



52<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

Samarthanam Founder Mahantesh GK highlights disability sector issues at the Council

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# SAMHITA

A SAMARTHANAM PUBLICATION



ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ  
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled®



Samarthanam celebrates 26 years of service  
to the disability sector



IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy National  
T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2022-23

Samarthanam Trust is a two-time National Award winning NGO that has carved a niche in the field of serving, enabling and empowering the differently-abled and the underprivileged. Samarthanam works to uplift and empower every individual in socio, cultural, economic aspects so that they can contribute holistically to the society. Born through the vision of a visually impaired Dr GK Mahantesh and his friend, late Nagesh SP, Samarthanam envisions to touch 10,00,000 disabled lives by 2030.

The organization is affiliated to the World Blind Union and is one of those few nonprofits to be awarded the Special United Nations Consultative Status in 2015. Samarthanam is a CRISIL rated organization with PAN-India presence and burgeoning reach. It reaches out to beneficiaries from diverse verticals through its 13 offices and multiple divisions spread across India.

### 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.

### CORE VALUES

- Accessibility
- Inclusion
- Disability rights
- Women empowerment
- Employment
- Zero hunger
- Reduced poverty
- Equality
- Technology
- Environment protection
- Transformation

### REACH AND IMPACT



16,819  
KIDS EDUCATED



24,933  
YOUTH TRAINED



300,000 Metric Tonnes  
DRY WASTE SEGREGATED



30,000+  
BLIND CRICKETERS TOUCHED



5000+  
WOMEN EMPOWERED



30 million  
MID-DAY MEALS SERVED



1500+  
DISABLED ARTISTS SUPPORTED

# FOUNDER'S NOTE

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Dr Mahantesh GK

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



Samarthanam has had an amazing start to the New Year. We had the privilege of representing the Disability Sector in India on an international platform at the 52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. As the spokesperson for Samarthanam, I am proud and honoured to have advocated for the rights of the disabled. During my 90 seconds speech at the Council, I highlighted the current scenario of the disability sector in our country, the impact of the pandemic on people, the job crisis, Samarthanam's efforts to stabilize the situation, and the need for increased support from overseas. Our efforts have been recognized, and we remain optimistic that resources will be allocated to support us in our continuous efforts towards building a more inclusive society. While in Geneva, I had the privilege of meeting distinguished representatives from the WTO, UNESCO, and the Indian Ambassador to France.

In February, Samarthanam celebrated 26 years of service to society. As an organization focused on empowering people with disabilities and the underprivileged, our work is still far from complete. We are expanding our reach geographically to help those in remote regions of India, and we owe our success to the support received from donors, sponsors, partners, corporations, volunteers, the government, and our employees.

In this quarter, Samarthanam established more Smart Classes, Tinker Labs, and Science Centres at new locations. We hosted National Blind Cricket Tournaments for men and women players, provided skill training for youth, distributed customised assistive devices to the needy, held job fairs, offered vocational training for women, and organized sports events and Sunadha cultural shows. It has been a productive and energizing quarter, and we look forward to continuing this momentum throughout the year.

As March signifies the conclusion of the financial year, we are pleased to report that we have achieved a milestone target for the third consecutive year, thanks to the unwavering support of the government, corporates, and philanthropists. We are grateful to them for enabling us to end the year on a high note.

Thank you.

Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar

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# HAPPENINGS at Samarthanam

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## SAMARTHANAM FOUNDER MAHANTESH GK HIGHLIGHTS DISABILITY SECTOR ISSUES AT UN HRC52 IN GENEVA

The 52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC52) was held in Geneva to discuss various human rights issues. Among the distinguished guests was Samarthanam's Founder, Mahantesh GK, who highlighted the post-pandemic scenario of the disability sector in his 90 seconds speech. He focused on the need to increase budget allocation for disabled individuals and shared Samarthanam's measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic with the support of sponsors and government. The non-profit organization's mission is to create an inclusive world for the disabled through various projects such as education, skill-building, digitalization, rehabilitation, arts, culture, and community welfare. Samarthanam is also collaborating with an African NGO to improve the lives of specially abled people and is discussing partnerships with Afghanistan and Iran to promote blind cricket. Dr. Mahantesh had the opportunity to exchange dialogues with prominent global representatives including those from WTO, UNESCO, and Indian Ambassador to France, among others.



## 'GOOD SAMARITAN ORGANIZATION' AWARD FOR SAMARTHANAM

Samarthanam takes pride in receiving the "Good Samaritan - Organization" Award presented by ALERT NGO at the 'ALERT BEING AWARDS' event in Chennai. The 6th edition of the award ceremony brought together many good Samaritans who were honored for their compassion and kindness. The awards recognize and award individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution and stood as an inspiration in society. Samarthanam is thankful to the jury for recognizing the organization's efforts in the disability field.



## SAMARTHANAM COMMEMORATES ITS 26TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION

Samarthanam marked 26 years of dedicated service to the visually impaired, disabled, and underprivileged individuals with a grand celebration at their premises. The event was a testament to the commitment of the organization's employees, who work tirelessly to empower and uplift the community. The Honorable Governor of Karnataka, Dr. Thawarchand Gehlot, graced the occasion as the chief guest, along with other dignitaries. As part of the anniversary celebrations, employees and top performers from each vertical were felicitated for their hard work and dedication in fulfilling Samarthanam's vision. The performances by SUNADHA were the highlight of the event and received immense appreciation, as did the cultural dance and stage shows performed by the students and staff. Samarthanam expressed gratitude to all its supporters who have been an integral part of its 26-year journey and looks forward to taking its initiatives to the next level.



## WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Samarthanam recognized and honoured women from diverse backgrounds and communities on International Women's Day for their significant contributions to society. The event was organized by Vasanti Savanur, a Samarthanam Trustee, and was graced by notable guests including Malini Krishnamoorthy, IPS, Bangalore, Dr. Vanamala Vishwanath, former Professor of the Dept. of English at Bangalore University, Dr. Kalpana A, Medical Director Administration at Rangadore Memorial Hospital, and Geetha, Principal of Rajajinagar Degree College.



# INSHORTS

Samarthanam, in partnership with Barclays, organized an Employers Meet in Chennai to promote employment opportunities for youth with and without disabilities.



Samarthanam, in collaboration with ExxonMobil, conducted a WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) sensitization workshop for adolescent girl students at Kantanakunte Government School in Doddabalapur.



In this quarter, Samarthanam BPO celebrated its eighth anniversary, marking a significant milestone for the organization's growth, thanks to the hard work and commitment of its employees.



Samarthanam Trust is a finalist for the internationally acclaimed "World Smart City Energy and Environment" Award, recognizing its solid waste management and environment protection projects. The event was held in Barcelona.

Samarthanam and Barclays jointly organized a mega inclusive Job Fair that saw the participation of over 1,000 job seekers and 58 employers.



Samarthanam, in partnership with Intel, distributed First Aid kits and Menstrual Hygiene Kits (MHM) to adolescent girl students at Kantanakunte and Aralumallige Bagilu Government School in Doddabalapur. Additionally, in association with ExxonMobil, the organization provided first aid kits and menstrual hygiene kits to girl students at Aralumallige Bagilu Government School, Doddabalapur.



## SAMARTHANAM'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR

### Awareness conclave on assistive technology for people with disabilities

In collaboration with IIITB and the Government of Karnataka, Samarthanam Trust and DXC Technology co-hosted an 'Awareness Conclave on Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities'. Esteemed chief guests, including Dr. Ashwath Narayan, Minister of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood of Karnataka, K.S. Lathakumari, IAS, Director, DEDSC, Government of Karnataka, Dr. Manohar Swaminathan, Senior Principal Researcher- MSR India, CAGS IIITB, Nilesh Deshpande, Director of HR, DXC Technology, Dr Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar, Founder, Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Dr. K Sriram, Advisor Continual Engine, and Venkataraman, Managing Director, ANZ, graced the event and appreciated the efforts.

The Conclave saw a significant turnout of individuals with disabilities, caregivers, special schools, disability NGOs, and DPOs. It also brought together various stakeholders, including technology start-ups, social/impact investors, corporates, government, academia, and employers of persons with disabilities from across India. The event featured informative panel discussions on the latest advancements in assistive technology, emphasizing its importance in the lives of people with disabilities. It served as a platform for these stakeholders to better understand each other's concerns and capabilities in providing economic and sustainable solutions to the needs of persons with disabilities. Notably, DXC Technology distributed 489 digital assistive devices and 870 non-digital assistive devices pan India to support the cause.



### Assistive device distribution across 7 locations of India

As part of the initiative, a total of 1502 assistive devices were distributed, including both digital and non-digital devices. DXC Technology led the way by distributing 1359 devices, followed by ABB, QS, and Intel, which distributed 102, 2, and 39 devices, respectively. Non-digital devices such as wheelchairs, callipers, spectacles, crutches, battery-operated wheelchairs, artificial limbs, air beds/waterbeds, AFOs, KFOs, and walkers were provided to over 870 individuals with various disabilities. Additionally, 489 digital devices

were distributed to people with visual impairments, while smartphones were distributed to those with speech and hearing impairments at seven different locations across India. To ensure that all needs were met, pulse oximeters and talking BP operators were distributed to individuals with visual impairments.



Samarthanam Trust, for the past 26 years has been playing an instrumental role in the learning and development of millions of people with disabilities and those from under-privileged communities. Our seven diverse interventions are designed to nurture and encourage the abilities of the differently-abled population.

Samarthanam envisions an inclusive society where people with disabilities lead a socio-economically independent life.

## SAMARTHANAM INTERVENTIONS

- Inclusive Education
- Skilling
- Disability Sports
- Environment
- Arts and Culture
- Health and Nutrition
- Rehabilitation



## SAMARTHANAM BARRIER-FREE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL | HIGHLIGHTS

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

- In addition to regular classes, practical sessions were conducted in the science laboratory based on topics of interest for the students.
- The teaching staff regularly meets every week to analyze student progress and make necessary adjustments to ensure their learning is optimized. Quiz competitions are organized to keep students motivated,
- The Primary School teachers conducted Bridge Course Classes to prepare the students for the Public Exam.
- To celebrate National Science Day, a Science Exhibition was set up in the school, featuring 26 science models created by 50 primary school students who collaborated in building new science ideas and converting them into working models.



Science Fair

### VOLUNTEERING AT SAMARTHANAM SCHOOLS

- Primary and ID school students, as well as teaching staff, were provided with “Bhagavad-Gita” by NTT Data volunteers.
- On National Girl Child Day, Byjus conducted a self-defense workshop in which girl students participated.
- Volunteers from HSBC, Q2, VM Ware, and Nike organized a range of educational, art, music, and fitness activities for primary school students.
- Amrita International Vidyalayam arranged the inauguration of “AIKYAM- reduce the divide,” in which students participated in an interactive session.



Self-defense workshop by Byju's

### SPEECH AND HEARING IMPAIRED (SHI) SCHOOL

- A volunteering activity focused on building self-confidence was conducted for girl students and was aimed at helping them overcome uncertainty and reluctance.
- A dental camp was organized for students and staff, followed by a subsequent camp for further treatment, and health kits were distributed.
- Hearing assessments were conducted for students, and those in need were provided with hearing aids.
- A general health awareness program, including a check-up, was conducted by Narayana Multispecialty Clinic. Menstrual hygiene kits were distributed to adult students.
- Youth Day, Annual Sports Day, and Republic Day were among the events organized at the school, which saw active participation from students and staff.



