



Volume 18 | Issue 41 | July to September 2024

# SAMHITA

A SAMARTHANAM PUBLICATION

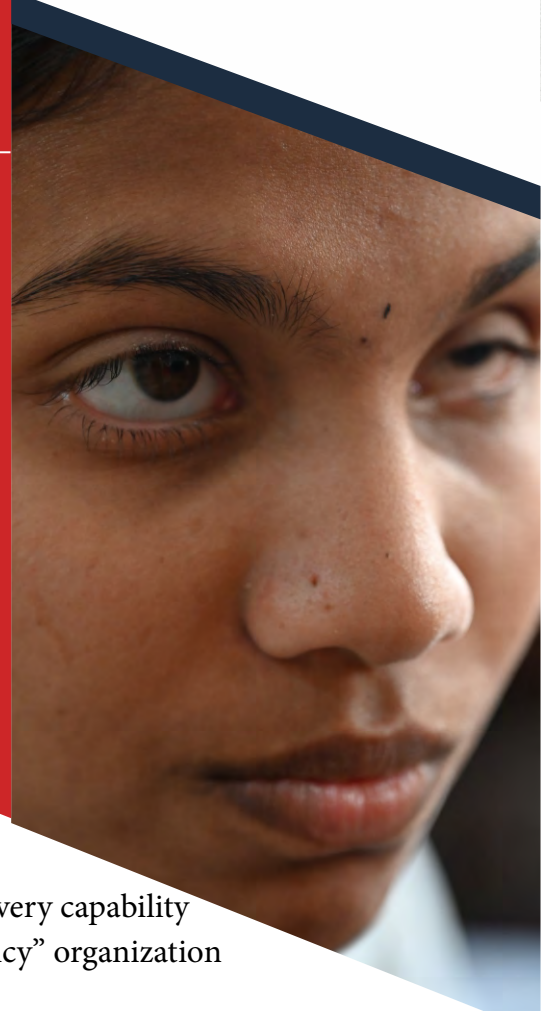


08 The Indian Men's Blind Cricket Team embarked on a **historic tour of the USA**

07  
25 NMMS

students received scholarships

12 **Indian Consulate New York** hosted a reception for the Indian Men's Cricket Team for the Blind



ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ  
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled®

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

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



EDUCATION



SKILLING



ENVIRONMENT



SPORTS



ARTS & CULTURE



HEALTH & NUTRITION



REHABILITATION

## SAMARTHANAM AT A GLANCE

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled was established in 1997 by Founder Managing Trustee Dr. Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar and his childhood friend Late Nagesh SP. The founders, being visually impaired and having witnessed various challenges, together conceptualized Samarthanam as an organization catering to people with disabilities, including the visually impaired and underserved. They believed education to be the basic right of every individual, irrespective of status or disability. Consequently, they initiated the development of various programmes at primary, secondary, and higher education levels, as well as other initiatives solely dedicated to the visually impaired and underserved.

As the organisation's objectives and drive started gaining support, Samarthanam's areas of service also expanded. It established Livelihood Resource Centres, Rehabilitation Centres, Social Enterprises, and a Sports Association for the visually impaired. Nearly two decades later, Samarthanam has expanded and fortified itself as an umbrella organisation, offering services to hundreds of people with disabilities, the underserved, and women in distress.

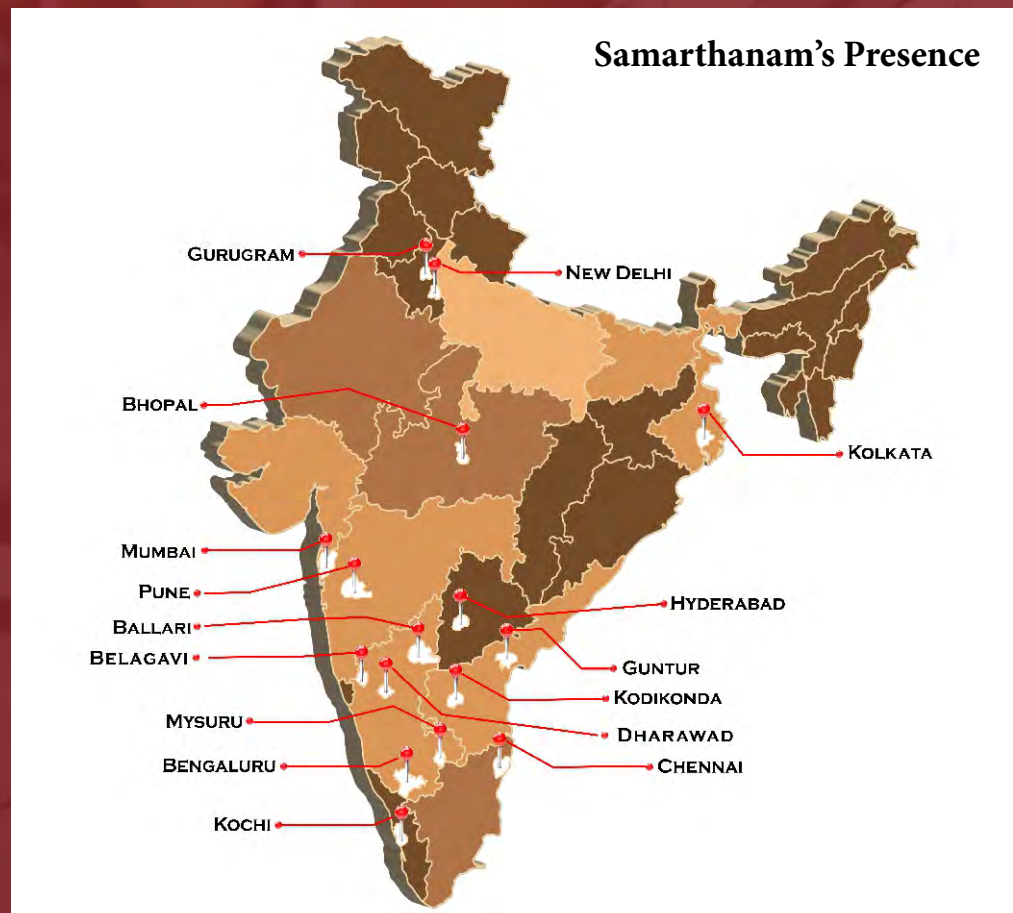
### SAMARTHANAM ENVISIONS TO TOUCH AT LEAST A MILLION LIVES BY 2030

#### Vision

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

#### Mission

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





## FROM THE FOUNDER

### **Dr Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar**

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

This quarter has been a remarkable period of progress and impact for Samarthanam, as we continued our mission to empower individuals with disabilities and promote inclusivity globally. From the USA to Europe, our initiatives showcased the resilience, talent, and determination of the people we serve.

