



05 Rahul Dravid  
inaugurates the  
launch of ATA  
Conclave

Vol 11 Issue 22 | July to September 2019

# SAMHITA

A SAMARTHANAM PUBLICATION



04 Indian Blind Cricket team  
triumph in the Bilateral  
Series at Jamaica

The 5th National Technology 04  
Convention by Samarthanam  
and Say Everything

Prof Fred Schroeder 06  
President of World Blind Union  
visits Samarthanam



EDUCATE... EMPOWER... ELEVATE™

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Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled®

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Samarthanam is now a  
**CRISIL rated organization**  
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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 2017.

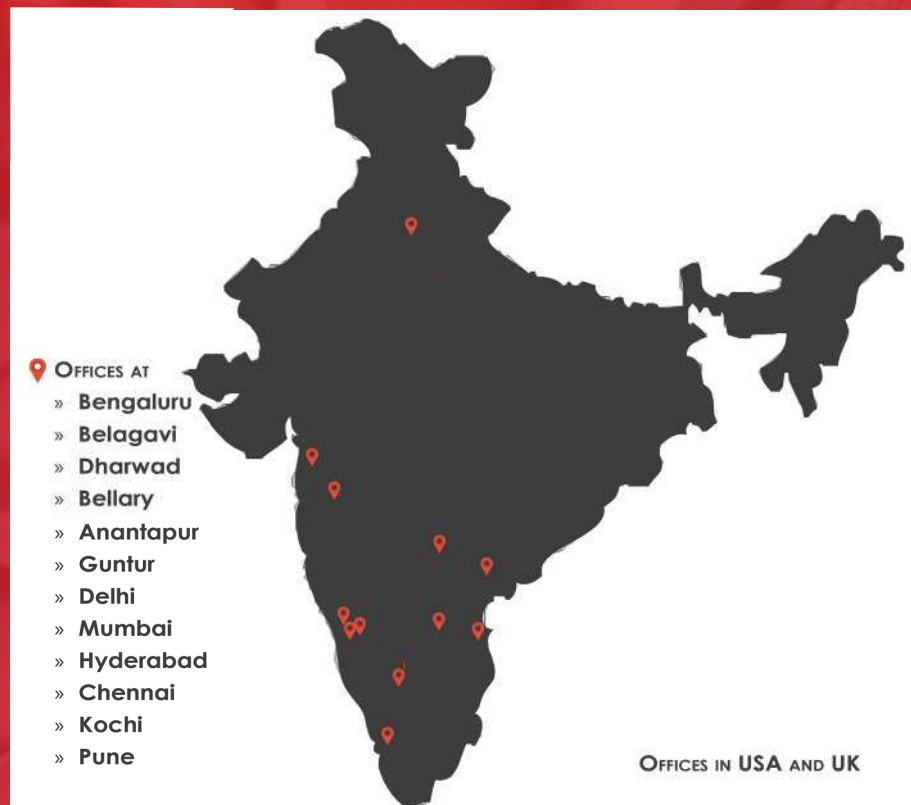
**Samarthanam envisions to touch 100,000 lives by the year 2020**

### 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

Technology makes life easier at many levels and in various aspects. While the world runs on technology, it is often forgotten that the same science can be forged as a powerful tool to enable the disability sector and make the lives of people with disabilities a fuller one.

This quarter has proved to be exciting and eventful, filled with interactions, meetings, events, conferences, cricket engagements, celebrations and each episode was a new experience, bolstering Samarthanam's cause at large. Advocating technology inclusivity, Samarthanam raised the platform for two major events this season, the Assistive Technology Conclave and the 5th National Technology Convention.

To provide the right leverage to start-ups in the inclusive digital technology space, Samarthanam's Assistive Technology Accelerator (ATA) was launched this quarter bringing together some of the best startups of the country. The 'Assistive Technology Conclave' is the country's first conclave where entrepreneurs focused on developing technology for the disabled sector and came together with innovative solutions. I am deeply thankful to the cricketing legend Rahul Dravid for graciously accepting the invitation and inaugurating the Conclave. His valuable insights on cricket, leadership and life were truly uplifting. He is an inspiration for many people at Samarthanam and his presence has accelerated the cause that ATA is working for.

Samarthanam has had the privilege to welcome Dr Fred Schroeder, the President of World Blind Union in July. He is the voice of millions of visually impaired across the world and advocating disability rights worldwide. I feel honored to have shared the stage with Dr Fred at Samarthanam- Say Everything National Technology Convention and I am grateful to him for traveling all the way from Washington to head the convention. Dr Fred's tour of Samarthanam, interactions held with programme heads and beneficiaries, has greatly motivated our efforts and boosted our mission.

My travel across the United States of America has reinforced relationships through key meetings with prominent leaders, delegates and entrepreneurs. A visit to the conference at National Federation for the Blind and the Sports and Recreation Programme where blind cricket was presented to the world has enabled us to share the vision of empowering disability sports a notch higher.

My heartiest congratulations to the Indian Blind Cricket team who have made history by winning the Bilateral Series at Jamaica. We had the opportunity to visit the iconic Sabina Park Stadium and meet with Olivia Grange, Hon Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica. The meeting was enriching and inspirational.

