

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



The Blind Relief Association Delhi





# CONTENT INDEX

04	The Genesis
06	The Journey
09	In Essence
12	Education & Training Programs
34	Accessible Resources Centre
35	Rehabilitation Services
36	Outreach & Sensitization
38	Residential Facility
39	Collaborations
40	Events
51	Beneficiaries
52	Staff Corner
54	Gratitude
56	Organizational Structure
58	A Message From Us

# The Genesis



Smt. Anusuyabai Basrurker, a medical practitioner, and her husband, Shri U.A. Basrurker, an engineer, were well known in the neighbourhood for their generosity and their burning desire to help the poor and marginalized.

In 1942, a blind man sought financial help from Smt. Basrurker, leaving a lasting impression on her. At the same time, her husband, Shri Basrurker, was reading Charles Dickens's *American Notes in Ferozepur Jail*, where he was imprisoned for his role in the freedom movement. The story of Laura Bridgeman, a deafblind student who overcame her disabilities with the help of Dr. Samuel Howe, inspired Shri Basrurker.

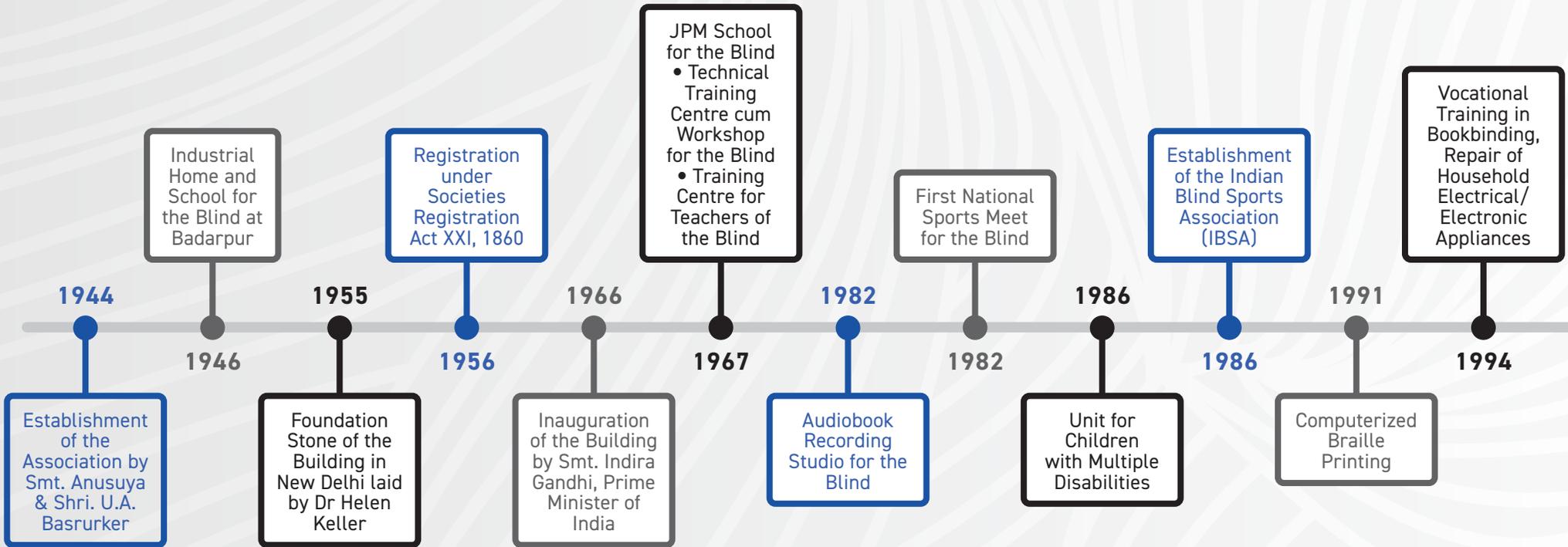
After his release from jail, the couple and like-minded friends discussed the plight of India's blind population and the need for systematic rehabilitation. They founded the Blind Relief Association on 26th February 1944, with the goal of providing complete rehabilitation—psychological, physical, and economic—to empower the blind and give them a sense of purpose.

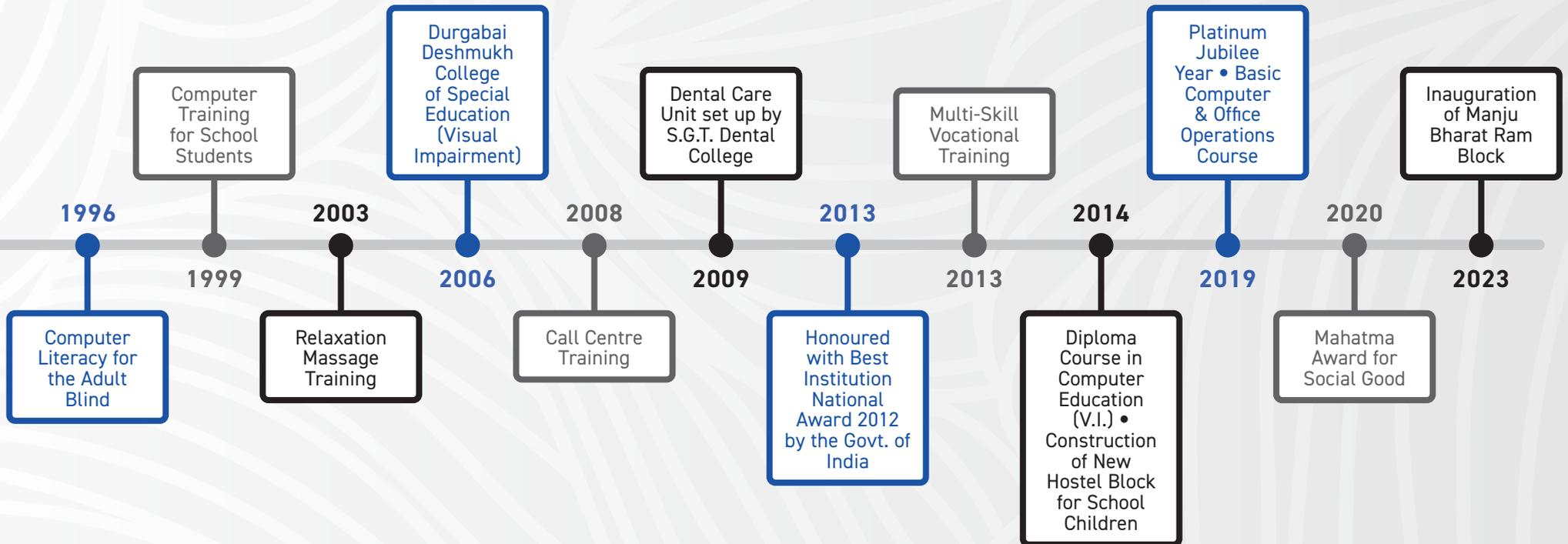
In 1946, a small Industrial Home and School for the Blind started with just two students—Daya Ram and Murli Dhar—in rented premises at Lal Kuan, Badarpur, before moving to its own sprawling present campus in the heart of New Delhi on (then) Link Road in 1966.





# The Journey







# In Essence

## ▶ WHAT ARE WE

The Blind Relief Association is a not-for-profit organization

- Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 (Organization promoting charitable work)
- Registered under Section 51 of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (Organization working for the welfare of persons with disabilities)
- Registered under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (Organization exempt from paying income tax)
- Registered under Section 80G of Income Tax Act (Legitimate institution whose donors can claim tax deductions for their contributions)
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976 (Approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs to receive contributions from abroad)
- Registered under Form CSR-1 with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Valid entity for undertaking CSR activities)
- Registered on Darpan Portal of Niti Aayog (Recognized and verified as a non-profit organization by Niti Aayog)

## ▶ WHAT WE BELIEVE

Persons with visual impairment and other disabilities are invaluable human assets. They deserve the right kind of recognition and equal opportunity in an inclusive environment.

## ▶ WHOM WE SERVE

We serve children and adults with visual impairment, some with additional disabilities as well. The adults range from school dropouts to postgraduates. Most of the school children and adults come from economically disadvantaged families in rural areas across northern states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

## ▶ VISION

To empower persons with visual Impairment through education and skill training

## ▶ INITIATIVES

- Education
- Skill Training
- Rehabilitation

## ▶ WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

When provided with quality education and a supportive environment, persons with disabilities, like anyone else, can thrive as they realize their full potential and contribute to the society as valuable, respected, and equal citizens. Empowering persons with visual impairment by offering such need-based services is at the heart of our mission and the reason we exist.

## ▶ VALUES

- Empowerment: Enable persons with visual disabilities to develop their latent talents and realize their fullest potential.
- Dignity: Recognize the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, not despite, but regardless of their disability.
- Inclusiveness: Sensitize the public to be inclusive and kind, where everybody is recognized and equally valued.
- Accessibility: Ensure equal access to spaces, resources and services for people with visual Impairment, on par with their sighted peers.

## ▶ PROGRAMS

1. Jormal Periwal Memorial (J.P.M.) Senior Secondary School for the Blind: A residential school from Class I – XII for boys
2. Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment): A teachers' training college offering B. Ed in Special Education focusing on visual impairment.
3. Computer Training: Offering short and long-term programs in computer education
4. Vocational Training:
  - Multi-Skill Training: One-year comprehensive program imparting multiple skills
  - Relaxation Massage Training: Six-month program preparing professional masseurs
5. Japanese Language Course: Teaching Japanese Language using Japanese Braille (Tenji) and preparing students for JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test)
6. Accessibility Resources Centre
  - Braille Transcription
  - Audiobooks Recording
  - E-books Production
7. Rehabilitation Services
  - Orientation and Mobility Training
  - Assistive Technology Training
  - Adaptive Daily Living Skills
  - Placement Service
8. Outreach & Sensitization
  - Awareness & Consultancy
  - Volunteering & Internships
  - Sale of Products
9. Residential Facility

## ▶ AWARDS

- Mahatma Award for Social Good for the year 2020
- National Award for the “Best Institution Working for the Cause of Persons with Disabilities” instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India in 2012
- Awarded by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for valuable contributions in the training and placement of blind persons in 1986
- State award for outstanding employers of the physically handicapped for the year 1988-89



# Education & Training Programs

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

The Jormal Periwala Memorial Senior Secondary School for the Blind, founded and managed by the Blind Relief Association, has carved a unique niche in empowering visually impaired children through formal education, nurturing their growth and independence.