In July, I had the privilege of meeting Sara Minkara, the U.S. Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, at the Department of State. This engagement emphasized the importance of collaboration in advancing disability rights and promoting blind cricket on a global stage. Our efforts to advocate for the inclusion of blind cricket in the 2028 Paralympics remain steadfast, fuelled by the passion and skill of our athletes.

The Indian Men's Blind Cricket Team's historic USA tour spanning 10 Cities- Boston to Bay Area was a testament to the power of sport to unite and inspire. Through friendly matches, awareness sessions, and community engagements, the team not only introduced blind cricket to diverse audiences but also built bridges of inclusivity and understanding. Milestones such as the Independence Day celebration in Washington, D.C., and demonstration matches in Seattle and Los Angeles highlighted the team's incredible journey and reinforced the global appeal of blind cricket.

On the home front, Samarthanam continued its commitment to nurturing talent through residential coaching camps for both men and women cricketers, supported by Hyundai Motor India Foundation. These programmes equipped participants with essential skills and resources, empowering them to excel on and off the field.

Our cultural division, Sunadha, made headlines with captivating performances across India and France. From gracing the UNESCO stage to showcasing Indian heritage at the Olympic Fan Zone, Sunadha's artists demonstrated the universal language of art in fostering inclusion and celebrating diversity.

Parisara's strides in solid waste management and sustainability, Suvidya's expansion of accessible digital libraries, and the extensive volunteering efforts by individuals and corporates underscore the multifaceted impact of Samarthanam's initiatives.

As we celebrate these achievements, I express my deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and the communities that believe in our vision. Together, we are transforming lives, breaking barriers, and creating a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Here's to continuing this journey with unwavering determination and hope.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar**



## SAMARTHANAM SCHOOLS

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Weekly quizzes held for 5th to 7th graders at Samarthanam Primary School encouraged healthy competition across four student groups, with smart board lessons enhancing classroom learning.
- Thirty-two students visited Bhoomi Nakshatra NGO, engaging in clay modelling, drawing, and colouring, earning certificates for participation.
- Regular meetings with the Program Head assigned event roles to teachers, and Parent-Teacher Meetings emphasized discipline, positive attitudes, and academics, with student achievements recognized through cluster-level trophies.
- A health check-up camp provided Grades 1 to 7 with health reports and hygiene kits.
- At the Ellukunte Cluster-Level Sports, the boys' Kho-Kho and girls' Kabaddi teams secured second place, with individual students winning races and the girls' relay team placing third. The Kabaddi team also placed second at the Taluk-Level Sports.
- Volunteers from O9 Solution, Zomato, and TARGET taught subjects like English, Math, and Hindi to various grades, with TARGET also providing computer lessons for Grade 7. "Make a difference" Classes held weekly tutoring sessions for Grades 5-7, focusing on exams, while AMS Talent Volunteers distributed stationery and school supplies.
- All students received new textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, blankets, and shoes for the 2024 academic year.
- Students won second prizes in storytelling and patriotic songs at the Prathibha Karanji Competition at Venkatapura Govt School.
- Special events like Teachers' Day and Independence Day were celebrated with guest speeches and tributes to freedom fighters, and students also had the opportunity to enjoy a vibrant visit to the Lal Bagh Flower Show.



Mrs. Rajashree, wife of Samarthanam USA's President, celebrated her birthday with students, gifting steel bottles & encouraging responsible citizenship.



The 78th Independence Day event honoured freedom fighters, featuring speeches & notable guests.

### HIGH SCHOOL

- SSLC high achievers Sneha M, Bhagyashree C, and Suryanarayana were awarded Rs. 25,000 each through the Guardians of Dream Scholastic Awards.
- Talents Day showcased cultural activities, drawing, quizzes, and competitions, with the launch of new clubs: Electoral Literacy, ECO, Health, Science, Sports, and Cultural.
- Formative assessments were conducted for 9th and 10th standards, and Ms. Yamuna Srinidhi led a career guidance session.
- Students won two awards at the Cluster Level Prathibha Karanji Competition.
- Independence Day celebrations featured guests from the film and social sectors, and students performed at Gayana Samaja and celebrated Teachers' Day with a drawing competition by Mr. Nikhil Gouda.
- At the Cluster Level Athletics Meet, students achieved six awards, with top placements in javelin throw and shot put; the girls' Kho Kho and Kabaddi teams took second place, while the boys' teams won first place in both events.

- A free health camp provided full check-ups with support from Mr. Nikhil Gouda, Arakere Govt. Hospital held a dengue awareness session and Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital also conducted an eye camp for students and staff.
- Teachers participated in Smart Class training on July 1st, and four received fire safety training in August.
- The Radware Innovation Centre held a self-defence workshop for girls on July 13th, awarding certificates to participants.

## SPEECH & HEARING IMPAIRED SCHOOL (SHI)



Uniforms, shoes, and track suits were distributed to students to support their needs.



Teachers' Day was celebrated with students, honouring teachers' contributions



A health camp, organized by Perkmed Health Institution on July 25, provided comprehensive health check-ups.

- Formative and Speech Therapy Assessments were conducted for academic evaluation
- Sports activities, indoor games, exercise, and yoga sessions promoted physical wellness.
- Volunteers engaged with students on August 10, fostering community involvement.
- Daily dance classes were conducted by the Sunadha team, encouraging artistic development.
- Students showcased their talents in the Pratibha Karanji cluster-level competition on September 3.
- Teachers' Day and Independence Day were celebrated with enthusiasm, while students showcased their talents at cultural events like the Rainbow Festival and Belaku Trust's event.

## INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED SCHOOLS (ID)

### MYSURU

- A Parent-Teacher Meeting was held on July 30, 2024 where parental satisfaction and upcoming programmes were addressed.
- Teachers at Mysore ID School were provided with counselling
- A yoga competition, saw students participating and receiving certificates and medals.
- The yoga teachers were honoured on August 31, 2024, in appreciation of their service.
- Independence Day & Teacher's Day were celebrated with flag hoisting, patriotic performances, and guest speakers, including Retired Professor Putta Veerappa and Senior Scientist Dr. Ravi Shankar, who honoured teachers from the ID School and LRC Centre.



Weekly yoga training for Mysore ID School students was introduced every Saturday.

### BELAGAVI

- Smt. Lata Premkumar generously donated 35 sets of sportswear and 4 fans to the school.
- Mr. Suresh, APD Coordinator, & Dr. Erama, APD Physiotherapist, visited ID School Belagavi to assess student needs & provide support.
- A walker, an essential assistive aid, was presented to a student by Samartha Korishetti from SBIF.
- The birthdays of Sri. Mane and Dr. Jayantakumar were celebrated with a special lunch for the students.



A medical camp, organized by SBIF (Samarthanam Blindness & Disability Foundation), was conducted with active participation from students.

