

04 Samarthanam Founder receives Sri Sathya Sai Award for Human Excellence

Vol 11 Issue 23 | Oct to Dec 2019

# SAMHITA

A SAMARTHANAM PUBLICATION



06 First-ever Womens National Cricket Tournament for the Blind

04 The second season of IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy Cricket Tournament for the Blind kicks-off

05 Bengalureans join hands at the Walkathon 2019  
A walk to save water



ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ  
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled

www.samarthanam.org

Samarthanam is a CRISIL rated organization and certified as "Strong delivery capability and High financial proficiency" organization



EDUCATION



SKILLING



ENVIRONMENT



SPORTS



ARTS & CULTURE



HEALTH & NUTRITION



REHABILITATION

## SAMARTHANAM AT A GLANCE

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, founded in 1997, is an NGO working towards facilitating opportunities to enable persons with disabilities and the underserved to keep pace with the rest of the society by providing quality education, accommodation, nutritious food, vocational training and placement based rehabilitation. It was established by Founder Managing Trustee Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar along with his schoolmate and childhood friend, Late. Nagesh SP. The organization is affiliated to the World Blind Union and Rehabilitation International. Acknowledging the efforts, National Award for Child Welfare (2010) by Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and National Award for Child Welfare (2014) in the institution category were awarded. Samarthanam also received the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2017.

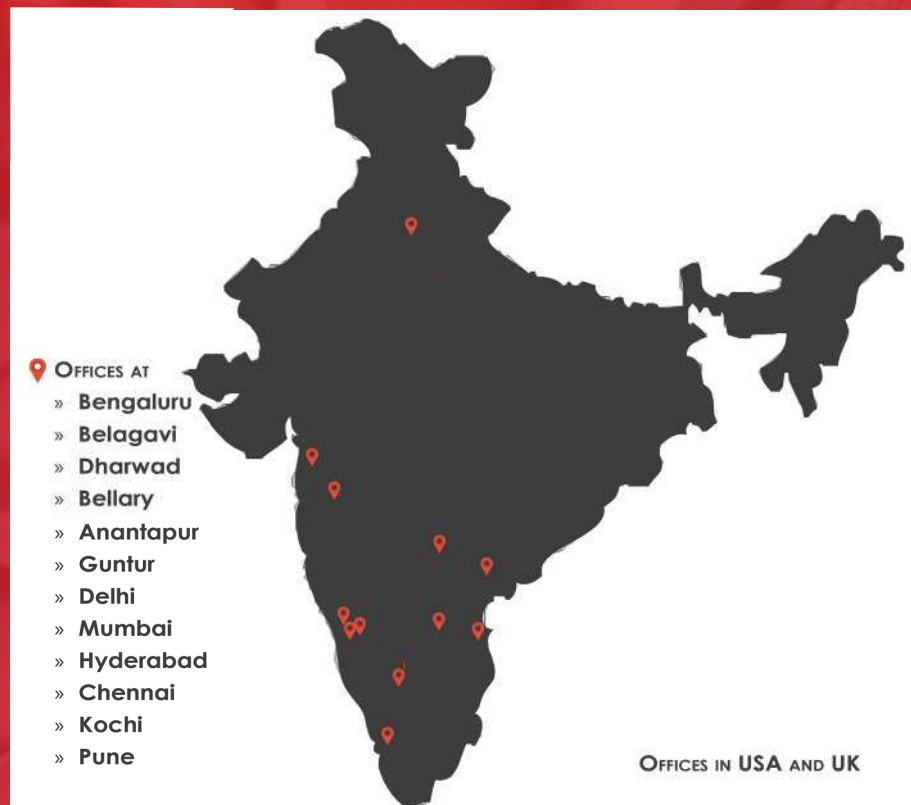
**Samarthanam envisions to touch 10,00,000 lives by the year 2030**

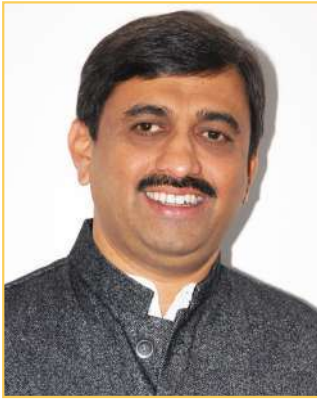
### Vision

An inclusive society free from discrimination where persons with disabilities become contributing members, living with dignity and respect.

### Mission

To empower visually impaired, disabled and underprivileged people through developmental initiatives focusing on educational, social, economic, cultural and technological aspects.





## FROM THE FOUNDER

### Mahantesh GK

Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust  
President, Cricket Association for the Blind in India  
President, World Blind Cricket

The year 2019 has been dynamic one marked with noteworthy events, programmes and initiatives, which kept Samarthanam's team on its toes. I am proud of my team for the energy and passion invested in reaping the best outcome. Be it the Blind Cricket Tournaments held across the country or the actively running skilling centres or the beautiful performances delivered by the artists of Sunadha, our efforts are directed towards bringing the best out of persons with disabilities and their economic empowerment.

This quarter, Samarthanam and Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) has set the stage for the extraordinary, Womens Blind Cricket Tournament, a milestone in the history of Blind Cricket. The talented women cricket players were trained and mentored, grooming their skills and the outcome was an impressive game played with dedication and ardor. Orissa Blind Cricket Team lifted the trophy, standing to be the winners of the first-ever National Womens Cricket Tournament for the Blind. These young girls who never look back are an inspiration to one and all. On the other hand, the second season of the Nagesh Trophy was launched in Agartala and 24 teams are going to fight for the title. The final match is scheduled to be held in January and we look forward to a wonderful game of cricket.

Another exuberant event of the quarter was Walkathon 2019, our annual feature and a meaningful way to close the year. DXC Bengaluru Walkathon, this year, decided on raising awareness on the fast depleting water levels. The theme focused on saving water and promoting the conservation, received humongous support from every sector in Bengaluru. I would like to congratulate Samarthanam's team for executing a spectacular event with great finesse. DXC Technology was the prime sponsor for the walk which witnessed 10,000 participants and flagged off by Tejasvi Surya, MP from Bengaluru South, Jayanagar MLA Soumya Reddy, Corporator Nagaraja N and Ex-Mayor of BBMP, Gangambike Mallikarjun and Romi Malhotra, MD of DXC Technology. I am thankful to the dignitaries for supporting Walkathon 2019 and sharing the stage on the day, making it eventful and successful.

