some staff members.

Ms. Husain personally presented the certificates to the graduates and extended her best wishes for their future, acknowledging their dedication and commitment to learning.



Ms. Shahnaz Husain has been associated with the Blind Relief Association since 2008, consistently supporting the Relaxation Massage Training Program.

VISIT BY ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

Ms. Shreya Singhal, IAS, Additional Director (Education), Inclusive Education Branch, Directorate of Education, Delhi visited the Blind Relief Association on 21st May with her team. Accompanied by Dr. CS Verma (DDE) and Ms. Stuti Gaur (Academic Coordinator) she toured the vocational training, computer training units, college library, and café.

She appreciated the training methods and facilities and expressed interest in starting similar vocational programs for senior students in Delhi government schools for disabled children. The Association looks forward to collaborating with the Directorate of Education to provide skill training for students with disabilities.



VOLUNTEERING BY MOVIN



A wonderful team from MOVIN India—a joint venture between UPS and InterGlobe Enterprises—visited the Blind Relief Association on 23rd May and volunteered across various units of our Vocational Training Centre.

Their active participation and warm engagement with our trainees in areas like candle making, sewing, and paper crafts are appreciated!

FAREWELL PARTY TO B.ED TRAINEES



The Association's Gandhi Hall was filled with warmth and emotion as the B.Ed trainees (Batch 2023–25) of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education were given a heartfelt farewell.

Held on 26th May, the afternoon was marked by shared memories, heartfelt speeches, and moments of both laughter and tears, as everyone reflected on the journey so far. As the ceremony concluded, the trainees bid farewell, leaving with cherished memories and lasting bonds.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DANCE SESSION



The MoveVent Project brought students, staff, volunteers, and community members together at Gandhi Hall on 27th May for an inclusive community dance session.

Facilitated by Shubham Srivastav—a trained Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) practitioner from TISS and founder of The MoveVent Project—the session invited everyone to move freely and meaningfully.

No choreography, no rules—just movement as a way to express, connect, and have fun.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) team visited the Blind Relief Association on 28th May as part of the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Resilient Infrastructure for Inclusive Development.

During the visit, the team observed a mock drill, showcasing emergency preparedness measures and response protocols. This was followed by a tour of various units at the Association to gain insights into disaster management strategies.

A key session on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Preparedness was conducted by Mr. Pranav Sethi, Climate and Disaster Risk Mitigation Specialist at GeoHazards Society, where participants explored essential aspects of DRR and inclusive approaches to resilience-building.

Additionally, an experience-sharing session was led by Mr. Absalom David, Executive Secretary, who provided valuable perspectives on real-world disaster preparedness and response.



DIY CRAFT WORKSHOP

The Blind Relief Association recently hosted a DIY Craft Workshop on the 31st of May, conducted by Ms. Shalini Mittal, Owner & Creative Head of Crafters Corner, along with her team. The session provided valuable insights into the process of making DIY craft materials.

During the workshop, participants learned the art of creating beautiful keychains and explored different types of beads, gaining an understanding of their textures, colors, and applications in crafting. The session was highly interactive, offering attendees an opportunity to engage in hands-on learning and develop their creative skills.

Instructors, school teachers, and volunteers actively participated, making the experience even more enriching and collaborative.



WORKSHOP ON AI AND BRAILLE TECHNOLOGY

Anand Singh Samarak & Sanskriti Samiti, in collaboration with the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, organized a workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Braille Technology for the Visually Impaired on 30th May.

The workshop featured insightful sessions on the role and relevance of Artificial Intelligence tools in the context of visual impairment, Japanese Braille, and the significance of digital Braille and related assistive devices.

The sessions were conducted by Mr. Akhilesh Dahiya, Legal Manager at Bank of India; Mr. Sumit Mahto, Computer Trainer at the Blind Relief Association, Delhi; Ms. Chanchal Gupta, Assistant Professor at DDCSE (V.I); Dr. Deepak Gupta, Assistant Professor at Motilal Nehru College; and Mr. Rajpal, Supervisor at the Blind Relief Association, Delhi.

