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Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled®

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A Samarthanam Publication



SAMARTHANAM TRUST FOR THE DISABLED
SAMARTHANAM
EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ELEVATE
നമുക്കൊരു ലക്ഷ്യമുണ്ട്

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar

Founder Chairman, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled
Chairman, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)

It gives me immense pride and joy to present the Annual Report of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled for the year 2024–25. This year has been truly transformative in our journey to build an inclusive world where every individual—irrespective of ability or background—can live with dignity, opportunity, and hope.

Samarthanam has taken bold strides across education, livelihoods, sports, and the arts. The inauguration of the Samarthanam Art Centre, a state-of-the-art hub for creativity and inclusion, is a landmark in our mission to empower persons with disabilities through diverse pathways. Equally inspiring has been the launch of the Samarthanam Institute of Music and Performing Arts (SIMPA), affiliated with Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal University, which now nurtures and showcases artistic talent while giving voice to expressions that uplift and inspire us all.

Education remained our cornerstone—through inclusive schools, government partnerships, and special schools for children with intellectual, developmental, speech, and hearing disabilities. From primary to higher education, we continue to shape confident learners and aspiring graduates, empowered to live with dignity and independence.

Our 17 Livelihood Resource Centres (LRCs) continued to create profound impact across the country, enabling thousands of youth with disabilities and underserved communities to access skill training and secure meaningful employment. Through job fairs and recruitment drives, we strengthened our partnerships with corporates and stakeholders, ensuring that the promise of inclusion translates into sustainable livelihoods.

Sports remained a shining chapter of this year. The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) embarked on a remarkable 10-city tour of the USA, a milestone that not only showcased the talent and spirit of our players but also set the stage for institutionalizing national cricket teams for the blind in the US (Men and Women). This journey, with the vision of integrating blind cricket into the Paralympic Games, reflects our determination to take inclusion beyond borders, onto the global stage. Our commitment to accessibility and sustainability also deepened—through barrier-free campuses, assistive technologies, and green practices that ensure long-term impact.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to share a historic announcement: India will host the first-ever T20 Women's World Cup – Cricket for the Blind in November 2025. This path breaking event will mark a new era in inclusive sports, and we seek your wholehearted support to make it a resounding success.

On behalf of Samarthanam, I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, volunteers, well-wishers, and staff. Your unwavering support and trust remain the driving force behind every milestone we achieve.

A special note of appreciation to our donors, whose generosity and belief in our mission make it possible to empower thousands of lives through education, inclusion, and opportunity.

As we reflect on this extraordinary year with pride, we also step forward with renewed hope and determination. The road ahead may present challenges, but it is filled with immense promise. Together, with your continued support, we will keep striving toward a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow.

ABOUT US

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, a non-profit organization founded in 1997 by Dr. Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar and his childhood friend, the late Nagesh SP, is dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities and the underserved across socio-economic and cultural domains. With its Headquarters in Bengaluru, Samarthanam spearheads initiatives in education, livelihood, environment, health and nutrition, sports, culture, and rehabilitation to foster an inclusive, non-discriminatory society.

With over 28 years of service, Samarthanam has positively impacted millions of lives. It holds affiliations with the World Blind Union and received the Special UN Consultative Status in 2015, marking it as one of the few non-profits with this recognition. The founders, both visually impaired, established Samarthanam to support people with disabilities, including the visually impaired & the underserved, through comprehensive programs & partnerships, including the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)