Samarthanam's achievements are dedicated to its beneficiaries, whose success and wellbeing is our priority. The Sri Sathya Sai Award for Human Excellence comes in as an honor to me and my team, and I would like to express utmost gratitude to the panel.

I am thankful to my people to have been supporting me for the past two decades. The journey would have been incomplete without the encouragement received from the benefactors, volunteers, corporate, Government and public. As we step into the New Year, we look forward to our new projects aimed towards transforming the lives of the disabled for a better future.

We wish you all a joyous New Year and advance Pongal wishes. We hope to continue on our mission with the help of your kind support.

Mahantesh G K



## NEWS CORNER

### **Samarthanam Founder receives the prestigious “Human Excellence Award”**

Samarthanam Founder Managing Trustee, Mahantesh GK has been unanimously chosen as the recipient of Sri Sathya Sai Award for Human Excellence in the category of ‘Sports’ for the year 2019. The award comes in as an honor to Mahantesh GK, a visionary who believes in working relentlessly for the empowerment of the disabled and advocating inclusion. Through Samarthanam and Cricket Association for the Blind in India, Mahantesh GK is in pursuit of a better tomorrow for persons with disabilities.

Team Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled and the Cricket Association for the Blind in India celebrated the selfless endeavour of our Founder in uplifting the disabled community.

### **The second season of Nagesh trophy adds fervor to Blind Cricket**

The action packed IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind took off on 7 November, 2019 at Agartala. At the opening, many dignitaries from various parts of Tripura made sure their presence was felt as Tripura became the new venue to host IndusInd Nagesh Trophy matches this season.

Debasis Bhattacharji, Assistant Director, Sports Department of Tripura, Timir Chandra, Tripura Cricket Association secretary, Krishna Roy Ganguly, Principal IVH girls School, Brajahari Debnath, President ATBC, Chairman Cricket for the Blind in Tripura (CABT), Mahantesh GK, President Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and World Blind Council (WBC), Chinmoy Mondal, East Zone secretary, Cricket Association for the Blind in India were the dignitaries who graced the occasion.

55 matches between 24 teams divided into four groups were played in 12 cities across the country. The quarter-finals are scheduled to be played in the month of January followed by the semis and the final match.



## A walk to save water

### Samarthanam Walkathon gathers Bengalureans to raise awareness

Samarthanam's annual feature, the Bengaluru Walkathon, is an attempt to raise awareness on a social or environment concern by gathering people who believe in the cause. Initiated in the year 2001, 14 walkathons have been organized till date and the 15th Bengaluru Walkathon was organized on the theme, 'Save Water.'

DXC Technologies was the prime sponsor for the event. A press meet was organized prior to the walk where the walkathon jersey was unveiled by Raveendran PV, DXC India marketing lead, Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam, Romi Malhotra, Managing Director DXC Technology India and Dr. Subramanya Kusnur, CEO Aquacraft.

The 15th edition of DXC Bengaluru Walkathon was held at the Kittur Rani Chennamma Stadium in Bengaluru on December 7 which brought together more than 10,000 participants, wearing blue and saying yes to water conservation. The event was aimed at creating a general awareness on water depletion, the scarcity and the need to conserve water.

The walk was flagged off by Tejasvi Surya, MP from Bengaluru South, Jayanagar MLA Soumya Reddy, Corporator Nagaraja N and Ex-Mayor of BBMP Gangambike Mallikarjun along with Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam and Romi Malhotra, MD of DXC Technology the presenting sponsor.

Samarthanam teams have put together immense efforts with great energy to promote the event across various hubs in the city and also an inclusive bike rally that also saw some of the best bikers in town all geared up in support of the Walkathon. The event witnessed corporate, organizations, Government, sponsors, partners, public, volunteers, school children, Samarthanam team and followers who joined hands for making the event a resounding success.



## The first ever Womens National Cricket Tournament for the Blind

### An extraordinary beginning

Samarthanam in association with the Cricket Association for the Blind in India, with an objective to encourage the talented women cricket players across India, launched the first-ever Women's National Cricket Tournament for the Blind. Each match portrayed the unsurpassed talent and dedication of the women players in the field of cricket. To further encourage the players, Legendary West Indies cricketer Brian Lara and ICC ODI women player of the year Smriti Mandhana came together to lend their support at the launch of the Tournament in New Delhi.



Brian Lara, West Indies Cricketer

*"Disability should not be considered a hindrance to achieving one's goals. I thoroughly appreciate this fantastic initiative taken by CABI and Samarthanam Trust in India and I am convinced that if such strong stakeholders come together around the world, then there is no reason why Blind Cricket will not see a growth world over. Such competitions will also provide a platform to such talented women and empower them."*

Seven State teams took part in the T20 Tournament which was held from 16 to 19 December, 2019. In the final tussle between Orissa and Karnataka, Orissa team lifted the winning trophy in a gripping match played at the Siri Forts Sports Complex, New Delhi. The winning trophy was given by Chief Guest and Member of Parliament, Meenakshi Lekhi along with other dignitaries including renowned journalist, Rajdeep Sardesai (India Today) and HP Singh (GGM, Head - Coordination, ONGC). Lina and Padmini from Team Odisha were adjudged as the Best Players of the Match in the finals. Varsha from Karnataka, Basanti from Odisha and Geeta from Jharkhand were declared to be the players of the Series.

The move to launch the First Ever Womens Blind Cricket is to nurture the sporting talent and provide a platform for the women cricketers on par with the Men's Blind Cricket team.



Rajdeep Sardesai from India Today felicitated the Womens Blind Cricket team



West Indies cricketer, Brian Lara at the launch of Womens Blind Cricket Tournament at New Delhi



Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam

*"Women's cricket was in the pipeline for the last 10 years as we believe they have equal rights to play. After Samarthanam was given full responsibility of CABI in 2010, we immediately started acting upon the idea and we are extremely proud that we could implement that dream finally."*



## Kannada Rajyotsava

Back in November 1956, all Kannada language-speaking regions of South India were merged to form one state called Karnataka. Ever since then, the day has been celebrated as Karnataka Rajyotsava, Kannada Day or Karnataka Formation Day.