The event facilitated meaningful discussions and fostered collaboration among educators, researchers, and accessibility advocates, paving the way for future innovations in assistive technology.



YOGA SESSION

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, in collaboration with Navyoga Suryodaya Seva Samiti, hosted a vibrant yoga session as part of the YogaSamavesh initiative, with the support of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.

Held on 3rd June, the event brought together visually impaired trainees of the Association in an atmosphere of inclusivity and holistic well-being. From guided yoga practices by Yogacharya Navdeep Joshi to interactive demonstrations, attendees experienced the many ways yoga can transform both mind and body.



REMEMBERING THE FOUNDERS

On her 67th death anniversary, we remembered Mrs. Anusuyabai Basrurker — a medical practitioner but, above all, a deeply compassionate human being. Moved by the suffering of a visually impaired man who came to her door, she went on to co-found the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, with her husband Mr. Umesh A. Basrurker, in 1944.

Her concern for the underserved led her to start night schools for domestic workers and tailoring centres in slum areas. Even in fragile health, she continued to serve — as a medical practitioner and otherwise — with quiet determination and care.



In honour and memory of a life truly lived in the service of others, a havan was organized on 4th June at the Association's premises.

PRODUCT INNOVATION SESSIONS

Insightful discussions took place at the Association on 6th, 14th & 21st June, bringing together vocational unit instructors with Ms. Sandhya Raman, Founder Director at Desmania Design Pvt. Ltd. The session focused on exploring ways to scale up the production of candles, paper products, and cloth-based items.

Ms. Raman shared her expertise and innovative ideas, inspiring the team with fresh perspectives on enhancing existing products and introducing new ones. The discussion was highly interactive, with participants exchanging thoughts on improving quality and optimizing production processes.



YOGA EVENT AT VENU EYE INSTITUTE

On June 15th, the Venu Eye Institute hosted a yoga event, bringing together individuals committed to holistic health and well-being. The Blind Relief Association actively participated, with trainees from the Association showcasing their dedication and skill in yoga practices.

The event was enriched by valuable insights from the Executive Secretary of the Blind Relief Association and the esteemed staff of Venu Eye Institute, who shared their perspectives on the transformative power of yoga.



In recognition of their dedication, participating trainees received certificates, celebrating their commitment to embracing the benefits of yoga. Additionally, individuals who successfully completed their naturopathy training at Venu Eye Institute were also honored with certificates, marking their achievement in holistic healing practices.

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi marked International Yoga Day with an energizing morning of yoga demonstrations on 21st June in collaboration with Navyoga Suryodaya Seva Samiti.

The event, held on the Association's lawns at 6:30 AM, began with a warm welcome by Shri Kamalbir Singh, followed by a guided yoga demonstration led by Ms. Bhagyashree and Mr. Ramesh Chauhan, expert instructors from Navyoga. Participants including trainees and staff actively took part in a session of yoga asanas and breathing practices. Shri K.C. Pande delivered the closing remarks, underlining the importance of making yoga a daily habit for holistic well-being.

We were honored by the contribution of members from the Ministry of Ayush and Navyoga Suryodaya Seva Samiti, who lent their support and encouragement to the initiative.



HELEN KELLER DAY

On 27th June 2025, the Blind Relief Association celebrated the remarkable spirit of Helen Keller with a vibrant program that reflected her legacy of resilience and hope. The event began with a warm welcome. Trainees set the tone with a beautiful Saraswati Vandana, followed by a fun, interactive Helen Keller-themed quiz.

Mr. Kamalbir Jaggi delivered an inspiring address, reminding us all of the power of perseverance. The screening of Sitare Zameen Par added emotional depth, emphasizing the importance of empathy, understanding, and inclusive education. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks and a shared reminder that Helen Keller's message, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement," lives on in every effort we make towards inclusion.