Vision

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



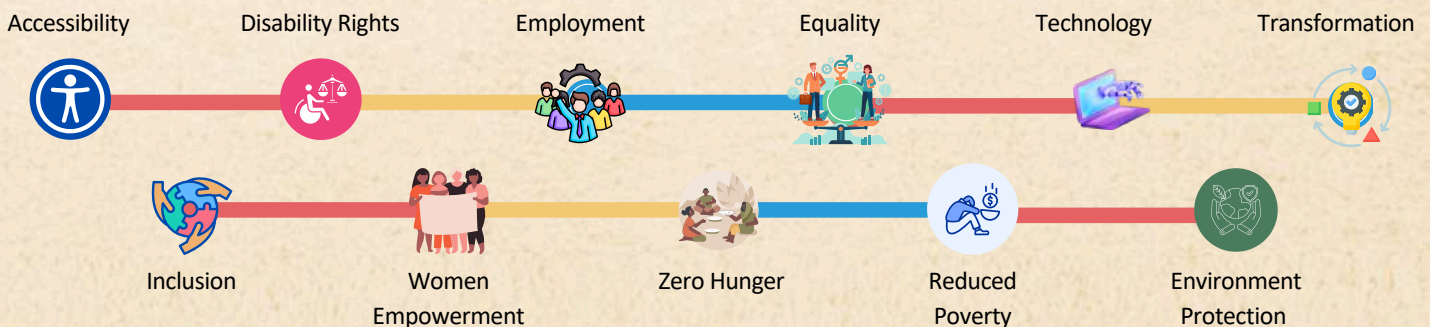
Mission

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

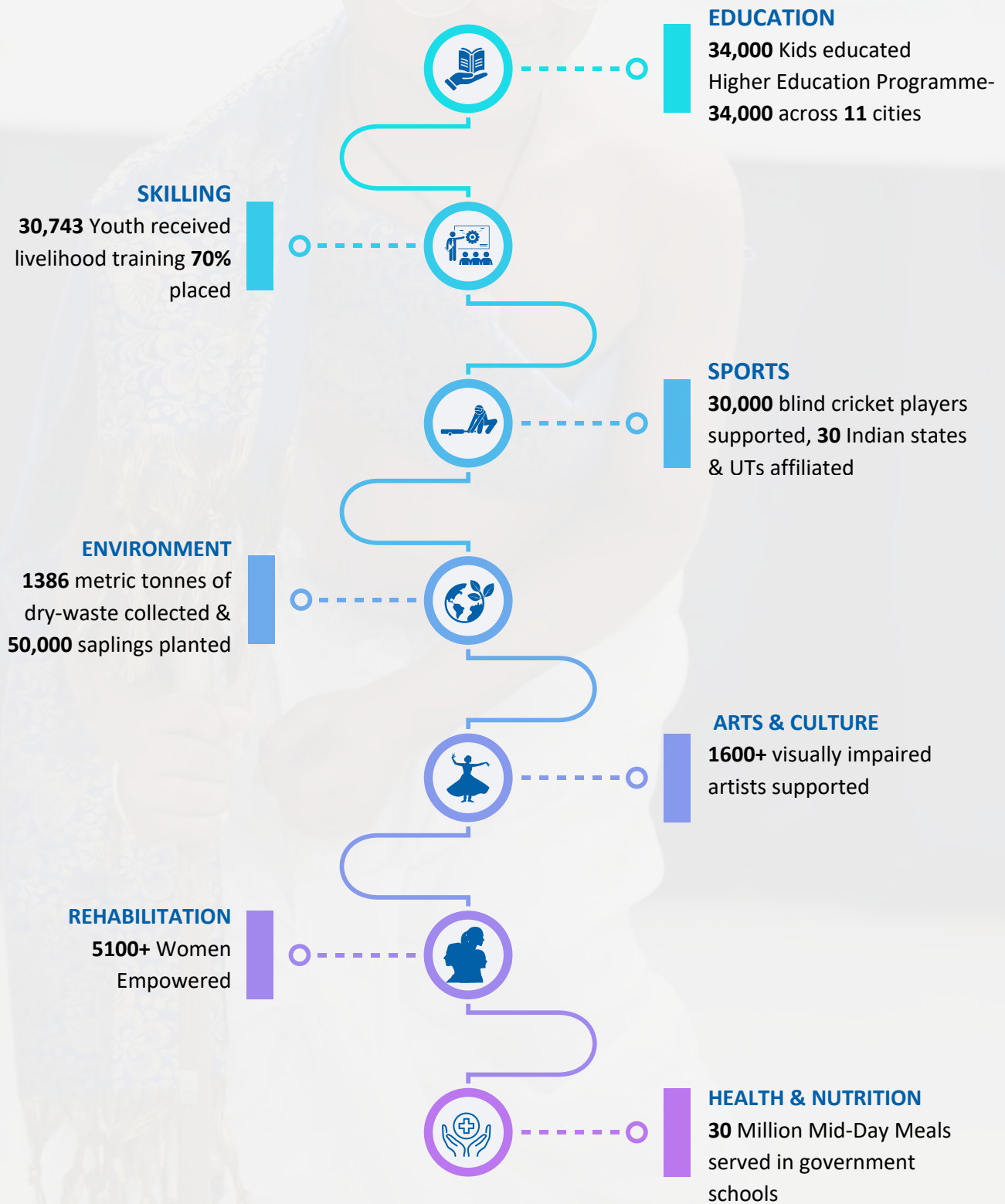
VISION 2030

Samarthanam envisions to touch at least 10,00,000 by 2030, providing comprehensive lives solutions to the disabled & under served communities.

CORE VALUES



SAMARTHANAM BY THE NUMBERS





A photograph of three young girls in school uniforms. The girl in the foreground on the left is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She has dark hair in braids with blue bows. The girl in the foreground on the right is smiling gently. She has dark hair with bangs and a blue bow. The girl in the background is also smiling. All three are wearing blue school uniforms with white and blue striped ties. The word "EDUCATION" is written in blue, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the upper right quadrant of the image.

EDUCATION



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Barrier-free learning for all


Samarthanam Education Vertical

Samarthanam is redefining inclusive education by creating barrier-free, residential learning environments that nurture the potential of children with disabilities and those from underserved communities. Each campus is thoughtfully designed to ensure accessibility, safety, and a sense of belonging - offering not just education, but also dignity, independence, and holistic development

Across its schools, Samarthanam is continuously striving to build confident learners and future-ready citizens through inclusive pedagogy, personalized care, and innovative learning tools. The impact is tangible, the approach is human-centered, and the outcomes are transformational.

Special Schools for Children with Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

Samarthanam is operating specialized schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, aiming to build essential life skills alongside functional academics. The schools are offering customized behavioural training, communication development, and pre-vocational education in crafts, tailoring, and self-care. These programs are designed to help children achieve greater independence and lead dignified lives within their communities



• 100 students were enrolled in the Bengaluru center

• 40 students each were enrolled in Mysuru and Belagavi

• A new school is currently under development in Dharwad to expand this impactful work

DURING FY 2024-25

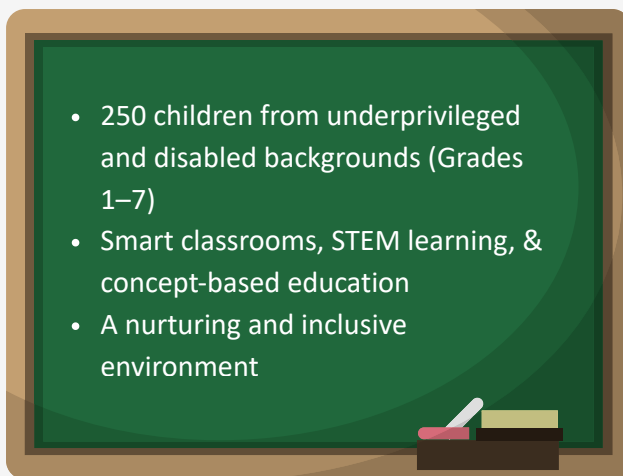
SHI School – Bengaluru (Speech & Hearing Impaired School)

Samarthanam’s school for speech and hearing impaired children is creating a dynamic, inclusive space where communication is being redefined through Indian Sign Language (ISL), visual learning aids, and a structured academic curriculum. The school is equipping students with the skills and confidence required to transition into mainstream or vocational education, while building strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, and life skills. All teachers are trained in deaf education methodologies and inclusive teaching practices.

Over 50 students were enrolled this year, receiving individualized attention in a learning environment built around accessibility and empowerment.

Samarthanam Primary School – Bengaluru

At the core of Samarthanam’s inclusive education model is its Primary School in Bengaluru, which is currently providing holistic academic support to children from underprivileged and disabled backgrounds. The school is integrating smart classrooms, STEM learning, and concept-based education, encouraging curiosity and real-world application of knowledge. The focus remains on fostering a nurturing, inclusive space where dignity, empathy, and academic rigour go hand in hand.



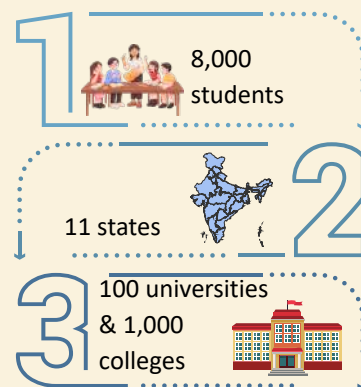
High School – Bengaluru

Samarthanam is running a fully inclusive high school in Hulimavu that is currently empowering students who are blind, visually impaired, low vision, and from underserved communities. The school is integrating technology, inclusive pedagogy, and scribe / reader support to ensure academic parity for all. A larger, barrier-free campus is currently under planning stage to accommodate the growing student body.

Higher Education Support

Samarthanam is continuously enabling youth with disabilities to pursue and complete higher education, including college, university, and professional training. By offering tuition support, digital and assistive resources, scribes, and accessible living arrangements, the initiative is paving the way for inclusive academic success.

During the academic year 2024–25, Samarthanam’s Higher Education Program empowered over 8,000 students across 11 states. Around 80% of the beneficiaries were students with disabilities and 20% were underserved or children of PwDs, with 58% being female. The program reached students in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal, covering 100 universities and 1,000 colleges, enabling them to pursue higher education with confidence and opportunity.



Combined School Reach

Samarthanam is actively expanding access to inclusive and special education by supporting students with disabilities across its network of schools. Each institution is offering personalised learning, accessible infrastructure, and a nurturing environment that promotes dignity and independence. Residential hostel facilities are ensuring continuity in education, especially for students from remote or underserved backgrounds. In FY 2024-25 alone, over 150 students with disabilities have been enrolled across inclusive & special schools, & more than 100 students have received residential hostel support.

Overcoming Adversity: Sachin's Journey from Rural Roots to Medical College

Mr. Sachin Anjaneya, hails from Zhoolakatti Village , Koppal District. He was born with a physical impairment. Despite the initial challenges, his farmer parents supported his education. Sachin excelled academically, scoring 92% in 10th grade at Navodaya Vidyalaya and 94% in Pre-University Course at Alva's PU College, Moodabidri, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka.

Through Samarthanam's Higher Education Scholarship Program, Sachin was able to join the prestigious VIMS Medical College, Ballari, to pursue his MBBS course.