On the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava, a grand event was organized at Samarthanam graced by M Sathish Reddy, MLA, KY Narayanaswamy, Poet and Playwright, Dhanaveer, Kannada film actor, Prashanth, Proprietor of Muthahalli Hotels along with Founder Managing Trustee, Mahantesh GK. The program took off with a procession around HSR Layout participated by Samarthanam team, students and followers. The stage was lit with brilliant performances by the staff and students highlighting the significance of the day. Primary, ID School students and teachers delivered dance and stage shows with a patriotic essence, each performance.

Rajyotsava was celebrated with great energy and pomp across all centers of Samarthanam in Karnataka.



## SNIPPETS



Our Founder delivering keynote address at IIT Chennai

- The 150th Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations at the Sri Jayadeva institute of Cardiology was presided by Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, along with Vasanti Savanur and Dr CN Manjunath.
- Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, presided over as Chief Guest for the launch of IIT Chennai's social campaign and shared his words of wisdom on disability empowerment.
- ABB inaugurated the 4th batch of Samarthanam Skill-ability programme for skill development of PwDs, women and underprivileged youth.
- Empowering visually impaired girls from Karnataka in the sports front, the first ever cricket coaching session was organized by Samarthanam and CABI.
- Samarthanam put up a stall at the 5th edition of the IISF 2019, "Assistive Technologies Conclave & Expo" held in Kolkata exhibiting assistive devices.
- Samarthanam Founder Mahantesh GK along with Rajeev Gowda, MP presided over the book release programme of "The Anexas Story," a motivational book on entrepreneurship.
- Samarthanam Founder Managing Trustee Mahantesh GK and Chandrasekhar, Head of Livelihood Resource Centre were live on DD Chandana TV to talk about skilling and employment for Persons with Disability.
- Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, was part of the World Disability Day celebrations at Walmart, Alstom, Thomson Reuters and so on.



Launch of the Skill-ability programme by ABB



Samarthanam at the 'Assistive Technology Conclave and Expo,' Kolkata

## MEET AND GREET by Mahantesh GK



Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam met Shri Swami Nirbhayananda Sarswathi and received his blessings.



Vivek Joshi, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India visited Samarthanam and exchanged thoughts and ideas with Managing Founder Trustee, Mahantesh GK. An important point of discussion was the inclusion of the disabled in the census.



Hon Odisha State Minister of Sports and Youth Services, Tusharkanti Behera and Samarthanam Founder Mahantesh GK sat down for a valuable exchange of insights and meaningful discussions on the expansion of Samarthanam's work in Odisha.



The former Indian Captain and newly elected President of BCCI, Sourav Ganguly and CABI President Mahantesh GK along with Jayesh George, Joint Secretary BCCI met in Mumbai to discuss the developments and future of Blind Cricket and build the momentum of the sport to bring laurels to the country.

## Namadeo Kadam, Asst. General Manager, (CSR) of General Insurance Corporation inaugurated the Solar powered project for the Disabled friendly Residential school.





## HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS QUARTER

### MARKING IMPORTANT DAYS WITH CELEBRATIONS

Children's Day Celebrations at Samarathanam School was a fun and laughter filled day for the children with programmes, dance performances and gift distribution adding sparkle to the ceremony. The event was graced by Manjunath, Dr. Parvathi, Principal of VET Institutions, Dr. Girish, Cardiff University, U.K. and Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarathanam and Vasanthi Savanur, Trustee of Samarathanam.

### VISITS AND INTERACTIONS

- Ludger Baldus, a retired Educator for special children from Germany with over 30 years of experience worked closely with the ID School to implement strategies and improve the school education system. He spent two weeks conducting workshops and educating the teachers.
- Asia Specific school, St. Joseph's High School volunteered and interacted with the primary school students and the special children from ID School followed by a sign-language tutorial.
- Various exposure visits, workshops, competitions and interactions on various occasions proved to be valuable for the holistic growth and development of the students, making them social and competent.

### ENCOURAGING ARTS, CULTURE, MUSIC

- The ID School students are part of an upcoming Kannada film, a part of which was shot at Kanteerava studio.
- Nakshatra Specials 2019 is an annual inter- shelter home arts, cultural and sports talent fest for children organized by Bhoomi, and was attended by children with special needs and speech and hearing difficulties.
- The day-long Carnival, Tandav, set the stage for kids from various children homes, where they were provided with an opportunity to learn the concepts and myths of dancing. Children from Primary and ID School attended the fest.



**Ludger Baldus visit to the ID School**

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- ‘Quizabled 2019 – Knowledge for All,’ a quiz competition by Seva in Action for children with special needs was held at their premises with active participation by Samarthanam ID School.
- Rotary Bangalore Abilities in collaboration with Samarthanam organized a workshop for persons with disabilities teaching them to be self-sufficient at times of emergencies. The training was facilitated by Mercuri Medica and attended by Samarthanam School staff.

## SPORTS FOR AN ACTIVE MIND

- Drawing competitions, Cultural programmes and Sports Meet were organized on different occasions by Women and Child Welfare Department where primary school students, children with disabilities and special children took part and won prizes.
- ID School teachers and students were part of the State Level Sports Meet organized by Special Olympics Bharat.
- Primary School students participated in the Happiest Minds Run 2019 and received participation certificates.
- Children with special needs from ID School took part in the National Coaching Camp Floorball held at Ernakulam, Kerala.

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

A medical camp was held for the Primary and ID School children by Siddartha Foundation, HSR Layout where over 200 students were benefited from this camp. The Foundation has also decided to render their services once a month.



Students from ID School at Quizabled 2019



The Sports Meet held by Women and Child Welfare Dept



The State Level Sports Meet by Special Olympics Bharat



Students and staff at the Special Olympics Bharat programmes

## VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES AT SAMARTHANAM SCHOOLS

- An outing was organized to Clarks Exotica Convention Resorts & Spa by Shaw Contracts with painting sessions, games and other fun activities for the ID School children.
- A workshop on arts and crafts along with volunteers from OakNorth was enjoyable and creative.
- ID School students with Cerebral Palsy were part of a case study being implemented by the students of Oxford Physiotherapy College.
- Senior leaders from Mircofocus, London visited the ID School and interacted with the students.
- A corporate firm celebrated their Impact day at Samarthanam with volunteers organizing many programmes for each class focusing on soft skills, Geography, etiquette, clay modeling and gardening for the primary students.
- Microsoft Dynamics, JLL, Microsoft, Amway, PayPal, Metro, Infosys and KPMG conducted a range of art, educational, computers, dance, music sessions for the primary school students on various days as part of volunteering activities.
- Brillio fulfilled the wish list of the students from Grade 1 and 2 by distributing gifts and spreading smiles.
- A product stall was organized by Bangalore Food Bank with products prepared at Vocational Training Unit, ID School.
- Latha Ghorpade, Trainer at Vocational Training Unit, ID School and team conducted a work shop for employees at VMware teaching arts and crafts.
- Volunteers from KPMG held a movie screening of 'Toy Story' for the children with intellectual disabilities.
- The team at ID School conducted service learning activities for the employees of VMware.



