



January & February 2026

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS!



The Blind Relief Association, Delhi welcomed the New Year by celebrating with Indian Oil Corporation on 1 January 2026.

Led by Mr. Arvind Kumar, Director (Refineries) and Additional Charge Director (Pipelines), along with his team, the celebration included insightful discussions on the evolving oil industry, with active participation from students of JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind and members of the Blind Relief Association.

To mark the festive spirit, Indian Oil Corporation distributed thoughtfully curated goody bags among students and staff, spreading joy and goodwill.

WORLD BRAILLE DAY

World Braille Day, observed globally on 4th January, holds deep significance for the Blind Relief Association. It is a reflection of the Association's core belief that Braille is a powerful tool for education, independence, and empowerment.

The Blind Relief Association commemorated World Braille Day on 5th January 2025 at a function held in Gandhi Centenary Hall.



The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Prof. Dayal Singh Pawar, distinguished alumnus of JPM Senior School and Professor at Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapeeth. The occasion was further honored by Guests of Honour Dr. Amit Sharma, Associate Professor, Shyama Prasad Mukerjee College for Women, and Mr. Harish Gulati, General Secretary, Anand Singh Smarak & Sanskriti Samiti, both alumni of the Association.

On this special occasion, the Association proudly launched four Braille books:

- दीवार पर एक खिड़की थी – Sahitya Akademi Award-winning work by Bhartiya Gyanpeeth Awardee Vinod Kumar Shukla
- कहानियां जो शुरू नहीं हुई – Children's stories by Vinod Kumar Shukla
- सप्पू के दोस्त – Children's stories by Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author Swayam Prakash
- चश्मा नया है – A collection of stories written by children

The programme featured engaging poems, speeches, and a quiz, presented by trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Education, adding vibrancy to the celebration. The occasion was also joined by D.Ed. Special Education students of Lady Irwin College.

Showcasing innovation in accessibility, staff members Mr. Rajpal and Mr. Sumit demonstrated the latest advancements in Braille technology, including Braille picture printing, Braille labellers, and Hark AI - a reading device.

Alongside technological advancements, Braille remains an indispensable component of the Association's education and training system.

VISITORS FROM MIE PREFECTURE, JAPAN

On 6 January, the Association hosted three visitors from Japan. One of them was a familiar and respected face at the Association, Ms. Itsuko Nandi, who played a key role in introducing Japanese language education for visually impaired students when the initiative began in 2012.

Ms. Nandi was accompanied by two Japanese educators from Mie Prefecture School, Japan. During their visit, they interacted with the team at the Blind Relief Association and learned about its history, programmes, and ongoing initiatives aimed at empowering persons with visual impairments.



VISIT TO GYAN BHARTI SCHOOL

On 17th January, The Blind Relief Association, in collaboration with the Interact Club of Gyan Bharti School, participated in the Annual Art Exhibition as a meaningful partnership aimed at nurturing and showcasing vocational skills such as stitching.

In this collaborative effort, the trainees of the Blind Relief Association trained the students of Gyan Bharti School, and together, along with two participants from the Blind Relief Association, they proudly presented and sold the products created by their own hands. The stall featured handcrafted candles, paper bags, tote bags, envelopes, and other items. The pouch bags made by the trainees received an overwhelming response from visitors and were sold out quickly, reflecting the appreciation for their skill and dedication. This initiative stands as a testament to inclusion, shared learning, and the dignity of skilled work.



DELEGATION FROM MIT

The Blind Relief Association was delighted to welcome a delegation of 18 students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), along with Professor Seth and Researcher Michal, on 21 January 2026.

The visit was organised in association with Project Prakash, an internationally recognised initiative founded by Prof. Pawan Sinha (MIT), dedicated to advancing understanding of visual development and improving outcomes for persons with visual impairment.

The delegation engaged in insightful discussions with our Executive Secretary Mr. David Absalom, explored our campus facilities, interacted with students, and observed vocational training in action. The appreciation for trainee-made products and our in-house café reflected the impact of skill-based empowerment and inclusive practices.



SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT



On 21st January 2026, The Blind Relief Association welcomed 28 students from Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Jor Bagh, accompanied by their teacher Ms. Neha Bansal, for an educational tour of the campus.

The students visited the Multi Training Skill Centre, Durgabai Deshmukh College library, and JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind, where they observed vocational and educational activities and interacted with trainees. They were deeply fascinated by the diverse skills and confidence displayed by the visually impaired students.