Through the trust he was able to improve his mobility, communication, soft skills, and english skills as well. Sachin is passionate about his education, and actively participates in college events. Sachin's journey is inspiring, from his strong academic achievements to his continued dedication while working at VIMS Medical College, Ballari. The support from Samarthanam Trust has clearly played a crucial role in his success, both in terms of his education and personal development.

He is thankful to Samarthanam Trust for providing the timely scholarship support which has helped him to complete his academic career successfully.



“

At Morgan Stanley, our commitment to making a positive impact in the communities where we live and work is deeply rooted in our core value: to Give Back. Over the years, we have consistently supported education and health programs through meaningful partnerships and purpose-driven initiatives.

A key focus of our strategy is supporting children with disabilities—ensuring they have access to the resources they need to learn, grow, and be integrated into the mainstream. We are proud of our partnership with Samarthanam, particularly through project support for the JP Nagar and HSR Layout facilities, and the School Improvement Program.

We firmly believe that with the right support, these children can overcome challenges and lead fulfilling lives. We extend our best wishes to the entire Samarthanam team and thank them for their unwavering dedication. We look forward to seeing their continued efforts shape a more inclusive and empowered future for every child.

”

Nikita Shah Mascarenhas

Executive Director

Head, India Corporate Affairs

Morgan Stanley





SPECIAL PROJECTS

STEM & Tinker Labs

Samarthanam is integrating creativity and innovation into classrooms by establishing STEM and Tinker Labs. These labs are allowing students—especially those in inclusive and special schools—to explore robotics, electronics, and science through practical, hands-on learning experiences. Installed in several schools to promote scientific thinking & problem-solving among students.

Educators & Specialized Staff

Samarthanam's success in inclusive education is backed by a committed team of educators and specialists. Trained in inclusive methods, Indian Sign Language, and disability-specific pedagogy, these professionals are addressing the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every learner. The team includes speech and physiotherapists, yoga and PT instructors, counsellors, and wardens who are ensuring holistic development for all students. Currently, 44+ trained educators and tutors are working across six institutions

Hostel Facilities

Providing more than just shelter, Samarthanam's hostel facilities are fostering independence, routine, and inclusivity for students with disabilities. With dedicated wings for boys and girls, the hostels are equipped with assistive technology, accessible infrastructure, learning aids, and trained caregivers. Currently housing over 268 students, including 100+ ID students, 76 from the primary school, 49 from the SHI School, and 43 high school students.

Navadarshn Project

Through NAVADARSHAN, Samarthanam is reaching children with intellectual disabilities in northern Karnataka by enhancing educational delivery across multiple districts. The program is strengthening capacity schools while promoting dignity and inclusion.

It currently supports 729 students across 10 ID schools in Kalaburagi, Gadag, Haveri, and Belagavi.

Happy School Project

Samarthanam is enriching the academic experiences of children with intellectual disabilities and slow learners through structured support in government schools. Tailored activities and inclusive methods are helping these students engage meaningfully with learning. The project has been implemented in 6 government schools, impacting 183 students

Accessible Learning Resources

To ensure equitable education for print-disabled learners, Samarthanam is producing accessible digital content, including audio books and Braille materials. These resources are empowering students with visual impairments and learning disabilities to study independently and confidently.

Over all Braille 10,233 pages digital have audio been books created and and 5,094 shared.



INNOVATION & TINKER LAB



Labs Installed 21



Students Benefitted 11041

WASH IMPACT SNAPSHOT

LOCATIONS - States -3
[Karnataka , Maharashtra , Tamil Nadu]



ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS - 6
[RAICHUR , YADGIRI , JALGAON
, NANDURBAR , VIRUDHUNAGAR ,
RAMANATHAPURAM]

50,448

BENEFICIARIES

INFRASTRUCTURE, HEALTH & HYGIENE



Washrooms
Renovated- 25



MHM Kits
Distributed - 5500



R.O Systems
Installed - 25



Teachers Trained - 356

Students Reached 8122

TRACKING PROGRESS

SOLAR PANELS



Schools Reached - 117



Students Benefitted - 33,226

DIGITALISATION OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

STATES - 10 : KARNATAKA , MAHARASHTRA , TAMIL NADU ,
TELANGANA , RAJASTHAN , MADHYA PRADESH , BIHAR , UTTAR
PRADESH , HARYANA , DELHI



Smartboards
Installed - 325



Schools
Reached - 313



Students
Benefitted 1,41,042

STEM



Mini Science Centres
Installed 155



Students Benefitted
75,736





LIVELIHOOD
RESOURCE
CENTER - LRC

LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTER - LRC

Samarthanam Livelihood Resource Centres are established across major cities of India which impart livelihood training to youth with disabilities and the underprivileged, enhancing their skill-sets and paving way for a sustainable livelihood and economic independence.



HEADLINE IMPACT



11,819 Candidates
trained **70%** placement

17 LRC Centres

10 states | 17 cities Pan-India reach



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

440 WOMEN TRAINED IN TAILORING + Tailoring machines distributed at Bengaluru, Dharwad Hyderabad & Chennai.



JOB FAIR

48 Job Fairs | 24 Cities
20,989 Participants
5,476 Placements



UPSKILLING DRIVES

800 Candidates completed
5 day Upskilling & Placement
Programs across **9** locations in
4 states.

EXPANSION & NEW TRAINING FOOTPRINT

- **Mysuru:** Non residential training centre launched for underprivileged women- Aug 2024
- **Dharwad:** Tailoring Training Program added -Oct 2024.
- **Coimbatore:** Residential LRC launched -Jan 2025
- **Bhubaneswar:** Residential LRC launched -Feb 2025
- Partner-driven non-residential programs across **Gurgaon, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Tumkur, Khammam, and Virudhunagar** empowered 360 beneficiaries, with a strong focus on women.

**TOTAL
NUMBER OF
BENEFICIARIES
TRAINED:
11819**

Female
Trained:
6720

Male
Trained:
5099

Placement
Percentage
:70% +

PWD
Students:
1681

BPL
Students :
10138

RECOGNITION & INDUSTRY TRUST - KEY MILESTONES

- **Nov 2024 | Pune** - Samarthanam Pune Centre received a Recognition Award from Big Basket for outstanding contribution to disability inclusion.
- **Feb 2025 | Delhi** - Samarthanam Delhi Centre hosted a Flagship Employer Engagement Meet with 50+ top employers, strengthening partnerships for inclusive hiring beyond routine job fairs.
- **2024 | Bengaluru** - Mr. Vignesh (speech & hearing beneficiary) honoured with a Certificate of Excellence at the Raymond Retail Awards, showcasing inclusive workplace success stories.
- **Mar 2025 | Chennai (Loyola College)** - Samarthanam Chennai Centre received a Recognition Award from Shri R. Sudhan, IAS, State Commissioner for PwDs, during an International Conference on inclusion.
- **Mar 2025 | Chennai (Raj Bhavan)** - Samarthanam Chennai Centre was presented with the Award of Excellence by Hon'ble Governor Shri R.N. Ravi for impactful work in empowering persons with disabilities and economically disadvantaged communities.



Mr. Gokul (Hearing-impaired alumnus, employed at Godrej) honoured by **Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri M.K. Stalin** during the inauguration of Godrej's new unit, exemplifying Samarthanam's role in fostering corporate inclusion.