- Staff members participated in a job fair, organized by Samarthanam and the LRC Belagavi, demonstrating their commitment and professionalism.
- The 78th Independence Day was commemorated with vibrant student performances, including a dance display.
- Sri Pramoda and his family visited ID School to engage in meaningful discussions about school activities and future plans.
- A new school bus was inaugurated, enhancing transportation facilities for students.
- Ms. Nirmala Selokar was honoured as the Best Outstanding Teacher of 2024, recognizing her exceptional dedication.
- Representatives from Belagavi Smart City visited the school to explore opportunities for collaboration

## BENGALURU

- 87 students with Intellectual Disabilities received individualized education plans, using FACP assessments to set educational goals in personal, social, academic, and recreational domains.
- Classes were conducted using updated technology like "Next Education" & "Amazon Alexa" to suit students' functioning levels and basic needs.
- 20 students received training for the Quizabled competition, with Shivaprasad winning a cash award in the final round at Chennai.
- Two teachers attended a CRE program in Davanagere on "Syncing skills" and earned 18 CRE points.
- A workshop titled "Success with Self" was organized for staff, focusing on self-introduction, learning principles, and group discussions.
- Regular health check-ups were conducted for ID students, with a health camp offering physical examinations.
- 10 students visited Mobility India for physiotherapy assessments, receiving recommendations for foot orthoses and hand splints.
- 60 students received health kits from Victoria Secret to improve health and hygiene.
- 30 students participated in the SOB District Level Sports Meet, winning 30 prizes.
- Teachers attended the Suvidha Suraksha workshop for life skills, safety, and sexuality training.
- ID students attended various cultural events including the Hubli Tigers cricket match, sketching at Bal Bhavan, and Independence Day celebrations.
- Dream India donated 12 bicycles, and ID students participated in the Hejje Art Festival with drawings themed "Paint Your Dreams."
- Vocational Training students were exposed to functional literacy, numeracy, and hands-on skills like jute bag and bottle painting, artificial jewellery making, and product displays.
- Students participated in various volunteering programs, where they engaged in games, & interacting with corporate employees.

## MINI SCIENCE LABS / INNOVATION & TINKER LABS/ DIGITIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

### Mini Science Centres

- Installed in 73 locations across various regions, benefiting approximately 2000+ students.
- Teachers' training completed in 66 schools.
- Monitoring visits completed in 34 locations.
- Inaugurations & kit distributions completed in 37 locations, with the remaining planned for October.

### Tinker Labs

- Installed in 9 schools across Bangalore's urban and rural districts, with teacher training scheduled post-installation.
- Feasibility studies completed for additional locations.

### Smartboards

- Installed in 36 schools (16 in Pune, 20 in other locations).
- Teachers' training completed in 26 schools, with remaining training planned for October and November.
- Ongoing monitoring and need-based training.

### Solar Empowered Digital Classrooms:

- Monitoring visits completed in 40 schools.
- The inauguration of solar-powered classrooms is planned for October.

### Overall Monitoring and Training:

- Monitoring visits completed in 58 schools.
- Need-based training and ongoing visits continue across multiple locations.

## WASH

- 5 schools across six locations have been finalized for the WASH project.
- School monitoring visits have been completed in 4 locations, and site visits have been conducted by engineers.
- Capacity-building sessions for School Development and Management Committees (SDMC) have been completed in all locations.
- Vendors have been selected for toilet block renovations, and IEC materials have been procured and are ready for distribution.
- Health and hygiene awareness sessions for students, teachers, and parents are being planned.
- 6 schools in Chennai have been involved in the Happy School project for inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities and slow learners.
- Baseline assessments are ongoing for learning levels, and Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRP) are in progress.
- Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) have been created for students with special needs.
- Volunteering activities have been completed in 6 schools.
- Physiotherapy support has been provided for ID students.
- A workshop for special educators and para-teachers was conducted on September 19-21, 2024.



RO water filters have been distributed in all schools, and plumbing and electrical installations have been identified for implementation



MHM and Nutrition kits are being prepared and sent for distribution

## COMMUNITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Daily computer classes were launched at 4 government high schools, benefiting 1,200 students.
- Teachers were screened for NMMS coaching, with 5 students from Chilatpur's last batch passing the exams.
- Beneficiaries were referred to Sathya Sai Hospital Muddenahalli, and future referrals from Doddaballapura and Bagepalli are planned.
- A total of 25 NMMS students received scholarships for the next 4 years.
- Computer education was provided to 1,104 students across 4 schools.
- At the preparatory education center, 16 children attended classes on language, concepts, and motor skills, and 5 physiotherapy sessions were given.
- 128 beneficiaries received various government social security benefits.
- Home visits and therapy were provided for children with disabilities, and 2 children were referred for mobility aids, with 1 referred for cleft lip surgery.

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR(ATA)

Samarthanam's ATA Labs collaborated with Continual Engine, Deep Vision Tech, Bookshare Technologies, and Torchit Enable Mart to train students with visual and hearing impairments at Chittrakoot University. This initiative equipped participants with skills to independently use assistive technologies, fostering inclusivity in education.

The I-STEM Foundation provided STEM tool training for visually impaired HEP students, while Smart On Glass vendor Suket conducted AI Glass demos to enhance daily accessibility.

In partnership with the Supreme Court E-Committee, Samarthanam trained 374 visually impaired court staff across Karnataka on digital accessibility tools. The program concluded with a valedictory event at Karnataka Judicial Academy, attended by Mr. Shivaram Deshpande, Head of Operations.

These efforts underline Samarthanam's commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities through technology and training.



## CRICKET ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND IN INDIA

**The Indian Men's Blind Cricket Team embarked on a historic tour of the USA** covering 8 states - 10 cities, The tour aimed to promote blind cricket and inclusivity through friendly matches, awareness sessions, and community engagement. Key events included:

- The team began their journey in Boston, where they played a friendly match at Clark University, introducing blind cricket and fostering inclusivity. The team also engaged with visually impaired individuals at the Carroll Centre for the Blind.
- The team travelled to New York, where they participated in friendly matches and key events to raise awareness about blind cricket.
- In New Jersey, the team continued their promotional efforts with local cricket teams, showcasing the sport and interacting with the community.
- The team arrived in Washington, D.C., where they engaged in more awareness sessions and fundraising activities, including the sale of cricket balls and the book Eye Opener.
- The team celebrated India's Independence Day with a special event focused on blind cricket, attended by bollywood celebrities Sonu Sood and Jayaprada, who highlighted the importance of perseverance and inclusivity in sports.
- The team travelled to Chicago and Dallas, Texas, participating in demonstration matches and engaging with local cricket enthusiasts, including visits to the 22 Yards Cricket Facility in Lewisville.
- Los Angeles, the team held a meet-and-greet event in Arcadia and played a demonstration match at Pepper Tree Cricket Ground, attracting over 380 spectators. They also visited temples to receive blessings and community support.
- The team visited Seattle, where they engaged with volunteers from Oracle and Microsoft, showcasing blind cricket and winning an exciting 10-over match against the Seattle Thunderbolts by 37 runs.
- The tour concluded in the Bay Area, where the team visited various organizations, including Vista Centre and Santa Clara University. They participated in a farewell event where volunteers presented certificates to the players, marking the end of a successful tour that showcased the skills of blind cricketers and fostered community support for the sport.