Recognized and aided by the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT since 1969 and affiliated with the esteemed Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) since 1974, JPM has become a beacon of excellence in the realm of special education. It offers free education, board & lodging, assistive devices, books, and other services to its students from Class I to XII. Apart from academics, the school provides enough opportunities for its students to succeed in sports and co-curricular activities.

### Highlights of the Year

- Priyanshu Kumar of Class X and Rudransh Rastogi of Class XII won Excellence in Education Award 2023 instituted by the Directorate of Education to honour meritorious students.
- The students also took part in 62 events organized by the Directorate of Education and secured 9 prizes at zonal level and 5 at district level.
- The students participated in various competitions

organized by Drishti organization as part of the 17th Braille Festival, and won 9 medals. Among 10 teams, the JPM School team secured the second position.

- Students won 4 gold and 4 silver medals in chess, and 2 gold and 3 silver medals in carom competition organized by the Directorate of Education, Delhi.
- At a zonal level competition organized by the Directorate of Education, the students won 2nd prize in group yoga. In other events, students bagged a total of 4 gold, 5 silver and 1 bronze medals.
- The Paralympic Committee of India organized state level competitions and the students secured 4 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals.
- Atul Yadav of Class IX won 1st prize in the Debate Competition held by National Federation of the Blind.
- Satyanand Rao of Class VII won 3rd prize in the Braille reading writing competition held by All India Confederation of the Blind.
- Priyanshu, a Class XI student won a Braille Reading & Writing competition and received an Orbit device

sponsored by Mrs. Prabhjot Menon in memory of her father Mr. Harbans Singh Mehta.

- Sumit Kumar Jha of Class X won 1st prize in storytelling competition held by the Association.

Apart from these, students were also engaged in various events at school level on topics relating to de-addiction, cultural connection between states through Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat.

- The students organized Nayar Kabaddi Tournament at the school grounds from 12-14 September. The alumni of the JPM School (Dragons of Delhi University) competed with its current students (Reckless Eagles) and won the trophy. The Man of the Series was bagged by Prince Kumar and Govind Kumar in the B1 and B2 categories respectively.
- The Subodh Trophy Cricket Tournament was conducted by Class XI students from 14 - 16 October. Team Rising Stars won the trophy. Rupesh in B1 and Rishu in B2 were the Man of the Match respectively. Prashant Chaudhary in B1 and Abhishek Chandra in B2 were awarded the Man of the Series title.
- The Annual Sports Day for Primary School was organized on 27 February.

## ▶ Statistics

For the academic year 2023-24, the school welcomed 29 new students totalling the school strength to 207. 20 and 22 students successfully cleared their Class XII and Class X CBSE examinations respectively. The Class XII students were also helped to prepare for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET).





## ▶ Speaking Up, Standing Tall

Wherever Atul Yadav speaks, people pause. Whether it's a buzzing auditorium at a national-level speech competition or a quiet classroom during debate practice, his words land with the calm confidence of someone who knows exactly why he's there.

Now a Class X student, Atul's journey started in Hazamgarh, a small town tucked away in eastern Uttar Pradesh. For a long time, the idea of a good education felt out of reach, held back by poor infrastructure, low awareness, and limited expectations for blind students like him. But even then, Atul was already asking the big questions. What makes a society fair? How does a system decide who gets a chance? And what role can education play in changing all of it?

It was a Braille camp in 2019 that first lit the spark. "I'd always been curious, but that was the first time I saw what I could actually do," he says. Not long after, watching Ravish Kumar on NDTV pushed him to think even deeper about governance, media, and public life. That's when he began nudging his family, slowly, steadily, to support his dream of studying further. In a home shaped by traditional ideas, it wasn't easy. But over time, things began to shift.

In 2021, Atul made a big move to Delhi and stepped into a school environment unlike anything he'd known. "At first, I wasn't sure I'd fit in," he says. "It was a huge place. I'd never studied in a setup like this before. But the teachers really helped. Seniors showed me the ropes. And my friends, well, they made everything easier."

The early months were mostly online. Still, Atul didn't slow down. He picked up Braille, learned to use the Orbit Reader, and started catching up on subjects that had once seemed out of reach especially maths and political science. His teachers saw

his drive early on, especially Seema Ma'am, who encouraged his love for debates and big ideas.

### From there, things took off.

Between 2022 and 2024, Atul became a regular name at the top of speech and debate competitions:

- First place in State Extempore (Delhi Directorate of Education, 2023 & 2024–25)
- Winner of the National All-India Speech Competition, 2023
- Among the top 10 in Tata Power Green Warrior (from 12,000+ entries!)
- First place at the National Federation for the Blind Speech Competition, 2024
- And several other wins at district, state, and national levels in public speaking.

His themes? Drawn from the world around him. He devours newspapers, loves watching world affairs coverage on the BBC, and is always thinking about how policies shape people's lives. "I try to understand the world, one article at a time," he says with a laugh. He's also a massive sports fan, always rooting for India, whether it's cricket, badminton, or the Olympics.

Atul's long-term dream is to join the Indian Administrative Service. "I want to be in spaces where our voices are missing," he says. With Political Science as his chosen subject, he's preparing for CUET and aiming to study at St. Stephen's College. But it's never just been about the degree or the job, it's about what that path represents. "People like me aren't always expected to aim this high," he says. "I want to change that."

Atul isn't just finding his voice, he's using it to clear the way for others.

To anyone just starting out, his advice is grounded and real: "You don't have to wait for the perfect moment. Just begin. Doubts will come, that's normal. But so is learning. So is growth. You do belong."

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

Established in 2006 by the Blind Relief Association, the college is affiliated with the University of Delhi and provides a Bachelor of Education program with a specialization in Special Education for visual impairment. The institution holds permanent

recognition from the University of Delhi, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). The college's vision is to prepare high-quality special educators to serve in special and inclusive schools set. It also aspires to contribute to

society by helping achieve percent literacy among persons with disabilities through teaching, guidance, and counselling. Furthermore, it aims to enable persons with visual disabilities to know their individual rights and lead respectful lives.



## Highlights of the Year

- The college organized two Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programs, focusing on Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) and Role of Special Educators in preparation of TLM on 12th & 13th August 2023 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education on 12th & 13th January 2024.
- The college held their fourth Annual Alumni Meet on 13th May.

- Annual Sports Meet was held on 16th February, featuring various track and field events, games, and team sports, where visually impaired and sighted students actively participated.
- Bank of Baroda in collaboration with college organised 'International Hindi Day' on 10th January in Gandhi Hall.

## ▶ Statistics

32 students of second year (2021-2023) passed with First Division in University Examination 2023. 29 students were admitted in the academic session 2023-25, of which 9 students are visually impaired and 15 are women.





## ▶ Learning to Teach, Teaching to Empower

When Yashwant Yadav left Varanasi for Delhi in Class 7, he carried with him a quiet determination and a curiosity about the opportunities the city might offer. Born blind, he was aware of organisations like the Blind Relief Association (BRA) and soon enrolled at a government senior secondary school for the blind. After completing school, he went on to graduate from St. Stephen's College in 2018.

Despite his academic background, Yashwant wanted a career that offered both stability and a sense of purpose. He genuinely enjoys teaching, and although special education was unfamiliar territory, he decided to explore it. At the time, he thought that knowing Braille would be enough. That idea began to change in 2018, when he started a B.Ed in Special Education at BRA's Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education.

He learnt mathematical Braille codes, handled tactile learning tools such as the GeoKit, and joined observation visits that opened up new ways of thinking about education. He also encountered the emotional and mental health challenges faced by students — experiences that shaped his approach in the classroom.

From 2021 to mid-2023, Yashwant worked as a guest teacher at an inclusive school in Shalimar Bagh. Initially unsure of himself, he gradually grew confident in his ability to manage diverse learning needs. A short stint with the railways followed, but his interest in teaching drew him back.

In early 2024, Yashwant joined a government model inclusive school in Chandigarh's Sector 41. Here, he continues to create classrooms where students with different abilities can learn together. He credits the Blind Relief Association for the training and guidance that helped him find his footing, and he believes that patience, a positive mindset, and politeness go a long way in overcoming challenges.

From a student who once thought special education began and ended with Braille, Yashwant has built a career in which he continues to learn, adapt, and share his skills with others.

Over the next two years, Yashwant was introduced to the finer aspects of teaching.

## COMPUTER TRAINING CENTRE

The Association is among the pioneering institutions in the country to introduce computer literacy programmes for the visually challenged. Launched in 1996 to cater to the needs of educated adult blind, the Computer Training Centre has been conducting computer literacy courses of varying durations since then.

### Diploma in Computer Education (V.I.)

The Centre offers a 10-month Diploma in Computer Education and Assistive Technology, training sighted and visually impaired adults to meet the unique computer-based educational needs of those with visual

impairment. Introduced in 2014-15 as a pilot project, the course was recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) in 2016 and recently renamed to reflect its updated curriculum and focus on assistive technology.

### Computer Training and Office Operations Course

Launched in July 2019, this six-month program combines computer skills training with hands-on office experience, preparing trainees for diverse tasks like tele-calling, surveys, and organizing events.

### Highlights of the Year

- Reliance JIO launched its new phone called Jio Bharat and the first phone was handed over to Dhaneshwar Mehto, a trainee pursuing the diploma program by Mr. Kapil Ahuja, CEO North.
- Sanjay Kumar topped the batch and was awarded a laptop by Mrs. Prabhjot Menon, in memory of her late mother. He is currently employed with Saksham as helpdesk executive.

## ▶ Statistics

### Diploma in Computer Education:

14 out of 17 trainees of the X Batch (2023-24) successfully completed the course and passed the final examination. The XI Batch (2024-25) admitted 24 trainees of which all are visually impaired.

### Computer Training & Office Operations Course

10 out of 13 trainees of the VII Batch successfully completed the course in December 2023. 12 trainees were admitted in the VIII Batch that started in January 2024.

### Other short-term trainings:

6 and 9 trainees completed the 4-month training in October 2023 and April 2024 respectively. In June 2023, 7 trainees completed a 2-month training formulated for working people.