Dear Team Samarthanam Trust,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Samarthanam Trust for their remarkable journey of steadfast commitment to last-mile and differently abled communities. Through our collaborative Focused Development Project in skilling, their impactful interventions have significantly contributed to fostering sustainable livelihoods with dignity and purpose. Our partnership with Samarthanam has been deeply meaningful, and I sincerely appreciate their dedication and on-ground engagement. I wish the entire team continued success and hope they scale even greater milestones in the years ahead to create a larger impact.

Vikash (Assistant Vice President)
HDFC



CRICKET ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND IN INDIA (CABI)



EMPOWERING THROUGH CRICKET: HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25

CRICKET ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND IN INDIA (CABI)

Introduction

The year 2024–25 was a landmark period for the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), reflecting the incredible power of sport to foster inclusion, opportunity, and national pride. With strategic partnerships, grassroots initiatives, and elite-level competitions, CABI's impact spanned over 1,000 visually impaired cricketers across India.

These efforts not only elevated blind cricket to new heights but also drove meaningful change in education, livelihood, & social integration. The following highlights offer a glimpse into a year defined by purpose, perseverance, & progress.



IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind – 7th Edition



Spanning from November 2024 to February 2025, the 7th edition of the Nagesh Trophy reaffirmed its status as India's largest blind cricket tournament

Final Results : Winner: Andhra Pradesh | Runner-up: Delhi

- 28 teams participated, representing states, union territories, & Indian Railways.
- 52 league matches were held across 6 cities
- Top 8 teams : Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

This tournament champions inclusion and continues to offer life-changing opportunities including job prospects and national recognition.



Samarth by Hyundai | Cricket Development for the Visually Impaired

Samarth by Hyundai, in collaboration with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, is empowering visually impaired men and women through cricket — nurturing talent, education, and confidence both on and off the field. This initiative transforms passion into possibility, proving that with inclusion and opportunity, every individual can shine.

- 50 players (25 men + 25 women from Tamil Nadu)
- 4 Quarterly Camps + educational scholarships of ₹10,000 each
- Bilateral Series vs. Sri Lanka (Delhi): India won 5-0

IndusInd Bank Men's India-Bangladesh Bilateral T20 Series for the Blind 2025

Held at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru (Feb 22-27, 2025), the international T20 series showcased India's dominance:

5 Matches Played Series

Result: India 4 - Bangladesh 1

Match Highlights:

Highest Individual Score: Sunil Ramesh – 96* off 46 balls

Player of the Match (Multiple Matches): Sunil Ramesh, Nakula Badanayak, Durga Rao

Award Winners Category wise:

B1: Praveen Sharma (India)

B2: Arif (Bangladesh)

B3: Durga Rao (India)

IndusInd Bank Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2025 – 5th Edition

Total Teams: 19 across 5 groups

New Entrants: Vidarbha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

Venue: Kochi

Winner: Madhya Pradesh (def. Karnataka by 4 runs)

Top Performers:

Player of the Series:

B1: Ravanni V (AP)

B2: Sunita Srathe (MP)

B3: Deepika TC (Karnataka)

Higher Education & Upskilling for 100 Visually Impaired Girls

Supported by NTT DATA

States: Karnataka & Tamil Nadu

Activities: Cricket camps, college/hostel fees, virtual upskilling

Outcome:

- 13 players represented in national-level events
- Tamil Nadu Women reached Quarterfinals
- Karnataka reached Finals

Distribution of Sports Equipment

Supported by Lake Chemicals

Sports Equipment for 304 Women Cricketers in 19 States

- Gear Provided: Shoes, dark glasses, shin guards
- States Covered: All major cricketing states including TN, MP, WB, UP, Delhi, AP, etc.

Diversity & Inclusion

Supported by Alethea

Communications

- 6 Karnataka women cricketers received monthly nutrition/fitness support
- Notable Outcome: Karnataka team became runners-up
- 4 players selected for India Top 29 coaching camp

Cricket for the Blind

Supported by PwC (Telangana)

- 50 visually impaired participants
- 8 out of 14 players in National Tournament from this group
- Support: Coaching, assistive tech, smartphones, education and upskilling

Training for Indian Women's World Cup Squad

Supported by Grexit Technologies (Hiver)

- 29 players selected for inaugural Women's T20 World Cup for the Blind
- Camp Dates: March 24-28, 2025 (Sai Krishnan Stadium)
- Training Included: Skills, life coaching, kit distribution

Community Sports Program

Supported by NIKE

- 500 children & youth
- Sports Covered: Cricket, volleyball, athletics, kabaddi, martial arts, etc.
- 15 medals at IBSA Nationals, 250 students in Manipal Marathon
- Men's Team beat Bangladesh 4-1 NIKE-supported camp

Conclusion

CABI's initiatives across 2024-25 reflect the transformative power of sport for inclusion, education, and empowerment. With over 1,000+ visually impaired athletes engaged, national and international exposure, and growing partnerships, blind cricket in India continues to break barriers and inspire a more inclusive society.

DEKH LE, INDIA - AN INSPIRING DOCUMENTARY THAT REDEFINES COURAGE AND VISION

During the financial year April 2024 – March 2025, a powerful and heartfelt documentary titled “Dekh Le, India” took shape — a cinematic tribute to the indomitable spirit of India’s Blind Women’s Cricket Team. Conceived and directed by Mr. Mukund Murthy and Ms. Shanti Mohan, the film draws deep inspiration from the transformative work of Dr. Mahantesh G.K. and the incredible journey of Cricket for the Blind in India.

Filming was undertaken through the year, capturing the team’s emotional and action-filled journey as they trained, travelled, and triumphed at the World Blind Games in the UK, where they clinched the Gold Medal against Australia. The draft screening was completed in March 2025, receiving overwhelming appreciation, with the official release slated for July 2025 for select audiences.

“Dekh Le, India” is more than a documentary — it is a movement of inspiration, celebrating women who, despite losing sight, never lost vision. It tells the story of young, visually challenged women from across India who overcame socio-economic hardships, language barriers, and personal struggles to stand tall as national champions. Through moments of laughter, tears, grit, and glory, the film shines a light on the power of self-belief, teamwork, and resilience.

Already making waves across circles of cinema and sports, Dekh Le, India embodies the essence of inclusive sports — proving that true vision lies not in sight, but in spirit.



DEKH LE
INDIA

SUNADHA



Sunadha- Key Highlights

Art & Culture Milestones

- Samarathanam Art Centre - the new home of SUNADHA was inaugurated on November 7, with playback singer Kunal Ganjawala as the celebrity performer
- Collaborations were undertaken with eminent artists such as Sri Nilimesh Chakraborty (Tabla) and Sri Satish Kolli (Harmonium)

Innovative Initiatives

- Bollywood Nights – a monthly tribute to legendary icons such as Mohammad Rafi and Lata Mangeshkar – was launched.
- Ek Bharat Hum, composed by Pt. Iman Das, celebrating unity in diversity, was presented at global stages including the Paralympics Fan Zone, PARIS and the UNICEF–UNESCO Conference on Handi-Capacit  which was attended by over 500 international delegates promoting health and disability inclusion.

Major Performances

- Performances were featured at IIT Madras Saarang 2025, VIT Cultural Fest, Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, & the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Kanteerava Indoor Stadium.
- Special shows were delivered for corporates including Atos, Dell Technologies, Zomato, GSK, and IndusInd Bank Nagesh Trophy.

