



# *Newsletter*

**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025**

---

## **SOUND HEALING SESSION**

On 2nd September, two deeply nurturing sound healing sessions were held at the Blind Relief Association, where students from JPM School participated. Led by Manasi Aggarwal, a sound healer based in Mumbai, the sessions offered a gentle sanctuary of rest, resonance, and renewal.

Each session began with a few minutes of grounding breathwork, allowing the students to settle into their bodies and the space. As they lay down, the sound bath unfolded - an immersive experience using Himalayan singing bowls, gongs, chimes, Tibetan bells, and tingshas. The vibrations of these instruments created a sonic warmth, inviting stillness and inner calm. The sessions closed with a few minutes of silence, allowing the experience to gently integrate.

Held in a closed indoor space to enhance the vibrational impact, the sessions were thoughtfully designed to meet the sensory needs of the students. The students responded with quiet presence, and many shared feelings of peace and joy afterward.



## TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 4th September, the Blind Relief Association celebrated Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm. Each unit marked the occasion in its own unique way, and later everyone came together for a memorable collective celebration.

Teachers, instructors, and other dignitaries were welcomed traditionally, followed by a thoughtful discussion on the significance of the day. The event then shifted to fun activities, where everyone participated and enjoyed wholeheartedly. All teachers received gifts and hampers as tokens of appreciation.



## MUSICAL NOON

On 13th September 2025, the Blind Relief Association Delhi came alive with music, joy, and heartfelt nostalgia as it hosted a special musical concert featuring the renowned choir group Capital City Minstrels (CCM). The event drew an enthusiastic gathering of staff, trainees, and students, all eager to immerse themselves in an afternoon of melody and memories.

The CCM choir, accompanied by guitar and keyboard, delivered a captivating performance of old and beloved Hindi Bollywood songs. The atmosphere was electric yet intimate and filled with warmth, laughter, and a shared appreciation for timeless music.

The concert was not just an artistic treat but also a beautiful moment of community bonding. Everyone present, whether staff, trainees, or students, felt uplifted and inspired. It was truly a memorable occasion that celebrated the power of music to bring people together across generations and backgrounds.



## UNMESH 5.0

The fifth edition of Unmesh, held on 20th September at the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, was a heartfelt tribute to Shri K.N. Nayar, former Executive Secretary of the Association, whose birth anniversary was commemorated on 9th September.

The event celebrated the vibrant talents of our students and trainees, beginning with a graceful Ganesh Vandana, followed by a mesmerizing flute recital by Pt. Kailash Chandra Sharma accompanied by Pt. Kamal Kant Sharma on tabla.

The evening unfolded with a group song, a soulful Krishna bhajan, another captivating flute performance, and a meditative Shukuhachi presentation. A student portrayed Charlie Chaplin through a charming dance act, delighting the audience with playful mimicry and expressive moves.

The program concluded with a melodious Kajri dhun, after which heartfelt words were shared in remembrance of Shri K.N. Nayar - honouring his unwavering dedication, gentle spirit, and lasting impact on the Association's journey.





## JAPANESE DELEGATES VISIT



On 26th September, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi hosted a distinguished group of Japanese delegates comprising senior officials from the Japanese Embassy and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). They toured various units of the Association, including the vocational training center, massage unit, computer lab, and café.

They showed keen interest in the skill development initiatives and engaged with instructors and trainees, gaining insights into the empowering work being done to support the visually impaired.

They also interacted with students of Sawaru Nihongo Group who are learning Japanese language. The students shared their experiences of studying the language. They impressed the visitors by speaking the language with confidence.



## CHAUPAL

On 27th September 2025, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi hosted the first session of its inspirational dialogue series, “Chaupal”. The event was designed to bring together voices of resilience, hope, and community spirit.

The highlight of the session was an inspiring talk by Mr. Rajat Aggarwal, Senior Manager at Canara Bank, Delhi. He shared his personal journey that how he lost his eyesight and faced immense emotional and professional challenges. Yet through unwavering determination and inner strength, he overcame those obstacles and rebuilt his life, ultimately achieving remarkable success. His story moved the audience and served as a powerful reminder that adversity can be transformed into opportunity.

A heartfelt tribute was also paid to Late Shri Ajay Kumar Mittal, honoring his legacy and contributions. The atmosphere was filled with emotion as his former students spoke with deep respect and affection, sharing memories that reflected his impact as a mentor and guide. His wife also addressed the gathering, offering touching words that captured the essence of his character and the love he left behind.