## ▶ From Circuits to Certification

For Jeetpal Singh, computers were never unfamiliar. Even before any formal training, he would open gadgets, disassemble devices, and learn how machines worked—driven purely by curiosity and touch. But what he lacked was structured training to hone and certify his skills—and that’s what brought him to the Blind Relief Association (BRA) in Delhi.

Born in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Jeetpal began losing his sight gradually from a young age, as a result of complications from chickenpox. But that didn’t stop him. He completed his schooling at NIVH in Dehradun, a historic institution known for its contribution to education for the visually impaired. Later, he worked for nearly seven years—first as a Sales Manager at Swaraj Agency (a call center) until 2023, and then in Gujarat, where he stood for 10-hour shifts assembling and designing wall clocks. “I learned mechanical and electrical work myself—even bike engines,” he says with pride.

His early curiosity shaped his technical thinking. He would visit local shopkeepers and open up old radios

or clocks to understand their inner workings. “At work, my supervisor only needed to show me something once—after that, I could repeat it perfectly,” Jeetpal recalls. But as much as he learned, he knew that without proper certification, his skills would always be questioned in formal jobs.

This led him to the Blind Relief Association’s Basic Computer & Office Operations Course, a six-month structured program. While some parts of the syllabus felt familiar—Excel, MS Office, Word, and PowerPoint—he had already taught himself these through YouTube tutorials. “My brother explained rows and columns in Excel using a mithai (sweet) box,” he recalls.

The Blind Relief Association, however, introduced him to skills he hadn’t mastered on his own: scanning, printing, and working with assistive devices like Braille Notetakers, Braille Displays, and L-Braille systems. “Before this, I knew the software. But here, I learned proper office operations, reception work, front desk skills, and employability training like CV and résumé building.” The environment was also new. “In my

first week, I noticed the tactile signage, accessible tools—it felt welcoming,” he says.

Jeetpal wasn’t always confident. At Swaraj Agency, he was hesitant to speak or guide others. That changed when he became a computer trainer under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), where, for 45 days, he taught other blind students the basics of computers. His knowledge and confidence only grew further at the Association, as he gained insights into how professional offices function.

Outside technology, Jeetpal is passionate about music. He sings, composes, and experiments with sound systems. He dreams of building his own sound studio in the future. “I use Adobe Audition software for mixing. One day, I’ll set up a professional sound system,” he smiles.

For those new to any skill-learning process, Jeetpal has clear advice: “Every beginning feels tough. But try different ways—if one method fails, you’ll find what works.”

And for him, this certification is just the foundation for what comes next.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

### MULTI-SKILL TRAINING:

The Multi-Skill Training program, introduced in 2014, is a one-year comprehensive and holistic training for adults with visual impairment, regardless of additional disabilities. With no minimum educational qualification required, it equips trainees with skills for self-employment or employment in various settings. The flexible program adjusts to each trainee's capacity, interests, and talents, teaching a range of skills like bookbinding & paper craft, candle making, operating light machines, sewing, charkha & takli spinning and more. By engaging in such activities, they are able to develop their motor skills.

Beyond skilling, the program focuses on soft skills like mobility, daily living, personality development, English conversation, computer knowledge, Braille, physical training, and music. Trainees, often school dropouts, are encouraged to complete their education through open-school options while undergoing vocational training.

### Training cum Production Units

#### 1. Candle Making Unit

The production-based training activity includes practical instruction and experience in candle making. The Candle Unit produces a wide variety of candles in different shapes and sizes which are available on sale throughout the year, besides the

Association's famous Diwali Bazaar. The products make it to many fairs and corporate event sales through the year. The Unit also helps other NGOs by providing training and logistical advice for implementing such programs in candle making.

#### 2. Paper Unit

The Paper Craft section, initially set up in 1994 as a book binding section for marginally educated visually impaired persons, has evolved into a comprehensive program within the Multi-Skill Training. The Unit trains individuals to create eco-friendly products like carry bags, envelopes, and packaging boxes from recycled paper, reducing waste and promoting sustainability. By upcycling old Braille books and newspapers, the Unit creates attractive bags, candle packaging, and paper-mâché items like bowls and pen holders.

#### 3. Sewing Unit

Following a training curriculum created and evaluated by the USHA Silai School, the trainers work one-on-one with the trainees to help them develop sewing skills and understand the functioning of sewing machines. They learn to make articles like sling bags, coin purses, zip pouches, shoe bags, and saree covers. Worn clothes and discarded cuttings are converted into decent useful articles. During the year new products like printed cloth bags, embroidered bags & pouches, and fancy patchwork bag were introduced. The Unit also collaborates with designers and brands and receives bulk orders.



#### 4. Café Mast

Through a partnership with Pladis Global - an international snacking company - baking training was regularised into the Multi-Skill Training program. This collaboration, launched in 2021, remains ongoing with professional bakers visiting on a weekly basis to assist trainees in mastering the art of baking cookies, cupcakes, muffins, besides preparing sandwiches, burgers, salads, hot and cold beverages. The café also equips trainees with skills in customer service and management, utilizing assistive technologies like voice-guided devices. The Café, handled independently by totally blind and low vision trainees has become quite popular in serving the in-house needs. It even receives orders from outside.

#### Highlights of the Year

- 4 trainees from Saksham having additional disabilities along with visual impairment underwent 3-month vocational training in skills like basic massage, sewing, and paper crafts, tailored to their interests and existing skills.
- The Café introduced a variety of new beverages, including specialty coffees and shakes, and added health-conscious food options like fresh salads, sandwiches, and nacho chat.
- The Candle Unit trained two trainees with visual impairment and mild intellectual disability

#### ▶ Statistics

Timeline		No. of Trainees
As on 1 April '23		33
April '23 – March '24	New Admissions	34
	Dropouts	2
	Completed	32
On Training		29





## ▶ Brushstrokes of Courage

It began with a medication which was intended to heal, not alter the trajectory of her life.

For Kashish, all went gray afterward. The world around her, rich in color and light, faded into the shadows. “I was afraid to go out.” She says. “Everything seemed off.”

Kashish had long been artistic and loved to paint. But now, even taking up the brush seemed impossible. Her parents were rightly devastated but encouraging. Nevertheless, when Kashish informed her family that she wanted to join The Blind Relief Association, they were frightened. “I understood” she says. “They didn’t want to send me out, particularly after what had occurred. But I wanted to do something for myself.”

It was through her church, an institution which had been her pillar of strength, that she first learned of the Blind Relief Association. She was informed about the vocational training provided there by a sister from her congregation. That single conversation provided her with a ray of hope.

In February, Kashish arrived at the center. Her initial days were a combination of

fear and self-doubt. She did not know the environment, the individuals, or how she would cope. “I missed home and my family. I didn’t know if I could do it, she recalled.

But gradually, all that changed. She was befriended by girls like Sukunti and Ruby, who facilitated her integration. They worked, laughed, and sewed together, making not only pouches and aprons, but also friendships. “We made things like potlis and thelas,” Kashish recollected. “I still remember how proud I felt the first time I completed something on my own.”

She started with basic but interesting crafts- papermaking, soap-making, pottery etc. During the first three months, she was taught how to make wastepaper into lovely bags and envelopes. She molded clay into ornamental gamlas and was taught how to mix and shape soap from scratch. She fondly remembered one of her mentors, Sangeeta Ma’am. “She always used to say, ‘Shaan se raho.’ I think that transformed me. She did not teach us only skills, but also self-respect.”

Kashish learned sewing with only her left hand since her right had been weakened by typhoid. It wasn’t easy. But day by day, she

became more confident. “When I sew now, I don’t just feel like a trainee,” she says. “I feel like an artist again.”

And then there was painting. “Thought I’d lost painting forever,” she says, her voice trembling. “Then they introduced us to digital art, I couldn’t believe I could create again.” It was an epiphany. It’s the computer class she looks forward to the most. “Sam Sir is patient and makes it fun,” she says. “I never thought I’d enjoy working on a computer but now I wait eagerly for his class.”

“There’s so much to learn,” she states. “But with the learning, I also want to be really independent.” She has a goal of becoming a teacher. “I want to help other like I was helped. Perhaps I can be that one person for someone else; the way the church sister was for me.”

Kashish doesn’t characterize herself as fearless. But she is. Not because of what she’s survived, but because of how kindly and freely she now bears her story, not as a weight but as an ember that could ignite the path for another.

## RELAXATION MASSAGE TRAINING:

This facility provides a six-month training program to get visually impaired people ready to work as professional masseurs. Along with aroma, ayurvedic massage, head, and face massage, the program covers Thai, Swedish, and Japanese massages. The trainees also learn about human anatomy and physiology, Sujok therapy, acupressure and foot reflexology pain management techniques.

### Highlights of the Year

- The "Power of Touch" Massage Kiosk, staffed by visually impaired masseurs trained by the Blind Relief Association, was inaugurated on January 10, 2024, at Shivaji Stadium Metro Station, in a collaborative effort between Japan International Cooperation Agency, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, and the Blind Relief Association.

- 6 trainees underwent rigorous naturopathy training from Venu Eye Centre Hospital,
- 20 trainees received training in Shiatsu Massage by a JOCV Trainer Hisashi Seki Sensei
- Training for women was initiated on a trial basis in January 2024 with 6 trainees on roll.
- Specially-tailored training was provided to two trainees from Saksham who along with visual impairment had learning disability.
- In addition to showcasing the skills at Diwali Bazar of the Association and Select City Walk Mall at Saket, the masseurs also had the opportunity to participate in Aham Mental Health Festival at National Crafts Museum, Army Golf Course Tournament at Dhaula Kuan, and The Oberoi Hotel.

## Livelihood Project

The Livelihood Project was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on employment, particularly affecting trainees from low-income rural backgrounds and female trainees with children. The Blind Relief Association initiated this project to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among vocational trainees, enabling them to start small-scale business and overcome challenges in securing sustainable employment in urban areas. Under this Project, 7 massage kits and 2 electric sewing machines were distributed to the vocational trainees at the Livelihood Kit Distribution Ceremony held in August 2023.

## ▶ Statistics

Batch	Admission	Dropped Out	Completed
January – June 2023	11	0	11
July – December 2023	10	1	9
January – June 2024	13	On Training	





## ▶ The Road from Kathmandu

In 2024, Gyanendra Sapkota made a choice. He packed a suitcase in Kathmandu, left behind the world he had known for more than a dozen years, and boarded a bus to Delhi. No job was waiting, no promises—just a soft-spoken resolve to start over.