**Gift distribution by the employees of Aurigo Software**



**Uniform distribution by the MD of Ujjivan Finance**

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME ANANTHAPUR

- A Sports Meet was organized by the office of the Welfare of Disabled and Senior Citizens, Government of Ananthapur which witnessed the participation of higher education students who bagged many prizes and appreciation.
- A 2KM rally was organized to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which brought together higher education students and other followers who actively participated in the walk.



**The Sports Meet by Welfare of Disabled and Senior Citizens**

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME GUNTUR

- On the 'World White Cane Safety Day' Samarathanam in association with Souris Seva Foundation organized a procession to celebrate the achievements of people who are visually impaired.
- Visually impaired students pursuing MBA at the Hindu College got first and second prizes respectively in essay writing competition organized by State Bank of India at Hindu College of Management, Guntur.
- Students were part of a 'World Town Planning Day,' a tree plantation programme organized in association with Guntur Municipal Corporation.
- The State Sports Meet held at Vijayawada saw the participation of HEP students who had won many prizes in the various sports events.
- The event 'Bring your families and make a difference' organized by DXC Technologies invited HEP students who delivered various performances along with presenting a brief on the skilling programme.

### World White Cane Safety Day celebrations



### World Town Planning Day programme



## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME BANGALORE

- Scribe support was arranged for 110 Visually Impaired UG students studying across Karnataka for the semester exams.
- Deshpande, Head of Operations and Raghavendra, Head of Higher Education Programme attended a half day workshop on 'Inclusive Best Practices and Assistive Technologies' at IIM-Bangalore.
- JCPenney sponsored competitive examinations coaching for 25 differently abled and underprivileged students as part of the 'Coaching for Excellence' programme inaugurated at Samarathanam HSR Office, Bangalore.



Inauguration of 'Coaching for Excellence' programme by JCPenney officials

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME PUNE

- A Higher Education student participated in the 8th State Level Cricket Tournament in the 'Blind Men's Division' and received the 'Man of the Match' title.
- HEP students participated in the Global Run 2019 organized by BMC software and Anubhav Pratishthan Trust.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) organized a marathon for women empowerment and Higher Education students participated in the run.
- Higher Education students participated in the 'National School Chess Championship for the Visually Challenged 2019' winning first and fourth prizes.



HE students at the Marathon held by FICCI

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME BELAGAVI

- On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Higher Education students participated in the Inauguration of Sports Event organized by the Department for the Empowerment of Differently-abled.
- Nepal Paralympics Sports Committee organized the South Asian Para Games 2019 in Katmandu where the Higher Education students were part of the winning team in the game of 'Blind Kabbadi'



**HE Students participated at the Sports Meet inauguration**



**The winners of Blind Kabaddi, South Asian Para Games**

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME BALLARI

- Ballari Higher Education students participated in various sports at the Sports Meet conducted by District Disability Welfare Office.
- Samarthanam Ballari students participated in the cultural event organized by Kannada Chaitanya Vedike



**The Sports Meet organized by District Disability Welfare Office**

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME GADAG

- 'Yuva Sammelana,' organized by Ramakrishna – Vivekananda Ashram invited Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam to speak at the event and was attended by the Higher Education students.

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME DHARWAD

- On World Sight Day, Dharwad students participated in the walk organized by Project Vision.
- Dharwad Higher Education students won prizes at the 'State Level Visually Impaired Chess Competition.'



**Our Founder speaking at 'Yuva Sammelana' at Gadag**



**The winners of the Chess Competition held at Dharwad**

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME DELHI

- The Higher Education Programme supported by NEC offers support to 25 visually impaired students. The support includes free accommodation, transport, volunteer support, teaching and learning materials, exposure visits, scribe support and access to books and other supplementary material. An MoU signed with Kamala Nehru College also provides educational support to these students.
- The second project run by HEP Delhi is supported by Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF) which is helping 111 students pursue higher education across various colleges in Delhi. It aims to provide scholarships to visually impaired students along with free training in IT, soft skills and English communication. The training is being imparted at three locations, Kirori Mal College, Miranda College and Daulat Ram College. Samarthanam is the training partner which provides trainers to all the locations ensuring the perfect implementation of the training programme.



**The Higher Education Programme at Delhi supported by NEC**

---

## STORIES OF CHANGE

### LAKSHMI

It is amazing to see young students pushing themselves beyond limits to achieve feats never thought possible before. Lakshmi is one such student. She is a first year student at Hindu College pursuing her graduation. She developed cataract at birth that resulted in losing her eyesight. Born to farming family, her parents managed to provide her the basic education and supported her through tough times. She studied at the Vizag Govt School for the blind. She is skilled at running, shot-put, discus and long distance running. Though Lakshmi did not have any formal coaching or training, she made use of the available resources to train herself.

Her dream is to win gold at the Paralympics. She looks up to PT Usha for inspiration. She has won the First prize in weightlifting at the State level and First prize in running in state level. Weightlifting is a tough sport even for men, she believes she is on her way to creating history by getting better at it.

She is grateful to Samarthanam for the Higher Education Program in which she enrolled in 2019 and the support she receives that will help her realize her dreams.





### **SKILLING CENTRE BANGALORE**

- Motivational and soft skills building sessions were organized by AIG volunteers.
- Food and diet sessions were held by GKN volunteers.
- Interview skill sessions by Lilly, Citi Bank and Textron volunteers helped the trainees understand the dos and donts while addressing the interviewer.
- Communication skill building, resume making and soft skill sessions by Microsoft Volunteers proved to be highly beneficial.
- Career counseling and personality development sessions by corporate volunteers were a great addition to the course.
- Campus drives were carried out by Flipkart, Postcard, Dus Minute and Dharmya Business Ventures Pvt Ltd.
- Digital Literacy programmes were organized at Kolar and Kankapura.