## MR. PANDE HONOURED!

We are delighted to share that Shri K. C. Pande, Advisor to the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, has been honored with the prestigious Mahatma Award for Lifetime Achievement in Social Responsibility and Social Impact!

He received the award from Chief Guest Dr. Kiran Bedi, renowned social activist and former IPS officer, along with Mr. Amit Sachdeva, Founder of the Mahatma Award.



The award ceremony, held on October 1st at the India International Centre in New Delhi, recognized individuals and organizations from diverse sectors, including education, healthcare, disability empowerment, sustainability, community service, and corporate social responsibility.

Shri K. C. Pande, who is also a former Executive Secretary, was recognized for his outstanding contributions to education, vocational training, sports, and the empowerment of individuals with visual impairments, through his leadership at both the Blind Relief Association and the Indian Blind Sports Association.

Congratulations, dear Shri K. C. Pande ji, on this well-deserved honor. We are deeply grateful for your decades of dedication to the Association and the lives you've touched along the way.

## DEVOTIONAL EVENING

On 1st October 2025, on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, hosted a soulful devotional भजनांजलि event.

The program began with prayers from diverse religions recited by the students of JPM School and staff, setting a serene and respectful tone. This was followed by a devotional music session led by Sri Satyaveer Singh, currently a music teacher at the National Trust for the Handicapped, New Delhi, along with his team.

After the bhajans, Shri Prakhar Bhartiya of the Indian School of Democracy and Sri Sanjay Rai from Harijan Sewak Sangh engaged the audience in an interactive discussion on Gandhian values. The audience actively participated, making it a meaningful and reflective experience for all.



## PEACE WALK

On 2nd October, the peace walk organized by The Blind Relief Association, Delhi began at 7:30am from the Association's premises and concluded at 12:00 pm, covering a meaningful route of approximately 7 kilometers. The walk passed through prominent places of worship: Gurudwara Damdama Sahib (behind Humayun Tomb), Methodist Church (Lodhi Road), Pandara Road Masjid, and Shri Gopal Mandir (Khan Market), symbolizing India's cultural and religious harmony.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from JPM school students, vocational and computer trainees, volunteers from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi University, and KARM fellows. Together, they walked in solidarity to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi and to reaffirm his timeless message of peace, unity, and brotherhood.



## Updates from Sawaru Nihongo Group SESSION WITH PROF. PANDA

On 5th October 2025, the Sawaru Nihongo Group of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, had the privilege of welcoming Prof. Nabin Panda, Head, Department of Chinese and Japanese Studies, University of Delhi.

Prof. Panda interacted with the students in Japanese and praised their enthusiasm, dedication, and impressive proficiency in the language.



## JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

Two students from the Sawaru Nihongo Group of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, achieved distinction at the 37th North Zone Japanese Language Speech Contest held on October 11, 2025, at the Sir Shankar Lal Concert Hall, University of Delhi.

Nikesh Sharma won the 2nd Prize in the Junior Category, and Anjali Rawat secured the 3rd Prize in the Senior Category. Both are visually impaired learners studying Japanese through Japanese Braille (Tenji).

The contest was organized by the Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) with support from the Embassy of Japan in India and the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. The Chief Guest was Hon. Mr. Takashi Ariyoshi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan.



## SADU TEA CEREMONY

A serene and culturally rich afternoon unfolded at the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, as the Sawaru Nihongo (Touch Japanese) group hosted a traditional Sadō (Japanese Tea Ceremony) on 12th October.

The session offered our learners a hands-on experience of the Japanese spirit of mindfulness, harmony, and hospitality. Two of the visually impaired students came dressed in elegant kimono, adding an authentic and graceful touch to the event.

From understanding the calm rhythm of whisking matcha to learning the meaning behind each gesture, students immersed themselves deeply in this timeless art.

A heartfelt thanks to Varun Sensei, Apoorva Sensei, and Nishta Sensei for planning and conducting this beautiful cultural exchange

A reflection from one of our students on this unforgettable experience is shared below:

“Yesterday was truly a memorable day for all of us. The efforts of our Sensei-tachi are beyond words, and I am deeply grateful to have such wonderful people in my life. We experienced the beauty of Sadō and Japanese culture in every moment. I observed the fineness and attention to detail in every step. Wearing the yukata and sitting in the seiza position made the experience even more special. The atmosphere of the Japanese otera made us feel as if we were actually in Japan. We even enjoyed the gentle fragrance of matcha through the perfume. So, I declared yesterday’s Sunday a Super Sunday. Thank you, Sensei, for giving us such a beautiful experience.”



## MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AT SWADESHI MELA

On 9th October 2025, Multi-Skill trainees Purnima and Dheeraj from the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, gave a soulful musical performance at the inauguration of the Swadeshi Mela, an event graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi.

The Swadeshi Mela celebrates India's spirit of self-reliance and craftsmanship, bringing together artisans, small enterprises, and social organizations from across the country. Amid this vibrant setting, the musical presentation by BRA trainees added a special note of warmth and joy, earning heartfelt appreciation from the audience and dignitaries alike.



## DIWALI BAZAAR

The Diwali Bazaar 2025 returned to the Blind Relief Association campus with its familiar festive warmth. The event was inaugurated by Shri Devesh Kumar Mahla, DCP New Delhi, who lit the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Ms. Benu Nath, Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande, Mr. David Absalom, and Mr. Mohanan. After the ceremony, the DCP visited the Association's stalls and expressed appreciation for the craftsmanship of the visually impaired artisans.

For many Delhiites, a visit to the "Blind School Diwali Mela" has long been a part of their festive ritual. The 2025 edition once again carried this legacy forward. Held from 11 to 17 October, the Bazaar hosted more than 260 stalls and welcomed steady footfall throughout the week.

The Association's own stall continued to draw visitors with varieties of candles and diyas, a fresh scented range, handmade paper goods, and cloth products such as totes, organizers, and recycled-fabric accessories. All items were packaged using recycled Braille paper or cloth, reflecting the Association's environmental commitment.



Trainee-led initiatives added warmth and energy to the event. Visually impaired masseurs offered relaxing massages, and Café Mast, run entirely by trainees, served baked treats, sandwiches, burgers, cookies, and beverages. Many visitors appreciated the confidence and professionalism of the trainees behind these experiences.

Vendors from across India brought a wide selection of designer wear, jewellery, home décor, toys, herbal products, and festive gifts. The dedicated NGO Zone featured organisations working with marginalised communities and persons with disabilities.



## CAMPUS MAKEOVER - THANKS TO HUDCO

Through Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) 's CSR initiative Swachhta 5.0, the Blind Relief Association's walls and gates were freshly painted, pathways were leveled, and new benches and waste bins were installed, creating a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming environment.

To inaugurate the newly renovated areas, Shri Daljeet Singh Katri, Director (Finance), and Shri Teekam Sridhar, Senior Executive Director (HRMA), along with their team, visited the Association on 14th October. As part of the occasion, they planted new saplings symbolizing a fresh beginning and distributed HUDCO kits.

The team also toured the Association's vocational training centre, where they appreciated the craftsmanship of the trainees and commended their work. They later visited the Diwali Bazaar, taking special interest in the Association's candle and diya stalls.

The visit concluded with a meeting between the HUDCO team and the Association's representatives in the conference room, where ideas for future collaboration and growth were exchanged.

A heartfelt thanks to HUDCO for their generous support in making the campus a cleaner and more beautiful place.



## A SPECIAL VISIT FROM OPTUM INDIA

The Blind Relief Association was delighted to host a team from Optum India on 14th October. The delegation included Optum's Managing Director, Ms. Uma Ratnam Krishnan. The team was welcomed and taken on a tour of the Association's Vocational Training Center, Computer Training Center, and the Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education.

Ms. Krishnan showed keen interest in learning about the various training and educational programs run by the Association, as well as the recent developments across its different units.

The visit concluded with an interactive session between the teams from Optum and the Blind Relief Association, which included a certificate distribution ceremony for the graduates of the Diploma in Computer Education & Assistive Technology.

Representing the Blind Relief Association were Mrs. Benu Nath, General Secretary; Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram, Joint Secretary; Mr. David, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Amitav Virmani, Member of the Managing Committee.



## FAREWELL TO COMP TRAINEES

On October 31st, 2025, The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, came together to celebrate and bid a farewell to Batch - AF 69, who completed the Four-Month Computer Training Course.

Certificates were awarded to all students, recognizing their dedication, growth, and achievements over the past months. The event was filled with heartfelt reflections as both students and teachers shared their experiences, stories of learning, perseverance, and the bonds formed along the way.



## OBITUARY



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, conveys with deep sorrow the news of the passing of Sri Ajay Kumar Dixit on 25th September 2025. He was an alumnus of JPM School (Batch of 1973) and a former Member of the Managing Committee of the Association.

An enduring link to the Association's formative years, Sri Dixit remained closely associated with its activities and continued to show keen interest in its progress and work for persons with visual impairment.

### Catch up on social media