He enrolled in the Blind Relief Association's six-month Relaxation Massage Training program. He didn't know a soul at the institution. Hostel life was new. The pace was rigorous. But something about it resonated deeply.

"For two months, I hardly slept," he says. "There was tension, there was adjustment. But I told myself—I'm here for a purpose."

That purpose had been taking shape years earlier, in Kailari district, Nepal. In 2012, Gyanendra was diagnosed with a brain tumor and jaundice. While treatment was effective, complications followed. His eyesight began to deteriorate. Then one day, while walking, everything changed.

"Just like that, my sight went," he recalls. For two years, he held on to hope. "I believed it was temporary—that if I waited long enough, it would return."

Life didn't pause. Gyanendra worked hard to make ends meet—manual labor, long hours. In Kathmandu, he managed online

marketing for an Oracle-affiliated firm, working stretches of up to 25 hours at a time. "I used to make about 1200, sometimes 1500 rupees a day. It wasn't great, but it kept me going," he says. A government job was always the goal—not out of ambition, but necessity. "At home, we didn't have much. A stable job meant stability for my whole family."

Years before any of this, in 2011, Gyanendra had worked as a hospital guard in Delhi. Back then, he was interested in fitness and had even considered joining the Army Medical Corps. He cleared the physical rounds—including a 3200-meter run—but couldn't proceed further.

Still, the discipline stayed with him. "I never took a holiday, even then," he says.

His return to Delhi in 2024 was influenced by friends who had learned about the Blind Relief Association's training programs. "At first, I wanted to learn computers," he admits. But he chose Relaxation Massage Training for its hands-on learning, structured certification, and—most importantly—job placement support.

The training equipped him with skills in full-body massage, manicure, pedicure, hydrotherapy, and physiology. It also gave him confidence in interacting with clients

and navigating new environments.

Though he became visually impaired later in life and doesn't read Braille fluently, Gyanendra is adapting. He's learning to scan, read, and manage documents electronically. He believes in experimenting until a method works.

Gyanendra's greatest motivation is his five-year-old son, back home in Nepal. "Everything I'm doing now—this training, this hard work—is for him," he says. "I want to give him opportunities I never had."

Having finished this course, Gyanendra has already planned his next move: to train on again and work in Chennai. He hopes to specialize in physiotherapy and build a long-term career in the health and fitness sector.

"Massage is just the beginning," he says. "I'd like to keep learning—maybe work in a rehab center or a medical ward someday."

In retrospect, Gyanendra doesn't describe his journey as easy—only as worthwhile. "At some point," he reflects, "you have to stop waiting for life to return to what it was. You have to move—even if it's slowly."

And that's what he does now. One step forward. Then another.

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Sawaru Nihongo Group, operating within the Blind Relief Association, is a distinctive initiative that brings together visually impaired students, ranging from school to university level and working professionals, to learn the Japanese language through Japanese Braille. The classes meet on every Sunday and enable the students to appear in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), a globally recognized certification. This initiative is particularly commendable as it operates without any financial cost, thanks to the dedication of volunteer-teachers and peer-teachers who generously contribute their time and expertise.

### Highlights of the Year

- A new batch of Sawaru Nihongo-Japanese Language commenced classes on 27th August with 14 new students and 8 old students.
- Prof. Yoshiro Azuma (from Sophia University Japan), a Visiting Professor at the Department of Physics, IIT Delhi along with his spouse Sanae

Azuma have helped with the classes since 25th September.

- Mr. Ryuta Saito, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan visits and interacts with the students often.
- Suman and Vidyanand, two of the students participated in the 35th North Zone Japanese Language Speech Contest organized by the Mombusho Scholars Association of India in Jawaharlal Nehru University on 14th October.
- The Group performed two bi-lingual songs at IIT Delhi & Sophia University's 'The Indo-Japan Friendship Symposium' held at IIT Delhi on 1st March 2024. The first is a nostalgic old Japanese song "Zou San," taught to the Group by Prof. Yoshiro Azuma and translated into Hindi jointly by the students. The second song is the popular patriotic song "Saare Jahaan se Acchaa" translated into Japanese by Prof. Satoshi Hata of Ritsumeikan University.



# Accessible Resources Centre

Accessible resources are vital for persons with visual impairment as they provide equal access to information, education, and opportunities. Lack of accessible resources lead to significant barriers in learning, social inclusion, and independence. By providing accessible resources, the Association ensures they have equal opportunities as their sighted counterparts. The Centre caters to the educational and resource material needs of its students and trainees and also fulfils specific requests from outside. Works of fiction and non-fiction, study guides for competitive exams, self-help materials, and articles are also produced.

## 1. Braille Printing:

Braille, the tactile script, is crucial for providing literacy and information access to individuals with visual Impairment. In 1990, the Association became one of the first institutions in the country to introduce a computerized Braille printing facility. Throughout the year, a total of 47 titles in Hindi, English, and Japanese, amounting to 639 volumes, were produced.

## 2. Audio Recording:

To provide accessible educational materials to students, an audiobook recording facility was established in 1982. The recordings are available in digital MP3, Daisy, and e-text formats, with some shared on online accessible libraries like Sugamya Pustakalaya. Since its establishment, the Association's studio has created a total of 948 titles in Hindi, English, and Sanskrit.

## 3. E-Text Production:

In response to advancing technology, the Association began producing e-texts in 2021, replacing the audio recordings. The main advantage of e-texts is their versatility; they can be used for reading, making Braille books, and listening through audio. This process is facilitated by the Kibo Scanner, a convenient device that can scan and convert printed and handwritten text into e-text and read it aloud in several languages.



# Rehabilitation Services

## 1. Orientation & Mobility Training

The Association takes on the vital responsibility of providing orientation and mobility training for visually impaired persons, equipping them with the skills necessary to navigate their environments confidently. Through this training, participants learn to use folding canes and techniques to detect obstacles and changes in terrain. They are also educated on identifying various modes of transport, as well as adopting appropriate postures while sitting, walking, and conversing. This approach encourages individuals to gradually overcome certain bodily mannerisms they may have developed in childhood.

## 2. Assistive Technology Training

Living in a digital world has been a game-changer for persons with disabilities. While technology doesn't solve all issues, it certainly makes life easier and more accessible. The Blind Relief Association recognizes the importance of digital empowerment for individuals with visual impairment in today's age. Therefore, they provide training on various assistive devices such as smart canes, Braille displays, computers & smartphones with screen readers and talkbacks. By acquiring these skills, students and trainees can confidently navigate public spaces, identify currencies, and make online transactions. The training enhances their independence besides opening up opportunities for social interaction, education, and employment.

## 3. Adaptive Daily Living Skills

The Blind Relief Association's residential programs

empower students and trainees with Adaptive Daily Living Skills (ADLS). These essential skills include personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, and maintaining personal hygiene. Additionally, female trainees receive guidance on menstrual hygiene. Cooking workshops are regularly conducted to enable trainees to shop, identify ingredients, cut vegetables, and prepare meals. Time management is also a focus, with trainees learning to access digital clocks and Braille watches. Financial literacy sessions educate them on budgeting, handling money, and utilizing banking services available for visually impaired individuals. Furthermore, music is an integral part of the program, with regular classes to nurture their creative talents.

## 4. Placement Service

The Association's representatives visit and interact with various industrial associations and potential employers, in addition to utilizing networks of individuals and organizations to identify and ascertain suitable available opportunities for employment for the visually challenged candidates. Further, the Unit facilitates the newly-employed in getting familiar with their new work and the workplace environment. They are provided necessary orientation and possible support, such as finding residential accommodation; providing basic requirements like beddings, utensils; and guidance on commuting to their workplace. The Unit maintains contact with the employers and the trainees to help sort out any difficulty that they may face. This year, 44 trainees from various units have found employment.

# Outreach & Sensitization

## 1. Awareness & Consultancy

The Association aims to promote inclusion, equal rights, and capabilities of individuals with physical or sensory disabilities, particularly visual impairment. The students and trainees showcase their talents in various events, demonstrating their abilities on an equal footing. The Association shares its expertise with other institutions, providing guidance and training on disability services. The faculty members serve as experts in advisory committees, webinars, and media broadcasts, advancing disability awareness and inclusion.

## 2. Volunteering & Internships

The Blind Relief Association offers internships and volunteering opportunities to students and the public, attracting motivated individuals from diverse backgrounds who make valuable contributions. The Association also partners with corporates for CSR volunteering events, benefiting both the Association and the employees. Furthermore, students pursuing social work courses in various institutions, including Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi School of Social

work, and Jamia Millia Islamia University are assigned to the Association for their practical field training. Through these engagements, both interns and volunteers have the opportunity to engage with persons with visual disabilities, understand disability better, and also contribute to the organization.

## 3. Sale of Products

The Association produces a range of products, including candles, paper products, cloth products, and bakery goods, all made by vocational trainees as part of their training. The proceeds from the sales contribute to the Association's resources utilized for their education and training, while the products themselves demonstrate the trainees' abilities and capabilities, earning them public recognition. Moreover, customers who purchase these products gain a deeper appreciation for the skills and craftsmanship of the makers, while also enjoying the quality and beauty of the products. As a registered entity under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Association also contributes to the government's revenue by the sale of its products.





# Residential Facility

The Association operates spacious hostels on its premises, providing free board and lodging to approximately 300 visually impaired individuals, including school students, teacher trainees, vocational trainees, and employees. A well-equipped dining hall and hygienic kitchen serve three nutritious meals and afternoon tea daily.

In-house medical facilities enable the Association to monitor and provide primary healthcare and dental care to its students and trainees. A dedicated healthcare team, comprising visiting physicians, two full-time nurses, and an assistant, delivers core medical services. Regular check-ups and free medication are provided in partnership with renowned hospitals and health centres.



# Collaborations

## Partnership with Youth4Jobs

Youth4Jobs Foundation, in partnership with the Blind Relief Association since 2017, has consistently trained vocational trainees in key areas such as English communication, digital literacy, life skills, interview skills, and preparation for college admission tests, government exams, and completing school education. This year 5 trainees completed a newly launched six-month Basic Computer Course in December 2023.

## Partnership with Harijan Sevak Sangh

Since January 2023, Harijan Sevak Sangh has been providing a trainer to conduct workshops on Takli & Charkha every Saturday. As part of this program,

trainees are learning the traditional skill of spinning cotton threads using Takli and Amber Charkha, and the spun threads are being utilized to create various products such as candle wicks and rakhis.