**Assistive aids distribution by HSBC Representatives**



**Tailoring, beauty and wellness programmes at HSR and Dooravani Nagar**



**Campus Drive by FlipKart**



**A volunteering session on career counseling**

## SKILLING CENTRE DELHI

- A field event for raising awareness was conducted by Ignite where candidates delivered performances and motivational speeches.
- A volunteer group from a corporate firm along with staff visited Samarthanam center for executing different sessions for the candidates including quiz, painting, gardening and other activities.
- A placement drive was organized by HGS to interview OH and LV candidates.
- Roshni, a singing event for special children and youth, organized by the Japan Foundation witnessed beautiful performances by candidates from Delhi centre.



**Gardening activity by the volunteers**

## SKILLING CENTRE MUMBAI

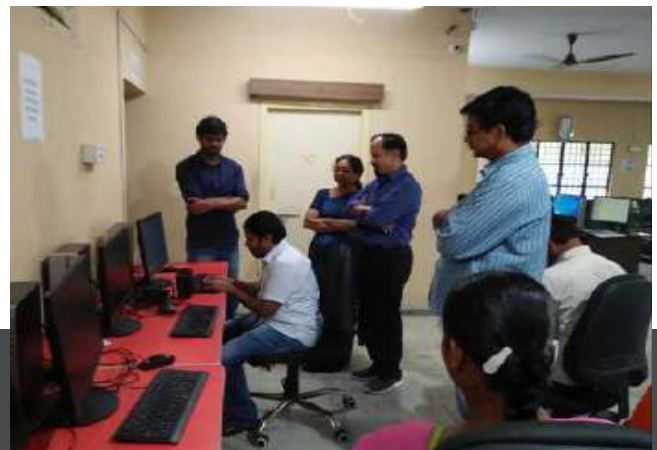
- The necessary staff recruitment has been carried out at the skilling centre.

## SKILLING CENTRE HYDERABAD

- Interview sessions for recruiting were held by Talent 21 Management consultancy, Condivent Management consultants, Hub Management Services, HDFC Bank, Max Retail India Pvt Ltd and Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd.
- A Blind Cricket match was played between Telangana Cricket for the Blind Team and Unisys Team.
- A motivational session by T. Krishna Rao, Intelligence Software India Pvt Ltd proved to be rejuvenating.



**A session on interview skills lead by Microsoft volunteers**



**The Director of Strategic Economic Growth Plan (SGEP) pays a visit to Samarthanam**

## SKILLING CENTRE PUNE

- The beneficiaries were part of marathons, one organized by BMC Pune and another by Finolex where they received prizes for winning the race.
- Placement drives were conducted by HGS and Reliance.

## SKILLING CENTRE KOCHI



**A celebration on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Kochi Skilling Centre**



**A Speech and Hearing Impaired trainee from Kochi receiving the first prize in typing**

## SKILLING CENTRE GUNTUR

- A visit by the first woman Guntur City Planner, Vallabhaneni Sunitha and her inspirational words were highly motivating.
- A performance by the students at the World Town Planning Day event by NAREDCO Capital Zone and Guntur Town Planning Department was greatly appreciated.
- A motivational session was organized by the Assistant Director for Disabled Welfare, Venkata Ramana



**A procession to mark the World White Cane Day at Guntur**



**Students taking part in the State level Sports competitions**

It was an honour for the Guntur Livelihood Resource Centre to receive the 'Best NGO Award' for working towards the cause of the visually impaired given away on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event was graced by Thaneti Vanitha, Hon Minister for the differently-abled, Transgender and Senior Citizens, Adimulapu Suresh, Hon Minister for Education, Malladi Vishnu Vardhan, Member of Legislative assembly, Damayanthi, Principal Secretary and Kiran Kumar IAS, Director, Disabled welfare.



**The Centre Head of Guntur Skilling Centre receiving the 'Best NGO Award'**

## SKILLING CENTRE ANANTHAPUR

- An industrial tour was organized for the trainees to M/S MGM Springs Private Limited.
- A motivational session was held by Vedadri Harinath, Founder of “Vedadri Jayalakshmi Narasimha Sastry Association.
- The Phase I construction at Kodikonda check post for accommodating an LRC, Dairy farm and other skill training programmes is actively in progress.



**A procession on greener environment on World Disability Day at Ananthapur**



**Sports Meet held by the Department of Welfare for the Disabled and Senior Citizens, Govt of AP**

## SKILLING CENTRE DHARWAD

- A detail version on the Dharwad DDU-GKY Skilling Programme was telecasted on DD News.
- An eye-check up camp and a yoga camp were conducted for the beneficiaries.
- A guest session by Syndicate Bank Team on Account Literacy presented a brief on accounting to the beneficiaries.
- District level chess competition and a sports event were conducted where the beneficiaries bagged many prizes.



**Inauguration of the Blind Chess Competition**



**An Eye-check camp organized for the beneficiaries**

## SKILLING CENTRE BELAGAVI

- Sports competitions were organized by DDWO on the occasion of World Disability Day where many students took part and won prizes.
- Placement visits to a few reputed firms were carried out including Reliance mall, Sun enterprises, Marriott Hotel, Mega mart, Anand Lifesciences and others.

## SKILLING CENTRE BALLARI

- District Level Cultural and Sports competitions were organized by District Disability Welfare Office of Ballari. Students participated and won prizes.
- A cultural event organized by Kannada Chaitanya Vedhike, Ballari saw the participation of visually impaired students who won first prize in singing.



The winners from the District Level Sports Meet



The Skill building session led by Sumalatha, Counselor at Yuva Spandana

## STORIES OF CHANGE

Suganya is a young girl with great determination who completed BCom in Government Arts and Science College for Women. Suganya hails from a farming family and was crippled by polio at the age of three. Though Suganya completed her degree, she was unable to secure a job even after many interview sessions because of poor communication skills. Suganya joined Samarthanam to overcome her confidence issues and make a career. After the three month training at Samarthanam Suganya's communication, knowledge in IT and personality has undergone a complete transformation.

Suganya was placed in a reputed corporate firm with a good pay package. She expressed gratitude to Samarthanam and the staff at LRC for supporting her in building a career.

*“My life has been completely transformed and I am now an independent working individual. Thanks to Samarthanam's excellent training modules and consistent encouragement.”*





## SAMARTHANAM ENVIRONMENT

Samarthanam's Parisara, apart from being the dry waste management service provider, also promotes the 3Rs, Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, with various activities raising awareness in the public. Parisara's sustainable dry waste recycling system aims to create a greener environment and lessen the burden on landfills.

