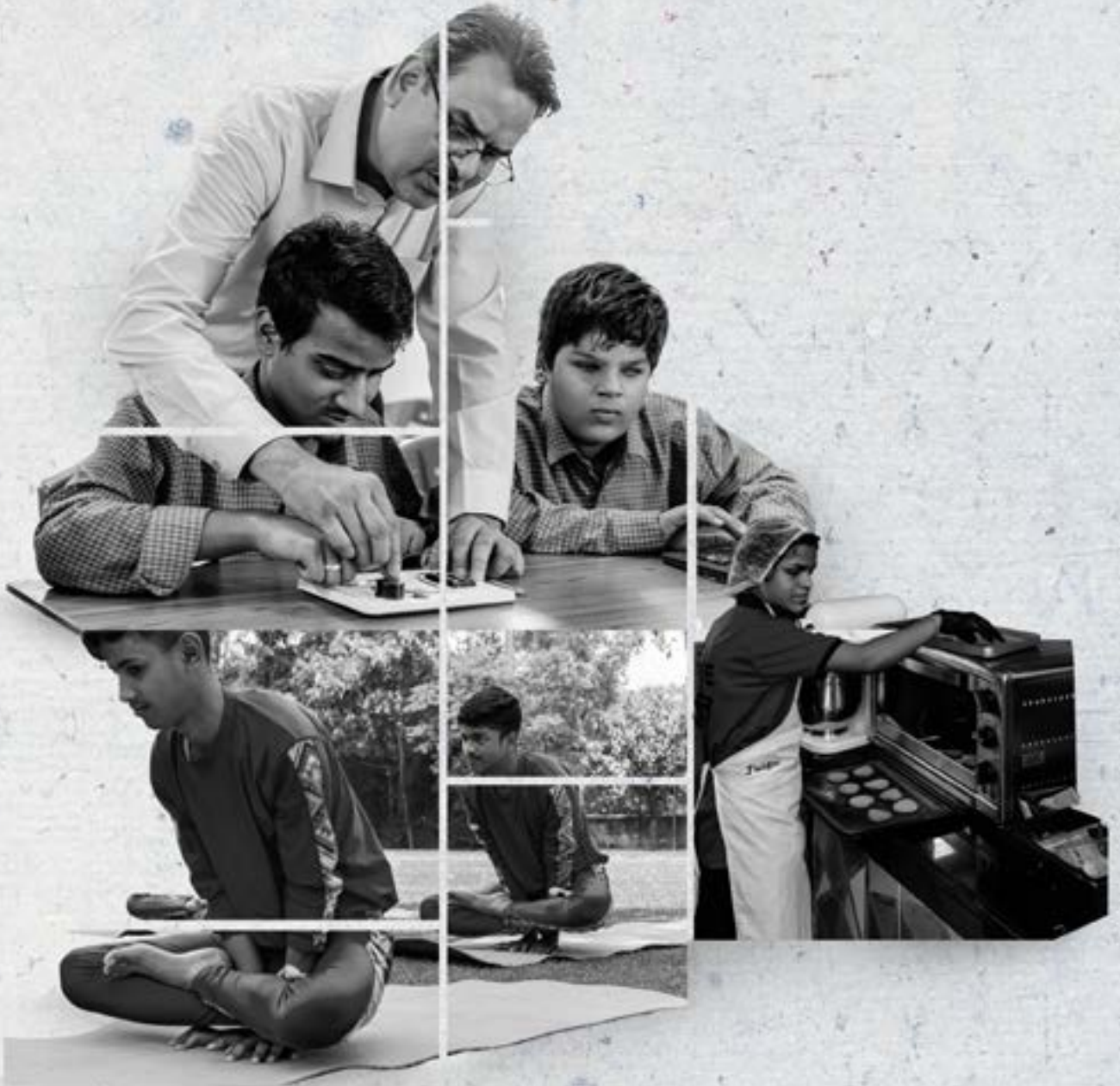




ANNUAL REPORT



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
Helping the blind help themselves

2024 - 2025



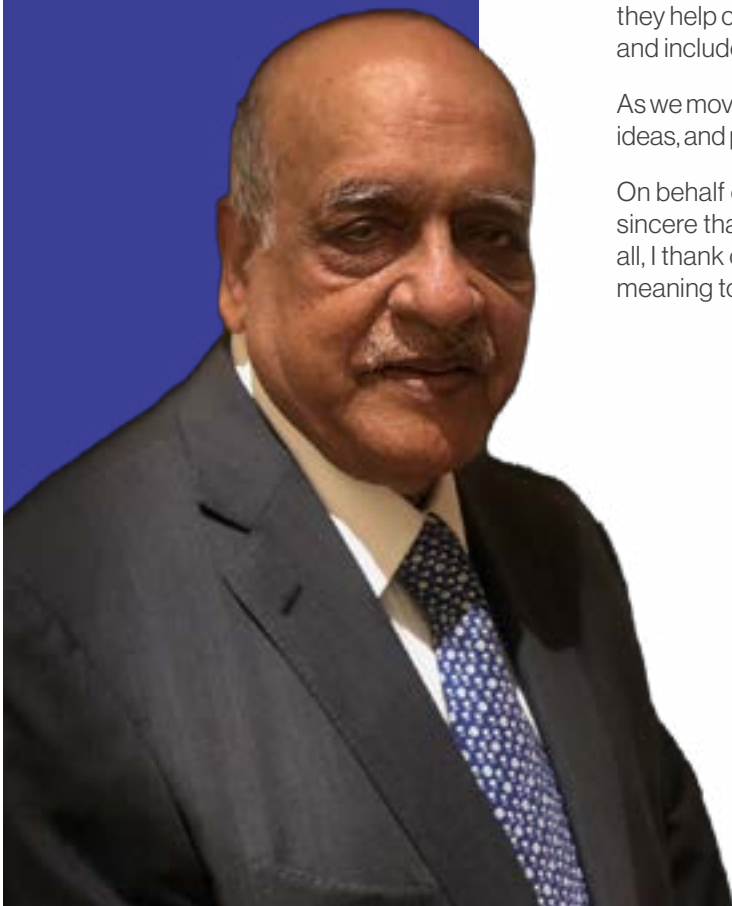
Table of Contents

The Genesis	02	Partnership	19
The Journey	03	Events	20
In Essence	04	Beneficiaries	27
Education & Training Programs	07	Staff Corner	28
Accessible Resources Centre	17	Gratitude	29
Rehabilitation Services	18	Organizational Structure	30
Outreach & Sensitization	19	A Message from Us	31
Residential Facility	19		

Chairperson's Address

With the right support and opportunities, persons with visual impairment can learn, grow, and contribute with confidence.

— *Chairperson*



It is with a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility that I present the Annual Report of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, for the year 2024–25. This year has shown once again that, with the right support and opportunities, persons with visual impairment can learn, grow, and contribute with confidence.

Across our school, training programs, and residential facilities, we have witnessed students and trainees working hard, participating actively, and developing new skills. Many have engaged in academics, sports, cultural activities, and technology-based learning. Their progress reminds us of the importance of creating an environment that fosters independence and self-belief.

We also introduced several key initiatives during the year. A dedicated Math and Science Laboratory was established in JPM School to strengthen hands-on learning. A Python Programming Course was launched to help visually impaired learners enter the digital field with greater readiness. Our Vocational Training Workshop was upgraded with new flooring, improved lighting, and reorganized workspaces to create a safer and more efficient setup.

The Women's Massage Training Centre was established and has already created new opportunities for women. The massage training program expanded to include steam therapy, manicures and pedicures, foot reflexology, and sessions conducted by experienced trainers. In addition, our trainees attended sessions on financial literacy, street accessibility, assistive technology, artificial intelligence, and digital skills. These experiences have helped them prepare for work and independent living.

A strong sense of community continues to guide all our efforts. Our staff members have worked with dedication. Our volunteers, whether present on campus or contributing remotely, have given their time generously. Our donors and CSR partners have supported our work with trust and cooperation. Together, they help create a setting where persons with visual impairment feel respected and included.

As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen our programs, embrace new ideas, and provide the support needed for every student and trainee to progress.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Managing Committee, I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to our work this year. Most of all, I thank our students and trainees—their determination guides us and gives meaning to everything we do.

Arun Bharat Ram
Chairperson



THE GENESIS

Freedom fighters Smt. Anusuyabai Basrurker and Shri U.A. Basrurker were widely respected for their generosity and commitment to the poor and marginalized.

In 1942, a blind man seeking financial help deeply moved Smt. Basrurker. At the same time, while imprisoned by the British in Ferozepur Jail, Shri Basrurker was inspired by American Notes written by Charles Dickens, particularly the story of Laura Bridgeman, a deafblind girl who overcame her disabilities with Dr. Samuel Howe's support.

After his release, the couple and their friends reflected on the plight of blind persons in India and saw the need for systematic rehabilitation. This led to the founding of the Blind Relief Association on 26 February 1944, with the mission of enabling the blind to achieve psychological, physical, and economic independence, instilling confidence and purpose.

The journey began in 1946 with a small Industrial Home and School for the Blind, starting with just two students—Daya Ram and Murli Dhar—in a rented building at Lal Kuan, Badarpur. In 1966, the institution shifted to its own campus on (then) Link Road, in the heart of New Delhi, where it continues to flourish today.