The Indian Men's Blind Cricket Team met Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker Shri U. T. Khader, who honoured the team before their USA tour.



Jafar Iqbal was honoured with the Biju Patnaik Sports Award for 2023-24 for his dedication in sports, receiving a cash prize of INR 2,00,000.



In Telangana, Samarthanam inaugurated a coaching camp for 50 visually impaired women cricketers

- Dr Mahantesh along with representatives of Samarthanam met with Sara Minkara, Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, to strengthen partnerships and promote blind cricket globally at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour.
- Hyundai supported a residential coaching camp for blind women cricketers in Tamil Nadu. 25 women were trained in cricket fundamentals and strength conditioning, with sports kits distributed by Hyundai.
- In Delhi, a training program for 50 visually impaired women cricketers was held, supported by the Australian High Commission. The program empowered participants with cricket and life skills.
- As part of Samarthanam's Q2 initiative, 28 blind cricketers from Karnataka received cricket kits, enhancing their training experience.
- Mr. Maharaja of the Indian Cricket Team for the Blind received a cheque of Rs. 1.20 lakh from Udhayanidhi Stalin, Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, at Kurinji House, to support his future training, courtesy of the Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation.



## SUNADHA

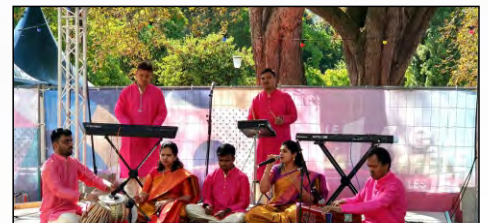
- On July 14th, Sunadha registered members as beneficiaries for Smart Vision Glasses at a program organized for Jaiwant Salvi Foundation.
- The Annual Day celebrations for Vasundhara Automations Ltd took place on July 26th.
- Preparations for SIMPA classes and faculty recruitment are underway, with classes now officially commenced.
- The Independence Day celebration was held at Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Bangalore, on August 17th.
- Sunadha performed at the Whitefield Sheraton Hotel on August 21st.
- The Sunadha Dance Team was featured at the Times Now Channel's Amazing Indian Awards in Delhi on August 24th, receiving great appreciation.
- On August 31st, Sunadha participated in the Eye Donation campaign organized by Narayana Netralaya, with special recognition from Dr. Rajkumar's family.
- Sunadha performed at Av. Raspail, Juvisy-sur-Orge on September 8th, witnessed by Mayor Lamia Bensarsa Reda.
- The People Advisory Services Forum and Belakoo Trust also hosted Sunadha performances on September 12th and 13th.



On September 9th, Sunadha was honoured with a performance at UNESCO Paris for the Handicap & Sports & Work Congress 2024 organized by GOPIO.



Sunadha marked a milestone performance in Paris on September 4th.



The Indian cultural heritage was presented by Sunadha at the Olympic Fan Zone on September 6th, curated by the Indian Conservatory of Paris.

## PARISARA

The Parisara Solid Waste Management Program promotes waste reduction and segregation, collecting 267 tons of dry waste and recycling 230 tons this quarter. The ReWare project, supported by Tesco's CSR initiative, raised awareness among 35,601 households, cleared 17 black spots, and engaged 86,304 community members while supporting the rag-picker community. Additionally, 3,011 students were sensitized on environmental conservation, and 10 Green Ambassadors were appointed to lead sustainable practices in schools.



230 tons recycled



10 Green Ambassadors were appointed to lead sustainable practices in schools.



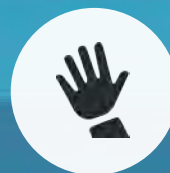
267 tons collected

## Volunteering Activities at Samarthanam

- 36 physical and 3 virtual volunteering activities were conducted.
- Participating Corporate teams for volunteering: BNP Paribas, Firstsource, JLL, NatWest, Deloitte, DXC, Keysight, PlanSource, Western Digital, Levi's, Target, Tesco, PwC, and Alorica.
- Tree plantation activity in Bangalore and Chennai by BNP Paribas and Plan Source.
- Cook-a-meal activity organized by Manhattan, Keysight, Tesco, and Levi's.
- Wall painting in two government schools in Chennai by BNP Paribas.
- Braille activity conducted with BNP Paribas in Chennai.
- Seed ball activity by PlanSource in Bangalore.
- Career guidance program at the LRC Bangalore with volunteers from Target, Levi's, JLL, and FIS.

## Volunteering Activities at Samarthanam

Around 20 students completed internships across Samarthanam's programs, including Schools, Digital Library, LRC, Parisara, and Health.  
Total internship hours: 700 hours.



39 volunteer activities



1,893 volunteers



5,729 hours

VOLUNTEERING

## SUVIDYA- THE DIGITAL LIBRARY



**Braille Books**

358



**Audio Books**

200



**Scanned Pages**

8,211



**Books Listed**

480

### Key Activities:

- Processed books during Deloitte Impact Day.
- Recorded audiobooks for PM Group, Inclusion Movement, Computershare, and State Street.
- Celebrated National Librarian's Day.
- Provided Braille books to Jyothi Nivas College.
- Mobile library services for Govt schools and at some public spaces in Bengaluru.



B. R. Chaya, the Nightingale of Karnataka at Samarthanam Trust Digital library



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## OPENTEXT BENGALURU

# Walkathon 2024

JOIN US ON A DRIVE TO ACHIEVE  
**HEALTH FOR ALL**



**WALK ALONG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



BRAND AMBASSADOR  
**DAALI DHANANJAYA**  
KANNADA FILM ACTOR



**14<sup>th</sup>** DEC 2024,  
SATURDAY



**9:30** AM

### VENUE

**KITTUR RANI CHENNAMMA STADIUM**  
Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru

SCAN AND  
REGISTER  
ONLINE



CONTACT FOR REGISTRATION

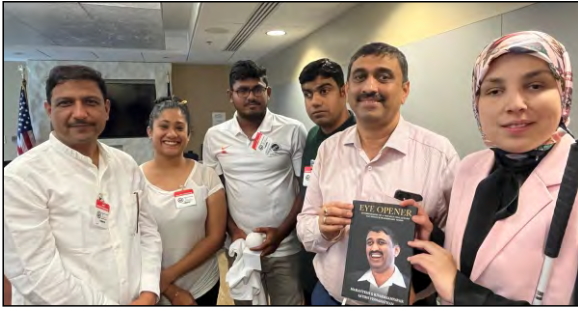
+91 944 986 4689 | +91 944 986 4789

**SAMARTHANAM TRUST FOR THE DISABLED**

CA: 39, 16th Main Road, 15th Cross Rd, Sector 4, HSR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102