The visit helped sensitize young minds towards inclusivity and highlighted the power of education and skill development in empowering persons with visual impairment. The Association continues its commitment to fostering awareness and inclusive learning.

UNMESH 7.0

The Blind Relief Association proudly hosted Unmesh, its monthly talent showcase held every third Saturday, celebrating the creativity and abilities of its students. The programme

began on a graceful note with the welcoming of the invited guests, and as the hall filled with anticipation, the theme of the evening -poetry- set the tone for thoughtful reflection and artistic exchange.

The evening was enriched by the presence of eminent former students and distinguished guests. Dr. Dayal Singh Panwar, Associate Professor at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University and National Patron of SAKSHAM, brought scholarly depth through his lifelong commitment to language and social service.

The programme was anchored with poise by Nikhil Shrivastwa, whose long association with poetry ensured a seamless flow. Mr. Deepak Gupta, Assistant Professor of English at Motilal Nehru College (Evening), University of Delhi, added literary richness, while former student Shubham Arya, now Assistant Manager at Union Bank of India, inspired the audience with his journey.

Other senior performers also contributed meaningfully, turning Unmesh into an evening of inspiration where poetry bridged generations and applause echoed appreciation.



VASANT PANCHAMI CELEBRATIONS

On the occasion of Vasant Panchami, along with a havan organised by the Class X students of JPM Senior Secondary School that brought together students, trainees, and staff, the day also offered something more tangible and quietly special.

The Blind Relief Association's Braille Production Unit, which had recently published four Braille books (listed at the end) for World Braille Day, produced additional copies and handed them over to the JPM School Library and the Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education Library.

Alongside this was a display of nearly 30 books in both print and Braille, (in languages including Hindi, Sanskrit, and English) along with poems for children, laid out at the Resource Room of the Association.

And the response was rapturous!

The Resource Room bustled in batches with curious minds reading aloud what their hands were discovering for the first time. Older students sat around a table, absorbed enough to let the bustle pass them by. Teachers and trainers too, found it to be a new experience, spending time with children as they explored books beyond the academic routine.



FELICITATION

Dr. Manoj Kumar, a teacher at JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind, presented his sixth book, 'Surajdas – The Blind Man' to the Chief of Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, on 17th January at the World Book Fair held at Bharat Mandapam.

Dr. Kumar, formerly Corporal Manoj Kumar of the Indian Air Force, was among seven military veterans-turned-authors invited by the Indian Army to be felicitated by General Dwivedi.



LIVELIHOOD KIT DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi marked a proud milestone on 28th January 2026 with the graduation ceremony of its Multi-Skill Trainees and Relaxation Massage Trainees. The event celebrated months of dedication and learning, as trainees completed their training and stepped forward with confidence and professional readiness.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of distinguished guests from the BC Jindal Foundation Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh, CSR Head, and Mr. Manish, Process Coordinator along with representatives from Venu Naturopathy Centre (a unit of Venu Charitable Society): Dr. Deepak Singh and Dr. Nidhi Bharadwaj, Naturopathy Consultants, and Mr. Subhinder Singh, Owner of Gurukripa Lifestyle. They shared the dais with the Association's Executive

Secretary, Mr. David Absalom, Advisor Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande, and Head of Finance Mr. M. K. Gupta. An engaging Q&A session added depth to the programme, where trainees openly shared their questions and aspirations. The guests responded with thoughtful guidance and practical insights.

Through its continued focus on skill development, the Blind Relief Association remains committed to empowering persons with visual impairment by creating pathways to employment, independence, and dignity.



CHAUPAL 3.0

The third edition of Chaupal was a special one, featuring IAS officer Ms. Ayushi Dabas, and co-organised with the Business Community Foundation (BCF), a non-profit that has shared a long association with the Blind Relief Association.

Ms. Ayushi Dabas, from the 2022 batch of the IAS (AGMUT cadre), is currently serving as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bijwasan, South West District. Students who had just watched a clip of her appearance on Kaun Banega Crorepati before the talk were both inspired and fascinated to meet and interact with Ms. Ayushi.



Facilitated by Dr. Amita Joseph from BCF, Ms. Ayushi shared about her journey to becoming an IAS officer. The floor soon opened to a flurry of questions from the audience, who asked about the challenges of preparing for the civil services, particularly as a person with visual impairment. Ms. Ayushi spoke about her family's support and the role technology played in her journey. She encouraged students to make technology their best friend, explaining how it helps access learning materials that may otherwise not be easily available.