Reach & Impact

- Over 150 performances were conducted across educational institutions, corporates, cultural festivals, and social events, engaging audiences in more than 10 cities, including Paris, and touching thousands through the transformative power of inclusive art.



BUILDING BRIDGES TO INCLUSION

INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONES



A Historic Leap for Inclusion
Samarthanam Art Centre
On November 7, 2024, Samarthanam unveiled Bengaluru's first fully accessible performing arts hub, a landmark for cultural inclusion.

State-of-the-art venue

- 330 plush theatre seats
- TW Audio Array sound
- Christie Laser Projection
- Advanced LED stage lighting
- Hybrid-ready technology to connect audience' world wide Purpose-built for concerts, screenings, and live recordings Setting anew stad where art embraces accessibility-ensuring every artist and audience member, regardless of ability, experiences the magic of performance without barriers

Samarthanam Art Centre is a vibrant, inclusive space where creativity meets empowerment. It provides children and youth with disabilities a platform to explore their artistic talents, express themselves freely, and build confidence through visual and performing arts. The centre also serves as a therapeutic hub, where art becomes a medium for healing and inclusion.

Through the Samarthanam Institute of Music & Performing Arts (affiliated with Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal University), therapy is integrated with structured learning, enabling individuals with disabilities to enhance motor skills, coordination, emotional balance, and self-confidence — while also pursuing Diplomas and Degrees in music and performing arts.

Each session in music, dance, drama, and visual arts nurtures cognitive and sensory development, fostering joy, social connection, and inclusion — transforming art into a force for education, awareness, and change.

HEALTH - IMPROVING HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES



Project and Beneficiaries

25 impactful projects

healthcare services extended to **4380** beneficiaries



**2986 MALE
BENEFICIARIES**



**1394 FEMALE
BENEFICIARIES**



**SURGICAL
INTERVENTIONS**

SUPPORTED: 2 CASES
providing life-enhancing
medical assistance.

CORPORATE & DONOR PARTNERSHIPS:

The success of these initiatives was made possible through collaborations with **25** corporate partners and donors, including leading organizations such as

Hyundai

Aramco

Intel

ANZ

Ocwen Financials

Medreich

SBI Flex Foundation

Komatsu

TE Connectivity

Success Story - Armoured By Hope

At 34, Vanitha's life changed drastically when a sudden medical emergency left her without most of her left hand. Living in a modest rented home in Ambedkar Nagar, Bengaluru, with her husband, a daily-wage tiles helper, and their young daughter, Vanitha's world once revolved around her family and household. But a blood clot in her hand led to an amputation at St. John's Hospital, leaving her physically and emotionally shattered.

When life seemed to come to a standstill, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled stepped forward to support her journey toward independence. Understanding her challenges, Samarthanam facilitated the provision of a prosthetic limb, enabling her to regain mobility and confidence. The organization also extended rehabilitation and counselling support, helping her adapt to her new reality and rebuild her self-reliance.

With renewed strength and hope, Vanitha is gradually regaining control of her daily life and her role as a mother and homemaker. Samarthanam's intervention not only restored her ability to perform everyday tasks but also reinstated her sense of dignity and belonging, turning a story of despair into one of resilience and empowerment.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Samarthanam Trust has dedicated 29 years to supporting differently-abled and underserved youth through education, skill training, and nutrition. The Vidya Prasad program provides nutritious mid-day meals to government school students in Bangalore, prepared in centralized kitchens using mechanized steam-heated boilers to ensure quality and efficiency. Children's well-being is a collective responsibility that extends beyond parents, especially amid poverty, illiteracy, poor health, and discrimination. By providing universal schooling and nutritious food, Samarthanam addresses these needs and protects children's rights.

This Year

- **7500 per month** meals served , enhancing nutritional status
- Expanded reach reduced malnutrition and encouraged social inclusion among students, improving attendance and focus.
- Added eggs, bananas, and sweet treats to the menu for better growth and health.
- Volunteers actively participated in cooking and serving, supporting events like blind cricket tournaments and walkathons
- Key events included serving food at Kanteerava Stadium for World Disabled Day and providing meals at Samarthanam's anniversary celebrations.



SAMARTHANAM PARISARA

Environmental Impact Snapshot

Waste Management

11,365+



tonnes of material recovered
or prevented from landfills

16,065+



tonnes of material sent for
responsible processing

Tree Plantation (Pan India)

(from FY 2021–Present)

54,000+

Saplings planted



Water Conservation

Rainwater Harvesting
Systems in



27 Govt schools

Urban Outreach

39

BBMP Wards Covered



75,588 & 12,631

households shops

sensitised on waste
management practices.

110

Black spots
beautified to
enhance urban aesthetics.



