



March & April 2026

HOLI



The Blind Relief Association joyfully celebrated Holi on 4 March, filling the campus with colours, laughter, and festive cheer. Students, staff, and trainees came together to mark the occasion with enthusiasm, applying gulal and enjoying music and light refreshments.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Blind Relief Association celebrated International Women's Day on 7 March with great enthusiasm and joy. The event was hosted and organised by the trainees of the Basic Computer Training and Office Operations course.

The celebration was graced by Chief Guest Ms. Veena Mehta Verma, Director - NAB, who shared inspiring thoughts on the significance of Women's Day and the importance of empowering women in every sphere of life. Also present were Advisor Mr. K.C. Pande, Executive Secretary Mr. David Absalom, Head of Finance Mr. M.K. Gupta, and General Secretary Ms. Benu Nath, and Member Ms. Mona Meattle.

Trainees from the Multi Skill Training, Relaxation Massage, and Computer Training units presented a variety of performances including poetry recitation, group song, dance performances, and funny shayari.

The celebration also featured several activity stalls such as nail art, tattoo making, and mug photo printing. Fun games were organized for the participants, where students actively participated and received gifts.

Adding to the festive spirit were snack counters serving golgappe and bhalla papdi, which everyone enjoyed.

A special gesture came from Shahnaz Husain, who has been associated with the organization for many years. She kindly sent goodie bags for all the women staff members, trainees, and students, making the occasion even more memorable.

The day ended on a joyful note with dancing, laughter, and a photoshoot, celebrating the spirit, talent, and strength of women at the Blind Relief Association.



VISITORS FROM HERALBONY, JAPAN

The Blind Relief Association has shared a long and meaningful association with JICA, working together over the years to promote inclusion and cross-cultural engagement.

On 7 March, JICA facilitated the visit of a team from Heralbony to the Association. Heralbony is a company that is working to reshape perceptions of disability through art-based initiatives. They interacted with Sawaru Nihongo Group which also comprises JPM students who learn Japanese language through Japanese Braille.

The group also met Ramdas Shivahare, an alumnus of JPM School who had studied Japanese during his time at the institution. His interaction with the delegation made the exchange even more engaging and encouraging for the students.

During the visit, Executive Secretary Mr. David Absalom and Advisor Mr. K. C. Pande gave them a tour of our campus and shared insights about the work and vision of the organization.



PARTICIPATION IN RAJEEV '26

The Vocational Training Center of the Association participated in the Rajeev 2026 festival, held on 20 March 2026 at the National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy and organised by Team ASTHA and The MoveVent Project.

Envisioned as a celebration led by people with disabilities and caregivers, the event created a meaningful platform to engage with ideas of accessibility, belonging, and collective well-being.

Trainees from the Sewing Unit gave a live demonstration of weaving a door mat, while trainees from the Paper Unit demonstrated the weaving of a table mat using newspaper pieces. Alongside these craft demonstrations, the Relaxation Massage trainees also set up a massage station, offering therapeutic services and engaging with attendees, thereby enriching the overall experience of inclusion and community.



VISIT TO SGT UNIVERSITY

The Blind Relief Association had a delightful experience by participating in an engaging workshop on Bag Making and Block Printing at the School of Design, SGT University, Gurugram on 20 March. Our 22 trainees, along with 8 dedicated trainers and supervisors from the Association, actively explored new creative techniques from bag cutting and sewing to intricate block printing.

As a gesture of gratitude, a sewing kit each was gifted to support the visually impaired trainees. The experience was truly enriching, equipping our team with valuable skills to further empower our trainees



VISIT BY BARET SCHOLARS

We were delighted to host the Baret Scholars at The Blind Relief Association on 25 March for a sensitivity training session that left students deeply inspired and eager to engage further.

The Baret Scholars program is a prestigious global travel and education initiative that brings together young leaders from across the world to gain a deeper, more nuanced understanding of different cultures and communities.

With a shared commitment to meaningful and respectful volunteering, the students contributed through English teaching and supporting candle-making activities marking the beginning of a promising and impactful collaboration.



JPM ALUMNI MEET

The alumni meet of JPM Senior Secondary School, held on 29 March at the premises of the Blind Relief Association, was a heartwarming and vibrant gathering that brought together over 100 former students.

The event witnessed the presence of a diverse group of alumni, including working professionals, students, and retired members, reflecting the strong and enduring bond with the institution.

The programme was hosted by alumnus Mr. Ramdas Shivahare, who is currently serving as an Under Secretary at the Central Board of Secondary Education. Executive Secretary Mr. David Absalom extended a warm welcome and remained actively engaged with the alumni throughout the day. Advisor Mr. K. C. Pande also interacted with the attendees. The event concluded on a joyful note with a group photo session followed by a delightful lunch, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a renewed sense of connection.



CLASS X BOARD RESULTS

We're happy to share the Class X CBSE board exam of JPM Senior Secondary School for the Blind.

All 21 students who appeared for the exams have successfully passed, marking a 100% result. Mohit led the class with 78.8%, followed closely by Manish Kumar Yadav at 78.5% and Sushil at 77%.

What stands out this year is not just top performance, but overall progress. The number of overall distinctions increased to 4 from just 1 last year. Notably, Information Technology was introduced as a subject this year, and 11 out of 21 students secured distinction in it. Image used for representative purposes only

VISIT BY THE SEWDISH AMBASSADOR & FRIENDS FROM MOC

The Blind Relief Association had the honour of hosting His Excellency Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden to India, along with distinguished guests Mr. Anders Blomqvist and Mr. Charles Camara from the Military Order of the Collar Charitable Trust on 10th April 2026.