The Journey



- 1944** — Establishment of the Association by Smt. Anusuya & Shri. U.A. Basrurker
- 1946** — Industrial Home and School for the Blind at Badarpur
- 1955** — Foundation Stone of the Building in New Delhi laid by Dr Helen Keller
- 1956** — Registration under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860
- 1966** — Inauguration of the Building by Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India
- 1967** — JPM School for the Blind | Technical Training Centre cum Workshop for the Blind | Training Centre for Teachers of the Blind
- 1982** — Audiobook Recording Studio for the Blind
- 1982** — First National Sports Meet for the Blind
- 1986** — Unit for Children with Multiple Disabilities
- 1986** — Establishment of the Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA)
- 1991** — Computerized Braille Printing
- 1994** — Vocational Training in Bookbinding, Repair of Household Electrical/ Electronic Appliances
- 1996** — Computer Literacy for the Adult Blind
- 1999** — Computer Training for School Students
- 2003** — Relaxation Massage Training
- 2006** — Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment)
- 2008** — Call Centre Training
- 2009** — Dental Care Unit set up by S.G.T. Dental College
- 2013** — Honoured with Best Institution National Award 2012 by the Govt. of India
- 2013** — Multi-Skill Vocational Training
- 2014** — Diploma Course in Computer Education (V.I.)
Construction of New Hostel Block for School Children
- 2019** — Platinum Jubilee Year
Basic Computer & Office Operations Course
- 2020** — Mahatma Award for Social Good
- 2023** — Inauguration of Manju Bharat Ram Block

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 more prominently across northern states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, as well as the neighbouring Nepal.

Why We Do What We Do

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 more prominently across northern states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, as well as the neighbouring Nepal.

Vision

To empower persons with visual impairment through education and skill training

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 society 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.

Initiatives



Education



Skill Training



Rehabilitation

Programs

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

Awards



Mahatma Award for Social Good for the year 2020



State award for outstanding employers of the physically handicapped for the year 1988-89



Awarded by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for valuable contributions in the training and placement of blind persons in 1986



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

Education & Training Programs

Jormal Periwal Memorial (JPM) Senior Secondary School For The Blind

Jormal Periwal Memorial Senior Secondary School for the Blind, established and run by the Blind Relief Association, continues to play a pivotal role in empowering children with visual impairment through quality formal education.

Recognized and aided by the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi since 1969 and affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) since 1974, the school has earned a strong reputation in the field of special education.

JPM provides free education from Class I to XII, along with boarding, lodging, assistive devices, books, and other essential services. In addition to academics, the school places great emphasis on sports and co-curricular activities, ensuring all-round development of its students.

Highlights of the Year

- A dedicated Math and Science Laboratory was newly established to enhance experiential learning.
- Khoob Chand Nanda, Class XII (85%), received the Excellence in Education Award 2024 from the Directorate of Education, recognizing outstanding academic achievement.
- In sports and athletics, students participated in 19 events at the Zonal Level, winning 33 prizes. At the State Level, they secured 23 medals across 3 events, and at the National Para Athletic Meet, they brought home 2 medals. For his exceptional performance at the state and national levels, Amaan from Class XII, was honoured with the Excellence Award in Sports by the Directorate of Education.
- In cultural competitions, students took part in 10 events at the Zonal Level, winning prizes in all. At the District Level, they competed in 7 events and won 7 prizes. At the State Level, they participated in 3 events, securing two first positions and one third position.
- In external academic and literary competitions:
 1. Nikesh, Class X, won 1st Prize in an essay writing competition organized by AICB.
 2. Ayush Kumar Singh, Class XII, won 2nd Prize in Braille Hindi reading, organized by AICB.
 3. Shivam Kumar, Class X, secured 1st Prize in a Braille reading and writing competition hosted by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi.
 4. Krish Saini, Class XII, earned 1st Prize in another Braille reading and writing contest.
 5. In the Tactile Olympiad conducted by the Raised Lines Foundation, students won 4 prizes.
- Students actively participated in school-level activities on themes such as de-addiction and inter-state cultural awareness under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.

18 New Admissions	201 Total Student Strength	97.46% Annual School Exam 2025 Pass %
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	---

22 students Class X	100% CBSE Board Exam Results
-------------------------------	--

21 students Class XII	100% CBSE Board Exam Results
---------------------------------	--

Year 2024–25

81.8% Nikesh Sharma	73.4% Kunal Kumar	73% Sumit Kumar Jha
-------------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------

Class X Toppers

89.9% Prashant Chaudhary	87.4% Amaan	87.2% Krish Saini
------------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------------

Class XII Toppers



Tracing a Life, Building a Movement

Some stories don't shout. They unfold quietly, one determined step at a time. That is how Ramdas Shivhare's journey has always been: Steady, grounded, and full of courage.

He was born in a small village called Atarra, in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district. Visually disabled since birth, and raised in a family with limited means, life did not come with many privileges. What he faced early on was not just the absence of sight, but the weight of silence, the kind of silence that comes when society does not expect much from you. Disability, especially in rural India, is too often misunderstood or ignored. But even as a child, Ramdas held on to something stronger than despair: quiet ambition.

His world began to shift when he joined JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind. For the first time, he found a space that made room for him. He met peers who did not need his pain explained, teachers who believed in his potential, and a sense of independence that grew with every passing day.

"It was a new beginning," he says, and it truly was. He went on to score 88% in his Class XII board exams, and earned admission into the prestigious St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. There, he studied History, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees with distinction. But grades were only a part of the story.

A DUSKIN Leadership Fellow in Japan, he gave workshops, attended conferences, and spoke up for those who could not. He traveled to South Korea and Malaysia on exchange programs. He even represented India in the 2015 IBSA Asian Blind Football Championship in Tokyo. Whether on the field or at conferences, Ramdas proved his presence mattered.

After college, he joined Corporation Bank and later served as Deputy Manager at the State Bank of India. There too, he stayed true to his mission: pushing for accessibility, inclusive hiring, and a workplace where difference was not a disadvantage.

Today, Ramdas works as an Under Secretary at the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). But his contributions stretch far beyond the walls of an office. He continues to be connected with organizations like the Indian Blind Sports Association and the Blind Relief Association, organizes awareness drives, mentors students, and remains deeply involved in promoting blind sports. As Chairperson of the National Blind Football Committee and Convener of Blind Tennis India, he's built spaces where sport becomes a source of identity and joy for many.

Ramdas teaches a Japanese Language Proficiency course for visually impaired students. His goal is to help others access the kind of global opportunities he once dreamed of. He has been a visiting researcher at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, supported by a Japan Foundation fellowship.

His Ph.D., recently awarded by the University of Delhi, is a powerful milestone. His dissertation, titled "Tracing Historical Trajectories of Disability Movements in India and Japan (1947-2022)", is rooted not just in books, but in lived experience. He has presented papers across Asia, from Taiwan to Cambodia.

"It is not nature that disables us," he says, "but a society that fails to understand us."

Whether playing football in Tokyo or shaping policy in Delhi, Ramdas has made it clear that ability has nothing to do with sight, and everything to do with vision.



Durgabai Deshmukh College Of Special Education (V.I)

Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education is named after the noted social and political reformer who provided dynamic leadership to the Blind Relief Association through her vision, dedication, and drive. It was through her initiative that the Association started the Training Centre for Teachers of the Blind in 1967. The seed she had sown culminated in the establishment of the Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (VI) in 2006.

The college offers a two-year B.Ed. Special Education course in Visual Impairment. It is established and run by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi. The college is permanently affiliated with the University of Delhi and comes under the provisions of Sections 12(B) and 2(f) of the UGC Act. The course is also recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India.

Highlights of the Year

- The College conducted two Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programs approved by RCI — on 'Training in Orientation & Mobility Skills' (13 July 2024) and 'Need Assessment of Persons with Visual Impairment' (10–11 January 2025).
- An educational tour to Jodhpur was organized from 16–22 February 2025 for second year students at the College.
- A campus recruitment drive, in collaboration with the Shri Aurobindo Society, was held on 25 March 2025. After three rounds of interviews, four students were selected: Alan Jipson, Nancy Gahlot, Ritish Puri, and Ritik Parmar.
- As per NEP 2020 guidelines, the course was transitioned from Annual to Semester Mode starting with the 2024–26 session. The revised syllabus is approved by RCI and ratified by the Academic Council of the University of Delhi.

31
Total Admissions

8 Students
Visually Impaired

Year 2024–26

100% Pass in First Division
University Exam 2024 Result (2022–24 Batch)

1st Position — **Ms. Surbhi Singh**
College Topper and University Medal Recipient

2nd Position — **Ms. Nandita**

3rd Position — **Mr. Suraj Kumar**



Learning to Teach, Learning to Include

Sanjeev Kumar, 23, from Sonia Vihar in Delhi, completed his B.A. (Hons) in Political Science from Ramjas College. He then pursued a B.Ed. in Special Education (V.I.) at the Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, a pivotal step in his career.

In the first year, Sanjeev gained a strong grounding in educational psychology and human growth and development. Alongside classroom learning, he engaged in creative and practical activities including art and craft sessions, training placements with classroom observations, and field trips that redefined for him what it meant to learn beyond textbooks.