Community Engagement

Awareness amplified
3.12 million
people
reached



9000+

Students sensitised



6,500+

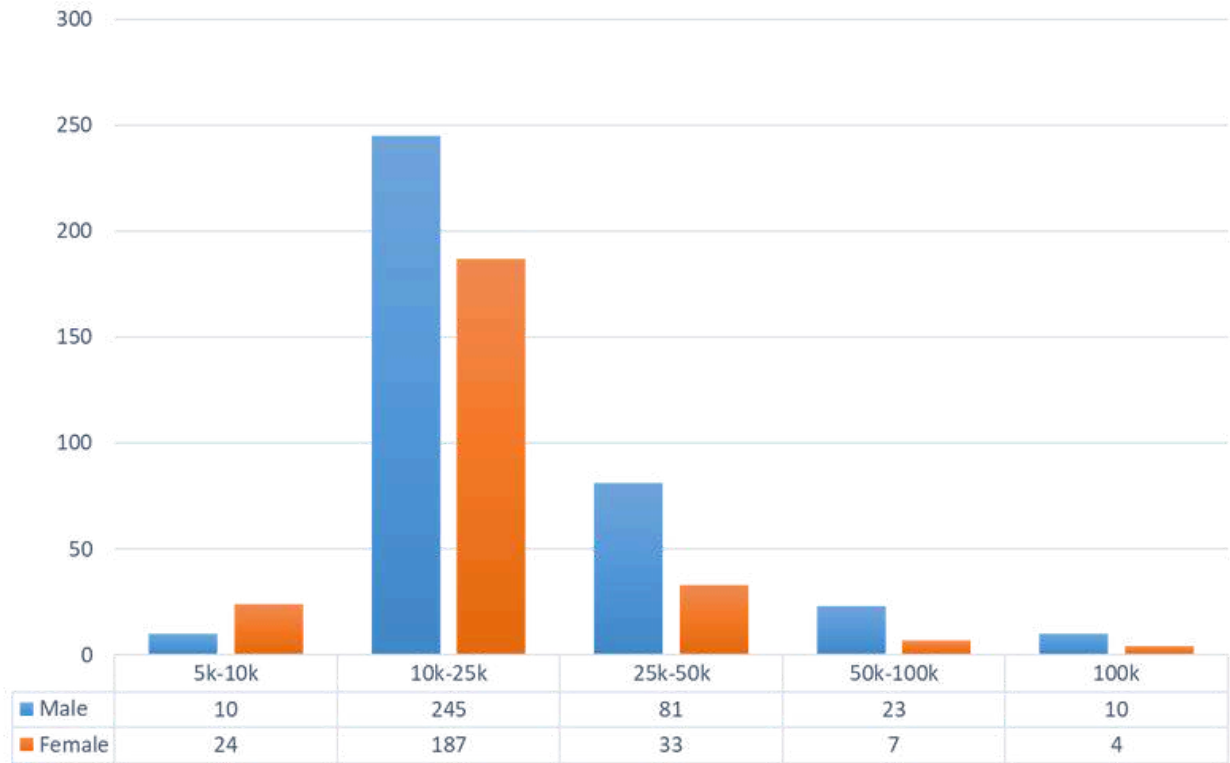
Waste handlers
supported



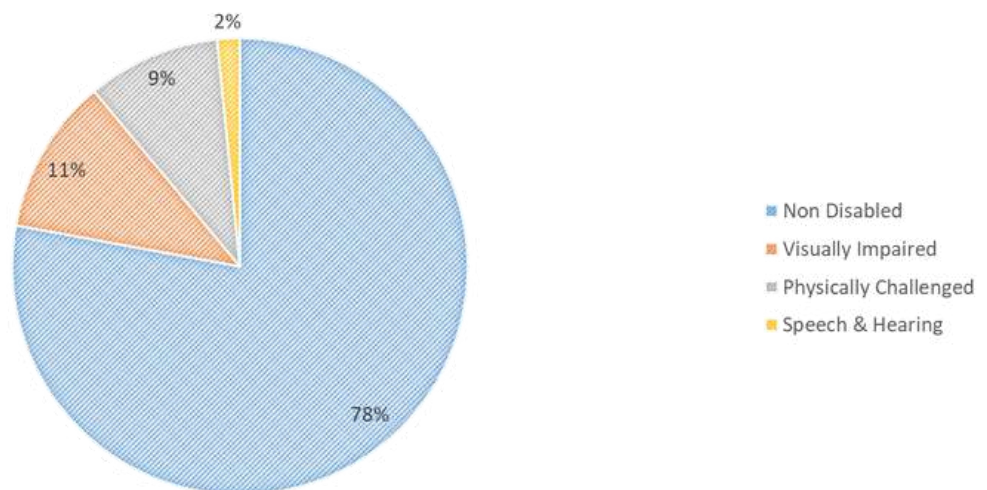


HUMAN RESOURCE

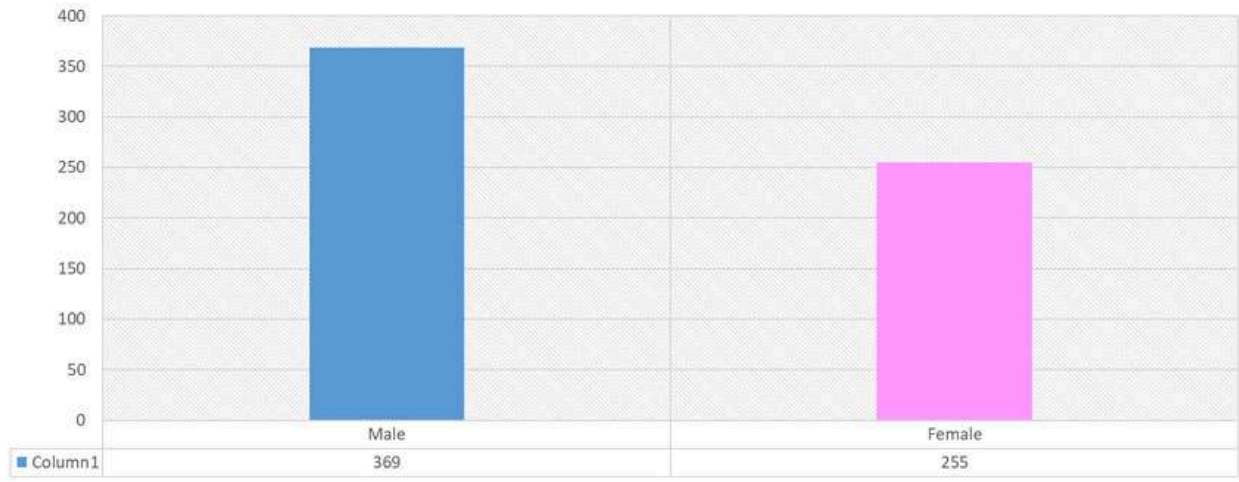
CATEGORIZATION OF STAFF BASED ON SALARY



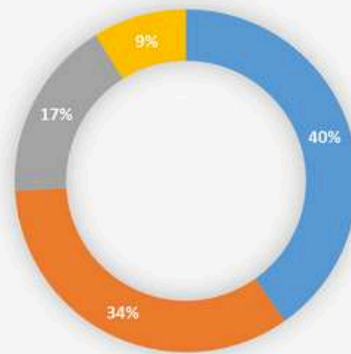
CATEGORIZATION OF STAFF BASED ON DISABILITY



CATEGORIZATION OF STAFF BASED ON GENDER

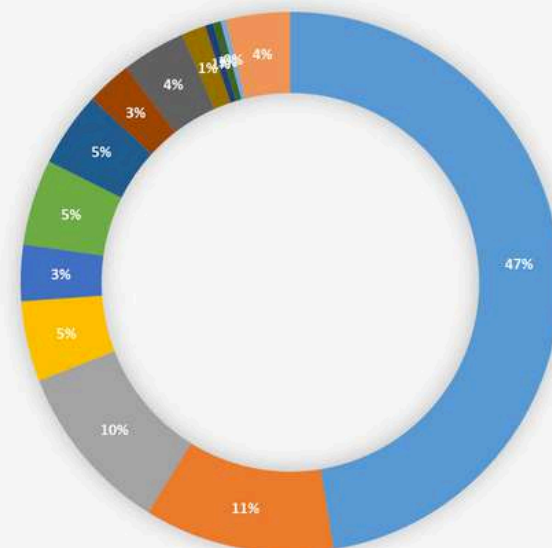


Overall Age Mix



■ 18-30 Years ■ 31-40 Years ■ 41-50 Years ■ 51-58 Years

Overall Tenure Mix



■ Upto 1 Year ■ 1-2 Years ■ 2-3 Years ■ 3-4 Years ■ 4-5 Years ■ 5-6 Years ■ 6-7 Years
 ■ 7-8 Years ■ 8-9 Years ■ 9-10 Years ■ 10-11 Years ■ 11-12 Years ■ 12-13 Years ■ 13+ Years

FUNDRAISING

Samarthanam's Fundraising Division remains the driving force behind its growth and sustainability. Beyond mobilizing resources, the team fosters awareness, strengthens partnerships, and builds collective commitment towards inclusion.

The division's strategic focus on nurturing strong relationships and tapping new geographies like Bhubaneswar and Gurugram has broadened Samarthanam's supporter base, ensuring continuity and scale. These contributions directly empower persons with disabilities and underserved communities, reinforcing Samarthanam's mission of building an inclusive society.

In 2024-25, their efforts secured vital support from corporates, government bodies, and individuals, enabling the expansion of Skilling Centres, Smart Classrooms, Tinker Labs, and Science Centres. Flagship initiatives such as the Walkathon, blind cricket tournaments, coaching camps, job fairs, and international engagements like CABI team's inspiring visit across 10 U.S. cities attracted wide participation and strengthened donor trust.