Youth Day celebrations

## SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

### Bengaluru

- Sri Sharada Peetam's Information and Resource Centre for Autism and other Developmental Disabilities Unit engaged three interns to conduct group sessions with selected students under the guidance of a Special Educator. The interns prepared different teaching aids, including home-based materials and laminated flashcards, and provided relevant activities to promote learning.
- DXC technology-supported Teachers Training sessions on AVAZ, AAC, were also conducted to equip participants with hands-on skills in software applications. Various volunteers from Om Shanthi, Chirag, and Nirakula Yoga Centre also participated in enhancing the children's overall development by providing them with art sessions, games, fine motor activities, drawing and colouring, and yoga classes.
- An expert counsellor worked with the children to develop their communication and social skills. In addition, health-related activities such as hearing check-ups, health and eye camps, acupuncture therapy, and physiotherapy were regularly conducted to ensure their overall well-being.

### Mysuru

- Samarthanam Intellectually Disabled (ID) School in Mysore celebrated its first anniversary with a spectacular cultural evening at Kiru Rangamandira. Classical dance, folk dance, music band shows, were performed. Special guests like government officials, trustees, and well-wishers, attended.
- As part of the 32nd State Level Para Athletic Championship 2022 Selection Process for 12th National Sub Junior/Junior Games, ID school children participated and received prizes.

### Belagavi

- A school tour was organized to a few historic places for the students who enjoyed the outdoors.
- Teachers underwent training on the usage of AVAZ App.
- KLE hospital provided free treatment and counselling sessions for a few students.

### Vocational training unit of ID schools

- At the Vocational Training Unit, daily activities include practicing self-advocacy, reading calendars and digital watches, and understanding different parts of the day.
- Regular activities at the unit also include making newspaper covers and weaving mats.
- In preparation for Samarthanam's anniversary celebrations in Bengaluru, students made greeting cards to welcome guests.
- Crafts made by the students were displayed at a stall during the Awareness Conclave on Assistive Technology in Bengaluru.



Fine motor skill activities



State Level Para Athletic Championship



AVAZ App training for Belagavi ID school staff

## SAMARTHANAM HIGH SCHOOL

- The high school students participated in an art competition organized by Exam warriors, the Pariksha pe Charcha initiative. Founder Managing Trustee Dr. Mahantesh GK was the chief guest for the event held at Kempegowda Indoor Stadium, Arekere and distributed prizes to the winners.
- The school planned for the student's State level exams and Annual exams including preparation, tests and discussions with parents.
- A representative from Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Jayadeva Hospital, conducted an awareness program on HIV/AIDS, TB and talked about personal hygiene, activities, storytelling.
- Santhosh Kumar Charitable Trust distributed personal hygiene kits for High school girls students.

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- In the academic year 2022-2023, under higher education program we have supported a total of 5,191 underprivileged and students with disabilities pursuing higher education for scholarship, accommodation, learning and assistive aids across India.
- Through Standard Chartered Bank project alone, 2256 students with disabilities pursuing higher education from 10 states Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh were supported for tuition, accommodation, competitive coaching support, technology and transportation support.
- Tabs were distributed to higher education students of Bangalore branch, sponsored by QS India Private Limited.
- An MOU was signed with Shakuntala Mishra University (SMU), Lucknow regarding provision of technological support to the University. In SMU, 1089 students with disabilities are pursuing graduation and post-graduation courses.
- Computers and KIBO scanners were installed to provide training on the usage of screen reading software and KIBO to faculty and students with disabilities of Shakuntala Mishra University, Lucknow.
- A capacity building workshop was organized in Bengaluru for the Higher Education Programme coordinators from Samarthanam centres pan India.



Training on screen reading software



Tab distribution by QS India



MOU with SMU, Lucknow



Workshop for HEP Coordinators

## SAMARTHANAM INCLUSIVE PROJECTS

Inclusive Education Programme is a community-based programme in the Districts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, involving educational and healthcare services to children with and without disabilities, their caregivers, and other people in the community. It is implemented across government schools, certain divisions of the education department, health and social welfare department and so on.

### Mini Science Centre for STEM education

- The Mini Science Centers is an excellent initiative by Samarthanam to provide quality education through STEM learning in Government Schools across various cities in India. Otis Elevator Co. India supported the set-up of Mini Science Center and Tinker Lab in Santoshpur Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith, at the hands of Debraj Chowdhury, Regional Director, Otis India and Sagnik Chakraborty, HR, Otis India. Otis India has supported installation and activation of Mini Science Centers in 19 schools across India and we are grateful for their support.

- Chanda High School in Kolkata welcomed a Mini Science Centre and Tinker Lab launched by chief guests Dr Mahantesh G K, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam, Swami Shyamsundaranandji Maharaj, Assistant Head Teacher, Ramkrishna Mission Shiksha Mandir, Gourhari Khara, ex CPTSE of ATI Netaji Subhas Administrative institute, Pannalal Haldar, MLA Diamond Harbour Vidhansabha, Anjan Ghosh, District Magistrate Diamond Harbour, and other dignitaries.



Mini Science Centre in Santoshpur  
Rishi Aurobindo Balika Vidyapith



Mini Science Centre in Chanda High School

### Digitalization of Government Schools

As part of the Digitalization project, a smart class learning facility was set-up and launched at Vidyabhushan High School Dahisar in Mumbai. The facility was supported by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, which made possible the installation of a state-of-the-art smartboard helping the students learn in a better way. The inaugural was graced by Naznin Nayani Nensey, Head of People Operations, at QS Quacquarelli Symonds India and her team members Vijayalakshmi Iyengar, Ekta Khirani, Kusum Yadav, Henna Mansuri, Joel Chowry, school trustees, and the principal.