## Partnership with Project Prakash Foundation

Since 2021, the Project Prakash Foundation has collaborated with the Blind Relief Association to support the education and vocational rehabilitation of visually impaired youths identified by the Foundation. These youths are enrolled in either vocational training or computer training programs, and additionally, assistance is provided to complete their school education. Currently, the Foundation is sponsoring 9 trainees, comprising 6 males and 3 females.

# Events

## I. Commemorations

### World Environment Day

In a session held on World Environment Day, Mr. K.C. Pande, Honorary Executive Secretary, engaged with the vocational trainees on environmental issues and discussed ways to switch to eco-friendly options. He spoke on the cause-and-effect cycle between excessive consumerism and the resulting wastage, and how the desire for new possessions creates more waste. The trainees learned about the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. He also introduced them to the 31 species of trees on the Association's campus. The trainees were very enthusiastic and actively participated in the session. One of the trainees, Jyoti Mahananda, demonstrated a unique beverage service tray designed and made by him from a discarded sweet box, showcasing his innovative creation.

### International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 21st June. The chief guest Mr. Madan Lal, MLA - Kasturba Nagar, emphasized the importance of yoga for persons with visual impairment in his address. This was followed by a mass yoga drill participated by the Association's trainees, who had been trained by Mr. Pankaj Rustagi from Nature's Healing Trust for two weeks. The session included gentle yoga asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation techniques.

The celebrations also featured a seminar on 'Yoga for All Abilities' organized by Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, with Dr. Vikram Singh, Director of Sports at Jawaharlal Nehru University, as the speaker. Dr. Singh highlighted the transformative power of yoga for physical, mental, and emotional well-being, emphasizing that disability should not hinder one's practice of yoga and meditation. He demonstrated breathing techniques and stressed the importance of a holistic approach to health.

### Helen Keller Day

Commemorating the birth anniversary of Helen Keller, the Association in collaboration with the National Association for the Blind, Delhi (NAB) organised Helen Keller Day celebrations on 27th June. Mrs. Nandita Sharan, Principal, MDU, NAB graced the occasion as the guest of honour.

Students and trainees from both the organizations along with staff and volunteers enthusiastically participated.

Various programs were organized during the day to promote disability awareness. One of these was a performance of a street play (नुक्कड़ नाटक) by the trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, while another activity involved creating posters and communication cards. Furthermore, the trainees were challenged to identify familiar kitchen ingredients while blindfolded.

Following these activities, a short film on 'deaf-blindness' by NAB was screened. Subsequently, Pushpa, a student with visual and hearing disability from NAB, delivered a captivating sign language song performance, receiving warm applause from the audience.



*Independence Day*

### Independence Day

The 77th Indian Independence Day was celebrated at the Blind Relief Association on the morning of 14th August. Accompanied by the school band playing enthusiastically, the flag was hoisted by the chief guest Mr. Sanjay Rai, General Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh. The outdoor function was followed by cultural programs and patriotic speeches by the students and trainees of the Association performed in the Gandhi Hall.

### International Day of Sign Languages

As part of the celebrations in commemorating the International Day of Sign Languages that fell on 23rd September, a workshop on sign language was organized at Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education on 26th September. The objective of the workshop was to promote awareness about the vital role of sign language in ensuring the

full realization of human rights for persons with hearing disabilities. The chief guest Mr. Dinesh Kumar delivered an engaging session, highlighting interesting aspects such as the Indian national anthem in sign language and storytelling.

### Gandhi Jayanthi

In keeping with the practice and tradition of sarvadharm sadbhawana 'Gandhi March' on the birth anniversary of the Mahatma, a group of students, trainees, staff, and volunteers of the Blind Relief Association took a walk to five different religious places in Delhi on 2nd October. What began as a time of quietness besides the charkha on the lawn of the Association and vocational trainees spinning thread on takli and charkha, soon progressed to a time of various religious prayers led by the students.

Later, the group set off towards Gurudwara Damdama Sahib behind Humayun Tomb, Centenary Methodist Church on Lodhi Road, Shahi Masjid on Pandara Road, Synagogue Judah Hyam on Humayun Road and finishing off at the Valmiki Temple in Khan Market. With 'Vaishnav Jana To' singing in the background, the group walked the roads of Delhi for almost 10 km hand-in-hand.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education organized a webinar on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December with speakers from the Association. Similarly, the students of Basic Computer & Office Operations had also organized a program in the noon to commemorate the significant day.

A round-table discussion on the topic of Educational and Employment Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities in the Era of Artificial Intelligence was organized by the Sawaru-Nihongo Team (Touch Japanese) of the Association. Key takeaways from the discussion included the fact that the job market's transformation due to artificial intelligence requires persons with disabilities to up skill and reskill to align with emerging trends. Additionally, competitive exams must become more accessible, and the private sector should ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Ultimately, the disabled community's future depends on their ability to adapt to the rapidly changing world order.



*Gandhi Jayanthi*

### **World Braille Day**

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi was abuzz with activities to celebrate the 215th birth anniversary of Louis Braille designated as 'World Braille Day.' Students, trainees, and staff of the Association enthusiastically participated and paid homage to the inventor of Braille, a system of reading and writing that opened the doors to literacy and education for the visually challenged.

The events featured the release of Braille books "डाक्ट आइबलीत—जानवरों का डाक्टर", a novelette for children, "सर्वोदय की सुनो कहानी" a collection of tales. Demonstrations of cutting-edge technological devices, such as the Orbit refreshable Braille reader and Kibo Desk applications, were also held. Personal stories highlighted the transformative impact of Braille on individuals' lives, including facilitating foreign language learning. A short skit and interactive game further emphasized the importance of Braille. The occasion also included poem recitations and the unveiling of Braille signage and descriptions of trees on the Association campus.

Also invited to join were the trainees from Lady Irwin College pursuing B.Ed. Special Education course specializing in intellectual disability. They had an interesting mutually rewarding interaction with their counterpart teacher-trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College.

### **Martyrs' Day**

On the 75th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the students, trainees, volunteers, and staff

gathered at the corner of the JPM School Building known as 'Shanti Niketan,' a space prepared by the students years ago. At the sound of a handbell precisely at 5:17pm, the gathering closed their eyes in reverence marking the solemn moment when, 75 years ago, the Mahatma fell to the bullet of the assassin. Following a few words of Mr. K C Pande, prayers from seven diverse faiths—Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism—were recited by students, echoing Gandhi's vision of religious harmony. Reflecting on iconic moments from Gandhi's life, students shared narratives in both Hindi and English.

### **International Women's Day**

In celebrating women and commemorating International Women's Day, a special panel discussion centred on the theme of Empowerment of Women in Today's Age was organized for all the women of the Association including trainees and staff.

Four distinguished women, each a pioneer in their respective field served as the panellists for this enriching discussion: Mrs. Veena Mehta Verma, HR Manager at NTPC; Dr. Malathi Adusumalli, Professor - Delhi School of Social Work; Ms. Anita Relan, Financial Literacy Counsellor; Dr. Prita Mohanta, Doctor. The lively session instilled new confidence among the attendees and encouraged them to strive to be healthy, well-read, financially literate, and ambitious.

### **World Storytelling Day**

In celebrating and encouraging the art of

storytelling, a competition titled 'What's your story?' was held on 20th March, World Storytelling Day. Participants from all units of the Association came up with narrations that kept the audience hooked to their seats. Ms. Rajni Kumar, Program Manager at Katha India, and Ms. Srishti Popli, educator and storyteller, served as judges for this event. The winners under each category were announced and awarded on the same day.

### **International Day of Forests**

On International Day of Forests on 21st March, an awareness event was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education. Aimed to raise awareness among youth about the crucial role of forests in maintaining environmental balance and ensuring overall well-being, the session was quite interactive and informative. Scientist Dr.C.R.Magesh from the National Museum of Natural History and his team conducted the session. They also appreciated the Association's plastic-free campus and provision of Braille names and descriptions of all its trees. All attendees took a solemn pledge to protect and conserve forests and promote sustainable lifestyles.

### **World Poetry Day**

The students and trainees demonstrated their poetic talent at a Poetry Competition held on 21st March in celebration of World Poetry Day. After submitting their poems, shortlisted participants presented their verse in the final round. The competition was bifurcated into Hindi and English poetry categories, with winners awarded first,

second, and third prizes, as well as consolation prizes. A panel of esteemed judges, comprising Mr. Shailender and Mr. Sandesh for Hindi poetry, and Mr. Pande and Mr. Kamalbir Singh for English poetry, evaluated the entries.

## II. CSR Activities

1. On 27th April, TransWorld Group observed its Corporate Responsibility Day by collaborating for a memorable cricket match. The friendly cricket match brought together 40 vocational trainees and 15 staff members, creating a vibrant atmosphere of friendship and unity on the cricket field.
2. The staff of Harvard Business Publishing volunteered on 20th May along with their families and children.
3. Mercer India Pvt. Ltd staff/executives, volunteered in different teams on 4 days. On the 24th May, two leaders: Claire Ross – COO of Pacific, Mercer, and Darren Hall – Administration Operations Leader of Pacific, Mercer joined the team.
4. As a CSR initiative of the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., 200 Saarthi Smart Canes were distributed to the students and trainees of the Blind Relief Association on 23rd September.

5. On 21st December, 18 members from ESG book India Pvt. Limited volunteered in different units of Multi Skill Training and helped in labelling and organizing braille books in the school library.
6. The Blind Relief Association welcomed 35 volunteers from Turner and Townsend on 22nd December. The team spent their day working alongside the trainees in the library and candle, sewing, and paper units. They also enjoyed playing friendly games of football and cricket.
7. The Blind Relief Association hosted a mega function for the Free Distribution of Assistive Devices under the CSR initiative of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) on 28 December, organized by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation Limited (ALIMCO) as the project implementing agency. The Chief Guest at the function was Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture. She handed over the devices to over 350 beneficiaries with diverse disabilities, including a large number of students and trainees from the Association.



CSR Activities

## III. Workshops & Visits

### Understanding Space

Experts from the Nehru Planetarium, New Delhi visited the Blind Relief Association on 9th May to interact with the JPM School Students and share knowledge on the space. The students got to learn about different stars, the calculation of time, and

the moon's cycles. They also had the opportunity to touch and feel a PSLV model that helped them understand the making and launching of a rocket. The session ended with an enriching Q&A session.