SUPPORT SYSTEM

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications team has been at the heart of shaping and sharing Samarthanam's story this year. By weaving together inspiring narratives, compelling campaigns, and timely media outreach, the team ensured that the vision of inclusion resonated with communities across India and beyond.

From professional photography that captured the spirit of our initiatives, to dynamic social media engagement that reached global audiences, Communications amplified every milestone with impact. Print and digital publications, press coverage, and thoughtfully designed branding collaterals in multiple cities strengthened visibility and reinforced Samarthanam's identity.

Through powerful storytelling, creative donor engagement materials, and a strong media presence, the team built lasting connections of trust with stakeholders, partners, and supporters. Their efforts have positioned Samarthanam as a credible voice for disability inclusion and a catalyst for change.

IT DEPARTMENT

With bases in Bengaluru, Dharwad, and Guntur, the IT Department drives Samarthanam's technology backbone across India.

Expanding Footprint:
Supporting 10+ centers nationwide, with new operations in Delhi, Gurugram, and Bhopal on the horizon.

Strong Infrastructure:
Overseeing 1,000+ IT assets including desktops, laptops, servers, and cloud systems.

Comprehensive Services:
Managing procurement, maintenance, installation, and configuration of devices and platforms-ranging from printers and scanners to CCTV, AV systems, cloud services, Google Workspace, and Microsoft Teams.

Efficient Operations:
Bengaluru functions as the command hub, while Dharwad and Guntur strengthen regional delivery. By combining scale with efficiency, the IT Department ensures seamless connectivity, security, and operational excellence, empowering Samarthanam's initiatives nationwide.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Transport Department continues to play a vital role in supporting Samarthanam's diverse initiatives by ensuring safe and reliable mobility across education, health, sports, cultural, and administrative activities. Through new additions and optimized utilization, it has strengthened mobility support across seven key locations in India, directly contributing to education, healthcare, and community outreach.

Total Vehicles Managed: 35
Rental Vehicles : Arranged as required for office use, sports events, health programs, and cultural activities. New Additions: A 32-seater bus (HSR), 42-seater buses (Belgaum & Dharwad), and a Maruti Eeco (HSR Hostel).

Vehicle deployment includes 7 school buses, 5 healthcare support vans, 4 Parisara trucks, 4 midday meal vans, 2 daycare vans, 2 mobilization vans, 3 electric autos, and other utility vehicles across Bangalore, Mysore, Dharwad, Belgaum, Kodikonda, Guntur, and Chennai.

OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT

Global Advocacy | Sports Diplomacy | Cultural Exchange

In 2024–25, Samarthanam's Overseas Department amplified its international presence across 10 U.S. cities and 4 countries, driving inclusion through sports, culture, and collaboration.

The Indian Blind Cricket Team's U.S. Tour engaged 7,500+ people and built 50+ partnerships, while Sunadha's France Tour captivated 1,200+ audiences at UNESCO, Olympic Fan Zone, and Juvisy-sur-Orge. Global advocacy strengthened calls for blind cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Paralympics.

Alliances with the UN, U.S. Consulate, Australian Consulate, and Sri Lanka High Commission reinforced diplomatic engagement. Collaborations with 6+ universities advanced research in visual impairment and inclusion, supported by international volunteers and a CAD 500 grant.

Partnerships with Nova Nordisk, Microsoft, Oracle, HCL Tech, and IDRF empowered education, accessibility, and global awareness — reflecting Samarthanam's growing global footprint and influence.

Key Numbers at a Glance

- 10 U.S. cities covered in Blind Cricket Tour
- 50+ partnerships established globally
- 1,200+ audience at Sunadha France performances
- 3,000+ delegates engaged at NFB USA Convention
- 12 international interns/volunteers hosted
- 6+ universities collaborated with 4 major consulates/embassies engaged



“



**Australian Consulate-General
Bengaluru**

Australia is committed to gender and disability inclusion, both at home and through our foreign policy and international partnerships. I commend Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled for their outstanding commitment to empowerment and equal opportunity for all. The Australian Government has been proud to support Samarthanam’s ‘Training in Blind Cricket’ initiative in Karnataka and Telangana. These important programs focused on coaching and skill building for visually impaired girls and women in a sport celebrated widely by both Australia and India. As both countries continue to deepen our cooperation in sport, community initiatives like this are a testament of inclusive development, amplification of diverse voices, and the strengthening of our bilateral ties.



Hilary McGeachy

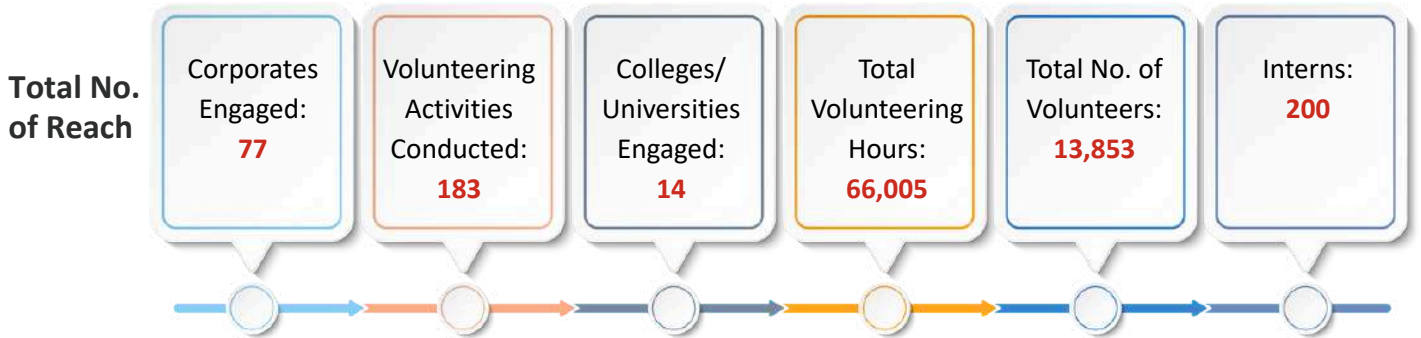
*Consul General, Australian
Consulate-General, Bengaluru*

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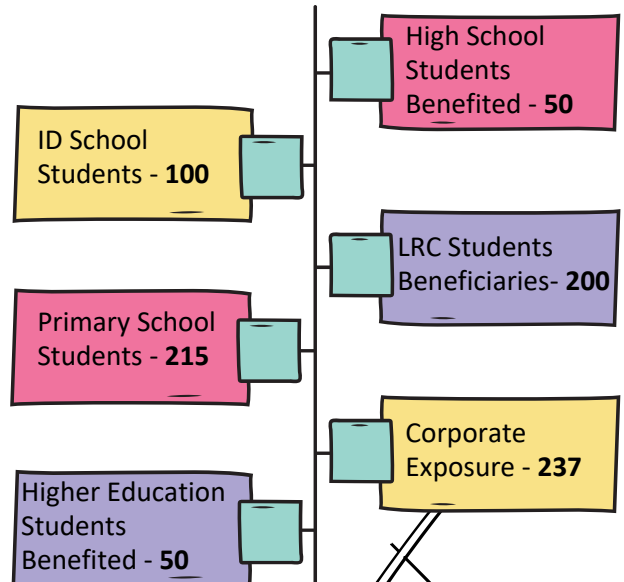


VOLUNTEERING



Programme Highlights

- Audiobook Recording (Pan India): **4,300 volunteers**
- Braille It-Up Activity (Pan India): **769 volunteers**
- Sign Language Workshops (Pan India): **1,000 volunteers**
- Tree Plantation (Pan India): **370 volunteers**
- Wall Painting (Bangalore & Chennai): **759 volunteers**
- Cook-a-Meal Activity (Bangalore): **348 volunteers**
- Friendly Blind Cricket Matches (Pan India): **310 volunteers**
- LRC Training Activities (Pan India): **4,649 volunteers**



INFRASTRUCTURE

Regional Projects – Spaces That Empower

Dharwad: Accessible school block under construction

Kodikonda: 100-bed girls' dormitory completed

Mysuru: New campus development underway

Digital Library – Knowledge Without Barriers

The Digital Library remains a cornerstone of accessible education, serving individuals with visual & print disabilities by providing educational and recreational resources in multiple inclusive formats. Our mission is simple yet powerful: equal access to knowledge and independent learning for all.