Smart Class in Mumbai

## Inclusive Education Programme

### Education highlights:

- The resource teacher visited 5 high schools and 23 primary schools supporting 97 disabled students in education and other activities.
- Home visit were accommodated to 67 severely disabled children.
- Teachers Training Programme was organized.
- Test and assignments were carried out.
- Extracurricular activities like drawing and sport meets were organized.
- Online coaching support was provided to students with disabilities.
- A day care center for severely disabled children was set-up.
- Higher education students were mobilized for scholarships.
- Evening coaching and NMMS coaching was arranged for students with the help of part time teachers.
- Learning Material Kits were provided to schools.

### Health programme highlights:

- Home based therapy, physiotherapy on wheels, and physiotherapy in the clinic were provided as per the need. Assistive devices were given as well.
- Health assessment and necessary hospital referrals took place.
- Post operative therapy treatment was given facilitating an easy recovery.
- Monthly medicines were provided to children with disabilities.

## Tinker labs for the inquisitive minds

United Way Bengaluru in partnership with Samarthanam Trust, inaugurated a Tinker Lab at Morarji Desai Residential School, Ramanagara, Karnataka and another at Karnataka Public School, Sarakki. Thanks to United Way Bengaluru, the facilities are going to present a space for the school students to learn and innovate using Technology and develop problem-solving skills.



Education activities under IEP



Therapy sessions



Tinker Lab in Sarakki



## BANGALORE SKILLING CENTRE

- A new batch was initiated with a welcome kit and a formal introduction to the training module.
- A job fair was organized for the trainees which helped the candidates find jobs as per their profile.
- The trainees will be involved in sharing day-wise topics and assignments, in theory and lab, in BPO, IT, English and SS.



Job drive at Bangalore

## DELHI SKILLING CENTRE

- This quarter at Delhi Samarthanam, the team was a part of the mobilization camp at VSSD Mangalpuri.
- An assistive devices distribution camp was organized to give away wheel chairs and other assistive aids to people with disabilities.
- The mega Job fair event at School of Open Learning Delhi University and a Job Fair at Zamia University gave an opportunity to the trainees to interview and secure jobs.



Job Fair at Delhi

## CHENNAI SKILLING CENTRE

- Samarthanam and DXC Technology distributed assistive devices including wheelchairs, mobile phones, talking pulse oximeter, artificial limb, caliber, special wheelchair, special air bed and hearing aids.
- The inclusive Job fair for young people was held at New Prince College of Arts and Science, Medavakkam where 30 companies and 451 candidates participated.
- The beneficiaries of Chennai LRC went on an industrial tour to historic places, museums, and visited Lifestyle and H.M showroom at VR Mall and discussed with the employees about job portfolio, working process, sales, billing and other details.
- The Employer Meet sponsored by Barclays and initiated by Samarthanam brought together employers from various sectors, candidates and Samarthanam staff. The initiative was to promote employment opportunities for marginalized youth, both with and without disabilities, post-pandemic. Panel discussions were held with the guests to discuss on the placement support near future.



Assistive device distribution, Chennai



Industrial visit for Chennai beneficiaries

## MUMBAI SKILLING CENTRE

- Assistive Aid Distribution drive was organized for beneficiaries across 5 districts in Maharashtra including Satara, Aurangabad, Mumbai, Thane, and Nashik.
- An inclusive Job Fair for young people at Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, Ghatkopar, Mumbai helped the participants receive job offers.
- The beneficiaries of Mumbai LRC went on an exposure visit to One point one solutions and experienced the corporate work culture.
- The girl beneficiaries took part in the women's day workshop arranged by Giftabled Foundation and UBS in Airoli UBS corporate office. They were also a part of the grooming and mobility training workshop conducted by Yes I can foundation in Nerul MIDC.



Assistive aid distribution

## HYDERABAD SKILLING CENTRE

- An inclusive job fair was organized for the youth with disabilities.
- The Hyderabad LRC Team participated in a volunteering activity at Amazon city Development center.

## PUNE SKILLING CENTRE

- A volunteering session was conducted on Mental health Wellbeing for the LRC team and beneficiaries where an expert phycologist led the session. Another volunteering session was by Allstates India Pvt Ltd team on mock interviews and career guidance.
- The Assistive Aids distribution organised with DXC Technology was to distribute hearing aids, battery operated wheelchairs, normal Wheelchairs, artificial Limbs, spectacles, smart phones, pulse oximeter, and others.
- An inclusive Job Fair at Pune for the youth with disabilities had many employers and beneficiaries participate where a few received job offers and few were shortlisted.



Job drive inauguration, Hyderabad



Assistive aid distribution, Pune

## BALLARI SKILLING CENTRE

- The Ballari team has initiated mobilization programmes at various colleges, hospitals, ASHA workers, and PHC centres to raise awareness on the skill building and training by Samarthanam.
- An inclusive Mega Job Fair was held at Koppal which was inaugurated by a few prominent educationalists in Koppal. The students attended interviews and found themselves confident to face the hiring team.
- A few motivational speeches on technology, computers and personality development keep the trainees inspired to work harder.



Job Fair at Koppal

## BELAGAVI SKILLING CENTRE

- The Belagavi team organized a placement drive at Mahaveer Bhavan, Belagavi.
- A few volunteering sessions on basic health and hygiene, communication, professional etiquette, stress management and gender equality help in motivating the students and raising awareness as well.
- An exposure visit was organized by the staff for the students to Vega Auto Accessories Pvt Limited and Reliance Mall.



Placement drive at Belagavi

## DHARWAD SKILLING CENTRE

- A mega Job Fair was successfully conducted at Dharwad with almost 500 candidates.
- The trainees participated in the 26th National Youth Festival 2023 and gave beautiful dance performances.