✉ info@samarthanam.org | 🌐 www.samarthanamwalkathon.org

## SAMARTHANAM SPECTACULARS



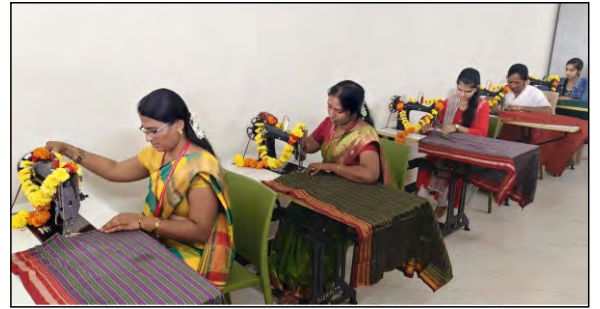
Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar and team from Samarthanam & CABI met with Ms Saidr Sara Minkara, (Special Advisor on International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, & Labour)



Samarthanam Trust and Cricket Association for the Blind in India was introduced to the audience at the 78th Independence Day celebrations hosted by the Federation of Indian Associations, Chicago.



Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, in collaboration with Forrester, successfully inaugurated the STEM Education Support program in New Delhi



Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled launched the Tailoring Classes Training Unit at Dharwad Centre



Samarthanam Trust has become a ray of hope in the lives of people in Wayanad, distributing essential items to those affected by the landslide. Over 500+ families have benefited from this initiative. We're here to support and make a difference.



Mr. Maharaja received a cheque worth Rs. 1.20 lakh from Shri Udhayanidhi Stalin Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Government of Tamil Nadu



Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Chairman, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), Mr. Shailender Yadav - General Secretary (CABI) and the World Champions Indian Men's Cricket Team for the Blind met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana Mr. Revanth Reddy



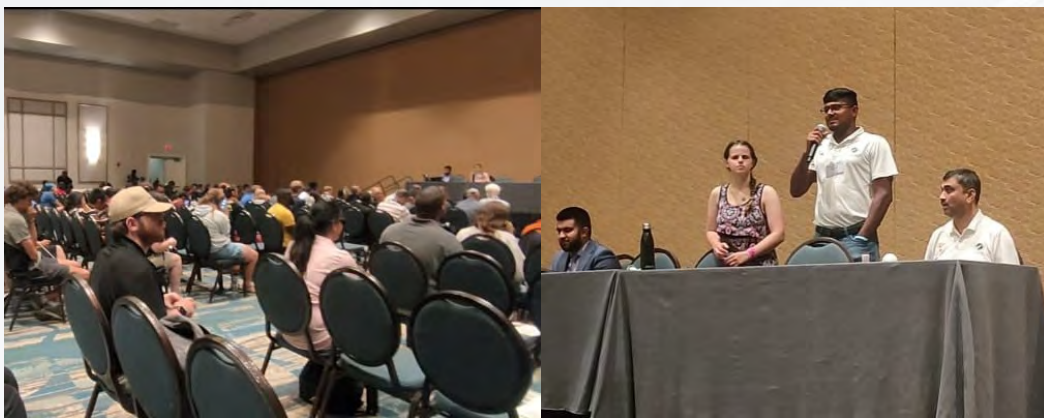
Samarthanam, in collaboration with OSRAM, proudly inaugurates the STEM Learning Mini Science Labs at Government Senior Secondary School, Nawada Fatehpur, Gurugram, and Government Senior Secondary School, Nahapur Kasan, Gurugram

## OVERSEAS

The Overseas Department of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled had an impactful and eventful quarter, making significant strides in advancing blind cricket globally, strengthening partnerships, and expanding its reach across key regions. This quarter saw active participation in conferences, seamless coordination of international tours, collaborations with renowned institutions, and the launch of pivotal projects. This report highlights the department's achievements from July to September 2024, including its challenges, insights, and upcoming priorities.

The department played a central role in showcasing blind cricket at the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) Convention in the USA on July 4th, 2024, engaging a global audience of organized blind individuals. Additionally, it facilitated collaborative dialogues with the Australian Consulate General in Bengaluru, focusing on advancing sports and disability initiatives. At the T-10 Cricket Challenge inauguration on August 28th, the department partnered with Cricket ACT and the University of Canberra to explore opportunities for promoting inclusive sports..

### SNIPPETS



Student Division General Annual Meeting; Durga sharing his experience and how cricket transformed his life during the NFB Convention under the Student Division Committee



Dr. Mahantesh GK presenting during the “Sports and Creational Committee” meeting about cricket for the blind; New supporters of Samarthanam in the USA.

The department also worked closely with interns and volunteers on key initiatives. These included creating a comprehensive database system for managing international data, conducting research to identify potential countries for Samarthanam's global expansion, and developing an education project proposal aimed at enhancing learning outcomes in Samarthanam-associated schools.

In terms of logistics, the department successfully managed multiple high-profile initiatives. This included organizing visa processes for Sunadha's Europe tour (with UK engagements missed due to time constraints), coordinating the Indian Blind Cricket Team's US tour across multiple cities, and ensuring a smooth and successful France tour for Sunadha, featuring performances at UNESCO and the Olympic Fan Zone.



Mr. Pawan (Archer Fellow and Samarthanam Supporter), Ms. Michelle Chin- Miller (Academic Director, University of Texas, Mr. Cody Willming (Federal Budget and Policy Director, Office of Government Relations, University of Texas), Dr. Mahantesh GK, Mr. Shailender Yadav & Mr. Sanjay Yadav (supporter of Samarthanam)

Samarthanam's collaborations were marked by impactful projects, including a research survey with the University of Montreal, Canada, funded by CAD 500, and case studies with Intel and ANZ that illustrated the transformative impact of corporate contributions on disabled beneficiaries. These initiatives underscored Samarthanam's commitment to advocacy, research, and corporate accountability.

Key meetings throughout the quarter further advanced Samarthanam's mission. A discussion with Mr. Hariram on July 31st explored the possibility of establishing a company run by disabled individuals, focusing on a diversified business model and skill development. Meetings with the University of Texas representatives on July 8th and 11th outlined plans to create an inclusive university model integrating sports and education for disabled individuals. On July 12th, Dr. Mahantesh met Sara Minkara, Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, to advocate for the inclusion of blind cricket in the 2028 Paralympics. Finally, on September 23rd, a meeting with Manoj Badale, owner of Rajasthan Royals, centered on potential collaborations with CABI, including tournament support, inclusive sports facilities, and awareness campaigns.