Reflecting on her experience of working as a teacher for ten years before moving into the administrative space, she shared how her role now allows her to bring about systemic change across many schools, something she could earlier do only within a single classroom.

The gathering included Mr. George Abraham, CEO of Eyeway, who was also the speaker at the first edition of Chaupal.

Chaupal is an informal gathering organised by the Association, a space where exceptional personalities share their journeys through simple and meaningful conversations.

MARTYRS DAY

Students, trainees, staff, and alumni of the Blind Relief Association, Delhi gathered to remember the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and to honour all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for India's freedom.

The gathering featured a thoughtful address by Advisor Shri Kailash Chandra Pande, who reflected on Gandhiji's life, ideals, and enduring relevance. A visual display of Gandhiji's Charkha along with takli spinning in the backdrop symbolised the values of self-reliance, dignity of labour, and simplicity. Students of JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind presented Sarva Dharma prayers, representing Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism, beautifully reinforcing Gandhiji's belief in unity, harmony, and respect for all faiths.



ARMY CANTONMENT VISIT BY JPM SCHOOL STUDENTS

JPM students visited the Army Cantonment, Delhi, on 30th January 2026, where a series of thoughtfully designed activities ensured an immersive and inclusive learning experience. Students explored army equipment, vehicles, uniforms, medals, and communication tools through hands-on tactile interaction and detailed verbal demonstrations. Army officials patiently explained the purpose, structure, and use of each item, allowing students to understand through touch and sound.

The visit also included an introduction to army drills, commands, and daily routines, giving students insight into discipline, teamwork, and life in the armed forces.

The session also included explanations of artillery and firearms, where parts such as the barrel, trigger guard, magazine, and stock were described in detail. Students were introduced to troop carriers, logistics and supply trucks, and fuel tankers, gaining insight into army transport and operations.

They further learned about communication systems like wireless radios and field telephones, and the significance of gallantry, service, and campaign medals, with opportunities to feel selected medals and badges.



FAREWELL TO DR. SANYAL

On 31st January, The Blind Relief Association organised a heartfelt farewell ceremony in honour of Dr. Swati Sanyal, marking the completion of an illustrious journey spanning 37 years of dedicated service. She joined the Teacher Training Centre in 1989 and has since remained a cornerstone of academic excellence and institutional growth at the Association.

Dr. Sanyal played a pivotal role in the establishment of Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education in 2006, contributing significantly to shaping its academic framework. While in service, she completed her PhD in 1999 and, in 2008, was awarded the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Fellowship, serving as a Visiting Professor in several European countries. Her academic expertise has been instrumental across committees of RCI, JMI, NIEPVD, and the concerned Ministries.

On 31st January, The Blind Relief Association organised a heartfelt farewell ceremony in Durgam Cheruvu. During her address, Dr. Sanyal shared nostalgic reflections, expressing how the Blind Relief Association has always been her first home, deeply moving the audience.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of Joint Secretary Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram and Treasurer Mr. S. K. Misra, who shared the dais with Executive Secretary Mr. David Absalom, Advisor Mr. Kailash Chandra Pande, and Deputy Executive Secretary Mr. C. P. Mohanan. Former students who are now serving as professors along with colleagues, guests, and Dr. Sanyal's family members, shared heartfelt tributes and memories, celebrating her remarkable journey and lasting impact.

In recognition of her exceptional contribution, Dr. Swati Sanyal was conferred with the Award of Emerita by The Blind Relief Association. The evening concluded with tea, snacks, an exchange of warm gestures, and a photograph session.



ANNUAL PICNIC

The Blind Relief Association organised its Grand Annual Picnic on 7th February at Nehru Park. Students, trainees, teachers and staff from all units of the Blind Relief Association, came together with their family members and friends for a joyful day outdoors filled with laughter, games, shared meals, and meaningful moments of togetherness.



TECH & SKILL EXPO

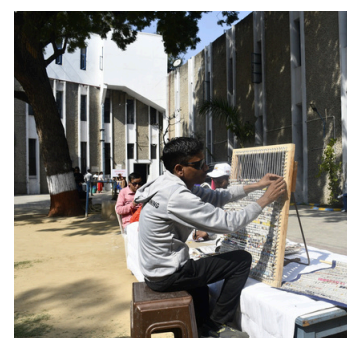
The two-day Tech & Skill Expo organised by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, commenced on 13th February with an inspiring inaugural ceremony attended by distinguished guests and supporters of inclusive development.