The second year was shaped by hands-on teaching practice. Sanjeev conducted Braille classes, taught pre-primary children at the National Association for the Blind (NAB). At the Ananth Centre for Learning and Development, he taught children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. Back at JPM School, he offered extra classes in Environmental Studies, often drawing from his own school experiences. He also gained exposure to inclusive classrooms, learning to adapt lessons to suit diverse learners' needs.

Hostel life at the Blind Relief Association further strengthened his sense of discipline, community, and empathy. "Teachers knew us, listened, and didn't leave anyone out," he recalls. These lived experiences enriched his professional training, giving him not only academic expertise but also a deeper understanding of inclusion in practice.

Now, with his B.Ed. completed, Sanjeev is preparing to step into teaching as his vocation. His training at Durgabai Deshmukh College has equipped him with the knowledge and compassion to serve as an educator committed to disability and inclusion.



Computer Training Centre

The Association was among the first in the country to launch computer literacy programs for the visually challenged. Established in 1996, the Centre has since been offering courses of varying durations to meet the digital learning needs of educated visually impaired adults.

These courses equip participants with essential digital skills and the confidence to navigate technology independently. Trainees learn to use computers, smartphones, and assistive technologies, manage online tasks, and apply for jobs without external help.

Diploma in Computer Education and Assitive Technology (V.I.)

The Centre runs a 10-month Diploma in Computer Education and Assitive Technology for both sighted and visually impaired adults. The program prepares them to become skilled computer instructors for persons with visual impairment, with a strong focus on accessibility, digital literacy, and professional empowerment. Initially launched as a pilot in 2014–15, the course was formally recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) in 2016.

Computer Training and Office Operations Course

Started in July 2019, this six-month course blends digital skills training with practical office experience. It prepares visually impaired trainees for a range of roles, including tele-calling, conducting surveys, and assisting in event coordination.

Highlights of the Year

- A new Python Programming Course was launched for visually impaired students on 16 August 2024. Mr. Arman was appointed as the course instructor.
- On 30 January 2025, a presentation competition was held for Diploma trainees. 24 participants across five teams showcased topics of their choice. Winners received tabs and pen drives.
- Rajender Sahu, the topper of Batch X (2024-25), was felicitated with a laptop on 29 May 2024, donated by Smt. Prabhjot Menon. Rajender is now employed as an Assitive Technology Trainer with Saksham.

14 out of **17** trainees completed
X Batch (2024–25)

24 new trainees
XI Batch (2025–26)

Diploma in Computer Education & Assitive Technology

11 out of **13** trainees completed
IX Batch

11 trainees
X Batch

Computer Training & Office Operations Course

9 trainees
October 2024

10 trainees
April 2024

9 trainees
June 2024

Other Short-Term Trainings





A Journey Marked by Quiet Resolve

"I once relied on others for everything. Today, I study, code, and teach myself."

Born in Bihar and blinded at an early age due to glaucoma, Sanat has never allowed his disability to slow him down. From schooling in Ranchi to living and learning in Delhi, he has steadily acquired skills that enable him to study, work, and live independently.

In 2018, he moved to Delhi and completed his higher secondary education, followed by a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Delhi. Thereafter, he enrolled in the one-year Diploma in Computer and Assistive Devices at the Blind Relief Association, Delhi.

"Before coming to BRA, I knew nothing about computers," Sanat shares. Technology has transformed the way he learns. Earlier dependent on others for assignments, books, or printed material, Sanat now uses OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and screen readers to access print independently.

His life beyond academics is equally vibrant. He has participated in various sports under the Indian Blind Sports Association, including cricket, chess, and track events. He also underwent employability training at BRA, where he learned résumé and CV writing, along with professional communication skills. "I used to be afraid of speaking," he admits. "But with practice in class, my confidence has grown."

Although he has already been offered a position at the Department of Atomic Energy in Mumbai, he is determined to further sharpen his computer skills before stepping into the role. "That's why I am here," he explains. "So that when I go there, I can handle everything confidently." He hopes to teach part-time online and eventually make it a secondary profession.

Music remains his personal passion. Taught the guitar by his father, Sanat now also plays the keyboard and enjoys composing. "Computers help in music too," he smiles. "One day, I want to have my own guitar studio."

Sanat's journey— from dependence to independence, from hesitation to confident communication, from being taught to preparing to teach others— reflects his determination. For him, this is only the beginning.



Vocational Training Centre

Multi-Skill Training

The Multi-Skill Training initiative, launched in 2014, offers a year-long, holistic training program tailored for adults with visual disabilities, including those with additional disabilities. With no educational prerequisites, it allows for participants to gain essential motor skills for self-employment or employment in a multitude of fields. The program is adaptable, catering to the individual abilities, interests, and strengths of each trainee, and covers a wide range of skills such as bookbinding, candle making, operating light machines, sewing, and spinning with a charkha and takli.

The program also emphasizes the development of daily living skills, including mobility, personality development, English communication, computer literacy, Braille, physical fitness, and music. Since many trainees are school dropouts, the program encourages them to pursue their education through open schooling while they participate in the vocational training.

Training cum Production Units

1. Candle Making Unit

The candle making program trains adults in practical skills while producing a wide range of candles sold year-round, especially at the Association's Diwali Bazaar, fairs, and corporate events. The unit also assists other NGOs with training and logistics to start their own candle-making programs.

2. Paper Crafts Unit

The Paper Craft unit, begun in 1994 as a bookbinding program for visually impaired persons, now trains them to create eco-friendly products—bags, envelopes, boxes, and paper-mâché items—using recycled paper, old Braille books, and newspapers, promoting sustainability through repurposing and upcycling

3. Sewing Unit

The Sewing unit, under a USHA Silai School-certified program, trains the visually impaired adults in sewing machine use and skills to make products like sling bags, coin purses, pouches, shoe bags, and saree cover. Recycled fabric is repurposed into practical items, while collaborations with designers and brands help fulfil bulk orders and broaden its reach.

4. Café Mast

The Baking unit, introduced in 2021 under the Multi-Skill Training program, teaches baking cookies, cupcakes, muffins, snacks, and beverages, while also building customer service and management skills in a café setting with assistive technologies. Run independently by trainees with visual impairment, the café has become popular, serving both internal and external customers.

Highlights of the Year

- With SRF Limited's support, the Vocational Training Workshop area was upgraded with epoxy flooring, brighter lighting, and reorganized units. Inaugurated by Smt. Benu Nath on 9 April, the renovation coincided with 69 years since Helen Keller laid its foundation. The Sales Section was also moved near the entrance for better access and display.
- Healthy additions included Jamun Juice, Aam Panna, and Besan Chila to the Café Mast menu.
- New candle designs—Kamal Floating, Phool Gulab, and a redesigned Lotus—were launched, and the unit joined a fragrance-focused workshop in Noida.
- Sewing machines were upgraded for better alignment and stitching.
- New products featured coordinated zip pouch sets and canvas tote bags and pouches.
- Collaborations with Nanhe Paon and visually impaired artisans produced Potli bags and custom pouches.
- Exhibitions at The Shri Ram School and Gyan Bharati School showcased trainees' handmade items, boosting visibility and appreciation.
- Demo embroidery sessions for visually impaired children and interactive activities for students on sewing machine parts and basic stitching were also held.

31

No. of Trainees

As on 1 April 2024

16

New Admissions

0

Dropouts

31

Completed

April 2024 – March 2025

16

No. of Trainees

On Training



Walking Forward on His Own Terms

At the age of fifteen, Satyam lost his eyesight due to brain fever. He was in Class X then, deeply engaged in reading the news and learning English. His days were filled with studies, singing, and cycling around his hometown of Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand.

"I quit stepping out altogether. I felt stagnant," he recalls. For the next decade, between 2011 and 2024, Satyam stayed indoors. He spent his time with relatives, listening to spiritual lectures, reciting mantras, and singing bhajans. Holding on to the belief that his eyesight would somehow return, he immersed himself in faith, memorizing temple hymns and mythological tales.

Throughout this period, no one expected him to work, take up household responsibilities, or learn anything new. It was only when he began thinking seriously about his future that he realized he could not remain this way forever. In October 2024, he took a bold step—an adjustment course in Dehradun, his first significant move outside home in years.

But it wasn't easy.

Satyam left home with only determination and a signboard marked 'Dehradun.' He missed two buses but was guided by a kind rickshaw driver and the phone numbers he had memorized proved invaluable that day.

The adjustment course opened new doors. He learned orientation and mobility, cooking, pressing clothes, sewing, ironing, and even computer skills. His confidence, dormant for years, finally began to grow.

On April 9, he arrived at the Blind Relief Association in Delhi, where he trained in bookbinding, sewing, bag making, aprons, and zip pouches. "I never imagined I would like sewing," he admits. "But here, I do. I feel as if I am making something useful."

His mentors left a deep impression, guiding him patiently. Yet the hardest part was returning to academics after so long. "At home, I didn't realize how much I had forgotten. When I began lessons here, I saw how far behind I was. That was tough." Still, he persevered. Maths gradually became his favourite subject, and computers, once unimaginable, began to make sense.

Now, Satyam plans to complete his education through NIOS. His dream is to start a Sanskrit university one day. "I want to do something purposeful, something connected to what I believe."