The upcoming quarter is going to be another energy-filled season with our annual feature, the 15th Walkathon. We want you to come together to raise awareness on the water crisis that is crippling our nation and take action to conserve water, the elixir of life. With your continued support, we look forward to making this Walkathon an eventful and impactful one.

Come join Samarthanam as we work together to transform lives, one day at a time. I am grateful to my team for their hard work this quarter. We trust that as you read through our updates, you will be encouraged to step up and take up the torch with us.

Happy Reading!

Mahantesh GK



# NEWS CORNER

“No one is Left Behind, Let’s Walk Together”

## The 5th National Technology Convention voicing for an inclusive world

Samarthanam and Say Everything Group organized and inaugurated the 5th National Technology Convention with Prof Fred Schroeder, President of the World Blind Union, leading the event. The theme of the event was “No one is left behind, let’s make an inclusive world.” SD Meena, a retired IAS Officer, was one among the many dignitaries who inaugurated the event.

The two day convention included various sessions on disability inclusion, inclusive education, technology, empowering the blind and partially sighted and other topics of common interest, delivered by prominent speakers who had graced the stage. The convention also opened discussions between the audience and speakers on topics associated with inclusion and disability rights.



Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam

*“I am honored to host people of eminence in various fields who can work for a cause and raise the aspirations of the society. I fully support the WBU vision of a world in which we, as blind or partially sighted people, can participate fully in any aspect of life.”*



## Samarthanam launches First ever 'Assistive Technology Conclave 2019'

Samarthanam, launched India's first-ever Assistive Technology Conclave focused on Tech Startups for Disability. This half-day conclave brought together some of the best assistive technology startups, investors and leaders from corporate and social sector to discuss the current opportunities and challenges of the ecosystem and discuss ways to collaborate and help the disabled population.

Legendary Cricketer, Rahul Dravid graced the event as the Chief Guest and Priyank Kharge (Former Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Karnataka) and Kumar Naik, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, GOK were also present at the event. Rahul Dravid kickstarted the Conclave by inaugurating the ATA Lab (Samarthanam HSR) following which two separate panel discussions held on prominent topics around Assistive Technology.

Assistive Technology Accelerator (ATA) has been working relentlessly towards creating more awareness about the world of disability and we have been quite successful in our efforts so far. ATA caught the attention of one of the top podcasters in the tech world – Neil Patel, who featured them in- Indian Startup Show.



### Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam

*"Because of our strong vision of Technology and inclusion, we believe that the ATA initiative is going to be a big enabler touching many more lives. I am proud of the inclusive trajectory ATA has taken and I wish the ATA initiative the very best in its endeavours as we continue to proactively building capabilities in the accessibility space."*

### Prateek Madhav, CEO, Assistive Technology Accelerator

*"ATA Conclave is the first step towards building a more robust support system for these startups, and realize their full potential with like-minded investors, corporates and partners."*

Rahul Dravid took some time to visit Samarthanam, take a tour of the programmes, meet and interact with the beneficiaries from Samarthanam. He was pleased to be a part of the movement and support the cause.



## President of World Blind Union visits Samarthanam

Samarthanam was pleased to host Prof Fred Schroeder, the President of the World Blind Union, Canada. He is the voice of an organization representing an estimated 253 million blind and partially sighted people around the globe. In addition to being the President of the World Blind Union, Prof Fred is the Second Vice Chair of the International Disability Alliance, and for many years, he held senior leadership positions in the National Federation of the Blind, including ten years as the Federation's First Vice President.

Prof Fred presided over the 5th Say Everything National Technology Convention held on 14 and 15 of September, 2019 at Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, HSR layout.



Prof Fred Schroeder, President of World Blind Union

*I am pleased to visit Samarthanam and be a part of the National Technology Convention. It is important to promote access to knowledge and protect the fundamental human rights discussed and address barriers to accessible format for the visually impaired. I believe technology is an important aspect of employment for blind people. It opens up avenues for employment and there must be a rethinking of national efforts and policy in the area of literacy for the visually impaired. Visually impaired persons are a valuable resource and private institutions must not consider them as less capable. With the right technology and training, they can be a competitive resource.*

Dr Fred, an active advocate from Washington, arrived at Samarthanam a day in advance to the Say Everything event to speak at the press meet courtesy of Chancery Pavilion. At the press meet, Dr Fred emphasized on the opportunities for people with visual impairments worldwide and the significance of making technology inclusive. After the two day Convention, Dr Fred enjoyed a tour of the beautiful Bangalore city including the Lalbagh Gardens and relished South Indian food. Prof Fred's visit was a fruitful one with a time of interactions with leadership and staff of Samarthanam, key discussions with corporate and the role innovation and technology in the disability space.



## AIR relays news on Samarthanam Skilling Initiative

The prestigious national public radio broadcaster, "All India Radio" relayed news on Samarthanam's skilling initiative at Dharwad which works on empowering youth with disabilities and making them independent at various levels. The news was relayed in Hindi and English at 8:00 am and 8:15 am on July 20, 2019.



Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam

*"It is a proud moment for Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled. The premier Radio channel, "All India Radio" mentioned about Samarthanam's Skilling Project in Dharwad in its morning news. It is a huge recognition for Samarthanam's activities and we are thankful for the appreciation."*



## Traversing the United States on a mission

### Mahantesh GK's tour bolsters Blind Cricket

The Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, Mahantesh GK wrapped up his two nation tour to the USA and Jamaica in the month of July to August. This was a significant visit as it involved key meetings with the National Federation of the Blind -NFB, World Blind Union and supporters of Samarthanam in the USA and witnessing India's display of victory at the International ODI and T20 Series in Jamaica.

Mahantesh attended a conference in National Federation for the Blind, a premier event for training, support, and information for the visually impaired community. He attended the Sports and Recreation Program at the NFB Convention where Blind Cricket and its significance was presented to the world. He toured the West Coast and later flew to Jamaica to support the Indian Blind Cricket team who was playing the Bilateral Series on the Caribbean Islands, post which he travelled to the USA, East coast, raising awareness and boosting partnerships. John David, Secretary, Cricket Association for the Blind in India and Chandrashekhar, Treasurer, Cricket Association for the Blind in India, accompanied Mahantesh GK on his active travel across the States.

The entire journey was marked with key meetings and discussions with eminent personalities advocating inclusion, disability sports and empowerment of the disabled community. Mahantesh had the opportunity to meet with Suman Kanuganti, Founder of AIRA (a platform to assist visually impaired people to become completely independent). They also had an opportunity to meet MB Patil, Senior leader of BOSE, the pioneer for the nextgen audio solutions.



With Suman Kanuganti, AIRA Founder

- ATA Enable, a platform for the next generation tech-startups, where 22 tech start-ups met at Samarthanam to brainstorm ideas for building innovative and inclusive technology for the disabled.
- Samarthanam Teachers, the educators who we respect and adore, received high honor on Teachers Day. Alongside Late Nagesh SP, the Co-Founder of Samarthanam, was fondly remembered on his birthday with special celebrations. Sri Sri Sugunendra Thirth Swamiji, Pitadhipathi of Puthige, Matha Dakshina Kannada visited Samarthanam on the day and blessed everyone.
- India Inclusive Walkathon 2019 saw the enthusiastic participation of Samarthanam students at Kanteerava Stadium.
- Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee and Kumaraswamy, Senior Manager for Corporate Partnerships, Samarthanam were the key speakers at the Youth For Seva NGO Workshop on “Effective ways of Fundraising for NGOs.”
- Our Founder delivered a guest lecture at the PG CARE Foundation’s Annual Meet and Greet event.
- Hanno D. Wentzler, President & CEO, Member of the Executive Council Freudenberg Group, Freudenberg Chemical Specialities SE & Co. KG, and Georg Graf, Freudenberg Regional Representative India, CEO Freudenberg Regional Corporate Center India Pvt. Ltd visited Samarthanam to tour and interact with the beneficiaries.
- Bengaluru Voice radio, San Francisco, aired an episode with Mahantesh GK, who spoke with Radio jockey Raghu Halur on disability and empowerment.
 

“Enabling people with disabilities to not only become independent, but also to keep pace with the rest of the society is no joke. Hats-off to the dedication of Samarthanam and Mahantesh in particular for all that they have done, and are doing.”
- USA Sevathon 2019 was organised by the India Community Center in aid of Samarthanam at San Jose.
- The fifth anniversary celebrations of Urhythmix, a popular dance and fitness station in Bengaluru, and organised by KN Group, felicitated Mahantesh GK.
- The ‘Other Men in Blue,’ a film on the blind cricket heroes, was screened at the India International Centre as part of PSBT Open Frame film festival.
- Senator Datuk T Mohan, Member of the Senate, Malaysia Parliament, visited Samarthanam to interact with the beneficiaries.
- Mahantesh GK was the Chief Guest of the inaugural programme of the Education, mobility and employability training for persons with Visual Impairment by ‘Help the Blind’ Foundation and Cognizant Foundation at the Kirori Mal College in Delhi.
- To help Belagavi flood victims, Samarthanam flood relief team transported essential products worth three lakh rupees to Belagavi providing relief to the many affected.



Sri Sri Sugunendra Thirth Swamiji visits Samarthanam



A visit by Freudenberg Group executives



At Bengaluru Voice Radio Station



With Senator Datuk T Mohan from Malaysia

## MEET AND GREET by Mahantesh GK

Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, through the quarter, met and interacted with leading Government officials at State level, exchanged ideas, carried out purposeful discussions, briefed on our cause and received support. The Government of Karnataka has always been a pillar of support to Samarthanam and its initiatives since its inception. We are thankful for their generosity and relentless support extended towards empowering the disabled and building an inclusive society.

- o Dr. Ashwath Narayan, Deputy CM and Minister of IT and Higher Education, Govt of Karnataka
  - o Jagadish Shettar, Minister of Large & Medium Scale Industries, Govt of Karnataka
  - o Shashikala Jolle, Minister of Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens of Karnataka
  - o Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Jal Shakthi Minister
  - o Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State, Heavy Industries
- At Delhi, Mahantesh GK visited Saumya Sharma, District Magistrate, South West District, Delhi. Saumya had scored rank 9 in the 2018 batch IAS selections despite her severe hearing impairment and stands to be a true inspiration. She expressed her keen desire to associate with various interventions of Samarthanam.
  - Mahantesh GK was the Guest Speaker at an event called “Pride & Passion” at the Entrepreneurship Summit 2019, the annual flagship event of Social, Entrepreneurship and Consulting Cell, SIBM Pune.





## HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS QUARTER

### VISITS AND INTERACTIONS

Vibgyor School students from three branches, Christ University students and Newton's High school visited Primary and ID School to meet and interact with the students. Samarathanam students were also taken to Nehru Planetarium on an exposure visit, sponsored by the Deputy Admin Officer of the Planetarium.

### ENCOURAGING ARTS, CULTURE, MUSIC

- ID School children will now be a part of weekly cultural programmes where they would be introduced to activities like dance, singing and reciting rhymes and slokhas.
- A music expert from Shankara Mahadevan Academy Trust conducted a music session for the ID School children. It is a 12 session course with music classes organized regularly.
- A team from ISKCON will be teaching moral stories and Bhagavad Gita to the children in weekly sessions.
- Nakshatra - Bhoomi Programme organized at New Horizon College saw the participation of Primary School students and won prizes in singing and pot designing. High school students won first prize in group skit.
- Primary and High school children took part in the Taluk level Prathibha Karanji Cultural competitions at St. Francisco School, Koramangala.
- Samarathanam organized Talents Day Inter School Competitions where many students took part in activities like Drawing, Rangoli, Essay writing and Storytelling.

### HEALTH AND FITNESS

- Yoga sessions by volunteers, Super Brain Yoga and Meditation Camp were held for students as well as teachers of Primary and ID School. These sessions are organized often focusing on building a healthy body and mind.
- The Oxford Dental College organized a dental camp where many students received treatment and were further referred to hospital.
- An Oral Health Education programme was facilitated for Primary and ID students by Dr. Akhilashri from Society for Oral and Dental Council, Bangalore and sponsored by Dabur Red Paste.



**Music Sessions**



**Bhoomi Programme**



**Dental Camp**

## SPORTS FOR AN ACTIVE MIND

- ID School students were part of a football coaching camp at Frank Antony Public School, Ulsoor and a Young Athletes Programme held by an external trainer.
- Special Olympics Bharath organized State level selections for Power lifting, Basket ball and Football for the upcoming World Games scheduled to be held in 2023.
- Samarthanam Primary School students participated in a “Cluster Level Sports Meet” organised by the Education Department, Government of Karnataka at the KSRP ground. Prizes were won in Kabaddi, Long jump, Relay, Running and Disc throw.
- The High School children who took part in the “Cluster Level Sports Meet” bagged prizes in Kabaddi and Kho Kho.
- Primary students took part in cluster level Prathibha Karanji, organized by the Department of Education and prizes were won in Singing, Painting, Recitation, Quiz, Story Telling and Clay Modeling. High School students bagged prizes in Rangoli, Mimicry and Kannada speech.
- Two students from Primary School took part in the Taluk Level Sports Meet held at KSRP grounds, Koramangala. The High school student who took part won 2nd place in the 3000m Running Race, moved onto the District Level Sports Meet, won the first place and now will be playing at State level.
- High school girl students played Kho kho and Kabbadi at Taluk level Sports Meet.



Cluster Level Sports Meet

## HONORING THE EDUCATORS WITH AWARDS

- Dr. Geetha K, Principal of Samarthanam Primary School was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) in Folk Art and Puppetry and a Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her commitment towards the society. The awards were given by National Virtual University for Peace and Education, Mysore.
- On the occasion of Teacher’s Day, Dr. Geetha was honored with Nation Builder Award by Rotary Bangalore South and Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore South.
- Lakshmikanth and Lalithamma, Staff of Samarthanam School were honored with the Best Teacher of the Year award for his contributions to the ID School.



## VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES AT SAMARTHANAM SCHOOLS

- It was a colorful day for the ID School students with coloring and clay modeling activities by Fidelity.
- 30 research scholars from NIMHANS visited the ID School and Primary School for an exposure visit
- A team from ID School conducted service learning activities for employees of VMWare, Western Digital and taught many arts and craft product making.
- Viacom 18 Media Pvt. Ltd. conducted “Charity Bazar Event,” and had set up a Product Stall at their office displaying the craft products made by the students and raised funds.
- Dr. Geetha K and Shanthi visited Agara Primary Health Center and conducted an awareness programme about early intervention to ASHA workers.
- Representatives from SocGen, Nike Indonesia and HSBC conducted volunteering activities for ID School children with various fun games.
- Volunteers from KPMG conducted “Sandwich Sewa” activity for primary school children helping them make sandwiches for the students.
- Concern India Foundation hosted “Splash,” a sit and draw competition for the specially abled children from all sections of society.
- Wells Fargo, Radware, ABSYZ, Viacom 18 and Hidden Pockets conducted educational, fun, art and team-work development activities for the Primary School students.
- Volunteers from Moody prepared educational charts for 5th and 6th standard students as a part of their CSR activity.
- Ravichandran, RSS leader conducted an awareness program on water conservation and protection of the plants, for the primary school children.
- J.L.L India volunteers held sessions on understanding banking system and financial management.
- Volunteers from Oracle conducted a session on the topic Cyber security for the students.
- Business graduates from IMBR Business School visited on the occasion of Teacher’s Day and classes on general knowledge and moral science for the students.