Youth Festival, Dharwad

## BHOPAL SKILLING CENTRE

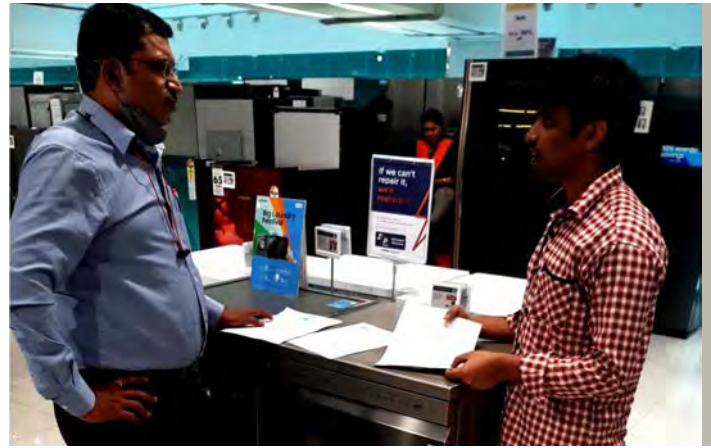
- A new batch took off at Samarthanam Bhopal LRC where the students received an orientation and their classes had begun.
- Along with the training, the beneficiaries received health checkup camp, exposure visit and on-line interviews as well.



Interviews at Bhopal

## GUNTUR SKILLING CENTRE

- A Job Fair was organized at Guntur Women's college for the young aspirants giving them an opportunity to interact with the hiring team.
- The beneficiaries also attended interviews at Reliance, Genpact and other employers.



Interviews for Guntur beneficiaries

## KODIKONDA SKILLING CENTRE

- Along with regular skill training classes, the Guntur beneficiaries were a part of a few motivation classes. The sessions revolved around maintaining a healthy routine, life skills, communication and largely encouraged the students.
- The trained students were guided through many interviews across various fields and many received a promising feedback. The beneficiaries have now begun working at their respective jobs and are leading an independent life.
- A Hearing Screening Camp was arranged to carry out tests for the beneficiaries and made suggestions.
- A DRDA programme was organized at Samarthanam led by a few officials from DRDA, Vasanti Savanur, Trustee Samarthanam and Samarthanam staff. The initiative was to present a brief on Samarthanam, its history and interventions and understand the working protocols and the services offered by DRDA.



Motivational class, Kodikonda

## KOCHI SKILLING CENTRE

- Samarthanam Kochi trainees visited Apsara Pencil Manufacturing Outlet as an industrial visit and received a detailed learning on the various manufacturing procedures in an industrial scale.
- A Job Fair was successfully arranged at LRC Kochi with various employers, and a few received job offers.
- Two students from the LRC took part in the 25th National Deaf Senior Sports Championship held at Indore and showed excellent sports talent in football and athletics.



Hearing screening camp, Kodikonda



DRDA programme at Kodikonda



## PARISARA

Samarthanam's PARISARA provides dry waste management services aimed at promoting the 3Rs (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) through various awareness activities. Its sustainable dry waste recycling system aims to create a greener environment and reduce the burden on landfills.

MSW (Municipal solid waste) management as an essential service has mandated personnel involved in MSW management to implement precautions concerning the landfills.

## PROGRESS AND IMPACT



290 Tonnes of dry waste collected from corporate



275 Tonnes of dry waste recycled



One of the walls after the beautification work

Samarthanam's ReWare project, a TESCO CSR initiative, focuses on creating awareness among the general public on the importance of primary source segregation of waste. Samarthanam works in multiple wards with BBMP to educate households, maintain waste records, and reduce carbon emissions and air pollution rates. The project also helps create employment opportunities for the ragpicker community. To date, over 55,000 households in five wards of BBMP Bangalore have been educated on source segregation.

### Awareness activities:

- Beautification of litter areas in Tin Factory and Whitefield Main Rd, Hoodi, supported by LTTS and NTT DATA, respectively. The activities involved debris cleaning, footpath levelling, pavement, curb stones refurbishing, and painting.
- Purple Quarter organized a 100-sapling plantation activity by its volunteers at Doddaballapur.
- NTT DATA volunteered to beautify the garbage area at Kaveri Nagar, Mahadevpura location.



NTT Data volunteers at work

# CRICKET FOR THE BLIND



## MENS CRICKET

The IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2022-23, in its 5th edition, was a thrilling event that took place across seven different cities in India from January 31st to March 17th. Chandigarh, Belagavi, Pondicherry, Chennai, Ajmer, Jabalpur, and Hyderabad were the hosts for 69 matches, featuring talented visually impaired cricketers from various states.

The grand inauguration of the Nagesh Trophy was held at the Maheshwari School for the Blind, in the gracious presence of His Divine Grace Shree Chandrashekhara Shivacharya Swamiji, Hukkeri, Hiremath, Belagavi, as the esteemed Chief Guest. Other distinguished guests present at the occasion included Lalitha P. Vadlamni, Divisional LPG Sales Head, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Belagavi, Somashekar Siraguppi, Former India Karnataka State Cricketer, Mahantesh Patil, Consultant Head, AQUES, Anand Joshi, Honorary Secretary, Maheshwari School for the Blind, Santhosh Chinagudi, Prajavani Belgavi, Paul Mudda Divisional Manager Canara Bank, Veeresh GK, and Uday Kumar Y, Trustee, Samarathanam. The Nagesh Trophy was launched in 2018, in the memory of SP Nagesh, Founder President, Cricket Association for the Blind in India, and Founder Trustee, Samarathanam. It is a tournament that celebrates the sporting spirit of the visually impaired, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their skills and talent in the game of cricket.

Dr. G.K Mahantesh, President, CABI, expressed his hope that this tournament would pave the way for new starts to be unveiled and wished all the teams the very best to perform to their full capabilities. The final match was played between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka teams, but unfortunately, it was affected by rain, and both teams were declared joint winners of the National T20 Cricket for the Blind 2022-23.