Today, he takes pride in being more self-reliant. "Aatmanirbhar banna hai," he asserts. "I need to work on my work and move forward despite adversities."

Satyam knows the road ahead is long, but now he walks it on his own terms.



Relaxation Massage Training

This facility offers a comprehensive six-month training program designed to prepare visually impaired individuals for careers as professional masseurs. The curriculum includes various massage techniques such as aroma therapy, Ayurvedic massage, and head and face massages, along with Thai, Swedish, and Shiatsu styles. Additionally, trainees gain knowledge in human anatomy and physiology, as well as pain management techniques through Sujok therapy, acupressure, and foot reflexology.

Highlights of the Year

- The Women's Massage Training Centre was launched at the Blind Relief Association on 13 September 2024, inaugurated by long-time supporter Shahnaz Husain, Founder of the Shahnaz Husain Group.
- Training expanded to include steam massages, manicures, and pedicures, along with foot reflexology and expert-led sessions from a Delhi-based Naturopathic Centre, strengthening knowledge of holistic wellness.
- Trainees gained hands-on exposure through massage demonstrations at the Oberoi Hotel, No Footprints Travel Agency, and the American Embassy.
- On 12 July 2024, a farewell was held for Hisashi Seki Sensei, JOCV volunteer and Shiatsu Massage Trainer, marking his two impactful years. The event included a cultural touch, with the anchor dressed in a traditional Japanese kimono.

20 Admissions	01 Dropped Out	19 Completed
------------------	-------------------	-----------------

January – June 2024

23 Admissions	05 Dropped Out	18 Completed
------------------	-------------------	-----------------

July – December 2024

19
Admissions

January – June 2025



Learning for Life, Not Just a Career

At 7 a.m., Aarti is already on the yoga mat. By 8, she's reading the morning news.

Then it's practice in massage therapy, resume writing, and anatomy theory, all part of a full day's curriculum at the Blind Relief Association in Delhi, where she's taking a six-month professional course in relaxation massage.

"I am also preparing for the SSC," she says, the competitive test that can lead to a government job. "But otherwise, I didn't want to sit around and do nothing. I wanted to acquire skills and be independent."

For Aarti, becoming a masseuse was never on the agenda. "Honestly, I wasn't interested at all when I first joined," she admits. "But over time, I have come to appreciate the craft. It can be used as a source of income, it can be a career, and it's something that people require."

And when Aarti does pick up something new, she doesn't go just skin deep. She has trained in various therapies, including Thai massage, aromatherapy, and acupressure. The training has taught her technique and confidence. "I was such an impatient person," she says. "But this place has taught me to take my time, to trust other people, and myself."

It wasn't always this way. Aarti, born with poor eyesight, grew up in Bihar, then moved to Delhi, where she completed her MA in Hindi in 2022. A former Haryana State blind cricket captain, Aarti has played at national-level competitions in running and shot-put. "I quit sports to study," she says. "But what it instilled in me about discipline, communication, and withstanding pressure, that remained."

She's also done part-time work in a call centre, acted as a volunteer to take study notes and audio classes for other peers, and even assisted placement activities for visually challenged girls.

Aarti plans to get a government job, start a wholesale business, and live independently. "And if I can help or advise other girls who hesitate to take the first step, that is even better," she continues.

And that is what Aarti does, each morning, from yoga to news to massage therapy. Steadily, assertively, her way.



Livelihood Project

The Blind Relief Association initially launched the Livelihood Project to tackle the COVID-19–driven employment crisis, which hit low-income rural trainees and women with children the hardest. The initiative promotes entrepreneurship and self-employment, helping trainees set up small businesses for sustainable urban livelihoods. Supported by volunteers and donors, including students, corporate partners, and organizations like the Shahnaz Husain Academy (grooming kits), HSBC, USHA Social Services, and Youth4Jobs Foundation, the project also offers mentorship and work experience at places such as DMRC and major malls.

Livelihood Kit Distribution ceremonies held on 19 April and 12 July 2024 and 25 February 2025, provided 37 masseurs with massage kits and 2 Multi-Skill trainees with sewing machines.

13

No. of Boys

05

No. of Girls

09

No. of Boys

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
(DMRC)/ Saket Mall

Kyochi Foot
Reflexology, Chennai



Japanese Language Classes

The Sawaru Nihongo Group at the Blind Relief Association brings together visually impaired learners—from students to professionals—to study Japanese through Japanese Braille. Held every Sunday, the free classes prepare students for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and are led by dedicated volunteer and peer teachers. Week by week, the program grows in energy and participation, drawing more volunteers and learners from within and beyond the Association. More than a language class, the group activities foster conversations, peer bonding, and shared enthusiasm, creating a space for cultural exchange and community.

Highlights of the Year

- In April 2024, the group welcomed five new Japanese volunteers: Yuta and his mother Kaoru Nakamura, Sota Kiya, his younger brother, and their mother Eri, along with Mrs. Sanae and Prof. Hiroshi Azuma from IIT Delhi.
- On 12 May 2024, Prof. Eri Ikeda from IIT Delhi conducted a special lecture on Japanese economy and relations with India.
- A hands-on origami session with Japanese volunteers was held on 2 June 2024, where students enjoyed creating paper art.
- A warm farewell was organized on 23 June 2024 to the passionate supporters of Sawaru Nihongo Prof. Yoshiro Azuma and Mrs. Sanae Azuma.
- On 7 July 2024, five students successfully appeared for the JLPT exam.
- On 23 March 2025, the group welcomed former teacher Yuga Uehara Sensei and Prof. Yoshiro Azuma, joined by Japanese language expert Ms. Apoorva Agrahari.



The Power of Volunteers

The Sawaru Nihongo Group at the Blind Relief Association is a quiet but powerful example of what consistent volunteer effort can build over time. This Japanese language learning program is free for visually impaired learners, and it is run entirely by volunteers who take no payment or support from the Association. Their commitment comes from a genuine desire to teach and connect.

Every Sunday, without reminders or rewards, a team of dedicated volunteers leads the classes. Many have contributed over time. The longest-serving core teachers—Varun, Nishtha, and Himani Sensei as they are fondly called—prepare materials and teach regularly, anchoring the program. Other contributors and visitors have included Ms. Nandi Sensei, Yuga Uehara, Vrinda, Tokuma Nozomi, Mrs. Naomi Furampu, Ms. Anupreet Kaur, Mr. Yogesh Dayal, Mr. Ogura, and Ms. Apoorva. Alumni such as Ramdas, Deepak Gupta, and Ajay Gupta, once students, now give back as trainers. Though volunteers have occasionally stepped away due to other commitments, their contributions remain part of the group's growth.

In September 2023, the group welcomed Professor Yoshiro Azuma, visiting faculty from Sophia University, Japan to IIT Delhi, and his wife, Mrs. Sanae Azuma. What was meant to be a one-time visit turned into something much more. Deeply impressed by the students' enthusiasm, the Azumas began attending classes every week—never missing a session. Their presence brought new energy to the group, blending structured language teaching with open conversation and cultural exchange in Japanese, Hindi, and English. Students remember these sessions not just for what they learned, but for the warmth and encouragement that came with it. Together, they composed haikus, shared stories, and explored everyday life in both countries.

When the Azumas had to move out of Delhi in June 2024, students expressed sincere appreciation for the couple's support and kindness. Many spoke of how the classes had become more than language lessons—they had become a space of trust and connection. "They felt like family," one student said. "They gave us confidence and made learning joyful," said another.

Even after relocating, the Azumas remained closely connected with the group. On a visit to Delhi in February 2025, they returned to the classroom for a special session featuring haiku writing, a group performance of the Japanese song "Yashi no Mi," and a Q&A with students. As a thoughtful gesture, Mrs. Azuma brought gifts for the group—chosen together with Nishtha from the Japan Braille Library in Tokyo. These included a Braille storybook for children, Japanese Braille calendars, and plastic erasers used for Braille printing.

The Sawaru Nihongo Group continues to thrive, shaped not just by language, but by patience, shared purpose, and volunteers who show up consistently—week after week, year after year.



Accessible Resource Centre

For persons with visual impairments, accessible resources are essential to education, information, and equal opportunity. Without them, barriers to learning, inclusion, and independence only grow. The Blind Relief Association is committed to producing such materials, enabling beneficiaries to thrive alongside their sighted peers.

Through its Accessible Resource Centre, the Association supports students and trainees while also addressing requests from individuals and organizations beyond. It produces a wide range of accessible formats, from fiction and non-fiction to competitive exam guides, self-help resources, and informative articles.