Among the key events, the blind cricket demonstration at the Maryland School for the Blind on July 17th sparked significant interest, with Shailender Yadav and Durga Rao engaging students in the sport. The CABI US Tour, supported by Subu Kota Foundation, ran from July 25 to September 17, raising awareness for blind cricket across multiple cities, securing media coverage, corporate sponsorships, and local partnerships. Meanwhile, Sunadha's France tour, from September 4-12, showcased India's cultural heritage with performances at UNESCO and the Olympic Fan Zone, marking a significant milestone in Samarthanam's cultural diplomacy.

Reconnecting initiatives included re-engaging past contacts—corporates, blind schools, and individual supporters in the US—to facilitate the success of the CABI US tour. The department also reached out to corporates, sponsors, and cultural organizations across Europe, setting the stage for future Sunadha performances and collaborations.

Looking ahead, next steps for the department include expanding international outreach by following up with new partners from the NFB convention, US tour, and Paris performances. Efforts to advocate for blind cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Paralympics will continue, alongside further engagement with Montreal University on research opportunities. The department will also finalize global expansion plans based on the intern research, initiate grassroots-level blind cricket in US schools, and collaborate with organizations like Seva International and Freedom Washington on joint projects in India and the USA. Additionally, the registration of the UK branch of Samarthanam will be a key focus.



Mr. Luke Castes and Ms. Carly Partridge from Australian Consulate- General Bangalore



Participants of the NFB Convention joining for the demonstration of Blind Cricket



## SKILLING – LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRES

### BENGALURU

Students engaged in visits to notable places such as Double Tree Hotel, Chinnaswamy Stadium, and Volvo, along with trips to Mysuru and waterfalls. They also celebrated Independence Day, Teachers' Day, and other cultural events. An eye check-up camp was organized, ensuring health and wellness. A total of 54 students enrolled in training programs, including 32 males and 22 females, with 31 persons with disabilities and 23 without disabilities.



Visit to Volvo

### BALLARI

During this quarter, the Ballari centre initiated the new batch with physical screening, counselling, and distribution of welcome kits. Motivational sessions were conducted by Mr. Ganesh, MSW students, and Smt. Sumalatha, focusing on self-confidence, time management, and career guidance. Mega Job Fairs were organized in Hospet and Koppal, providing valuable interview opportunities for students. Celebrations of Independence Day, Teachers' Day, and Ganesh Chaturthi brought students and staff together for inspiring speeches and cultural activities. Students participated in VRW and Samanya Sabhe awareness programs and benefited from exposure visits to local institutions and events, enhancing their learning and engagement.



Welcome kits distribution for New Batch

### BELAGAVI

The initiation of two batches, FIS and Qualcomm, was marked by the enrollment of 40 candidates, complemented by screening, counseling, and the distribution of welcome kits. Medical need assessment camps were organized in Belagavi and Bailhongal for 115 students under expert mentorship, alongside Mobility India need assessment camps under the SBIF project. A job fair at KLS Gogte College of Commerce featured inspiring keynote addresses that highlighted Samarthanam's initiatives, while community workshops in Savadatti and Ramdurg Talukas engaged stakeholders and educators. Volunteer sessions focused on diverse topics such as Indian festivals, game-based activities, and personality development. Screening and health assessment camps, facilitated by KLE Doctors, benefited students and parents across various locations. Exposure visits to TATA Motors and interactive activities with KLS Gogte Institute of Technology students enriched the learning experience. Celebrations of Independence Day, Ganesh Chaturthi, and the birthdays of key leaders and co-founders fostered cultural and community participation. Placement visits to Vega Accessories further supported employment opportunities for the candidates.

## PUNE

Welcome kits were distributed to Batch 2 (2024-2025) of LRC, with corporate dignitaries participating in the event. A mega job fair at Garware College, Pune, saw participation from over 500 candidates and 20+ employers, resulting in more than 100 placements. An exposure visit to the Ganapati Temple in Ranjangaon was organized for 25 beneficiaries from Batch 2. A graduation ceremony was held, where trained beneficiaries received certificates from corporate dignitaries.



Job fair at Garware College, Pune

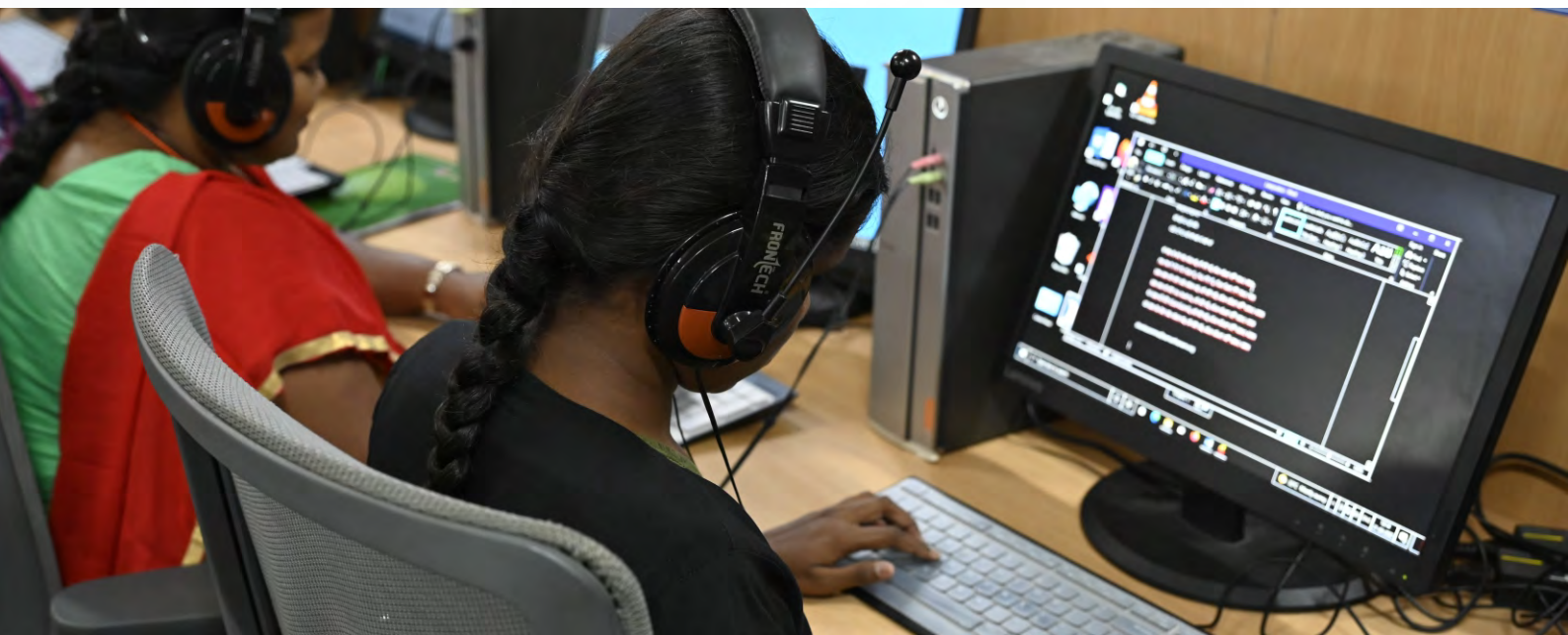
## BHOPAL

A job fair at ITI Bhopal connected candidates with numerous companies, offering employment opportunities to many. Selected candidates received their offer letters from the Minister of Skill Development, Gautam Tetwal. Exposure visits included the Museum of Mankind, DB Mall for retail sector insights, and Shaurya Smarak Park, where children learned about the bravery of soldiers. Certificates were awarded to beneficiaries completing LRC training, while kits and socks were distributed to children by SOS and Rotary Club, respectively.