**Sandwich Seva**



**Nike sports activity**

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME ANANTHAPUR

Samarthanam launched Higher Education Programme at Ananthapur, with the support of DXC Technologies. The programme aimed at offering financial support to students who wish to pursue higher education and help them plan their career ahead. Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam was the chief guest for the event and Vasanthi Savanur, Trustee, Samarthanam was the Guest of Honour. Educationalists and professors from various educational institutions were also invited to grace the event and offer valuable advice to the students.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME GUNTUR**

Samarthanam inaugurated the Higher Education Programme at Guntur for supporting the education needs of the poor and the disabled students. The programme was supported by DXC Technologies and was attended by Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam, officials from Judicial and police departments, educationalists and Samarthanam staff.

- “Ban plastic bags” campaign by the students
- “National Sports Day” at Samarthanam Hostel by Samarthanam and Round Table India, Guntur Chapter
- Tree plantation program by Engineers Association on Engineers Day along with Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Home Minister

### **HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME KARNATAKA**

- Karnataka Kabaddi team lifted the winning trophy at the National Para Kabbadi Tournament by Para Kabaddi Federation of India at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Belagavi. Karnataka team comprised of 10 higher education students from Samarthanam.
- Motivational session by Kempahonnaiah, Assistant Magistrate & Assistant Collector, Hooghly District, West Bengal
- Dharwad students won medals in the State Level Chess Tournament for the Blind 2019 by Saviour Charitable Trust
- Thanks to Toyota Financial Services, the sponsors of Higher Education Program for 120 beneficiaries in Karnataka for the Academic Year 2019-2020.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME DELHI**

- Samarthanam Delhi Higher education programme student stood 5th in the Marathon for visually impaired at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium
- Three beneficiaries of the Samarthanam Delhi Education programme were chosen to anchor and represent the cultural event “Divya Kala Shakthi - Witnessing Ability in Disability” organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Persons with Disabilities. The programme was witnessed by the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and Members of Parliament in the G.M.C. Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament House. Our beneficiaries were chosen from among 175 artistes drawn from different states, cultural societies, institutions and civil societies to make it truly nationalistic.



**Samarthanam beneficiaries at Divya Kala Shakthi**

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME PUNE

Higher education students of Pune Branch participated in the “Pustak Handi” Programme organized by the National Association for the Welfare of Physically Challenged.

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME DHARWAD

- Samarthanam Dharwad Higher Education students participated in the March-Past on the Independence Day and received appreciated by the District Administration.
- The students delivered a cultural performance at NABROS Urban Oasis Mall on Independence Day and it helped in raising awareness on Samarthanam initiatives.
- Dharwad Higher Education Students were felicitated by KVG Bank Employees Association for their academic achievements.
- Higher education programme beneficiary, Manoj bagged the first prize in Chess competition at Tumakur State level chess tournament.



**March-past on Independence Day**



**Manoj, first prize winner in Chess**

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## STORIES OF CHANGE

It is amazing to see how the young students push themselves despite difficulties to achieve their ambitions and goals making themselves independent at all levels. Lakshmi is one among such students who says that giving up was never in her diary. Lakshmi is visually impaired and is pursuing graduation at Hindu College. Hailing from a family of farmers Lakshmi could only receive basic education owing to the financial difficulties. Her parents always supported her through highs and lows and greatly encouraged her zest for sports. Lakshmi is a natural sports star and excels at running, shot-put, discus and long distance running. Though she did not receive formal training, Lakshmi stood first in running and weightlifting at State level Championships.

“I adore PT Usha. She is my inspiration and my dream is to win gold at the Paralympics,” says Lakshmi. We are positive that she is on her way to creating history. Lakshmi expresses gratitude to Samarthanam for the Higher Education support provided which will also help her realize her dreams.





## **SKILLING CENTRE BANGALORE**

- A workshop on “Know Your Rights: Strategic Partnership Training & Consultation” was conducted on RPWD act and RTI act for the beneficiaries
- HAL organized a session on the concept of “Save The Water” to raise awareness on the significance of saving water
- A volunteer from UK conducted a session for the trainees on using Micro Bits for coding in a fun way and easily understandable method.
- Women empowerment sessions were regular organized by volunteers from Hidden Pockets
- LRC students were a part of “Inclusivity Day” celebrations along with Mind Tree Global Tech Park
- A Campus Drive was arranged at Samarthanam HSR premises and companies like Flipkart, Vishal Mart and DusMinute visited the campus to interview the candidates
- LRC trainees participated in the March-Past on the Independence Day at Manekshaw Parade Grounds and received a special prize
- An exposure visit to Brillio was organized along with beneficiaries participating in different activities.
- The Ministry of Tourism - Government of India had organized a one day Trip across Bangalore city for LRC students on occasion of World Tourism Day

## **SKILLING CENTRE DELHI**

- A Dental Camp was organized for the trainees to advice on dental hygiene and care
- Visits were organized to IBIS, Efficore, VRC Karkardooma for mobilization and placements
- A Recruitment Drive was conducted by Amazon and 4 candidates were selected.



**Dental Camp**



**Amazon Recruitment Drive**

## SKILLING CENTRE PUNE

- Mobilizations activities and awareness raising programmes have been carried out across the remote areas surrounding Pune.
- On the Job Training was organized by Guruschool, a part of EduBridge Pvt Ltd.
- Two trainees have been placed in Tech Mahindra Pvt Ltd and Star Bazar Super Mart.