KARM FELLOWS - ORIENTATION SESSION

On 28th June, the Blind Relief Association had the pleasure of hosting 56 vibrant fellows from the KARM Fellowship for an orientation session marking the start of their internship period.



The visit featured immersive activities, including the blindfold challenge and candle-making, as well as meaningful discussions on operations and inclusion.

The fellows also had the opportunity to interact with Mr. David, Executive Secretary of the Association, gaining valuable insights into the organization's mission and work. The Association extends its heartfelt thanks to the KARM team for their energy and enthusiasm.

WORKSHOP FOR JPM TEACHERS

The Blind Relief Association organized a special workshop for the teachers of JPM School, with Ms. Lata Shastry, Special Education Needs Department (SEND) Coordinator – Senior School at The Shri Ram School, Aravali (TSRS), joining as the guest speaker.

Ms. Lata shared key insights into TSRS's inclusive education model under the ICSE and NIOS curricula, explaining how the programme spans junior, middle, and senior school. Ms. Lata highlighted the evolving role of the SEND team in supporting diverse learners through individualized plans, regular academic and therapy reviews, adapted assessments, and a strong focus on skill development and mental well-being. She emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration with parents, educators, counselors, and professionals to ensure holistic support for every learner.



A particularly enriching part of the workshop was the exchange between Ms. Lata and JPM School teachers on teaching strategies for students with visual impairments. The discussion brought forward thoughtful practices on how to engage students effectively in classrooms where all of them are visually impaired.

MEMORIAL GATHERING - SMT. SAROJ GURNANI

On Sunday, 29th June, the Gandhi Hall at the Blind Relief Association filled with quiet reflection, gentle smiles, and tearful memories as we came together to honour and celebrate the extraordinary life of Smt. Saroj Gurnani.

Smt. Gurnani wasn't just a volunteer—she was family. For almost four decades, she gave her time, her voice, and her heart to the students of JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind. Whether it was recording audiobooks late into the night or patiently guiding a student, her every act came from a place of love and deep care. To the children she mentored, she was a teacher, a cheerleader, and often, a mother figure.



Her passing on 9th June left a space that words can't quite fill. The memorial gathering brought together her family, colleagues, former students, and friends. Tributes flowed gently, from the voices of Dr. Dayal Singh Pawar, Mr. Harish Gulati, Ms. Anita Gurnani, Mr. K.C. Pande, Mr. C.P. Mohanan, Mr. David Absalom, and former students. Many more joined virtually to share how far her warmth and wisdom had reached. What stood out most was the deep affection everyone held for her and the way she made each person feel seen, heard, and valued.



Her audiobooks will continue to guide students through lessons, and her example will continue to inspire volunteers. We miss her deeply but hope to carry her forward—in our actions, in our service, and in the way we show up for one another.

WELL DONE, TRAINEES!

On 30th June, The Blind Relief Association celebrated the journey of 18 incredible trainees from Computer Training Center Department at the Association.

- 8 graduates from the 6-month Computer & Office Operations course
- 10 achievers from the 2-month Computer Training program.

All are now proudly certified with Basic IT skills through NIIT!



FAREWELL TO STAFF MEMBERS



Over the last two months, we've bid farewell to three beloved staff members who retired after decades of dedicated service. Shri Sarju Prasad, our cook, concluded his 48-year tenure on May 5th. Shri Iqbal, our driver, retired on May 31st after 39 years of service. Lastly, Shri Putti Lal, JPM School's Mali, completed his service on June 30th after an impressive 43 years. Each of them was given a warm farewell, honouring their invaluable contributions and expressing our heartfelt gratitude for their years of commitment to the Association.



Several members of the office staff shared kind words, sharing their deep appreciation for their dedication and the positive impact they had on the workplace.

As a token of gratitude, a memento was presented, along with a gift.

With warm smiles and heartfelt goodbyes, the staff wished them happiness and good health in their retirement.



Catch up on social media



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