Parisara team's initiatives for the quarter;

- Vocational training provided to Samarthanam Intellectually Disabled School students in paper cup and plate manufacturing unit processing nearly 3 tonnes of paper.
- The Pollination Nursery generated in-house revenue.
- Amway organized Children's Day celebration for Samarthanam school kids where Parisara organized a fun art and craft activity to create awareness on waste management and also planted saplings.
- A volunteer activity was conducted by Microsoft to celebrate their Joy of Giving month by planting sapling, Global Giving month through wall painting at HSR BBMP Sports ground.
- Around 640 kgs of in-house generated manure was sent to Kodikonda check post to revive the fertility of a section of Samarthanam landsite, where farming is proposed to be one of the many activities to be implemented by Samarthanam.

210 tonnes  
of dry waste  
recycled

35  
BBMP  
wards  
covered

Educated  
486702  
householders

80%  
source  
segregation  
achieved

2336  
waste  
handlers  
benefited

2000 kg  
food waste  
converted  
into 1250 kg  
manure



## WELL-BEING OUT OF WASTE

WOW is a recycling programme, initiated by ITC. It is a corporate level program where the focus is on ensuring proper segregation and recycling of waste. In association with Samarthanam Trust, ITC executes various programmes under WOW with the help of BBMP.

This quarter, Samarthanam WOW Team conducted Swachhata hi Seva programme at five Wards to spread awareness on waste segregation, recycling and cleanliness. The waste collected was sent for recycling and beautification of blackspots identified resulted in a neat and clean premises.



**Blackspot beautified**



## SAMARTHANAM SPORTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudeep from Samarthanam High School participated in the District Level sports meet conducted by Education Department and won first place, qualifying for State Level.
- 20 Special Students from Samarthanam participated in the State Level Basket Ball, Power lifting and Football competitions conducted by Special Olympic Bharath.
- Manjunath R, from ID School was selected for Karnataka Special Olympic Cricket Team.
- 14 students from ID school participated in the State level Badminton and Table Tennis event at Mangalore conducted by Special Olympics Bharath.
- 16 Special children participated in the State Level athletics meet and won prizes.
- Bangalore University in collaboration with Samarthanam organized a Sports Meet for PwD at Bangalore University premises with multiple sports events for the differently abled.
- Samarthanam sports team has initiated the training of students in various sports including Power lifting, Basketball, Table Tennis, Cricket, Women's Blind Cricket, Kabbadi, Kho-kho, Floorball, Floor hockey, Bocce ball and Badminton.

### Marathon achievers

- Six visually impaired runners and guide runners represented India at the Thailand International Marathon in Bangkok. The event was conducted by Run for the Blind Thailand and Nandeesh won the first place in 10K and Sunitha won the second place.
- 20 students participated in a 5k Marathon at Forum Mall.
- 37 students participated in the Mysuru Dasara Marathon.
- Nandeesh, a VI participated in Thump Celebration Marathon and secured second prize, completing 42Km in 3 hours 26 mins.

### Coaching camp for blind women cricketers

A State level coaching camp for blind women cricketers was conducted at Samarthanam HSR premises in association with KCAB. Five coaching camps were held across various regions of Bangalore where 65 VI students participated and 22 were shortlisted. Three coaching camps were organized at Samarthanam short listing 14 players for the T20 National Tournament for the Blind.





**An award to honor Blind Cricket player**

It was moment of honor for the Indian Blind Cricket Team player, Mahender Das Vaishnav, as he received the State Award and was felicitated by the Government of Telangana on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Mahender has been part of the Indian Blind Cricket Team and has immensely contributed to the team’s outstanding performance in many matches. He made us proud with his contribution to Blind Cricket during the World Cup in 2012. We appreciate his hard work and wish him the best.

**India-Nepal Bilateral Series**

India triumphed at the India-Nepal Bilateral Series played at Kanpur. India was captained by Sunil Ramesh for the very first time during the ODIs and by Deepak Malik during the T20s. In the three T20 series which was played at Dehradun, India once again emerged victorious as they whitewashed Nepal in the shortest form of the game. The T20 series was more competitive and the final game of the series was a thriller as India came out on top in the super over. The Sports Tourism of India was the title sponsors for the ODI series while IndusInd Bank was the Primary sponsor for the Indian team as well as the T20 series.

India and Nepal Blind Cricket teams were congratulated by the Hon Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivender Singh Rawat.



Indian team with the winning trophy- Nepal Series



India and Nepal Blind Cricket teams with the Hon CM of Uttarakhand, Trivender Singh Rawat



## SUNADHA

This quarter, Sunadha, the dance troupe of Samarthanam, delivered over 20 performances in various corporate events, educational institutions and private events. The major highlights include performances at Mysore Dussehra organized by the Department of Culture, Karnataka Govt, Nike, DXC Technologies, BEL, Bharathi Cements, Rotary Club and Spectrum. The performances at DXC Technology and BEL were highly appreciated and the artists were presented with awards.

The artists were felicitated by the K.N Group of Companies at a special function arranged at their J.P Nagar premises. Every performance delivered at different venues proved to be spectacular shows reciprocated with immense admiration and applause from the audience.



## STORIES OF CHANGE

Isai is a budding artist with a flair for music and singing. His fingers run effortlessly on the keyboard. All of 24, hailing from Salem and born to a welder father and housemaker, Isai is an example of confidence and courage. He picked up learning to play the harmonium at a young age of 11.

He is academically proficient having topped high school. Isai is good at his work and handles International calling during the day. He can replicate music just by listening to it once. Despite facing challenges in childhood and facing resistance from his parents from pursuing music, he continued to practice music. Isai was among the first batch of LRC Chennai and successively joined Samarthanam in 2016.

He plays music to beat away the blues away and one day his singing caught the attention of the Founder who gave him the opportunity to join the cultural troupe of Samarthanam. Isai has incredible talent and with the nurture of Sunadha he can go on to become a musical legend. On disability and art, Isai believes music is in ones genes and that music has no barriers.





## SWADHARA GRUH

Swadhara Gruh provides support for women in distress by offering shelter, counseling services and vocational training, making them independent and self-reliant. Women with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, social injustice and marital disputes seek the support of Swadhara to regain their confidence and composure needed to battle the situation and also build an economically independent livelihood.