**Samarthanam Pune in collaboration with RBL Bank organized a tree plantation program and planted 150 trees in the Municipal Garden**



**Volunteering activity by Rashmi Mardi, a student pursuing Counseling Psychology at Fergusson College**

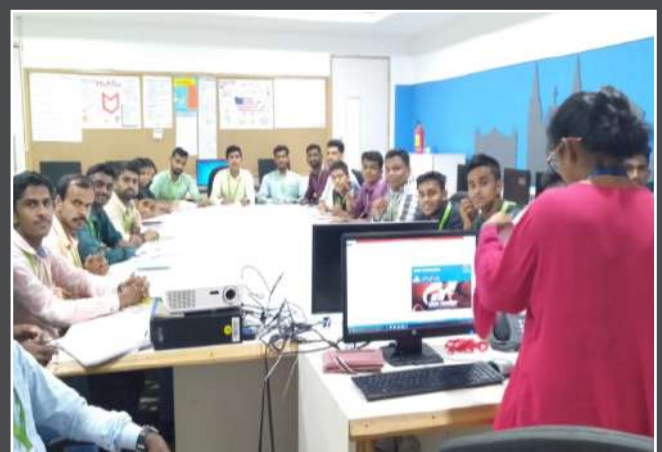
**Motivational session by Bhumika Patel, Fitness coach and Marathon runner**

## SKILLING CENTRE CHENNAI



**LRC students at the event organized by Mind Tree on their 20 year anniversary celebrations**

## SKILLING CENTRE KOCHI



**Sutherland conducted a classroom assessment and distributed certificates upon completion of training**

## SKILLING CENTRE HYDERABAD

- A volunteering visit was organized by M/S Talent 21.
- Fabric Design session was conducted by Hamstech Institute of Fashion Technology.
- The Meditation Activity by Heartfulness Group Members proved to be rejuvenating.



**Motivational activity by T. Krishna Rao,  
Director at Intelligence Software India Pvt Ltd**



**A visit by Leon Trenerry of Optimum Holdings  
South Africa**

## SKILLING CENTRE ANANTHAPUR supported by OTIS

- The girl students from Ananthapur LRC attended a Benefit show “Mission Mangal” organized by “Inner Wheel Club.”
- LRC team facilitated the beneficiaries to receive Assistive Devices from the “Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities” under ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchasing/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances) scheme of Government of India.
- Industrial Study Tour to M/S M.G.M Springs Pvt. Ltd.
- Samarthanam’s Horticulture Plantation Project with drip irrigation system is being set up at Kodi konda check post, Ananthapur.



**Students at the Industrial tour**



**Receiving Assistive Devices from the “Department  
of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities”**

## SKILLING CENTRE DHARWAD

- A one day Career Counseling Camp was organized at Dharwad Taluk Panchayath to provide quality guidance and counseling for PWDs and to create awareness on DDU-GKY training project.
- Guest lectures were organized by experts in English, Banking and Finance on separate occasions.



DDU GKY Training



Lined up for the interview sessions

## SKILLING CENTRE BELAGAVI

- A new batch, supported by OTIS, has been started and study kits have been distributed to the trainees on the orientation day.
- A volunteering activity was held by Aequs company who organized competitions and prizes were given away.
- Around 20 companies have been approached and visited as part of the job placement procedure.

## STORIES OF CHANGE

Mahesh hails from Koppal District in Karnataka who always wanted to lead an independent life despite his disability and poor economic background. After completing PUC, Mahesh was not confident of stepping into the job sector and start a career. He had very low self esteem and uncertain about his future. At Samarthanam, Mahesh received training in BPO and completed a course in the same sector under DDUGKY. Currently, he is employed at Future Retail Hubballi.

With the help of Samarthanam, Mahesh improved his communication, soft skills and IT skills which greatly helped him understand his potential and keep him motivated. He wishes to start a business in the retail sector and be an entrepreneur near future. Mahesh expresses gratitude to Samarthanam and his guide at the organization who helped him transform into an independent individual.



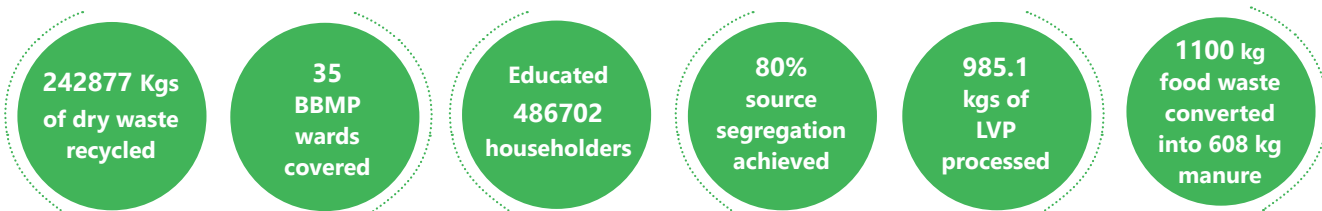


## SAMARTHANAM ENVIRONMENT

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.