### Sound Meditation Session

The trainees undergoing computer training stepped into the world of sound meditation, a one-of-a-kind meditation that focuses on auditory sensations and vibrations. The sound waves created using the gongs and bowls, as a trainee said, felt "magical". Their minds and bodies flowed with the soothing sounds of ocean and water, leading them into a state of blissful relaxation. The workshop was organized by Mrs. Ishita and her daughter Samaira Banga on 1st July.

### Visit to the Air Force Museum

The students of JPM Senior Secondary School had the opportunity to experience what they describe as an unforgettable day. Classes VII, IX, and XI visited the Air Force Museum at Palam, followed by a visit to the artillery regiment later in the morning on 2nd February.

The students had the thrilling experience of physically touching various aircrafts, guns, tanks, and pistols. "What I experienced there was beyond my imagination. I had imagined aircraft and guns based on what I'd read in novels and seen in movies. But being there and touching them brought a whole new dimension to it," said Nikesh, a Class IX student.

Besides exploring military equipment, students also interacted with veterans who shared insights about the 1965 and 1971 wars and the aircraft used during those times. They even got to sit in the cockpits of some aircraft. The visit also included encounters with helicopters no longer in use and a captured tank used by Pakistan during the 1965 war, now held by the Indian army.

Col. Pradeep Kapoor, Trustee of Volunteers for the Blind, who occasionally organizes visits to Defence Units for the students of JPM Senior Secondary School, had organized this one too. The group was accompanied by teachers from the school which also included Dr. Manoj Kumar who was formerly a Corporal in the Indian Air Force.

### Financial Literacy Session

RBI Officials Mr. Mayur Pandey, Ms. Anita Relan, and Mr. Ravinder Sinha led a session on financial literacy on 27th February at the Blind Relief Association. In keeping with the Financial Literacy Week observed from 26th February – 1st March, the session was organized to educate and encourage the students and trainees to be better stewards of finances. The session which had school students, adult trainees, as well as staff members turned out to be highly interactive and engaging.

### Entrepreneurship Development Program

A Pre-Entrepreneurship Development Program was conducted for the vocational trainees of the Association on 19th March by experts from the Inclusive Divyangjan Entrepreneur Association - IDEA. The session inspired and equipped trainees



*Entrepreneurship Development Program*

with the tools and resources necessary to embark on entrepreneurial ventures despite the challenges they may face.

The trainees were encouraged to recognize their unique skills and strengths that can be leveraged in entrepreneurship. Information about available resources, the incubation program of IDEA - SAKSHAM, loan opportunities, and entrepreneurial assistance was shared. Mr. Mallikarjuna lytha, CEO & Founder of IDEA led the session along with Mr. Nikhil Verma, Program Director and Ms. Manjuri Hazarika, Mentorship Co-ordinator.

#### **Educational Visit to Ahmedabad**

The Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education conducted an educational visit to Ahmedabad for its second-year trainees from 16th – 21st March. They had the opportunity to experience 'Vision in the Dark' at the Blind People's Association (BPA) and visit the School for Deaf Mutes at Navrangpura, where they interacted with teachers, observed classroom activities, and attended an insightful seminar.

#### **Workshop on Accessible OTT**

A Workshop on accessible OTT Platform was organized by the Association on 21st March to introduce visually impaired individuals to NobaFlix, an innovative OTT platform tailored to meet the needs of visually impaired viewers. The workshop, led by its founder, Ms. Dipti Prasad, discussed the significance of audio description in movie-watching experiences. This was followed by a screening of the audio-described movie "I Am Kalam,"

demonstrating its practical application. Participants also received hands-on tutorials on installing and navigating the app on their smartphones.

#### **Workshop on Technology**

A workshop on Empowering the Visually Impaired through Technology was co-organized by the Blind Relief Association Delhi and the National Association for the Blind, Delhi on 22nd and 23rd March. Sessions on financial & banking accessibility, ChatGPT, STEM tools for education and daily life, web accessibility, smart home innovations, assistive solutions for reading, mobility, workplace & independent living were led by experts in the field.

### **IV. Fun Activities**

#### **Cricket Match with Shri Ram School, Aravali**

The trainees from the Blind Relief Association had an exciting opportunity on 27th April to participate in a friendly cricket match with Shri Ram School, Aravali. The teams comprised both male and female students from the two institutions. To give an interesting twist to level the playing condition, the students from Aravali were blindfolded thereby ensuring fairness and equal opportunity for all. The match was a riveting one, with both teams fighting for win till the very last ball.

#### **An Opportunity in All India Radio**

In its special program run for the benefit of the visually impaired 'Hausle', All India Radio

aired three interviews with members of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi – Mr. K C Pande, Executive Secretary; Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi, Head - Academia, Research & Planning; Priyanka and Sushma, a charming and bubbly sister duo undergoing Multi-Skill Training.

#### **US Army Band**

The United States Army Japan Band hosted by the US Embassy, India performed jazz music for the JPM School students and vocational trainees of the Blind Relief Association at the American Centre in New Delhi on 8th July. Later the band members also interacted and played with the students and trainees.

#### **Delhi Drum Circles**

The team of Delhi Drum Circles visited the Blind Relief Association on 22nd July for a fun-filled rhythmic afternoon. The students, trainees, and staff enjoyed the music and some trainees too joined and played musical instruments alongside the team.

#### **Christmas Celebrations**

On 22nd December, 10 trainees from the Blind Relief Association visited ITC, Gurgaon to celebrate Christmas. The trainees sang popular carols for an audience of almost 100 employees as they danced in the holiday spirit. As part of the day's events, the employees also participated in team-building exercises and games along with the trainees.

### Annual Picnic

On 3rd February, engines of six buses parked in a row roared as students, trainees, staff, volunteers, interns, families, and friends boarded. With snacks and packed lunches ready, the troop set off to the Annual Picnic at Buddha Jayanti Park.

Once in the sprawling park, some chose to bask in the winter sun with music as their companion, others roamed freely like birds in the sky. A few enjoyed playing music, while others thought it was a day to dance. The children made sure to bring their cricket bats to score runs on the park's

itches. By noon, the gathering of more than 500 people sat in long rows, facing each other, enjoying the wholesome meal served by the Association.

### Rajasthani Folk Music

With the Blind Relief Association turning 80 this year, to mark eight decades of its impactful service, a vibrant Rajasthani Folk musical performance by Bhungar Khan Magniyar & Troupe was organized on 24th February in partnership with Spic Macay. With colourful turbans and powerful voices, the troupe performed amazing numbers on which the audience clapped along and dance to enjoy, clap along, and dance. As the first of the events celebrating the

80th anniversary of the Blind Relief Association, the Rajasthani Folk performance was a terrific start.

### Watching Women's Premier League

The trainees of the Association had the opportunity to witness the Women's Premier League match between Delhi Capitals and UP Warriorz, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on 8th March. The invitation offered courtesy Mr. Rajan Manchanda, Joint Secretary, Delhi District Cricket Association was a special kind gesture extended to the Blind Relief Association on the occasion of International Women's Day.

For the visually impaired trainees, being present in the cricket stadium amidst the cheering, music, DJs, and fellow cricket fans was an unforgettable experience. They let go of their inhibitions, joining in the shouts, whistles, dances, and cheers. Some trainees remembered to video call their friends and family, sharing their joy of watching live cricket.



*Rajasthani Folk Music*

## V. Disability Training & Festivals

### 1. Cross Disability Training Program

On 30th May, a Cross Disability Training Program for Principal/HoS/Vice Principal and Special Education Teachers with Visual Impairment was organized by the Directorate of Education, Delhi in collaboration with the Blind Relief Association, and Anand Singh Smarak Khel Evam Sanskritik Samiti (SAKSHAM) in the Gandhi Hall of The Blind Relief Association, Delhi.

Mr. Himanshu Gupta IAS, Director of Education, graced the Inauguration Ceremony as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Mr. Kailash Chand, DDE – IEB, and other officials. Mr. Gupta shared the vision and resolve of the Directorate to extend full support towards catering to the needs of children with visual disabilities. This daylong event was attended by approximately 180 participants comprising Principals/HoS/Vice Principals and special educators with visual impairment, as well as teachers and students of the Blind Relief Association.

## 2. Training Program for Govt. School Teachers

Primary teachers with visual impairment who are working in the Govt. Schools of the Directorate of Education, Delhi underwent

a 15-day training from 2nd – 21st August organized by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi in collaboration with SCERT Delhi and the Department of Education, Delhi.

The training was the first of its kind held by the Department for assistant teachers/PRTs (regular and guest) with visual Impairment to meet their needs and to enhance capacity to cope with the problems faced in teaching primary children. The training focused on strengthening teachers in ICT-related work, classroom management skills, improving academic work, handling day-to-day work in class, and functioning of school. The training session included hands-on activities, demonstration, health interaction, and exposure visits to develop understanding and strengthen

teachers to teach the children of primary school with or without disabilities.

## 3. Training Program for School Principals & Vice Principals

The Principals and Vice Principals with visual impairment working in the Govt. Schools of the Directorate of Education, Delhi underwent a 15-day training from 18th September – 6th October. The training focused on equipping them to deal with various challenges faced owing to the visual impairment. Sessions on the use of various assistive devices, technologies, software for the visually impaired, importance of ICT, knowledge of school administrative work, and cyber security were organized.

## 4. Purple Fest 2024

The trainees and staff of the Blind Relief Association very enthusiastically participated in the Purple Fest held at the Amrit Udyan in Rashtrapati Bhavan on 26th February. This day-long event was organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion. Trainees demonstrated skills in relaxation massage, sewing, spinning out cotton threads using the traditional Takli as well as selling bakery, cloth, paper, and wax products made by them. The trainees from Durgabai Deshmukh College also participated and displayed educational material, TLM prepared by them.



*Cross Disability Training Program*

## VI. Annual Fundraising Event

### Diwali Bazaar

Just as Diwali is one of India's most eagerly awaited annual festivals, the Blind Relief Association's Diwali Bazaar is an event that many Delhiites look forward to long before. For some families, it has become a cherished tradition over the years. Commonly called the "Blind School Diwali Mela," the popular Diwali Bazaar is one of Delhi's oldest annual events, consistently been held for 43 years, except in 2020. This year's Bazaar was again a week-long event held from 3rd – 9th November in the Association's premises.