## STORIES OF CHANGE

Shilpa is an Ayurvedic Doctor from Bangalore who always wanted to serve the society with passion. She is a composed individual who places other needs before hers. But after her divorce from an unhappy marriage Shilpa needed counseling support to regain her poise. Shilpa had to break-up with her husband due to serious domestic concerns. Multiple attempts to reunite with her family have not been successful, leading to Shilpa's distress. Swadhara team sheltered her and provided counseling support and after a period of one month, Shilpa found a job and is now leading an independent life.



## STORIES OF CHANGE

Asha is a competent individual, well-educated and articulate. Financial independence was of high priority to Asha and helping people around her was a preference. She resides in Bangalore along with her husband and tried her best to deal with her marital concerns till they turned to be violent. It broke her confidence till Swadhara intervened and provided her with the necessary support. After multiple sessions of counseling with Asha and her family, she reconciled and even started working in a small firm. With the support of Swadhara and her family members, Asha is now a working professional who wishes to continue helping people in need.



## VOLUNTEERING CORPORATES

Mercedes Benz, Microsoft, Infosys, Tata Power Solar, PayPal, Unisys, Alstom, Eureka Forbes, OakNorth, Textron, Microland, Radware, Medtronic, VMware, Citi Bank, Aditya Birla, IQVIA, IndusInd Bank, Manhattan Associates, AIG, KPMG, GKN Aerospace and Brillio.

## INTERNSHIPS

18 students completed internship at Samarthanam in this quarter. The interns were exposed to and engaged in all the programmes at Samarthanam. A few worked with the communications team on social media promotions and covered few events. The interns belonged to Indian Institute of Psychology and Research, Krupanidhi College, Christ University- Dept of Social Work, Christ University - Dept of Management Studies, Baldwins Womens Methodist College, SDMIMD and Jyoti Nivas College.

6 social awareness visits from institutes like Azim Premji University, Banjara Academy, St. Joseph's Boys School, SCT College of Education, Prerna Academy and JSS School.

## HIGHLIGHTS

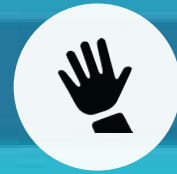
### Blind Cricket match with Mercedes-Benz

It was the first match in which the womens cricket team participated, making it a mixed team match. Mercedes-Benz rose up to the occasion, with woman cricket players of their own who took part in the match. Samarthanam's Blind Cricket Team won the match and was given certificates by senior management from Mercedes-Benz along with a cricket kit for team.

### KPMG Christmas celebrations

Volunteers from KPMG celebrated Christmas early. Their aim was to create a festive feeling in the children. One batch prepared a nutritious meal for our kids as one of the volunteering activity. The other two batches were involved with the ID School where they watched a movie and made Christmas cards with the Primary School students.

**Another highlight was the wonderful turn out of both corporate and college volunteers for the Walkathon. There were 1000+ volunteers who did a remarkable job in all the responsibilities assigned to them and ensured the event went smoothly.**



35  
volunteering  
activities



24  
corporates



894  
volunteers



4,426  
hours of  
service

## SAMARTHANAM DIGITAL LIBRARY



**348**  
volunteers  
visited



**2835**  
books  
uploaded



**803**  
books  
in ePUB format



**Union Minister, Pralhad Joshi recording a session at Samarthanam Digital Library**



**2955**  
Audio books



**44548**  
Scanned pages



**5896**  
Braille books



**10268**  
Regular books

**MOBILE  
LIBRARY**



**71**  
hours in service



**10**  
School visits



**152**  
books circulated

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Amazon visited the recording studio for a demo session. 90 volunteers recorded 117 books.
- Citibank is recording 8 books and is under process.
- A visit to Microsoft for the book recording orientation resulted in 18 volunteers recording 22 academic books.
- ExxonMobil had 18 volunteers who had participated in the recording orientation session and are currently recording 10 books.
- Union Minister, Pralhad Joshi inaugurated Samarthanam's Digital Library, bridging the digital divide for visually impaired students. He interacted with the leadership of Samarthanam, beneficiaries and appreciated the work of the organization.

### THE LAUNCH OF BRAILLE PRINTER AT SAMARTHANAM

With the support from Ocwen Financials, Samarthanam installed a Braille printer which will aid the visually disabled community with their learning needs. The presence of a Braille printer will facilitate easy accessibility to books, textbooks, and other resources. The Printer can print 1200 Braille Pages (A4) per hour and can handle continuous Braille production of high volumes.

The inauguration was graced by the senior leadership team from Ocwen Financials including Glen Messina, President and Chief Executive Officer, June Campbell, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Dennis Zeleny, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, Human Resources and Timothy J Yanoti, Chief Growth Officer, Business Development, Ravi S. P President India and Manila Operations along with Samarthanam Founder Managing Trustee Mahantesh GK.



## SAMARTHANAM OVERSEAS

- Samarthanam USA participated in the Taste of Perkins at Perkins School for the Blind on World Sight Day. It was a unique experience to be blindfolded and led to a table to taste food.
- A fundraising campaign on Facebook for two WeWalk smart cane was successfully accomplished. Samarthanam USA's President, Subu Kota was honored the distinguished Community Service Award at the New England Choice Awards. He received the award from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD.
- Samarthanam USA launched a new initiative to support Cricket for the Blind in Afghanistan and sponsored 4 blind cricketers from Afghanistan by providing free coaching camp in India.
- A successful first volunteer luncheon was organized with an overview of Samarthanam and its various divisions including Education, Blind Cricket, Skilling Centers, Culture, and Green Initiatives were presented.
- The Founder Managing Trustee Mahantesh GK and team Samarthanam welcomed Savitha Rajiv, Executive Director Samarthanam-USA and President of Samarthanam-USA, Subu Kota to our Bangalore HQ for a meaningful interaction with the programme heads on creating opportunities for PwDs on a larger front. The overseas team also participated in various activities including Rajyotsava, interviewing the kids, inauguration of the horticulture unit and so on.



**Samarthanam USA team at the inauguration of the Horticulture Unit**



**Samarthanam USA team interacting with the team at HQ**

## SAMARTHANAM HUMAN RESOURCES

The quarter has been a dynamic period for the HR team who has kept up their energy levels to meet the organization's demands. The three months have been buzzing with events and celebrations and the HR team's hard work is evident in the successful implementation of the programmes. The execution of annual Walkathon, Rajyotsava and regional festival celebrations have been perfectly carried out, ensuring the participation of entire Samarthanam team.



