THE BLIND RELIEF ASSOCIATION, DELHI
80 years of empowering persons with visual disability (1944-2024)

July & August 2026

LAUNCH OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES WITH TORCHIT

On 7 July 2026, The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, in collaboration with Torchit, hosted the launch of a new generation of AI-powered assistive technologies, marking a significant step towards a more accessible and inclusive future.

The event was graced by Smt. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, as the Chief Guest.

The occasion was further enriched by insightful addresses from Dr. Homiyar Mobedji, CEO Torchit Foundation and Dr. Suraj Senjam (AIIMS, New Delhi), who shared their perspectives on the transformative role of technology in enhancing accessibility.

The event witnessed the unveiling of the Wireless Jyoti AI Vision Glasses, the AI x STEM Learning Platform, and the Torchit Experience & Resource Center.



DURGABAI DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2026



The Blind Relief Association and the Durgabai Deshmukh College of Special Education (Visual Impairment) commemorated the 117th birth anniversary of Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh with the Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2026, held on 15 July 2026 at Gandhi Centenary Hall.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Geetanjali Kumar, Associate Professor, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, on the theme “Durgabai Deshmukh's Vision for Women's Education: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities.”

The lecture reflected on Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh's enduring commitment to women's education, social reform and empowerment, while bringing these ideals into conversation with the challenges and opportunities shaping women's education today.

A former President of the Blind Relief Association, Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh played a significant role in strengthening the organisation and advancing its mission through her vision and leadership. The College, established by the Association in 2006 and named in her honour, continues to carry forward her commitment to education and inclusion, particularly in the field of special education for persons with visual impairment.

UNMESH 11.0

The July edition of Unmesh came alive with the beauty and wonder of the monsoon on 18th.

We were honoured to welcome Dr. R. K. Giri, Scientist at the India Meteorological Department, as our Chief Guest. His engaging and insightful session sparked curiosity among our trainees and students, who enthusiastically participated in an interactive discussion, asking thoughtful questions about weather and climate.

Our trainees and students delighted everyone with soulful songs and heartfelt poetry recitations inspired by the rainy season, filling the atmosphere with joy and creativity







VISIT FROM VENSURE

On 22 July, Vensure brought cheer to the trainees at the Blind Relief Association through a thoughtful gesture of encouragement and goodwill. Cricket bats were distributed among the trainees of the Multi Skill Training programme.

Such initiatives reflect the value of community support in creating positive experiences and encouraging the spirit of participation among trainees.



CELEBRATING TANABATA FESTIVAL



On 26 July, the Sawru Nihongo Group celebrated Tanabata, the Japanese festival of wishes. The students wrote their wishes on colourful strips of paper and hung them on the Tanabata tree, learning about this beautiful Japanese tradition through a hands-on activity.

A heartfelt thank you to all the Sensei for their guidance and for making the celebration a memorable cultural learning experience.

FAREWELL TO STAFF MEMBERS





The Blind Relief Association and JPM School bid a heartfelt farewell to Smt. Kamlesh Kumari on her retirement after 33 years of dedicated service at JPM. Her unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions will always be remembered

We bade farewell to Ms. Simran Salwan, thanking her for her dedicated service since 2018. Her instrumental role in setting up Café Mast and her role in Diwali Bazaar left a lasting impact on the Association, and we wished her every success in her future endeavours

MOSAI PRESIDENT'S VISIT

On 2 August, the Sawaru Nihongo (Touch Japanese) class welcomed Dr. Ashok Jain, President of MOSAI, and Prof. Sushma Jain as special guests.

Under the guidance of Prof. Azuma Sensei, students explored Japanese culture through Haiku poetry and traditional Japanese songs, making the session an engaging experience of cultural learning and exchange.

The visit added a special dimension to the class, bringing together language, poetry and music.



OPTUM TEAM VISITS



On 5 August, approximately 100 members of Optum visited the Blind Relief Association campus, including its school and vocational training centre. The visit offered the team an opportunity to learn about the Association's educational and vocational training initiatives and gain first-hand insight into its work towards empowering persons with visual impairment.

EDU TRAVELS VISIT FROM JAPAN

On 11 August 2026, The Blind Relief Association welcomed Edu Travels, a group from Japan comprising of students, educators, special educators from different universities who were visiting India as part of an educational exposure tour.

The visitors were given a tour of the Jormal Periwal Memorial Senior Secondary School for the Blind, led by Executive Secretary Mr. David Absalom, along with Ms. Anshu and Ms. Seema. They explored the school premises and learned about the educational environment and activities for students with visual impairment.

The group then visited BRA's Vocational Training Units, where they witnessed the diverse skills and creative work undertaken by our trainees. They were particularly impressed by the creativity, craftsmanship, and dedication reflected in the work produced by the trainees.





Following the tour, the visitors enjoyed tea and refreshments. One of the highlights of the visit was an engaging interactive session between the Japanese group and a group of students from JPM School who are learning Japanese. The interaction, conducted under the guidance of Advisor Mr. K.C. Pande, provided a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange, with the students interacting with the visitors in Japanese.

As a token of warmth and appreciation, the visitors were presented with gifts handcrafted by BRA's trainees. The memorable day concluded with a group photograph, capturing the spirit of friendship, learning, and cultural exchange.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 14th August, The Blind Relief Association, Delhi, and Jormal Periwal Memorial Senior Secondary School for the Blind celebrated Independence Day with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The event was graced by Mr. Surinder Singh, Senior Vice President (Operations), Optum; Mrs. Radhika Bharat Ram, Joint Secretary, The Blind Relief Association; Mr. David Absalom, Executive Secretary; Advisor Mr. K.C. Pande; and several senior representatives from Optum.





The distinguished guests were warmly welcomed with a parade by the students of JPM School, following which the National Flag was hoisted on the premises of The Blind Relief Association.

The guests then visited JPM School before the main programme commenced. The celebration featured a vibrant array of performances by the talented students of JPM School, trainees of Durgabai Deshmukh College, and vocational and computer education trainees. The programme included melodious songs, a wonderful patriotic play, speeches, and several other presentations that beautifully reflected the spirit of Independence and the talent and confidence of the participants.

The occasion also marked the launch of a book authored by Mr. Manoj, a teacher at JPM School. Adding another significant milestone to the celebration was the graduation ceremony of the Computer Diploma Batch of 2025–26, commemorating the successful completion of their training.

The day concluded as a memorable celebration of freedom, patriotism, achievement, and inclusion, with the entire BRA community coming together to celebrate the spirit of India and the promise of a more inclusive future.

FAREWELL TO DIPLOMA TRAINEES



On 20 August, the Blind Relief Association bid farewell to Batch 12 of its One-Year Computer Diploma Course. The occasion marked the completion of the students' training journey and celebrated their dedication and achievements. We wish all the graduating students success as they take their next steps towards new opportunities.

CRPF VISIT

On 25 August, the Blind Relief Association had the honour of welcoming members of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to its campus. The visiting members presented a memento to the Association's Executive Secretary, Mr. David Absalom, as a gesture of appreciation.



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