What began as a small event in 1980 to humbly showcase products made by visually impaired trainees and workers of the Blind Relief Association has flourished into one of Delhi's largest and most vibrant festive shopping destinations. The Association's iconic candles and diyas, available in over 80 varieties, remain the main attraction, fulfilling the Bazaar's original purpose. The diverse range of paper products, including bags, envelopes, notebooks, cards, and papier-mâché plates, cups, planters, and lampshades, were highly sought after. Visitors were delighted by the cloth products, which this year included organisers, ring bags, laptop bags, sling bags, shoe bags, palazzo pants, and dining sets.

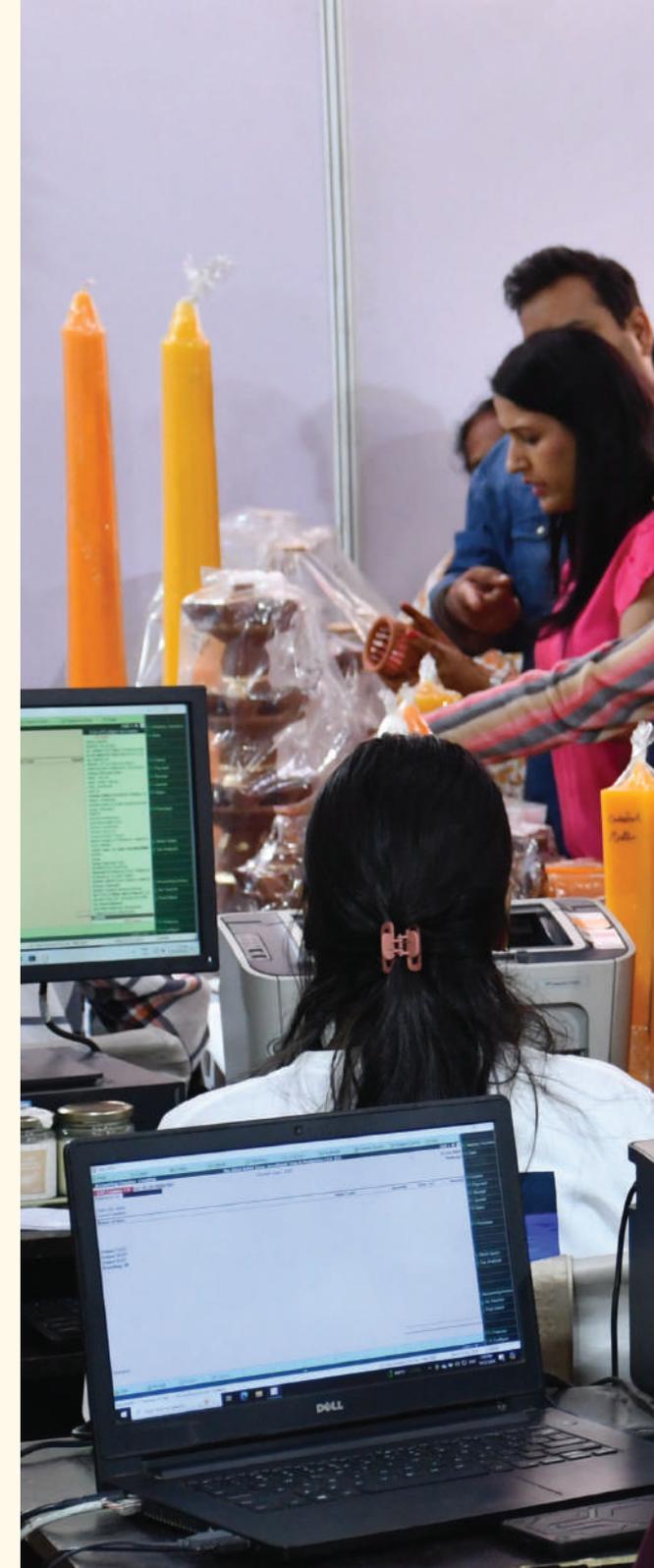
A new addition to the products was "Rangat," a range of handmade soaps crafted and marketed by our Multi-Skill Trainees, born out of their entrepreneurial initiative. These soaps available in delightful fragrances sold well among customers.

The Bazaar provided a grand exposure to the visually impaired masseurs trained at the Association to demonstrate their skills. Tired visitors enjoyed soothing head, shoulder, and foot massages at a reasonable cost.

A wide range of tasty sandwiches, burgers, cheese open toast, cookies, muffins, and a variety of hot and cold beverages, prepared by the Multi-Skill trainees were available for purchase at the Association's Diwali Bazaar. The outlet was entirely managed by the trainees themselves, handling customer orders, and cash transactions, and providing excellent customer service.

Besides the products made by the visually impaired, the Bazaar hosts about 250 stalls that sell a range of innumerable items that shoppers find fascinating as well as enjoyable. These stalls put up by vendors from across the country stock a sweeping assortment of designer wear, footwear, jewellery, home décor, traditional crafts, mouth-watering ready-to-eat and packaged food, etc. Besides the stalls, the Bazaar also hosted NGOs at no charge in its Gandhi Hall to exhibit and sell products made by differently-abled persons or artisans from underprivileged backgrounds.

Several prominent persons and dignitaries are regular visitors to the Diwali Bazaar. This year Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India) visited the Diwali Bazaar on 5th November, along with his wife. Mr. Aggarwal visited various stalls and took an interest in the NGO Bazaar set up in the Gandhi Hall. He also went around the Association's training units and was very impressed by the activities.







# Beneficiaries

Educational & Training Programs	No. of Students/ Trainees
JPM Senior Secondary School	207
Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (V.I)	61
Computer Training	63
Vocational Training	64
Japanese Language Training	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>
Placement	44

# Staff Corner

## Staff Strength

Unit	Total
School & College	59
Computer & Vocational Training	10
Kitchen & Hostel	43
Production & Sales	12
Admin & Accounts	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>

The Association has registered its establishment with the Department of Labour, Govt. of NCT Delhi, ensuring full compliance with statutory regulations, guaranteeing that all employees receive the following benefits:

1. All employees are compensated according to the Minimum Wages Act.
2. Contributions to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) are made as per the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
3. Medical insurance is provided for all the employees covered in line with the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act.
4. Gratuities are provided to employees who have completed five years of continuous service as per the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

### Recognitions & Awards:

1. Dr. Manoj Kumar, a teacher at the JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind, published his fifth book प्रेमचंद के दलित एवं शोषित पात्रों की मूक वेदना।
2. Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey published a book titled Curricular Strategies and Adaptations for Students with Visual Impairment.

3. Mr. David, Dy. Executive Secretary (Operations) was awarded for championing the cause of disability by Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal (IAS), Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities at the Divya Kala Mela held on 4th December.
4. Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi, Head of Academia, Planning & Research was decorated with the Louis Braille Award - 2024 by Drishti, Chitrakoot on World Braille Day.

### Farewell

Mr. Anil Kant, a candle maker, fondly called as 'Bubbly', and Mr. Subash, safai karamchari were bid a farewell on 31st January. They both retired after rendering a service of 28 years and 44 years respectively.

### Obituary

Mr. Raj Kumar, a retired Candle Worker passed away on 7th November. Associated with B.R.A. since 1965, as a boy of just eight, joining the Industrial Home for the Blind in Badarpur, Rajkumar chose to stay with the Blind Relief Association for the rest of his life - first as a student of JPM Senior Secondary School, then as a trainee in vocational training, and later as a staff of the Blind Relief Association for 40 years.



# Gratitude

## Government:

- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India
- Rehabilitation Council of India
- Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi
- Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi
- New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)
- National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun
- National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute of Medical Sciences for referring visually impaired persons for skilling
- Delhi Metro Rail Cooperation for offering space at the Shivaji Stadium Metro Station to set up a massage kiosk

## Corporate Supporters:

- Mercer Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. for supporting the Multi-Skill Training & Relaxation Massage Training program
- Optum Global Advantage for supporting Diploma in Computer Education, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education and JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind

## NGO Supporters & Partners:

- Youth4jobs 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 Special Care Unit, Braille Production Centre and Recording Studio
- MOC Terra Nordica, Sweden for supporting to the Placement Project
- Kamla Devi Charitable Trust for supporting the Computer Training

- Venu Eye Institute for offering training in naturopathy for the masseurs
- Japan International Cooperation Agency for offering Mr. Hisashi Seki, Shiatsu Trainer and helping set up massage kiosk at Shivaji Stadium Metro Station
- Dr. Shroff Charitable Eye Hospital and Sai Bhakta Samaj Polyclinic for diagnostic treatments offered to the students and trainees
- Department of Public Health Dentistry, SGT University for establishing a dental clinic and providing regular dental care services since 2009
- Tally Solutions for offering the tally license free of cost
- Select City Walk Mall, Saket for offering space to set up massage kiosk
- Homeo Amigo for providing free and monthly healthcare treatment since April 2023
- Eye-7 Hospital for conducting a free eye check-up in the year

**Well-wishers:**

- Mrs. Prabhjot Menon for donating laptop to the topper of the Diploma in Computer Education (V.I.) course and orbit device to the winner of Braille competition at JPM
- Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy for fully supporting Ayurvedic Massage training with the free services of a trainer and required consumables

- Japanese language volunteer teachers, Prof. Yoshiro Azuma, his spouse Mrs. Sanae Azuma & Mr. Varun, Ms. Himani, and Ms. Vrinda and alumni Mr. Ramdas, Mr. Deepak Gupta, and Mr. Ajay Gupta
- All India Bank Officers' Confederation for donating bags, flasks, and T-shirts
- Nails at Dalip for donating parlour sofa chairs and trolley to the Relaxation Massage Training
- Green Dot Foods, Nestle, Turner & Townsend,

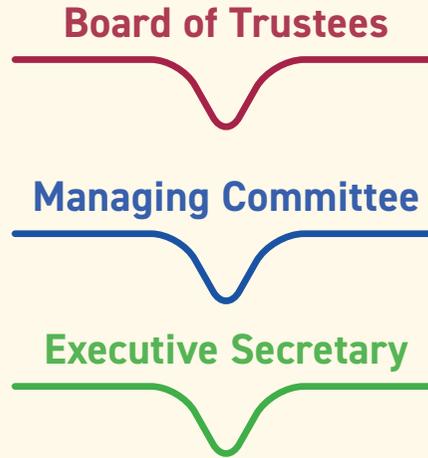
United Biscuits and individual donors Ms. Sneha Gupta and Ms. Pushpa Goswami for contributing to the Café monetarily and in-kind

- Mr. Manish Yadav, Architect - Srijan Consultancy Services for advising on infrastructural changes in the premises

A dearth of space does not permit us to acknowledge the contributions of each volunteer, donor, and supporter. However, the Association expresses its deepest gratitude to all of them.