Overall, the IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2022-23 was a remarkable event that celebrated the spirit of cricket and the resilience of the visually impaired cricketers. The tournament not only provided a platform for the players to showcase their talents, but it also highlighted the importance of inclusivity and equal opportunities for all in sports.



# CRICKET FOR THE BLIND

## MENS CRICKET

**Unisys India Private Limited** has successfully supported 320 male visually impaired cricket players from several regions in India including Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, and Andhra Pradesh. The project involved various stages such as mobilization of blind cricketers, counselling and need analysis, identification of coaching centres, sensitization of coaches in a 15 day training in life skills, soft skills, digital and financial literacy training, and five days of cricket coaching. This initiative aimed to empower visually impaired cricket players with essential life skills and cricket training to enhance their overall development.



## WOMENS CRICKET

### Empowering and transforming blind women through cricket

Stepping into the second year of implementation of the project 'Empowering and transforming blind women through cricket' supported by Azim Premji Foundation, the project has completed a total of 6 coaching camps, 6 Self Defense training and 6 one-day sessions on entitlement awareness for the visually impaired. A total of 180 blind women players received cricket coaching during the quarter. 14 skilled players from Madhya Pradesh, 7 from Jharkhand and 8 from Odisha represented their states in the IndusInd bank women's Nationals, T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023, held in Bangalore with the support of the APF project.



Self defense training by APF

### NTT Data supported women's blind cricket

The blind women players from 6 states, which is a total of 84 players received coaching at camps strengthening their cricketing skills. 14 selected players from each state of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana underwent 8 days of rigorous residential coaching in their respective states with the support of NTT DATA. Each team received training from a dedicated coach and sessions on financial literacy, and interpersonal skills were included as well. Cricket kits were provided to the players.



Coaching camp

## IndusInd Bank Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind

The 3rd edition of the IndusInd Bank Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023 Bangalore was organised by Samarthanam, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and supported by IndusInd Bank. 224 players in 16 blind women's cricket teams from 16 states of India participated. Harmanpreet Kaur, Indian Women's cricket team captain supported the IndusInd Bank Women's National T20 Cricket tournament for the blind as the Brand Ambassador.

The inaugural ceremony had begun with the unveiling of the 'trophy of the tournament' by Dr Nandan Kumar J.V, Private Secretary to Minister for Mines & Geology, Women & Child Development, Empowerment of Differently Aabled & Senior Citizens, Government of Karnataka and H.G Prabhakar, Private Secretary to Minister of Sericulture, Youth Empowerment & Sports, Government of Karnataka along with Dr G.K Mahantesh, President CABI. In the final match, for the second time, Odisha was crowned as the champions of the IndusInd Bank Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament, beating defending champions Karnataka by 8 wickets.



## Blind cricketers receive appreciation for their success

To acknowledge their exceptional skills and dedication, Alethea Communications Technologies Pvt Ltd has chosen a group of five blind cricketers - three men and two women - for the year 2022-23. These talented cricketers have already made remarkable progress in blind cricket tournaments this year. In a bid to support their future endeavours, Alethea Communications Technologies Pvt Ltd will be providing them with a monthly stipend and a sports kit.

## SPORTS



As a part of their 26th anniversary celebrations, Samarthanam organized a spectacular Sports Day event that brought together staff and students alike. The day was filled with excitement as participants took part in a range of individual and team events, showcasing their athleticism and sportsmanship. From musical chair, sprints and throw ball to javelin throw and discus throw, the participants competed fiercely while cheering each other on. The team events, including volleyball and cricket, fostered a sense of teamwork and camaraderie among the participants. Overall, the event was a resounding success, leaving everyone with lasting memories of the day's energetic and thrilling activities.



## SUNADHA

Samarthanam nurtures a group of artists with disabilities, collectively known as SUNADHA, who are highly skilled in classical dance and music. Their performances have garnered appreciation and recognition from a diverse range of audiences, including international ones. The dedication, hard work, and finesse exhibited by these artists during their performances serve as an inspiration for budding young artists and aspiring talents alike.

This quarter, the artists were a part of the following events:

- Sankranti Utsav organized by HSR federation
- Documentary movie shoot on awareness about disability organized by Atypical advantage, featuring visually challenged and speech and hearing-impaired artists
- Classical vocal performance for Sri Rama Seva Mandali Trust
- Invocation dance performance for Snehadhepa Trust
- Participation in Yuvajanothsava, the 26th National Youth Festival at Dharwad
- Attendance at the music workshop, 'Explore the World Through Music' by the US Airforce band
- Introduction of a women's empowerment-themed dance drama by the dance team
- Performance for Tredence Analytics
- 'Sing for Glaucoma' event at Orion mall hosted by Narayana Nethralaya.



Sunadha at 'Sing for Glaucoma'

# REHABILITATION



## SWADHARA

Swadhara, a Rehabilitation program by Samarthanam, provides a safe haven for distressed women and their children to recuperate and regain their independence. The program offers counselling support, education guidance, vocational training, healthcare, nutrition, medical needs, food, and accommodation to those in need. Swadhara has proved to be greatly valuable for the residents, providing expert counselling and vocational training to help women rebuild their lives.

## WORKING WOMENS HOSTEL

The Working Women Hostel by Samarthanam provides accommodation to women who are either pursuing higher education or working in the city. It is a secure place for ambitious young women who aim to study, work hard, and build a bright future. Samarthanam offers a clean and safe living environment for women, along with comprehensive support and encouragement, including awareness sessions on COVID, hygiene, safety rules, and vaccinations for their overall wellbeing.

# STORIES OF CHANGE

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## YOGESH LANDGE

Yogesh Landge is a 23 year visually impaired individual from Maharashtra. “Yogesh is a strong willed person and always believes in working hard to achieve his goals,” says his father who is a farmer.