Apart from the regular activities, Parisara team's initiatives include;

- Vocational training was provided to intellectually disabled school students in Paper cup and plate manufacturing unit and have processed nearly 3 tons of paper plates to date
- US based Air Pollination Grant funded \$1000 (US Dollars) to start Horticulture nursery for Samarthanam ID school children with vocational training. The nursery was started with 150 plants and also made profit by selling gift baskets.
- About 600 kg of manure produced in-house by Suchitha, the waste convertor, has been sent to the Horticulture project being initiated at Kodikonda check post to revive the land fertility.
- Interns were taken on an exposure visit in the community creating awareness on waste management in apartments.
- A volunteering activity by Sanofi Pharmaceuticals was organized to celebrate their global day by planting 50 plants. A group of individual volunteers re-potted 35 indoor plants.



## 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, WOW team initiated "Swachhata Hi Seva" – 2019, a massive countrywide awareness and mobilization campaign for Swachhata from 11 September to 2 October 2019. The campaign was focused on curbing single use plastic and its management. ITC-WOW has been a part of Swachhata Hi Seva through various activities in the areas of its operations in Bangalore where the involvement of various beneficiaries and stakeholders was witnessed.





**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Basket Ball, Football and Power lifting practice initiated for ID school students.
- Samarathanam visually impaired students were a part of the 42km Run, the Marathon held at Pune.
- Samarathanam blind runners were a part of the 7th edition of “We Run for the Blind,” the World 10k Challenge held at Bangkok guided by Anjanappa, the CFO of Samarathanam. Nandeesh won the first prize completing the run in 44 minutes and Sunitha, the second to complete in 54 minutes.
- 20 students participated in the 5k Marathon at Forum Mall, Koramangala and Sudheep from High School secured 5th place.
- The State Level Blind Womens Cricket schedule has been drafted and dates finalized. The training will soon begin at Samarathanam HSR premises.
- 20 special students from Samarathanam participated in the State Level Basket ball, Power lifting and Football competitions conducted by Special Olympics Bharath.
- Bharath from ID School has been selected for Karnataka Special Olympic Cricket team.
- Nandeesh, a visually impaired runner secured 9th place in the Mysore full Marathon run.
- 10 students participated in a marathon conducted by the Kagaz Foundation and Sunitha won the 2nd prize in the 5k run.



**Samarathanam runners at “We Run for the Blind” at Bangkok**



**5k Marathon at Koramangala**



**Nandeesh received prize at Mysore Marathon**



**Sunitha receiving prize at Kagaz Foundation Marathon**



For the first time in the history of visually impaired cricket, the Indian Blind cricket team traveled to Jamaica to play a Limited Overs series in the Caribbean. World Champions India arrived in Jamaica on the 19th of July to play three ODI's and two T20I's against the Jamaican Blind Cricket team. The Indian team brought home the trophy after winning two ODI series 3-0 and one T20 series 2-0. Our other men in blue led by Captain Ajay Reddy made the Nation proud with their display of exemplary cricketing skills and a willingness to share their knowledge with the host Nation through coaching clinics.

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India takes pride in investing in the lives of young players who transform the world and redefine disability. As a part of the cricketing calendar formed by Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), the Indian team is scheduled to play two home and two away bilateral series every season. The tour to Jamaica was the first away assignment of the World Champions for the season 2019-20.

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) would like to thank IndusInd Bank and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India for their continued contribution for the development of the game.

It was a moment of honour when West Indies pacer Sheldon Cottrell paid rich tribute to the Indian cricketers during their visit to his Army base camp in Jamaica. The team also got to visit the iconic Sabina Park stadium in Kingston where International matches are played. Another significant part of the tour was the meeting of Samarathanam Founder Mahantesh GK with the Honorable Olivia Grange, the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica. Her concern and support for Blind Cricket was evident during the conversations and centred on working with the Jamaican Government towards strengthening Blind Cricket, exploring bilateral relations and signing of MoUs.



**Mahantesh GK with Jamaican Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange**



**At the prestigious Sabina Park Stadium**



## 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 the performances at Mindtree, ABB, GKN Aerospace, IBMR college, and BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike). Alongside, the two major in-house events were the ATA Start-up convention where Rahul Dravid, eminent Indian cricketer, was the Chief Guest and the 5th National Technology convention for the visually challenged in collaboration with SayEverything hosted by Samarthanam.



Sunadha performance at GKN Aerospace



Sunadha Studio inaugurated by Unisys

Muskan is a 23 year old budding singer from a place called Shimla surrounded by snow capped mountains and green pastures. Born blind to an agricultural family, she found her voice in grade 5 when she started belting out melodious numbers. But the steep slopes of Shimla did not provide the opportunity for her to step out into the world and showcase her talent. Graduating with Bachelors in Music, she was invited to sing at the Radio Udaan Idol Competition in 2018 where she bagged a prize.

Be it any song, Muskan creates quite an imitation of the original with her soul stirring voice. Samarthanam offered Muskan the platform to develop and shape her singing talents and supported her passion.

Through Samarthanam's cultural initiative, Muskan was able to travel to the USA on a 3 month tour where she performed across many stages. Muskan wants to become a music Professor and pursue an MPhil. Muskan is grateful to Samarthanam for enabling her to establish an identity of her own.