# Organizational Structure



**Admin | Operations | Academics | Research | Communications**  
**Finance | Resource Mobilization | Donor Care | Volunteer Management**  
**Monitoring & Evaluation | Infrastructure**

## Board of Directors

**Arun Bharat Ram**  
Chairman & Life Trustee

**Ranjit Puri**  
Life Trustee

**Lalit Nirula**  
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

**Arun Bharat Ram**  
President  
Industrialist & Philanthropist

**Ranjit Puri**  
Vice President  
Company Chairman

**Lalit Nirula**  
Vice President  
Social Worker

**Benu Nath**  
General Secretary  
Social Worker

**S.K. Misra**  
Treasurer  
Social Worker

**Radhika Bharat Ram**  
Joint Secretary  
Vice Chairperson, The Shri Ram Schools &  
Co Founder, KARM Fellowship

**Kailash Chandra Pande**  
Executive Secretary  
Social Worker

**Sanjeev Anand**  
Member  
Senior Advocate

**Anil Kohli**  
Member  
Dental Surgeon

**Sushil Ramola**  
Member  
Social Entrepreneur

**Chander Prakash**  
Member  
Addl. Member/Project (Rtd.), Railway Board

**Navin Bahl**  
Member  
Chartered Accountant

**Mahender Kumar Sarin**  
Member  
Chartered Accountant,  
Ex-Consultant -World Bank, Africa

**Amitav Virmani**  
Member  
Educationist

**Abhishek Thakur**  
Member  
Assistant Professor, DSSW,  
University of Delhi

**Dayal Singh Pawar**  
Member  
Professor, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri  
National Sanskrit University

## Leadership

**Kailash Chandra Pande**  
Executive Secretary

**C.P. Mohanan**  
Deputy Executive Secretary (Admin)

**David Absalom**  
Deputy Executive Secretary (Operations)

**M K Gupta**  
Head of Finance

**Kamalbir Singh Jaggi**  
Head of Academics, Research & Planning

**Neelu Suneja**  
Head of IT & Computer Training

**Swapna Merlin S**  
Head of Communications

**K.J. Kuriyan**  
Principal, JPM School

**Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey**  
Course Director, Durgabai Deshmukh  
College of Special Education (V.I)

# A Message From Us

Over the years, the Blind Relief Association has empowered thousands of visually impaired persons, leaving a lasting impact on society. Our former students and trainees now hold prominent positions in various fields, including education, law, civil service, and corporate sectors like Microsoft and United Biscuits. Some have also become successful entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals.

While some may not reach one of these positions right away, our reward lies in seeing our beneficiaries develop a thirst for education and knowledge, hope for a future, and the strength to fight their challenges. They not only evolve but also become guiding lights for their families and support others with disabilities.

At our campus, you'll notice a vibrant atmosphere filled with activities, learning, laughter, and fun. Disability has never hindered our beneficiaries from living life to the fullest. We believe that life offers equal opportunities for persons with visual impairment as it does for the sighted. We urge you to acknowledge their abilities, develop friendships with them, and empower them rather than sympathizing with their disabilities.

We are deeply grateful for the public's goodwill and support, and we firmly believe that by working together, we can build an inclusive society for persons with visual disabilities where they can thrive.



**T.V. VAIDYANATH AIYAR & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai,  
Patna and Chandigarh

221-223, Deen Dayal Marg, New Delhi-110002  
Phones : 91-11-23236958-60, 23237772  
Fax : 91-11-23230831  
E-mail : tvandeca@gmail.com

### 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 at 31st March, 2024, Income and Expenditure 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.

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

- (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Association as at 31st March, 2024, and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the Surplus 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 Audit 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 applicable law, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Responsibilities 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 aforesaid Accounting Standard, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statement 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, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

##### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit 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 the auditor's report that includes our opinion. 'Reasonable assurance' is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement if it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users, taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive 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 involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal financial controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- 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 Institute's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Institute to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope 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 relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

**Report on other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

- a. We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- b. In our opinion, proper books of account as required by relevant laws have been kept by the Association so far as it appears from our examination of those books.
- c. The Balance Sheet, the Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Receipt & Payment A/c dealt with by this Report, are in agreement with the books of account.
- d. In our opinion, the aforesaid financial statements comply with the applicable Accounting Standards.

For Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN: 000038N

*M.P. Thakur*

M.P. Thakur  
Partner  
M. No. :052473

Place: New Delhi  
Date: **30 SEP 2024**

UDIN: 24052473BKDHX5573



**THE BLIND RELIEF ASSOCIATION, DELHI**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Sch. No.	As at 31.03.2024	As at 31.03.2023
(Amt. in Rs.)			
<b>FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>			
Corpus Fund	1	12,266,005	7,938,005
Reserves & Funds	2	164,039,628	154,039,628
Income & Expenditure Account	3	33,548,697	16,180,261
Eamark Fund-Gratuity	4	39,216,256	41,844,214
Asset Fund	5	52,983,812	53,076,806
Unspent Balance of Grant-In-Aid	6	2,494,889	3,004,404
Short Term Borrowings (Secured)	7	-	1,665,996
Current Liabilities	8	7,278,743	8,818,401
Provisions For Leave Encashment	9	14,487,902	14,258,304
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>326,311,630</b>	<b>300,825,020</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment			
Tangible/ Intangible Assets	10		
Gross Block		192,207,902	181,326,150
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		62,190,082	44,792,032
Net Block		130,017,819	136,534,118
Capital Work in Progress	11	-	-
		130,017,819	136,534,118
Investments	12	130,372,444	102,774,319
Investment for Gratuity Fund.	12A	27,323,198	30,133,003
Current Assets	13		
Interest Accrued on Investments.		25,039,403	16,218,957
Inventories		2,123,932	1,946,803
Sundry Debtors		768,360	708,898
Cash & Bank Balances		5,035,178	6,131,137
		32,996,863	25,065,795
Loans & Advances	14		
Advances Recoverable		1,772,604	3,054,597
Tax deducted at source		3,828,702	3,263,188
		5,601,306	6,317,785
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>326,311,630</b>	<b>300,825,020</b>

Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts 31  
Schedule 1-31 form an integral part of the Financial Statements

As per our report of even date.  
For Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 000038N

For The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

*M.P. Thakur*  
(M.P. Thakur)  
Partner  
M.No. 052473

*S.K. Misra*  
(S. K. Misra)  
Hony. Treasurer

*Benu Nath*  
(Mrs. Benu Nath)  
Hony. Genl. Secretary

Place : New Delhi  
Date: **30 SEP 2024**

*K. G. Pandey*  
(K. G. Pandey)  
Executive Secretary

*M.K. Gupta*  
(M.K. Gupta)  
Head Finance & Accounts



**THE BLIND RELIEF ASSOCIATION, DELHI**  
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2024.

(Amt. in Rs.)

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year		Previous Year	
Voluntary Contribution	15	34,974,957		34,561,171	
-Grants in Aid					
<b>GIA Under CSR Activities/ Training Programme</b>	16		63,646,311	15,401,045	49,962,218
-Companies under CSR Activities		28,871,354			
Rental Income	17		15,000,000		14,724,000
Exhibition/ Bazar Income	18		52,108,051		46,951,354
Interest	19		12,479,970		10,447,305
<b>Donation</b>	20			22,645,965	
Voluntary Contribution		22,534,042			
Financial Assistance received for Students		1,000,000			
NIVH Meritorious scholarship		24,000	23,358,042	-	22,645,965
Incentive on Investment	21		104,872		236,645
Membership Fee			2,750		4,650
<b>Fees</b>	22			2,930,630	
Academic Fees		2,941,840	3,065,040		2,930,630
Educational Training fees		123,100			
Miscellaneous Income	23		425,444		2,567,999
Income from Vocational Training Programme	24		17,439,795		18,090,776
<b>Total</b>			<b>188,730,276</b>		<b>168,563,544</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Establishment Expenses	25		19,051,796		17,937,084
Education, Vocational & Other Training Programmes	26		81,528,734		73,370,635
Expenditure on Vocational Training Programme	24		17,414,279		18,012,157
Relief to Poor Covid-19 Expenses	27		-		620,727
Administration & Other Expenses	28		18,772,178		15,510,847
Exhibition/ Bazar Expenses	29		9,312,944		8,051,004
Finance Cost	30		110,813		78,840
Capital Expenditure			7,837,359		10,165,373
Depreciation & Amortisation	10		17,398,054		10,291,290
Less: Transfer from Asset Fund			(8,064,315)		(4,340,027)
<b>Total</b>			<b>161,361,840</b>		<b>145,698,219</b>
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year			27,368,436		18,865,325
Less: Amount transferred to Infrastructure Fund			(10,000,000)		(10,000,000)
Surplus/ (Deficit) carried to Balance Sheet			17,368,436		8,865,325

Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts 31

Schedules 1-31 form an integral part of Income & Expenditure account

As per our report of even date.  
For Thakur, Vaidyanath Aiyer & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 000038N

For The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

(M. P. Thakur)  
Partner  
M.No. 052473

(S. K. Misra)  
Honry. Treasurer

(Mrs. Benu Nath)  
Honry. Genl. Secretary

(K. C. Pande)  
Executive Secretary

(M.K. Gupta)  
Head Finance & Accounts

Place: New Delhi  
Date:

30 SEP 2024







**The Blind Relief Association, Delhi**

Helping the blind help themselves

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Near Hotel Oberoi, New Delhi 110003

Ph. No: 91-11 24361376, 24360480, 24364730

Email: [info@blindrelief.org](mailto:info@blindrelief.org) | [www.blindrelief.org](http://www.blindrelief.org)



Facebook



LinkedIn



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi



@BlindDelhi



@blindreliefassociation.delhi