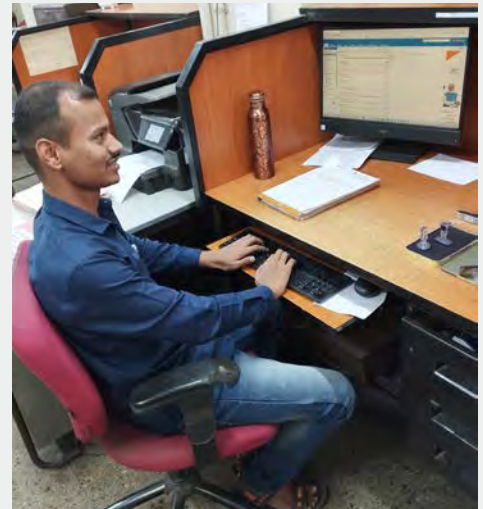
“I used to find it difficult to study in my village school and transportation was a huge hurdle too,” says Yogesh. “So, my parents decided to put me in a Special Education School with hostel. I completed my schooling in Dr. Hellen Keller School and graduated from Sir Parshurambhau College in Pune,” he added. Yogesh always had an active routine and he participated in various competitions at school and college level.

When he was pursuing MA-II in Aabasaheb Garware College in Political Science, he was struggling to arrange accommodation and everyday expenses were going overboard. He was facing a few problems while studying and as he was looking for alternatives, a Higher Education Coordinator from Samarthanam visited his college for an awareness program.

Samarthanam Trust Pune promised Yogesh support with his further education expenses and any educational expenditure as needed. Samarthanam sponsored his tuition, books, study material, accommodation, food and medical expenses.

“I believe I am lucky to have met the Samarthanam Coordinator at my college. I owe my success to Samarthanam who has been very supportive all through. Organizations like these will inspire many individuals like me to complete my education, progress and become independent,” says Yogesh.

Yogesh took ESIC National level Competitive Exam, cleared the Computer Skill Test, and got appointed at ESIC (Employees’ State Insurance Corporation) Office Swargate Pune as ESIC MTS (Multitasking Staff). Samarthanam congratulates Yogesh and wishes the very best for his future.



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*“I owe my success to Samarthanam who has been very supportive all through.”*

Yogesh

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*“Organizations like these will inspire many individuals like me to complete education, progress and become independent.”*

Yogesh

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# VOLUNTEERING

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Samarthanam's volunteering team, a major vertical at the organization, brings together beneficiaries and professionals from corporates for online and offline volunteering activities. The organized activities serve as a learning experience for the beneficiaries, and in the last quarter, the team successfully conducted 35 volunteering activities with the support of 18 corporates, engaging 1258 volunteers who collectively dedicated 3485 hours.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

In this quarter, approximately 85 students successfully completed their internship and service learning programs at Samarthanam. These students actively participated in various programs of Samarthanam's schools, Digital Library, LRC, Rehabilitation, Parisara, and WOW. Additionally, volunteers conducted English grammar classes for primary students, while case studies, organizational studies, and Dance Movement therapy were provided for women beneficiaries from Swadhara. Notably, these students hail from prestigious educational institutions such as Christ University - Dept of Social Work, Christ University - Dept of Management Studies, Christ University - Dept of Psychology, Bangalore University, Krupanidhi College Bengaluru, Jain (Deemed University), and FLAME University. Collectively, the corporate volunteers dedicated 3485 hours of volunteering, while internship hours amounted to 1357 hours.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Sign language Workshop with DXC technology.
- Financial literacy & digital literacy session with Kotak life corporate across all Samarthanam centers, both physical & virtual.
- Blind Cricket Match and tree plantation activity with Purple Quarter.
- Fun activity with Primary & ID school kids by NatWest along with gift distribution.
- Nike Volunteering session with Primary, ID & LRC units in Bangalore.
- Audiobook recording with GKN Aerospace.
- SEG automotive visited Samarthanam on Women's day and provided meals to the kids.
- Cybersecurity workshop by Fiserve for the female beneficiaries on Women's day.
- Time management & digital literacy session for the Bangalore LRC unit by a major corporate.



35 volunteering activities organized

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18 corporates involved

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1258 volunteers involved

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## VOLUNTEERING CORPORATES

Allstate, Althea, ANZ, BNPP, Bread financial, Cisco, Dell, DXC, Fiserve, GKN Aerospace, Kotak Life, NatWest, Nike, Purple Quarter, Qualcomm, Saviynt, and SEG automotive.



Blind cricket match with Purple Quarter volunteers

# DIGITAL LIBRARY SUVIDYA

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Samarthanam's Digital Library for People with Disabilities seems to be a comprehensive resource offering a variety of accessible digital content and information related to disability rights and assistive technology. It provides access to 6160 Braille books, 9640 audio books, and 312179 scanned pages, which include a variety of digital content such as books, journals, and other materials. Additionally, the library has listed 7872 regular books for its users. Overall, the library has recorded a total of 13354 pages to provide comprehensive resources and information to people with disabilities and their families providing a seamless experience for users.

- Volunteers from Target, Bhumi NGO, BMC, GKN Aerospace, and JC Penny received an audiobook recording orientation.
- BMC, Redseer, AND Citi bank finished recording, and editing is in progress.
- Several notable individuals visited the library, including the Honourable Governor of Karnataka, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Cabinet Minister Jeevan Thondaman of the Government of Sri Lanka, and representatives from PhonePe, Give India LIC Housing, and DXC.
- The Digital Library team organized a quiz competition for Samarthanam employees called "Brainary @26."