Celebrations included Independence Day, Ganesh Chaturthi, Teachers' Day, and a Tiranga Yatra, with cultural performances, patriotic activities, and engaging programs. Sanitary pads were distributed to girls through the Rotary Club, accompanied by sessions on hygiene, pain management, and yoga techniques. Vijay Gupta, a GST inspector, inspired children through a motivational session, sharing life lessons and suggesting resources for government job preparation.

## CHENNAI

During this quarter, Chennai LRC celebrated several key events, including Kamarajar's Birthday, Independence Day and Teachers' Day on 5th September. Students participated in exposure visits, such as a corporate visit to One Point One Kovilambakkam, a trip to Guindy Park to explore diverse wildlife, and a memorable visit to Marina Beach, India's longest beach. A major highlight was the inclusive job fair at MCC College of Arts and Science, where 346 candidates participated, and 62 received offer letters from top companies like Amazon, Hindustan Group, and BNP Paribas. Volunteer activities from companies like Bank of America, PwC, FIS, and Deloitte provided students with valuable skills in self-motivation, resume building, career guidance, and productivity tools. Additionally, placement drives by companies such as Godrej, L&T, Yamaha, and Reliance successfully placed 30% of candidates.



## DHARWAD

Two new training batches were launched, empowering 50 candidates with essential skills. The Tailoring Classes Training Unit at the Dharwad center was inaugurated, with notable community leaders from the Rotary Club of Seven Hills, Dharwad. A successful job fair attracted 378 candidates, including 333 PWDs, with 128 individuals selected for roles in IT, retail, BPO, back office, and warehousing, showcasing the tangible impact of Samarthanam's initiatives.

In partnership with Barclays Job Fairs, 10 beneficiaries were recognized for their achievements during the Independence Day celebration. Guest sessions on vital topics such as the Disability Act, competitive exam preparation, self-employment, assistive devices, skill development, and soft skills provided valuable insights and guidance to students. Significant collaborations included an exposure visit to leading companies, as well as the inauguration of Tinker Labs at Government Girls High School, Lingaraja Nagar, Hubli, and Govt. High School, Gandhinagar, Dharwad, fostering innovation among students. A medical camp was held at the Dharwad center in partnership with Rotary Club of Seven Hills, benefitting 150 students and staff members.



The spirit of community was also strengthened with visits from Tata Hitachi Ladies Club and Rotary Club Dharwad Heritage team, as well as a "Guruvandana Program" organized by HEP students to honor the staff. The workshop on assistive devices and the Teacher's Day celebration highlighted the focus on learning and development.

## GUNTUR

Mini job fairs were conducted at the Guntur branch for PWDs. A volunteer activity was held by L Prathap Garu, Assistant Manager at Canara Bank. LRC students attended the APPSDC Mega Job Fairs. A guest lecture was delivered by Koti Reddy Garu, Senior Manager at Union Bank of India. The Headmaster of Thulluru ZP High School, Mr. G Srinivasarao Garu, visited the branch. An exposure visit took place to Pacchala Spintex at Rajupalem and the historic site of Kondveedu.

## HYDERABAD

Samarthanam, Hyderabad facilitated a job fair at Krushi ITI College, Bhongiri, with 335 candidates and 15 companies participating, resulting in interviews and offer letters for several candidates. Students gained insights into modern electronics and technology during an engaging visit to a Croma store, where they explored gadgets and innovations. A tree plantation drive at Penjerla High School, organized in collaboration with PWC employees, highlighted the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship, enhancing the school environment.



## DELHI

During the quarter, key activities included the celebration of Teachers' Day and the distribution of welcome kits to students. Numotion wheelchairs were distributed with support from Aramco. A placement drive was conducted in collaboration with Amazon for persons with disabilities. Impact assessments were carried out for the Barclays Job Fair, and a mobilization camp was organized at Shri Shaligram Sharma Smarak in Meerut. School exposure visits were arranged, and a visit to SMC Electronics Pvt. Ltd. took place. Batch closure and certificate distribution were also held. Additionally, volunteering sessions were conducted by organizations such as Barclays, PwC, Taj Hotel, Rotaract Club of Allure Midwest, and others, covering topics like resume building, hotel management, and fun activities, with over 100 volunteers participating.

## MYSURU

LRC-Mysuru focused on enhancing logical thinking, problem-solving, and technical skills among 25 underserved women. Activities included training in English, soft skills, and innovative thinking, with regular monitoring and coaching. Students participated in Yuva Sambrama, visited companies for HR interviews, and received welcome kits. Mysore student Ms. Kavitha C excelled with a 91.88% score in her Special D.Ed. exams, and over 100 beneficiaries received assistive devices at an event supported by Hyundai.



“A child with special needs.. requires love, requires guidance, requires encouragement, requires positive influences, requires a life teacher... JUST LIKE ALL OTHER CHILDREN”.

## KOCHI

During the quarter, several activities were organized, including an exposure visit to Modern Bread Factory in Ernakulam. A Sign Language workshop was conducted for MSW students at St. Joseph's College in Thrissur. An inclusive placement drive was held at Christ College in Irinjalakuda. A mobilization camp took place at Sreelakam Lifelong Institute in Thrissur. Additionally, KFC facilitated the placement of candidates.



visit to Modern Bread Factory in Ernakulam

## KODIKONDA

LRC Kodikonda conducted various training programs, including IT, English, BPO, and soft skills classes for current batch students. Key events included the inauguration of the LTTS 3rd batch, distribution of welcome kits, and motivational sessions by professionals like Medical Officer Mr. Ramakrishna and corporate HR representatives. The Independence Day celebration featured sports events for trainees and a flag hoisting ceremony. A Job Fair at Sri Sathya Sai Degree College, Penukonda, resulted in 132 students being shortlisted from 13 participating companies. The branch also hosted a mini job mela with Amazon and an industrial exposure visit. A memorial ceremony was held to honour Mr. Nanjundachari, the land donor for the Kodikonda branch.