They were warmly welcomed by our Executive Secretary, Mr. David Absalom, and taken on a comprehensive tour of the campus, including JPM School and the Vocational Training Unit, accompanied by Deputy Executive Secretary Mr. Mohanan and Advisor Mr. K C Pande. The delegation expressed great appreciation for the work being carried out at the Association.

We are especially grateful for the longstanding collaboration with the Military Order of the Collar Charitable Trust, which has been associated with the Association for many years. This visit marked Mr. Blomqvist's first to the campus, and we sincerely acknowledge his support in facilitating this meaningful interaction.

The visit concluded on a warm note with tea and a group photograph, making it a memorable and enriching occasion for all.



SAARTHI

Saarthi 8.0 was inaugurated on 11 April at The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, marking eight impactful years of mentorship and collaboration. Initiated in 2018 by The Blind Relief Association and Youth4Jobs in partnership with HSBC, the programme continues to empower visually impaired youth through meaningful guidance and support.

The ceremony was graced by senior leaders from HSBC—Mr. Rajesh Suseelan, Senior Programme Director, FSGEC; Ms. Arpita Agrawal, Head of Finance Systems Support and Maintenance; Mr. Tanmay Vyas, Head of Regulatory, Liquidity System Operations & Digital Enablement; and Mr. Manikantan Ozhukil, Chief Administrative Officer. Following an exchange of thoughtful addresses by representatives from HSBC and the Association, this year's cohort of trainees was formally paired with their mentors.

A total of 50 vocational trainees and 65 teacher trainees were matched with dedicated mentors from HSBC. This is the first time, teacher trainees of the Durgabai Deshmukh College were included in the mentorship program.



SESSION ON DIGNIFIED MENSTRUATION

On 17 April the Blind Relief Association hosted an awareness session on 'Dignified Menstruation' in collaboration with Girls Act, a youth-led initiative supported by AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF).

The session was attended by adult male and female trainees of the Association. Facilitated by trained Girls Act leaders, the session focused on menstrual hygiene, encouraging open conversations and addressing common misconceptions.

Trainees participated actively in a Q&A and a touch-based group activity, making the session engaging. The programme also included gifts and distribution of menstrual pads.

The session helped the trainees be informed and feel more confident and comfortable discussing menstrual health.



HINDUSTANI VOCAL RECITAL

The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, in collaboration with SPIC MACAY, successfully hosted a Hindustani Vocal Recital by the acclaimed Vidushi Rita Dev, accompanied by Pt. Vinod Lele on tabla and Smt. Paromita Mukherjee on harmonium and Vidisha Gautam on Sitar.

Held on 18 April at 2:30 PM in the Association's Gandhi Hall, the programme began with the artists being honoured with flower bouquets and an angavastra. Vidushi Rita Dev then presented beautiful renditions of Thumri, Dadra, and Tappa, creating a calm and uplifting atmosphere throughout the hall.

The recital brought together students, trainees, and staff for an enriching cultural experience, celebrating the depth and serenity of Indian classical music. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performances especially the children, whose enthusiasm added to the warmth of the occasion.



VISIT BY OPTUM'S LEGAL TEAM

A meaningful morning of interaction, inclusion, and inspiration at the Blind Relief Association as we welcomed Mr. Vivek Kler and the legal team from Optum for an insightful visit to our campus on 24 April.

The team joined the school assembly and toured various departments supported through Optum India CSR initiatives, including the Science & Maths Lab, healthcare and library facilities, vocational training units, and computer education centre. They also witnessed the incredible skills and dedication of our visually impaired trainees engaged in candle making, book binding, sewing, and professional computer education.



TREKKING EXPERIENCE

The trainees and students of Blind Relief Association experienced the power of outdoor and nature-based learning through a transformative programme facilitated by Outward Bound India Himalaya (OBIH) on 25 April.

With inclusivity at its core, every activity from nature trails and trekking to rock climbing and river experiences was designed to inspire confidence, foster teamwork, and build self-reliance. Beyond adventure, it was a journey of connection with nature and discovering strength within.



JPM ALUMNI CRICKET MATCH

On 26 April, a spirited friendly Cricket Match between the JPM Alumni working professionals and current and former students of JPM who are now pursuing higher education brought the campus alive with energy and enthusiasm.

The event was graced by Mr. David (Executive Secretary), Mr. K.C. Pande (Advisor & Former Executive Secretary).

Batting first, the working professionals put up an impressive 194/6 in 12 overs and went on to secure a convincing victory by 44 runs, with the students scoring 150 all out.

The match was smoothly conducted under the supervision of umpires Mr. Bansel and Mr. Ravi, with scoring by Ms. Anshu and lively commentary by Mr. Sachin Chaudhary.

More than just a game, the match was a heartfelt reunion—reviving memories, strengthening bonds, and inspiring students through the journeys of their alumni.



DDCSE SPECIAL LECTURE

The Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (V.I.), established in 2006 under the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, is completing 20 years this year. To commemorate the occasion, the college has started a lecture series, with the first lecture on “Inclusive Education: Policies, Practices, and Challenges” delivered by Prof. Amitav Mishra, Director, Department of Education, IGNOU on 28 April.

Prof. Mishra spoke on the evolution of inclusive education from DPEP to NEP 2020, emphasizing equitable education, multisensory learning, Universal Design, Differentiated Instruction, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The interactive session also addressed challenges such as policy implementation, the need for IEPs in higher education, and funding support for students with disabilities.



Catch up on social media



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