# HUMAN RESOURCES

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Samarthanam's in-house events involve notable figures and require HR guidance and employee effort. This quarter's Sports Day and 26th-anniversary celebration recognized top performers. The HR team supported cricket tournaments, provided travel accommodations for cricket tournaments such as the III T-20 Blind World Cup and the National Women Blind Cricket and in the last quarter, they hired 80 people for various projects.



6160 Braille Books

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9640 Audio Books

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312179 Scanned Pages

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7872 Library regular books listed

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548 employees

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27% People with disabilities

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37% Women employees

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# THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for your valuable contribution

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- Accel India Management Llp
  - Affirmed Networks India Private Limited
  - Akamai Technologies India Private Limited
  - Alethea Communications Tech Private Limited
  - Allstate Solutions Private Limited
  - Alstom Transport India Limited
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  - FIS Solutions India Private Limited
  - Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited
  - General Insurance corporation of India
  - Give Foundation
  - Give Foundation Inc
  - Give Foundation (Thermo Fisher)
  - Hinduja Global Solutions Limited
  - Hudson's Bay Services Private Limited
  - IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited
  - India Shelter Finance Corporation Limited
  - Intel Technology India Private Limited
  - International Association for Human Values/ IAHV/Blue Yonder
  - Intertrustviteos Corporate and Fund Services Private Limited
  - ITC Limited
  - Kluber Lubrication India Private Limited
  - Komatsu India Private Limited
  - L & T Technology Services Limited
  - L & T Thales Technology Services Private Limited
  - Lake Chemicals Private Limited
  - Leadsoc Technologies Private Limited
  - Leuze Electronic Private Limited
  - Manhattan Associates (India) Development Centre Private Limited
  - Marketboats Consulting Private Limited
  - Marlabs Innovations Private Limited
  - MediaTek Bangalore Private Limited
  - Menzies Aviation Bobba(Bangalore)Private Limited
  - NetApp India Private Limited
  - Nike India Private Limited
  - Nutanix Technologies India Private Limited
  - Nuviasemi India Private Limited
  - Oneplus Technology India Private Limited
  - Online Giving Foundation
  - Otis Elevator Company India Limited
  - Otis Global Services Center Private
  - Pfizer Healthcare India Private Limited
  - Pivotree Solutions India Private Limited
  - Progress Software Development Private Limited
  - Qualcomm India Private Limited
  - Quin Bay Technologies Private Limited
  - Randstad India Private Limited
  - RiseSmart HR Services Private Limited
  - Sandisk India Device Design Centre Private Limited
  - Saviynt India Private Limited
  - State Street Corporate Services Mumbai Private Limited
  - Supple Rubber Chemicals Private Limited
  - Tesco Bengaluru Private Limited
  - Thoughtspot India Private Limited
  - TMF Services India Private Limited
  - Tredence Analytics Solutions Private Limited
  - UK Online Giving Foundation
  - Unisys India Private Limited
  - United Way Of Bengaluru
  - United Way Of Chennai
  - United Way Of Hyderabad
  - United Way Of Mumbai
  - United Way Of Mumbai(fischer)
  - United Way Of Mumbai(TIAA)
  - XL Health Corporation India Private Limited
- GOVERNMENT FUNDERS
- Department of Youth and Sports Development, Government of Karnataka

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## Donate to Make a Difference

(Select your amount of choice)

Rs. 3000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rs. 5000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rs. 10000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rs. 15000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rs. 20000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rs. 25000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	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**

\* marked fields are mandatory



Income Tax exemptions available under Section 80G of Indian Income Tax Act.

Donations made in the USA are exempt under 501C3.

Samarthanam is also qualifies to receive contributions through Give India,

Give Asia, United Way Charity Foundation, USA and American Service to India, USA.

### Administrative Office

#11, Samarthanam Bhavan, 1<sup>st</sup> Cross, 17<sup>th</sup> A Main  
J.P. Nagar II Phase, Bangalore - 560078

### Head Office

CA: 39, 15<sup>th</sup> Cross, 16<sup>th</sup> Main, Sector 4, HSR Layout  
Bengaluru – 560102

### National Office

B-89, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar IV  
near Ragunath Temple, New Delhi – 110024

### Mumbai Division

Plot No. 210, Atomika CHS LTD., Sector-17  
Nerul, Navi Mumbai – 400 706

### Pune Division

Shri Prashanti Nilayam, BAIF Road (Sambhaji  
Nagar), Opp Mart Inn, Wagholi, Pune - 412207

### Chennai Division

No. 39, Anna Street, State Bank of India Colony  
Chitlapakkam, Tambaram, Chennai  
Tamil Nadu - 600064

### Guntur Division

#125-2-60, Rupa Enclave, Road opp Hosanna  
Ministries Beside St Anns degree college for  
women , Gorantla Guntur - 522034, A P

### Kodikonda Division

Kodikonda Check Post, OPP. HP Petrol Bunk  
(NH-44), Chilamathur (Mandal), Sri Sathya Sai  
(District) – 515 601

### Hyderabad Division

No - 4, Ist Floor, Sri Sai Nagar Colony Lane  
Behind Ambedkar Statue, Old BSNL Lane, Picket  
Secunderabad – 500026

### Kochi Division

Door No. 5/32-D, Karichira, Karumalloor P.O,  
Ernakulam – 683511, Kerala

### Ballari Division

No. 17/1, Beside Maddikere Bhimayya School  
Moka Road, Gandhinagar, Ballari - 583103

### Dharwad Division

Plot No 22/A, Ward No 21, Vanasiri Nagar, Sattur  
Near Radhakrishna School, Dharwad - 580009

### Belagavi Division

No 777/4 Banup Compound Opposite Jairaj gym  
near Bigbazar Khanapur Road Tilakwadi  
Belagavi - 590019

### Bhopal Division

Plot #10, New MP, MLA, Colony Jawahar Chowk  
Bhopal - 462003, Madhya Pradesh

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Northborough, MA 01532