## STORIES OF CHANGE



**VOLUNTEERING CORPORATES**

Wells Fargo, Fidelity, Moody's, Textron, Microland, Radware, VMware, Citi Bank, ABSYZ, Aditya Birla, Akamai, Eli Lilly, Viacom 18, Western Digital, JLL, Oracle, ShopX, HSBC, Ball Beverages, Nike, AIG, KPMG, GKN Aerospace, Brillio

**INTERNSHIPS**

18 students completed internship at Samarthanam in this quarter. The interns were exposed and engaged in all the programmes including schools, LRC, Digital Library and Assistive Technology Accelerator. A few worked with the communications team on social media promotions and covered few events as well. The interns belonged to St. Joseph College, The Oxford College of Arts, Christ University- Dept of Social Work, Spastics society of Karnataka and Christ University - Dept of Management Studies.

6 social awareness visits from various institutes like Manchester Metropolitan University, NIMHANS, Spastics Society of Karnataka, Centre of Social Action-Christ University, National Public School, Krupanidhi College and St. Claret College were carried out.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**A sumptuous meal by Aditya Birla**

Aditya Birla prepared a nutritious meal for Samarthanam School children where a total of 35 volunteers, including some senior members, chopped, cooked and served the meals along with sharing the table with the children.

**Employee Volunteering Programme by Akamai**

Akamai had conducted close to 10 volunteering sessions in two months on various topics from Math and Science for 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders of the primary school. 35 volunteers participated in the EVP sessions and proved to be beneficial for the students as they enjoyed learning.

**Teacher's workshop by Oracle**

The teacher's training workshop by Oracle for the primary school staff involved 6 teachers who were taught to prepare various teaching aids, to help the children present information in a new and exciting way.

**Football coaching by Nike**

Nike organized football coaching session for 30 primary school children at their campus. Close to 60 volunteers were part of the camp. Both volunteers as well as the students received training from a professional football coach.



49  
volunteering  
activities



24  
corporates



579  
volunteers



1836  
hours of  
service



## SAMARTHANAM DIGITAL LIBRARY



**320**  
volunteers  
visited



**2835**  
books  
recorded



**Rahul Dravid recording a sample at Samarthanam Digital Library**



**88**  
Audio books



**20178**  
Scanned pages



**113**  
Braille books



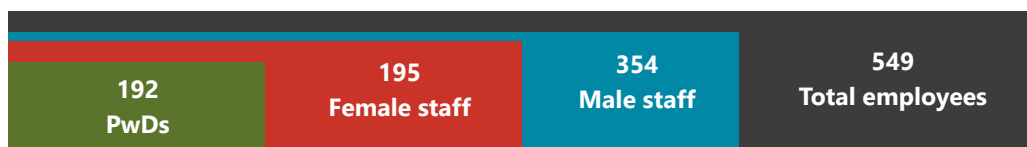
**125**  
Regular books

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A workshop was organized by Sathya School at Pondicherry on self-advocacy.
- Kempa Honaiaha, IAS had visited Samarthanam's Digital Library along with other programmes and appreciated the model.
- A workshop with Endurance international company included the recording of books by the 20 participants of the workshop.
- The library team conducts computer classes for Primary school students everyday teaching them on the basic usage of computers with ease.

### SAMARTHANAM HUMAN RESOURCES

This quarter the HR team played an active role in implementing events including the 5th National Technology Convention, the Assistive Technology Conclave and the many visits by prominent dignitaries from various sectors. The effective employee and team management along with coordinated efforts resulted in their successful implementation.



Like every year, the World Friendship day was celebrated at Samarthanam HSR campus bringing all the employees from various departments together to be a part of fun activities. Independence Day celebrations and other regional festivals were also carried out with festivities and enjoyment.

The HR Tool which was developed has completed its User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and training sessions have been presented to the staff in Bangalore. The Tool is expected to go live in the month of October 2019 easing HR back-end operations.

The next quarter is going to be filled with active events like the Annual Walkathon and Rajyotsava where we look forward to your support, participation and connecting for a cause.

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.

- Akamai Technologies India Private Ltd
- Bengaluru Nirmitha Kendra
- BMC Software
- Give Foundation
- Government Of Karnataka
- Help the Blind Foundation
- IndusInd Bank
- ITC Limited
- Max Worth
- Microland Foundation
- Microsoft/NASSCOM Foundation
- NTT Data Information Processing Services Pvt Ltd
- Samarthanam USA
- Tata Elxsi Limited
- Tech Mahindra Foundation
- TPI Advisory Services India Private Limited
- Ujjivan Financial Services Limited
- UK Online Giving Foundation (Google grant/Western Digital/Sales Force)
- United Way Of Bengaluru
- Wells Fargo Egs India Pvt Ltd



## 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



## 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**





# Join us for the 15<sup>th</sup> Bengaluru Walkathon

A Walk to Conserve Water

**Our groundwater will  
run dry by 2020!**

**Let's come together to solve  
the water crisis!**



**7<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 | 3:00 p.m.**

**at Kittur Rani Chennamma Stadium, Jayanagar 3<sup>rd</sup> Block, Bengaluru.**



**9449864774 (Ravindra) 9449864789 (Gheevar)**

For updates and more information on walkathon give a missed call on  
**+91-9206025578**

[www.samarthanamwalkathon.org](http://www.samarthanamwalkathon.org)

**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**

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