On the other hand, the HR Tool, which is an application to ease out the day to day HR backend processes and enable the employees access their details, went live for key staff in Samarthanam head office and initial observations / suggestions are being provided to the Ascent team for seamless performance.

We are thankful for the support and encouragement received from the following corporate organizations. Our initiatives are incomplete without your support and we look forward to a long term relationship.

- GKN Sinter Metals Pvt Ltd
- Life Style International Pvt Ltd
- ITC WoW
- United Way of Bengaluru
- IndusInd Bank
- NASSCOM Foundation (Microsoft)
- BMC Software
- Give India Foundation
- Akamai Technologies India Private Ltd
- International Association for Human Values/JDA
- RBL Bank Limited
- L&T Technology Services Ltd
- Nike Inc
- Kluber Lubrication India Private Limited
- NEC Technologies India Private Limited
- ExxonMobil company Private Limited
- Microland Foundation
- Innoven Capital India Private Limited
- JCPenney Services India Private Limited
- Australian Consulate General
- Progress Software Development Pvt Ltd
- Invitrogen Bioservices India Pvt Ltd
- DreamOrbit Softech Private Limited
- VMware Software India Pvt Ltd
- Yaskawa India Private Limited
- UK Online Giving Foundation
- Kintetsu World Express India Pvt Ltd
- HSBC Electronic Data Processing
- Tech Mahindra Foundation
- MediaTek Bangalore Private Limited
- Swades Foundation (HSBC)
- Government of Karnataka

We would like to thank Thermo Fisher for supporting Samarthanam initiatives including the Mid-day Meal Programme, Primary Education and content for the Smart Class at Samarthanam School.

## CORPORATE VISITS



**A visit by Claret Lobo, Manager- Services, Kluber**



**JDA Software team visits Samarthanam**



**Our Founder greeting Andrew Collister, Vice-Consul of Australian Consulate-General**



**Global Leaders from Microsoft at Samarthanam HQ**



## Support

persons with disabilities and the underserved with  
your generous donation



**Make a Donation** (Select your amount)

Rs. 3000/-

Rs. 5000/-

Rs. 10000/-

Rs. 15000/-

Rs. 20000/-

Rs. 25000/-

Amount of your choice

Fill the form below with your correct details

Name\*

Email ID

Address\*

Country\*

State\*

Pin Code\*

City\*

Mobile\*

Phone

Mail the donation form to the below mentioned address:

To  
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled,  
CA: 39, 15<sup>th</sup> Cross, 16<sup>th</sup> Main, Sector 4, HSR Layout,  
Bengaluru – 560102 Karnataka State, India  
Tele: +91 9449864784

**DONATE THROUGH PAYTM**

Visit [www.samarthanam.org](http://www.samarthanam.org)



**Income Tax exemptions available under section 80G of Indian Income Tax Act**  
**Samarthanam is also qualified to receive contributions through FCRA**





ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ  
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled



# Take Part in **Our Responsibility** for Your **Corporate Social Responsibility**

## **CSR Partnership with Samarthanam**

Choose Samarthanam as your CSR partner this financial year!

We welcome employee engagement, monetary contributions, volunteering, diverse projects and long-term partnerships.

Contact Kumaraswamy  
at [kumar@samarthanam.org](mailto:kumar@samarthanam.org) or  
9449864775  
for associating with Samarthanam

**Income Tax exemptions available under section 80G of Indian Income Tax Act. Donations made in the USA are exempt under 501C3. Samarthanam is also qualified to receive contributions through Give India, Give to Asia, United Way, Charity Aid foundation, USA and American service to India, USA**

**Head Office**

CA: 39, 15<sup>th</sup> Cross, 16<sup>th</sup> Main, Sector 4, HSR Layout, Bengaluru – 560102 Karnataka State, India  
Email: info@samarthanam.org  
Ph: 080 25729922 / 25721444

**Administrative Office**

#17, Villa Suchita, 1<sup>st</sup> Cross, 17<sup>th</sup> 'A' Main, J.P. Nagar II Phase, Bengaluru - 560078  
Ph: +91 9449864770

**National Office**

A 336, Chhattarpur Enclave, Phase 2, Street No 35, Maidan Garhi Road, New Delhi  
Ph: 011 40394381

**Hyderabad Division**

Plot No - 4, 1st Floor, Sri Sai Nagar Colony, Lane Behind Ambedkar Statue, Old BSNL Lane, Picket, Secunderabad 500009  
Ph: +91 6364867803

**Mumbai Division**

Prem Villa, Plot No. G/11, Sector No. 20, Mahavir Marg, Behind Belapur Gaothan, Police Station, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 4  
Ph: +91 6364867809

**Pune Division**

Hari Om Bungalow, 2nd Lane, Tara Dutt Colony, Opp. B T Kawde Flyover, Ghorpadi, Pune - 411001, Ph: +91 9112131209

**Chennai Office**

Plot No. 120, Sri Bhuvaneswari Nagar, 1st Main Road, Velachery, Chennai- 600042  
Ph: 044 48566509

**Guntur Division**

4-14, 223/6, 1st Floor, Anjaneyapet Main Road, Amaravathi Road, Opp. Sri Rama Hospital, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh - 522002  
Ph: +91 9490702460

**Kochi Division**

2nd Floor, Adam Star Building, Near Corporation Bank, Mavelipuram Colony, Kakkanad, Kochi - 682030,  
Ph: +91 6364867814

**Anantapur Division**

D.No. 3/705, Thapovanam, Narayanapuram Main Road, Anantapur - 515001  
Ph: +91 9490702460

**Ballari Division**

Door No. 17/1, Beside Maddikere Bhimayya School, Moka Road, Gandhinagar, Ballari - 583103, Ph: 08392258344 / 9480812138

**Belagavi Division**

House No. 11, Scheme 40, Shriram Colony, 3rd Stage, Hanumannagar, Belagavi-590019  
Ph: 9480809598

**Dharwad Division**

No. 48, Dasappa & Sons Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Main, Gandhi Nagar, Dharwad - 580 004  
Ph: +91 9480812139

**USA Office**

Samarthanam USA, Inc., 21 Southwest Cutoff, Northborough MA 01532  
Ph: +91 9449864698

**UK Office**

Registered Office: 447, Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, United Kingdom, HA3 0XY