List of E-Text Books Produced (2024-2025)

S. No.	Book Title	Author
1	The Dalai Lama's Cat	David Michie
2	Aaj Bhi Khare Hain Talab	Anupam Mishra
3	Bharateeya Sangeet	Girish Chandra Upreti
4	Shiv Putra Katha - Kumar Gandharv Ki Jivani	Sopan Joshi
5	Buniyadi Shiksha	Mahatma Gandhi
6	Muanjodaro	Om Thanvi
7	Hind Swaraj	Mahatma Gandhi
8	Sangeet ke Gharano Ki Charcha	Dr. Sushil Kumar Chaube
9	Silver Jubilee - Blind Relief Association, New Delhi	The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
10	Domestic Data Entry Operator - 2 (Trainer Guide)	NIIT Foundation
11	HOIKU - Japanese Child Care Method	Heiji Fujimori
12	Mutual Perception of the Blind and Sighted	The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
13	Search after Happiness	Swami Ramakrishnananda
14	Sochna, Padhna Aur Likhna: Bachcho Ke Liye Philosophy	Sundar Sarukkai (Trans. Nidhi Gaud)
15	Achche Vicharon Ka Akaal	Anupam Mishra
16	Skoolon Mei Kachra Prabandhan	Anil Agarwal
17	Toh Hazreen Hua Yun... Dastan-E-Ankit Chadha	Ankit Chadha
18	Mata Pita Se	Gijubhai

STATISTICS

1,025 volumes

+ Braille Printing

Braille remains a vital tool for literacy and access to information. The Association was among the first in India to adopt computerized Braille printing in 1990. Since then, the Braille unit has produced a diverse range of materials and enabled large-scale distribution. In the past year, 62 titles in Hindi, English, and Japanese — totalling 1,025 volumes — were produced.

948 Audio Titles

+ Audio Recording

The Association's audio recording studio, established in 1982, brings educational content to life through sound. Audiobooks are created in multiple formats: MP3 and DAISY, with many shared on accessible platforms like Sugamya Pustakalaya. To date, the studio has produced 948 audio titles in Hindi, English, and Sanskrit.

18 Titles

 in Hindi and English

+ E-Text Production

Adapting to technology, the Association began producing e-texts in 2021 to complement audio formats. Readable via screen readers, convertible to Braille, and navigable on digital devices, these texts are created using tools like the Kibo Scanner, which converts printed or handwritten material into multilingual e-text with speech output. This year, 18 titles in Hindi and English were produced.

Rehabilitation Services

Orientation & Mobility Training

The Association provides orientation and mobility training to help visually impaired persons navigate confidently. Trainees learn to properly use folding canes, detect obstacles, recognize transport modes, and adopt proper postures while walking, sitting, or conversing, gradually overcoming habits formed in childhood.



Assistive Technology Training

In today's digital world, technology greatly enhances accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Blind Relief Association offers training on assistive devices such as smart canes, Braille displays, and computers and smartphones with screen readers. These skills help visually impaired individuals navigate public spaces, identify currencies, and make online transactions, boosting independence and opening opportunities for education, employment, and social interaction.



Adaptive Daily Living Skills

The Blind Relief Association's residential programs equip students and trainees with Adaptive Daily Living Skills (ADLS), covering personal care, menstrual hygiene for women, and cooking—from shopping and identifying ingredients to meal preparation. Time management is taught using digital clocks and Braille watches, while financial literacy sessions cover budgeting, money handling, and accessible banking.

Placement Service

The Association engages with industrial associations, employers, and networks to identify suitable employment opportunities for visually impaired candidates. The Unit supports newly employed trainees with workplace orientation, residential arrangements, essential supplies, and commuting guidance, while maintaining contact with both employers and trainees to resolve challenges. This year, 44 trainees from various units secured employment.



Outreach & Sensitization

01 Awareness & Consultancy

The Association promotes inclusion and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, especially the visually impaired. Students showcase their talents in events, while the Association shares expertise with institutions and participates in committees, webinars, and media to advance awareness and inclusion.

02 Sale of Products

The Association's vocational trainees produce candles, paper and cloth products, and bakery items as part of their training. The sales support education and training, showcase trainees' skills, and earn public recognition. Customers appreciate the craftsmanship while enjoying quality products. As a GST-registered entity, the Association also contributes to government revenue through these sales.

03 Volunteering & Internships

The Blind Relief Association offers internships and volunteering opportunities, attracting motivated individuals from diverse backgrounds. Corporate CSR programs and social work students from institutions like Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi School of Social Work, and Jamia Millia Islamia gain practical experience while engaging with persons with visual disabilities and contributing to the organization.



Remembering Dr. R.K. Baijal

The Blind Relief Association mourns the passing away of Dr. R.K. Baijal on 21 October 2024 at age 95. A kind-hearted and dedicated physician, he retired as Medical Superintendent from Northern Railways before joining the Association in 1995. Serving voluntarily for over 25 years, he attended to the medical needs of students, trainees, and staff. The Association had the privilege of honouring him at our Platinum Jubilee in 2019 for his tireless dedication

Residential Facility

The Association runs spacious hostels providing free board and lodging to around 300 visually impaired residents, including students, trainees, and staff. A well-equipped dining hall serves three nutritious meals and afternoon tea daily.

In-house medical facilities, supported by visiting physicians, two full-time nurses, and an assistant, offer primary healthcare and dental care. Regular check-ups and free medication are provided in collaboration with leading hospitals and health centres.

Partnerships

Youth4Jobs

Since 2017, Youth4Jobs Foundation, in partnership with the Blind Relief Association, has been training the vocational trainees in English, digital literacy, life skills, interview preparation, and exams for school, college, and government entry.

Harijan Sevak Sangh

Since January 2023, Harijan Sevak Sangh has provided a trainer for weekly Takli & Charkha workshops. Trainees learn to spin cotton threads, which are then used to make products like candle wicks and rakhis.

Project Prakash Foundation

Since 2021, Project Prakash Foundation has been associated with the Blind Relief Association to support the education and vocational training of visually impaired youths. Currently, 9 trainees (6 males, 3 females) receive sponsorship for vocational or computer training and school education completion.

Events



I. Commemorations



01 World Environment Day

On World Environment Day, trainees personified trees—Pilkhan, Kachnar, and Amaltas—and planted their saplings on the premises. They gave speeches on environmental awareness, while Mr. K.C. Pande recited Bhagwat Rawat's poem "चड़ियों को पता नहीं", which talks about the vanishing sparrows due to environmental degradation

02 International Day of Yoga

Teacher and vocational trainees participated in the 10th International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2024 at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, organized by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities. Over 750 participants, including 550 persons with disabilities, attended. The event was graced by Shri B.L. Verma, Minister of State for Social Justice, and Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

03 Helen Keller Day

On Helen Keller Day - 27 June 2024, the vocational and computer trainees enjoyed the special screening of audio-described film Barfi, filling the hall with laughter. Before the screening, Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi, Head of Academia, Research & Planning, shared the inspiring story of Helen Keller.

04 Independence Day

On 14 August 2024, the Association celebrated Independence Day with a flag-hoisting ceremony, school band performances, and student-led songs, speeches, and skits, with Prof. Yogesh Kumar Gupta invited as the Chief Guest. Also, on 15 August 2024, the 78th Independence Day featured flag-hoisting and a Kavi Sammelan, where visually impaired poets recited their compositions in a tribute to independence, presided over by Prof. Dr. Dayal Singh Panwar.

05 Janmashtami

Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with great fervour over two days. The event was organised by the Class XII students

of JPM School, joined by a large number of alumni, starting with the auspicious havan and the 24-hour Ramcharitmanas recitation. A crowd of over 300 participants witnessed and cheered Dahi Handi, Krishna Leela enactment, and bhajans. The event concluded with the distribution of Panchamrit and Prasad prepared by the students.

06 Teachers' Day

On 5 September 2024, the Blind Relief Association celebrated Teachers' Day across all units. Students and trainees honoured teachers and staff with speeches, performances, and gift ceremonies. Highlights included a mimicry show by computer and vocational trainees, cultural programs led by Class XII students with Chief Guest Shri Abhishek Thakur, Kathak dance performances by Durgabai Deshmukh College trainees, & heartwarming moments where professors joined students in singing, fostering appreciation and camaraderie throughout the day.

07 Gandhi Jayanti

On 2 October 2024, the Blind Relief Association commemorated Mahatma Gandhi's 155th birth anniversary with prayers from five faiths and bhajan performances by singer-composer Himanshu Khatri and his troupe, while trainees spun thread on takli and charkha. The day continued with a "Peace Walk," as students, trainees, and staff visited five religious sites, including Gurudwara Damdama Sahib, Judah Hyam Synagogue, Valmiki Mandir, Shahi Masjid, and Centenary Methodist Church, experiencing hospitality and learning about diverse beliefs, making the 10-kilometer walk both challenging and rewarding.

08 White Cane Safety Day

On 15th October 2024, White Cane Safety Day was marked at Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (V.I.) with a workshop and awareness drive on mobility challenges faced by visually impaired persons. Guided by Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey and Dr. Swati Sanyal, the event featured interactive sessions and live demonstrations.

09 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On 3rd December 2024, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, second-year students from Durgabai Deshmukh College (V.I.) held an awareness camp at three Delhi schools—GBSSS Pandara Road, GBSSS Bela Road, and GGSSS Masjid Moth. They set up resource corners, created posters, and conducted seminars on CWSN rights, exam relaxations, and the RPWD Act, benefiting both teachers and students.

10 World Braille Day

On 4th January 2025, the Blind Relief Association celebrated World Braille Day, marking Louis Braille's 216th birth anniversary at the Resource & Research Centre. The event featured an invocation by Computer Diploma trainees, a film on Braille's life, and a talk by Mr. Kamalbir Singh Jaggi on Braille's role in education and empowerment. Trainees paid tribute to Braille, while a panel of former JPM students, now professionals, discussed its continued relevance today. The celebration also honoured Braille competition winners, screening of the film Srikanth, and introduced newly released Braille books.