The Expo was formally inaugurated by Ms. Pranjal Patil, IAS, Additional Director (Education), Directorate of Education, Delhi. She was joined by Mr. S. Govindraj, Commissioner of Disabilities, who graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Also present were Mr. Surender Singh, Senior Vice President, Operations, Optum India, along with his team, and Father Sunil Prakash Crasta, Director, Chetanalaya.

A key highlight of the inauguration was the unveiling of three assistive devices sponsored by Optum India: HARK AI, a Braille Printer, and a Braille Labeller. These technologies reflected the growing role of innovation in creating accessible opportunities for persons with visual impairments.

Over the course of the two-day Expo, the Blind Relief Association campus welcomed nearly 1000 visitors, creating a vibrant atmosphere of learning, innovation, and collaboration. The event brought together a diverse gathering of participants, including 445 students, 106 trainees, 140 special educators, more than 100 Children With Special Needs (CWSN), and 90 registered guests.

Representatives from the Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi, along with officials from its Inclusive Education Branch, visited the Expo and explored avenues for meaningful collaboration. Faculty members from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, were also present, alongside representatives from reputed institutions such as The Shri Ram School and YMCA Public School, among others.



FOUNDERS' DAY HAVAN



On the solemn occasion of the 67th death anniversary of our Founder, Shri Umesh Anand Basrurker, a havan was conducted in his loving memory on 19th February.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY - DD COLLEGE

Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment), run by The Blind Relief Association, proudly celebrated its Annual Sports Day on 23rd February with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit.

The day was filled with energy, determination, and inspiring performances by our students. The celebrations concluded with a Prize Distribution Ceremony held at Gandhi Hall, where winners were felicitated and the true spirit of participation and perseverance was applauded.



MAHASHIVRATRI



On 15th February, the students of Class XI at JPM School, run by The Blind Relief Association, organised the Mahashivratri puja on the school premises.

UNMESH 8.0

On 21st February 2026, The Blind Relief Association hosted Unmesh, its monthly talent showcase held every third Saturday, celebrating the creativity and abilities of its students. This month's theme, Holi, filled the hall with colour, music, and festive cheer.

Adding to that our Advisor K.C Pande sung a classical song. And Executive Secretary Mr. David addressed the audience and shared his holi wishes.

The atmosphere was truly colourful and vibrant, with petals in the air, smiles all around, and hearts united in celebration. Unmesh once again stood as a testament to talent, confidence, and the boundless spirit of our students.



SUPPORT TO DRISHTIKON



It was a privilege for The Blind Relief Association to be part of Dristikon, the flagship annual festival of the Enabling Unit at St. Stephen's College, Delhi.

Dristikon is a remarkable celebration of diversity and equal opportunity, dedicated to the welfare and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The festival brings together students from various colleges to participate in para sports, cultural performances, and interactive workshops

The event was attended by our Executive Secretary, Mr. David, and our Advisor, Mr. K.C. Pande, who witnessed the enthusiasm, spirit, and collaborative energy that define this special initiative.

DONATION FROM SBI LADIES CLUB DELHI



On 27th February 2026, the SBI Ladies Club Delhi generously donated two hot and cold water coolers for the use of students and trainees at the The Blind Relief Association. This meaningful contribution will ensure easy access to clean drinking water, adding to the comfort and well-being of everyone on campus.

During their visit, the members of the SBI Ladies Club also interacted warmly with our Multi Skill Training trainees and shared joyful moments by distributing chocolates among them.

AWARD FOR JPM TEACHER

It was a proud moment for the The Blind Relief Association as Mr. Manoj Kumar, PGT teacher at JPM Senior Secondary School, was conferred with the 'Divyang Kala Ratna Samman 2026' award for his outstanding contribution to Hindi literature at the Divyang Kala Mahotsav organized by the prestigious organization Saksham: Samdrishti Kshamata Vikas Evam Anusandhan Mandal on 27 February 2026 at Shri Ram College of Commerce (University of Delhi).



ARTICLE PUBLISHED

Narendra Kumar Jha, Research Associate at Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education, published an online article titled "Braille: A Script That Gave Sight To Knowledge" on 4 January 2026 on the occasion of World Braille Day on the DD News website.

Catch up on social media