## MUMBAI

Ms. Nilansa Tiwari, VP of Standard Chartered Bank, visited Mumbai LRC and interacted with beneficiaries. Exposure visits were organized for beneficiaries to Standard Chartered Bank's Vashi Branch, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak, Home Center- Landmark Group in Thane, and McDonald's Haware Mall for raincoat distribution. HR Chandreyee's birthday was celebrated, and mock interviews were conducted with JLL Volunteers. Jitendra Karnik, Regional Head, conducted an orientation session for volunteers.

Key activities included a job fair at RJ College, a school project visit to ZP Primary School, a self-esteem session by Renu Rangachari, and English grammar sessions. Other highlights included birthday celebrations, Independence Day flag hoisting, and placement drives by Sutherland and Amazon. Events such as Janmashtami tactile activities, Dahi Handi celebration, Ganapati clay activities, and Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations took place, along with interview preparation and resume writing sessions.

## KOLKATA

In this quarter, Kolkata LRC organized a series of events, starting with a program in remembrance of Rabindranath Tagore, followed by the Independence Day celebration and Teacher's Day. An exposure visit to Spencer's was conducted as part of an industry visit. The inclusive job fair held at the National Institute of Locomotor Disabilities (NILD) saw the participation of 500 candidates, with 189 shortlisted and 20 receiving on-the-spot offer letters. The event was inaugurated by prominent figures including Smt. Nilanjana Dasgupta, I.A.S. (State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities), Mr. Satish K (Head of Placement, Samarthanam Trust), and Mr. Lalit Narayan (Director, NILD), and featured 15 participating companies such as Reliance Trends, Accenture, EY, Zomato, and Shopper Stop. Volunteer activities included a meal donation by Reliance Foundation and career guidance sessions by Mr. Amitava Sengupta of Randstad and Mr. Nurul Islam of Reliance Trends, focusing on survival skills in the sales and retail sectors.



Inclusive Job Fair





## VIDYAPRASAD

This quarter, the mid-day meal kitchen excelled in its operations, ensuring the consistent delivery of nutritious meals including eggs, bananas, and peanut brittle to schools. Rigorous lab testing upheld quality standards, reinforcing trust in the program. The team engaged with the Chief Secretary of Education to refine implementation strategies, driving impactful outcomes. In celebration of Independence Day, sweets were joyfully distributed, and the kitchen extended its reach by serving meals to 100 doctors during a Zilla Panchayat meeting, showcasing its commitment to community welfare.

## HEALTH

Under our Health Programme, over 175 individuals with disabilities were supported with assistive devices through initiatives like the ARAMCO project in Delhi and Mumbai and the Hyundai project in Mysore. The program also provided surgery support to one beneficiary and organized an assessment camp in Pavagada



Distribution of Assistive devices

Assessment Camp



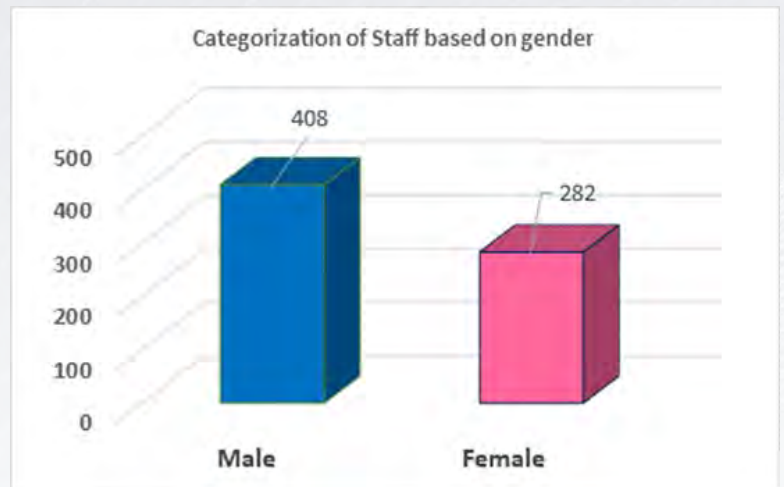
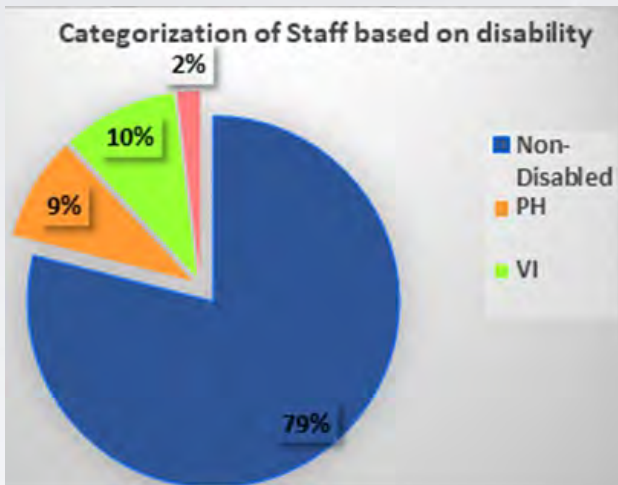
175 individuals with disabilities were supported with assistive devices

## WORKING WOMEN & STUDENTS' HOSTEL

The inmates of the Working Women's Hostel actively participated in exams, cultural celebrations, sports meet, and a football tournament, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm. Additionally, mentorship programs and festive events were organized to foster learning and community bonding.

## HUMAN RESOURCE

During the quarter, the HR team conducted a Microsoft Excel training session for employees, organized a leadership training program with an external team, and facilitated performance reviews across all centers. They coordinated Wayanad flood relief efforts, celebrated Teachers' Day and the Founder's birthday, and arranged an eye camp for employees. The team also fulfilled manpower requirements for various departments, focusing on staffing new centers.



## STORIES OF CHANGE

Lakshminarayana, an 18-year-old from Doddaballapura, faced significant challenges due to cerebral palsy, which affected his ability to walk and limited his access to education. Coming from a poor family, with his father working as a daily wage labourer and his mother as a caregiver at Samarthanam's day care centre, they initially struggled to understand his disability and its implications.

Before Samarthanam's intervention, Lakshminarayana's family lacked awareness of how to support his educational and developmental needs. The community often looked down upon them, and the family faced hardships due to the absence of suitable resources for children with disabilities.

Upon identifying Lakshminarayana through a survey, Samarthanam enrolled him in the day care centre, where his parents were educated about his condition. With support from Samarthanam, his mother also found employment at the centre, creating a stable environment for their family. Lakshminarayana's progress was remarkable—he began learning to read, write, and socialize, becoming an active and independent participant in the day care.

Thanks to Samarthanam's comprehensive approach, which included educational and life skills training, Lakshminarayana now has the tools to lead a fulfilling life, transforming from a child with limited prospects into an empowered young individual.



”

*Samarthanam has given me the opportunity to learn, grow, and become more independent. Grateful for that.*



## Support

persons with disabilities and the underserved with  
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Bengaluru – 560102 Karnataka State, India  
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**Income Tax exemptions available under section 80G of Indian Income Tax Act**  
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