11 Martyrs' Day

On 14 August 2024, the Association celebrated Independence Day with a flag-hoisting ceremony, school band performances, and student-led songs, speeches, and skits, with Prof. Yogesh Kumar Gupta invited as the Chief Guest. Also, on 15 August 2024, the 78th Independence Day featured flag-hoisting and a Kavi Sammelan, where visually impaired poets recited their compositions in a tribute to independence, presided over by Prof. Dr. Dayal Singh Panwar.

12 Vasant Panchami

On 2nd February 2025, Class X students of JPM Senior Secondary School celebrated Vasant Panchami with Saraswati Puja and Havan. Sri K.C. Pande presented compositions in Raag Basant, and the event concluded with the recitation of Saraswati Chalisa.

13 Founders' Day

The Blind Relief Association honoured its Founder Shri Umesh Anand Basrurker and his wife Smt. Anusuya Basrurker respectively on their 66th death anniversaries with havan ceremonies on 19th February 2025 and 4th June 2024. While the Association has expanded its services for the visually impaired, it continues to be guided by their vision and keeping their legacy alive through its work.

14 International Women's Day

The Blind Relief Association celebrated with enthusiasm the International Women's Day at the Gandhi Centenary Hall. The morning featured a joyful beauty and makeup session for the female trainees. The special surprise was Ms. Shahnaz Husain joining the event, who cut a cake and interacted with trainees. Women enjoyed foot massages from trained masseurs and golgappas, and the day concluded with lively music and dancing.

II. Workshops & Visits



01 Session on Financial Literacy

The Association's vocational trainees attended a session on Banking & Financial Schemes on 11 May 2024, led by Dheeraj Balyan, an alumnus of JPM Senior Secondary School and Deputy Manager at SBI, Baghra, Muzaffarnagar. He explained loans, investment schemes, and opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs in simple terms, while also sharing his personal journey, challenges, and experiences in becoming a bank professional.

02 Disaster Management Training Session

The Blind Relief Association organized a Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Building Training Program on 15 May 2024, conducted by Pranav Sethi, a Climate and Disaster Risk Mitigation Specialist from GeoHazards Society. The session, attended by trainers, office, and hostel staff, covered fire, earthquake, and flood safety measures to minimize loss of life and property. A second session was held on 28 June 2024 for the teachers and staff of The J.P.M. School for the Blind.

03 Seminar on Assistive Technology

On 30 May 2024, Anand Singh Smarak Khel Evam Sanskritik Samiti and the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, held a seminar on Assistive Technology for the Visually Challenged, chaired by K.C. Pande. Experts discussed new assistive technologies, stress relief, and educator service rules. Guests included IAS officer Pranjali Patil and Professor Sujata Tripathi. Around 100 persons attended the session. On the occasion students excelling in Class XII CBSE were honoured with cash awards.

04 Skill Development Workshop

Praxis Education Trust organized a two-day skill development workshop on 6 and 9 September 2024 for Class X–XII students of J.P.M. Senior Secondary School, focusing on public speaking, current affairs, and legal rights. Sessions were conducted by Shubham Airi, Chaitanya Singh, and Sehaj Singh.

05 Workshop on Street Accessibility

On 28 September 2024, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, co-organized an international workshop on Street Accessibility for Pedestrians with Disabilities with the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, and the University of Leeds. Morning sessions shared findings from the Inclusive Public Space Research Project, while the afternoon focused on feedback for the Inclusive Public Street initiative and raising accessibility awareness under the UNCRPD framework. Speakers included Dr. Sanjay Jain, Prof. Anna Lawson, Prof. Renu Adlakha, and BRA representatives Kailash Chandra Pande, David Absalom, and Abhishek Thakur.

06 Voter Awareness Program

On 26 December 2024, the Election Office visited the Blind Relief Association to promote voter awareness ahead of the Delhi Assembly Elections. The delegation, including Shri Amit Sharma, Shri Shiv Chaudhary, and six interns, engaged trainees in an interactive Q&A to encourage inclusive participation in the electoral process.

07 Art Workshop

On 24 January 2025, trainees from Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education attended a workshop by art educator Dharmannand, exploring art as a tool for supporting visually impaired children. Using minced paper, they crafted animals and objects, demonstrating how tactile sculpture can enhance sensory and motor skills, spatial awareness, hand coordination, and a sense of accomplishment.

08 Wellness Workshop

Prabhav Trust organized a 3-day rapport-building session at the Blind Relief Association for Multi-Skill Training trainees on 10 January, 25 January, and 8 February 2025. Activities like breathing exercises, laughter yoga, sensory exploration, nature walks, and discussions helped trainees build confidence, express themselves, and foster meaningful connections.

09 Workshop on AI

On 22 February 2025, the IT Department of the Blind Relief Association held a workshop on Artificial Intelligence and AI tools, featuring experts Akhilesh Dahiya (Bank of India) and Sourabh Prasad (Microsoft). The session explored how AI can enhance efficiency and accessibility for the visually impaired, offering practical insights and expert knowledge.

10 Workshop on Screen Reading Software

On 12–13 March 2025, the Blind Relief Association's IT Department conducted a two-day NVDA screen reader training led by assistive technology expert Subhas Kumar. Participants from various computer courses actively learned key features and practical tips, enhancing digital accessibility for visually impaired users.

11 Daisy & E-Pub Workshop

On 24–25 March 2025, the Blind Relief Association, in collaboration with Saksham Trust, conducted a two-day DAISY & EPUB workshop for 21 Diploma in Computer Education students. Led by Sangeeta Kanu and Harinder from NAB, the sessions taught accessible digital content creation, including converting Word documents to EPUB, structuring headings, adding tables and images, and validating formats. The workshop concluded with a practical 10-page EPUB assignment, showcasing participants' skills.

12 Workshop on Assistive Devices & Digital Skills

On 28–29 March 2025, the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, conducted a two-day workshop on Assistive Technologies and Digital Skills for visually impaired participants. Led by software developer and accessibility advocate Aaryan Kumar Andarpa, sessions offered hands-on experience with assistive tools and introduced digital career opportunities, including programming, to promote learning, employment, and independence.

III. Visits



01 Visit to Microsoft Office

On 10 June 2024, Blind Relief Association computer trainees visited Microsoft Gurgaon for a conference on “How AI Can Help the Disabled,” featuring Prof. Lee Sang-mook’s inspiring story. The visit also included lunch and gifts.

02 Visit by JICA Team

On 28 June 2024, senior executives from JICA—Mr. Wakamatsu, Mr. Yazawa, and Mr. Joyanto Rabha—visited the Blind Relief Association. They observed massage training by JOCV trainer Hisashi Seki and explored the Association’s various vocational programs.

03 Japanese Senior Diplomats Visit

On 7 August 2024, the Blind Relief Association welcomed a delegation from the Embassy of Japan led by Economic Minister Ms. Kyoko Hokugo. They toured the facilities, interacted with Sawaru Nihongo students, and visited the JICA-supported relaxation massage kiosk at Shivaji Stadium metro station.

04 Visitors from The National Diet of Japan

On 29 August 2024, members of Japan’s National Diet visited the “Power of Touch” Massage Kiosk at Shivaji Stadium Metro, showcasing visually impaired masseurs. The delegation, accompanied by Embassy and JICA officials, experienced the massages and praised the skill and expertise of the trained masseurs.

05 Visit by Danke Members

On 13 September 2024, Mr. Hiroshi Miyake, Chief Director of DANKE, a non-profit organization in Mie (Japan), and volunteer Mrs. Itsuko Nandi visited the Blind Relief Association. He toured the facilities and was impressed by the massage training and trainee-run café. Following this, on 3 February 2025, a team from DANKE, visited the Blind Relief Association, touring its vocational training units and enjoying a foot massage at the Relaxation Massage Centre. They also met Sawaru Nihongo students and viewed photos from a 2016 cultural exchange to Japan.

06 Visitors from Thailand Visitors from Thailand

On 13 November 2024, the Blind Relief Association welcomed four visitors from the Christian Foundation for the Blind, Thailand, who toured the campus, interacted with trainees, and presented a souvenir gift.

07 Visit to Armed Forces Unit

On 25 January 2025, around 60 JPM Senior Secondary School students visited the Army and Air Force units at Palam, facilitated by Col. Pradeep Kapoor. They learned about weapons, aircraft, tanks, and daily life in the forces, concluding the visit with a lunch at the Army unit.

08 Visit by New Delhi District Magistrate

On 12 February 2025, Shri Sunny Kumar Singh, IAS, District Magistrate of New Delhi, inaugurated tactile portraits at the Blind Relief Association and toured its training units, appreciating the Association’s work.

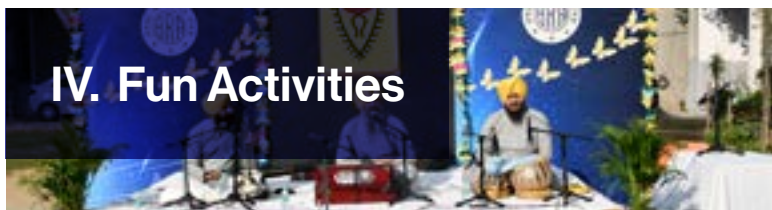
09 Visit by Friends from MOC, London

On 18 March 2025, Dr. Jose Martines and Mr. Stephen Monte from London visited the Blind Relief Association, touring its school, college, and training units. They explored new Braille devices, labs, and programs, meeting key staff and learning about recent developments.

10 Visitors from Germany

On 22 March 2025, 2 faculty and 12 German Master’s students visited the Blind Relief Association to learn about the experiences of visually impaired persons. They participated in hands-on activities like using a sewing machine and navigating stairs blindfolded.

IV. Fun Activities



01 Subodh Trophy

The Subodh Trophy, an annual cricket tournament by Class IX in memory of late student Subodh, was held from 1–3 August 2024, continuing a tradition from the 1990s. Three teams—Royal Strikers, Team Partnership, and Silent 11—competed in spirited matches. Royal Strikers emerged as champions, defeating Team Partnership in the final, with Vikas Kumar of Class IX delivering a standout performance.

02 Screening of Rabb Di Awaaz

On 28 September 2024, the Blind Relief Association hosted a special screening of Rabb Di Awaaz, India's first multi-inclusive Hindi feature film, attended by over 350 students, trainees, and staff. Director Ojaswwee Sharma and lead actors Abhinav and Shiv Kumar Sharma interacted with the audience, highlighting the importance of inclusive films and accessible viewing experiences for visually impaired persons.

03 Kizuna 2024

On 21 November 2024, the Blind Relief Association's Sawaru Nihongo Team performed the skit "Zou San" at JNU's Kizuna Japanese Cultural Festival, sharing the story of Indira, an elephant gifted to Japan in 1949. The team also sang Zou San in Japanese and Hindi, enjoyed traditional Japanese cuisine, and participated in cultural workshops.

04 Konnichiwa Japan!

On 23 November 2024, the Blind Relief Association's Sawaru Nihongo Team shone at Konnichiwa Japan at DLF Mall Saket, performing the Zou San skit and singing the song in Japanese and their self-translated Hindi version. Before the performance, they explored Japanese culture and cuisine, and under guidance from volunteer teachers, impressed the audience and received accolades from the event's dignitaries.

09 Participation in Car Rally

On 2 February 2025, visually impaired trainees Sita and Jonas joined by Executive Secretary K.C. Pande, as a senior citizen, in a vintage car rally across New Delhi to promote voter awareness ahead of the Assembly elections. Organized with the Heritage Motoring Club, the campaign encouraged participation from all communities. Some trainees exercised their voting rights for the first time on 5 February, with accessible polling ensured by the District Election Office.

05 Gurbani Recital

On a sunny winter afternoon on 30 November 2024 at the Blind Relief Association, Dr. Alankar Singh and his troupe performed a captivating Gurbani recital for over 300 attendees. Accompanied by Shri Sandeep Singh on Dilruba and Shri Narinder Pal Singh on Tabla, the hour-long performance combined music with explanations of the verses' meanings. The event concluded with Karah Prashad, leaving the audience deeply moved and grateful, thanks to Spic Macay for organizing.

06 Nayar Cricket Trophy

The Nayar Cricket Trophy was held this year with teams from current and former JPM students vying for the Trophy. On 2 December 2024, The Silent Killer defeated Delhi Dynamite in the final, with Govind and Prashant named Man of the Series. The trophy honours the late Shri K. N. Nayar, former Hony. Executive Secretary.

07 Annual Inclusive Sports Day

On 6–7 January 2025, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education hosted its annual inclusive sports event, featuring kabaddi, football, badminton, and track-and-field competitions. Despite challenging weather, participants showed great sportsmanship. The event concluded with a prize ceremony at Gandhi Hall, where winners received certificates and trophies from Chairperson Amitav Virmani and Executive Secretary K.C. Pande.

08 Annual Picnic

The Blind Relief Association family enjoyed its mega Annual Picnic on 1 February 2025 at Indraprastha Millennium Park with walks, music, cricket, dance, and food. The day concluded with a soulful Sufi and devotional performance by the Himalayan Chants group, delighting students, trainees, parents, and friends.

V. Collaborative Events



01 Saarthi

The 7th edition of Saarthi, a mentorship program by HSBC, the Blind Relief Association, and Youth4Jobs, ran from 19 April to 8 July 2024, pairing 70 mentors with 93 vocational trainees. On 19 April 2024, a sensitization activity (a blindfolded sewing exercise) was conducted to build empathy. The program concluded with performances, testimonials, and the distribution of certificates, celebrating the participants' growth.

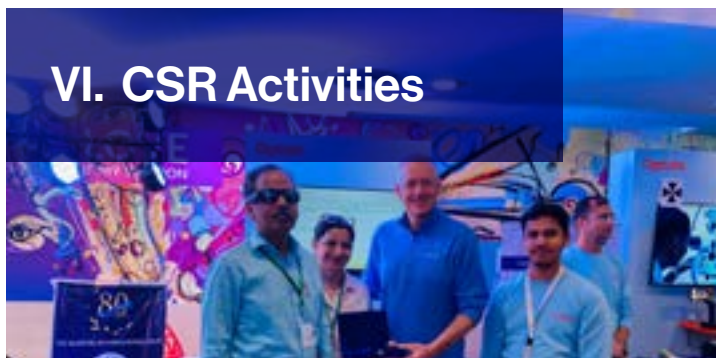
02 Inclusive Job Fair

On 26 June 2024, the Blind Relief Association and Samarthanam Trust organized an inclusive job fair, attracting over 500 candidates from Delhi, Haryana, UP, and Bihar. Twenty-three employers, including Amazon, Indigo, IBM, LIC, and Aadhaar Housing, participated, resulting in 147 candidates being shortlisted for roles in IT, retail, BPO, back office, and warehousing.

03 Health Camp

On 22 August 2024, the Blind Relief Association hosted a health camp organized by three Rotary Clubs (Rotary Club of Delhi West, Rotary Club of Delhi Safdarjung, and Rotary Club of Delhi Khubsurat) in partnership with Indraprastha Apollo Hospital. The camp offered paediatric, gynaecology, dentistry, and general health checkups, along with a cancer awareness session by Dr. Ajay Gupta.

VI. CSR Activities



- Optum India volunteers engaged in activities like library cataloguing, e-book preparation, candle making, sewing, and paper bag making, followed by an interactive session with computer trainees led by Mr. Surinder Singh, Vice President – Operations on 9 May 2024.
- Mercer Consulting Pvt. Ltd sent a team of 20 members to volunteer at the Blind Relief Association on 17 May 2024.
- Mastercard employees assisted at the vocational training centre, attended a sensitization session, conducted financial literacy workshops, and played indoor board games with trainees on 14 June 2024.
- On 30 August 2024 the Thinkerbell Labs, supported by Allegis Group, handed over 13 'Annie' devices to JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind, in the presence of Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Optum hosted the Association at its Social Responsibility Partner Meet in Hyderabad on 11 September 2024 where accessibility tools were showcased and global CEO Andrew Witty recognized their impactful work.
- PwC India volunteers assisted in vocational training activities, participated in a sensitization session, and engaged with trainees over refreshments and music on 24 January 2025.
- All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Taj SATS volunteers toured the Association, participated in vocational workshops, and interacted with Japanese language students, appreciating their skills and motivation on 29 March 2025.

VII. Disability Training & Festivals



01 Drishtikon

The Blind Relief Association continues to sponsor St. Stephen's College's flagship event, Drishtikon, in 2024–25, supporting it since 2009. The annual event celebrates diversity and showcases the talents of students with disabilities from Delhi-based colleges. Mr. K.C. Pande, Honorary Executive Secretary, attended the Typing Competition and engaged with participants, reflecting BRA's active support.

02 Training of Trainers at CORD

Seven staff members of the Association conducted a Training of Trainers program at CORD Sidhbari, Himachal Pradesh, from 26–28 April 2024. They trained CORD's self-help group women and disabled students in paper bag, envelope, sanitary napkin making, and sewing. The initiative also provided valuable learning experiences for the Association's trainers.

03 Purple Fest

The Blind Relief Association participated in Purple Fest 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 21 March 2025, featuring a massage stall, café, and support for inclusive sports. Seven visually impaired masseurs provided over 50 professional massages, while trainees ran the café. Visitors also joined sports activities, highlighting the skills and empowerment of persons with visual impairments.

VIII. Fundraising Activity



01 Diwali Bazaar

The Blind Relief Association's annual Diwali Bazaar, popularly known as the "Blind School Diwali Mela," was held from 22–28 October 2024. As the Association's major fundraising event, proceeds from the sale of products made by visually impaired trainees and staff support free education and training.

Among 242 stalls, the Association's stall attracted visitors with candles, diyas, paper goods, and cloth products like bags, pouches, and organizers. The Bazaar also featured vendors from across India selling designer wear, jewellery, home décor, and packaged foods, along with 64 NGOs showcasing products by disabled persons or underprivileged artisans.

Trainees-led Initiatives

Relaxation Massage Stations: Visually impaired masseurs offered head, shoulder, and foot massages to around 200 visitors daily.

Café Mast: Trainees ran a café serving sandwiches, burgers, cookies, muffins, and hot and cold beverages, managing orders and transactions.

Fashion Show: On 27 October 2024, trainees walked the ramp in outfits sponsored by stallholders, with makeup support from Shahnaz Husain Beauty Academy. Shahnaz Husain and Mrs. Benu Nath graced the event. Winners included Aashi, Pinky, Shiva (women) and Aditya, Kishan, Imtiyaz (men).

Beneficiaries

Educational & Training Programs	No. of Students/ Trainees
JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind	201
Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (V.I)	60
Computer Training Centre	69
Vocational Training Centre	90
Japanese Language Training	17
Total	437



66

Placement



Staff Corner

Staff Strength

44
Education
(School & College)

15
Skill Training
(Computer & Vocational Training)

38
Boarding

10
Production & Sales

13
Housekeeping & Security

23
Admin

The Association is registered with the Department of Labour, Delhi, ensuring full compliance with statutory regulations and guaranteeing employees the following benefits:

1. Minimum wages are provided as per the Minimum Wages Act.
2. EPF contributions are made in accordance with the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952.
3. Medical insurance is offered under the ESI Act.
4. Gratuity is granted after five years of continuous service as per the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

New Staff Members

- ⊕ Ms. Ritaka Drall, Mrs. Pooja Meena, Mrs. Savita Devi, Mr. Jaspal, and Mr. Sumit Solanki joined as Guest Teachers from IEB, Lajpat Nagar.
- ⊕ Ms. Nidhyati, Mr. Fateh Ali, and Mr. Vaibhav Pant joined as honorary teachers from the Blind Relief Association.

Recognitions & Awards

The long-serving staff of the Blind Relief Association were honoured at an Award Ceremony on 22nd November. Staff in various service categories received the Meritorious Long Service Award, presented by Mrs. Benu Nath, Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram, and Mr. Pande. Awardees received a certificate and cash prize, with 25-year recipients also receiving a silver coin. Families of recently deceased staff accepted awards on their behalf.



Gratitude

Government

1. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India
2. Rehabilitation Council of India
3. Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi
4. Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi
5. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)
6. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun
7. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDCL)
8. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, for referrals of visually impaired persons for skilling
9. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, for providing space at Shivaji Stadium Metro Station to establish a massage kiosk

Corporate Supporters

1. SRF Limited for support in renovation of Vocational Training Centre & Kitchen
2. Mercer Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd., for supporting Multi-Skill Training and Relaxation Massage Training
3. Optum Global Advantage, for supporting the Diploma in Computer Education, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, and JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind
4. Corporate Warranties Limited for supporting Relaxation Massage Training
5. BC Jindal Foundation and Macmillan Education India for supporting renovation of Kitchen & Dining Area
6. Verisk Analytics for supporting transportation needs
7. Rohan Motors Limited
8. Axis Communications for donating school uniforms for JPM School students.
9. HSBC for mentoring vocational trainees and donating folding canes

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.

NGO Supporters & Partners

1. Youth4jobs Foundation, for supporting skilling initiatives for visually impaired youth
2. Project Prakash, for financial assistance in training programs
3. Military Order of the Collar Charitable Foundation, Switzerland, for sustained support to the Special Care Unit, Braille Production Centre, and Recording Studio
4. MOC Terra Nordica, Sweden, for supporting the Placement Project
5. Kamla Devi Charitable Trust, for supporting Computer Training
6. Shahnaz Husain International Beauty Academy, for supporting Ayurvedic Massage Training with trainer services and consumables
7. Venu Eye Institute, for training in naturopathy
8. Japan International Cooperation Agency
9. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited
10. Dr. Shroff's Charitable Eye Hospital and Sai Bhakta Samaj Polyclinic, for diagnostic services for students and trainees
11. Department of Public Health Dentistry, SGT University, for establishing a dental clinic and providing regular care since 2009
12. Gurkirpa Lifestyle Company (Offlimits), for donating shoes
13. ALIMCO, for providing Braille kits and Taylor Frames
14. Giving Back Foundation for donating school bags
15. ICS-IAS Officers' Wives Association

Well-wishers

1. Japanese-language volunteer teachers
2. Mr. Devender Goel, for donating a trampoline for children
3. Kids Art Carnival, Gypsy Boho, Vivaan Creations, Inde Pret, Mukul, Navya Custom, Biosgoop, Blue Feather, Peetamber, and She Shoe, for donating outfits and footwear for the ramp walk.
4. Mr. Manish Yadav, Architect, Srijan Consultancy Services, for advisory support on infrastructural improvements
5. Mr. Raj Kumar Bhargava, for providing substantive scholarship to Class XII students of JPM School.



A Decade of Dedication

When Mrs. Prabhjot Menon first approached the Blind Relief Association in 2015 to support the visually impaired, little did anyone expect her commitment to span a decade. Since then, she has gifted a laptop to the topper of each Diploma in Computer Education (V.I.) batch in memory of her late mother, Mrs. Gurjit Mehta.

This year, Rajender Sahu, topper of Batch X (2024–25), received a laptop from Mrs. Menon during her visit on 4 February. Rajender is now employed as an Assistive Technology Trainer with Saksham. During her visit, Mrs. Menon also met trainees to hear about their experiences and interacted with computer trainers to learn about course updates.

Despite residing in the US, she visits the Association annually during trips to India. Additionally, for the past two years, she has gifted Orbit devices to the winner of the Braille Reading & Writing Competition at JPM Senior Secondary School, in memory of her late father, Mr. Harbans Singh Mehta. The Association thanks Mrs. Menon for her consistent support over the past ten years and wishes her many more years of meaningful association.

Organizational Structure

Board of Trustees

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| + Arun Bharat Ram
Chairperson & Life Trustee | + Lalit Nirula
Life Trustee | + Ranjit Puri
Life Trustee | + Benu Nath
Life Trustee |
| + Radhika Bharat Ram
Life Trustee | + Sanjeev Anand
Elected Trustee | + S. K. Misra
Elected Trustee | |

Managing Committee

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Arun Bharat Ram
<i>President</i>
Industrialist & Philanthropist | 9. Anil Kohli
<i>Member</i>
Dental Surgeon |
| 2. Ranjit Puri
<i>Vice President</i>
Company Chairman | 10. Sushil Ramola
<i>Member</i>
Social Entrepreneur |
| 3. Lalit Nirula
<i>Vice President</i>
Social Worker | 11. Chander Prakash
<i>Member</i>
Addl. Member/Project (Rtd.),
Railway Board |
| 4. Benu Nath
<i>General Secretary</i>
Social Worker | 12. Navin Bahl
<i>Member</i>
Chartered Accountant |
| 5. S.K. Misra
<i>Treasurer</i>
Social Worker | 13. Mahender Kumar Sarin
<i>Member</i>
Chartered Accountant, Ex-
Consultant -World Bank, Africa |
| 6. Radhika Bharat Ram
<i>Joint Secretary</i>
Vice Chairperson, The Shri Ram Schools
& Co Founder, KARMFellowship | 14. Amitav Virmani
<i>Member</i>
Educationist |
| 7. Kailash Chandra Pande
<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Social Worker | 15. Abhishek Thakur
<i>Member</i>
Assistant Professor, DSSW,
University of Delhi |
| 8. Sanjeev Anand
<i>Member</i>
Senior Advocate | 16. Dayal Singh Pawar
<i>Member</i>
Professor, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri
National Sanskrit University |

Executive Secretary

Kailash Chandra Pande

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C.P. Mohanan – Deputy Executive Secretary (Admin) David Absalom – Deputy Executive Secretary (Operations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K.J. Kuriyan – Principal, JPM School Dr. Sudeep Kumar Dubey – Course Director, Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (V.I) Neelu Suneja – Head of IT & Computer Training M K Gupta – Head of Finance & Accounts Kamalbir Singh Jaggi – Head of Academics, Research & Planning Swapna Merlin S – Head of Communications |
|--|--|

A Message From Us

The world has transformed in ways once unimaginable, what was once unreachable has now become attainable. The experience of disability has also changed, as its hold on people's lives eases when met with the power of education, opportunity, and the right support.

At the Blind Relief Association, this has always been our guiding purpose: to empower persons with visual disabilities. Not only to prepare them for employment, but to nurture them holistically, helping them grow as confident individuals, responsible citizens, and contributing members of society.

On this journey, we have walked alongside many: children seeking education, youth preparing for college, and adults learning digital and vocational skills. Yet many remain unaware that such support exists. For them too, the Blind Relief Association stands as a beacon, because intervention and guidance are needed at every stage of life, across ages, backgrounds, and circumstances.


Life is no less vibrant, no less full of possibility, for persons with visual impairments. Recognizing this truth allows us to see one another not through the lens of entitlement or pity, but as equals and peers. True progress lies in public understanding and collective action. When society embraces this shared mission, inclusion becomes not just an aspiration but a lived reality.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and goodwill. Together, let us create a future where every person with visual disability can thrive with dignity and realize their full potential.







The Blind Relief Association, Delhi
Helping the blind help themselves

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


 91-11 24361376, 24360480, 24364730


 info@blindrelief.org

 www.blindrelief.org

 Facebook

 LinkedIn

 The Blind Relief Association, Delhi

 @BlindDelhi

 @blindreliefassociation.delhi