Key Achievements at a Glance



Braille Books Available
26,151



Pages Scanned
734,544



Audio Books Accessible
30,271



Regular Library Books
47,260 listed



Shri Adarsha Shastriji, Founder of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Foundation & grandson of the late Hon'ble Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, shares his valued feedback



OUR SUPPORTERS

- Standard Chartered Bank
- Oracle
- General Insurance Corporation of India
- FIS
- Morgan Stanley
- IndusInd Bank Limited
- DXC Technology India Private Limited
- BNP Paribas India
- HDFC Bank Limited
- Atos Syntel Prayas Foundation
- TE Connectivity Services India Private Limited
- Barclays Global Service Centre Private Limited
- Hyundai Motor India Foundation
- State Street Corporate Services Mumbai Private Limited
- Intel Technology India Private Limited
- Qualcomm India Private Limited
- Lowes Services India Private Limited
- Micro Focus Software Solutions India Private Limited
- OTIS
- TIAA Global Capabilities Private Limited
- HID India Private Limited
- Merck Life Science Private Limited
- Uk Online Giving Foundation



FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

RECEIPTS

PARTICULARS	2024-25		2023-24	
	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage
Opening Balance	1320.53	10.82	707.97	6.25
Earned/Self generated income	118.23	0.97	91.45	0.81
Donations from Indian Sources (General)	713.05	5.84	761.20	6.72
C.S.R & Specific Donations	7,261.32	59.49	6,427.57	56.72
Government Grants	277.90	2.28	228.37	2.02
Corpus fund	-	-	-	-
Donations from International Sources	2,188.55	17.93	2,655.75	23.44
Loans/payables	58.34	0.48	107.84	0.95
Deposits & Advances	264.19	2.16	235.16	2.08
Other Receipts	3.00	0.02	117.07	1.03
TOTAL	12,205.11	100.00	11332.38	100.00

PAYMENT

PARTICULARS	2024-25		2023-24	
	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage
Capital items/ assets	1,444.82	11.84	920.99	8.13
Programme Staff Salaries, benefits, Consultants Fees.	3,140.52	25.73	1,799.23	15.88
Programme	5,552.18	45.49	6,219.60	54.88
Office Support/Admin	711.47	5.83	483.49	4.27
Others	-	-	5.25	0.05
Deposits & Advances	235.59	1.93	302.73	2.67
Loans/Payables	187.06	1.53	280.55	2.48
Closing Cash and Bank Balance	933.47	7.65	1,320.54	11.65
TOTAL	12,205.11	100.00	11332.38	100.00



INCOME

PARTICULARS	2024-25		2023-24	
	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage
Earned/Sell generated income	126.17	1.19	103.15	1.01
Donations from Indian Sources (General)	713.05	6.75	761.20	7.48
C.S.R & Specific Donations	7,261.67	68.72	6,427.56	63.13
Government Grants	277.90	2.63	228.36	2.24
Donations from International Sources	2,188.55	20.71	2,655.75	26.08
Other Income	-	-	5.21	0.05
General fund account	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10,567.34	100.00	10181.23	100.00

EXPENDITURE

PARTICULARS	2024-25		2023-24	
	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage
Programme Staff Salaries,benefits,Consultants Fees.	3,140.52	29.72	1,799.23	17.67
Programme	5,552.18	52.54	6,219.60	61.09
OfficeSupport/Admin	711.46	6.73	483.49	4.75
Total Expenditure	9,404.16	88.99	8,502.32	83.51
Depreciation	238.92	2.26	233.78	2.30
Excess of Income over expenditure	924.26	8.75	1,445.13	14.19
TOTAL	10,567.34	100.00	10,181.23	100.00

ASSETS

PARTICULARS	2024-25		2023-24	
	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage
Fixed Assets	7212.58	82.16	6009.69	75.48
Deposits & Advances	459.09	5.23	460.4	5.78
Receivables	173.74	1.98	171.45	2.15
Cash and Bank Balances	933.48	10.63	1320.53	16.59
TOTAL	8778.89	100.00	7962.07	100.00

LIABILITIES

PARTICULARS	2024-25		2023-24	
	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Percentage
Capital Fund (unrestrictedfund)	6,838.77	77.90	5,393.63	67.74
Corpus and endowment fund(s)	44.68	0.51	44.68	0.56
Building Fund	576.31	6.56	576.31	7.24
Payables	357.74	4.08	465.18	5.84
Reserve Fund	37.14	0.42	37.14	0.47
Excess of Income overexpenditure	924.25	10.53	1,445.13	18.15
TOTAL	8,778.89	100.00	7,962.07	100.00

Samarthanam Trust hosts third national conclave on assistive technology

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled held its third national conclave on assistive technology on Wednesday, showcasing innovative start-ups and fostering discussions on the evolving role of assistive technology (AT).



However, AI also poses risks of discrimination against differently abled individuals and raises ecological concerns. Sustainable AI development is crucial.

Samarthanam Trust's Head of Operations, Shivram Deshpande, shared a personal perspective, stating that AI, including tools like ChatGPT, has enhanced his skills.

not only driving new assistive products, but also enhancing existing ones, improving the accessibility of apps and websites.

"While concerns about job loss exist, for people with disabilities, AI is a gift—if made accessible," he added.

The event also marked the soft launch of the Grant Greenius Portal, an AI-powered search engine that helps start-ups identify relevant funding opportunities through a unique matching algorithm.

Samarthanam's Assistive Technology Accelerator (ATA) Labs also recognised outstanding AT start-ups with awards, celebrating their contributions to innovation and accessibility.

One of the key panels—Responsible AI for Accessibility and Inclusion—explored the potential of AI in assistive solutions.

Moderating the panel, Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovator and I-Stem co-founder Karik Sawhey engaged industry leaders in a discussion on AI's role in accessibility.

Ankit Jindal, Marketing Special Advisor at NTT Data's ACCESS Employee Resource Group, highlighted how AI is

Kishor Kumar Thangavelu, CSR Lead at Micromsoft, emphasised that AI will become a fundamental necessity, much like electricity, and must be accessible to all, including marginalised communities.

K Sriram, Advisor at Continuum Engine, noted AI's cost-saving benefits, stating, "AI has reduced costs for our clients by 50%, making solutions cheaper and faster compared to manual methods.

Minister backs Samarthanam's higher education initiative

Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, graced the SCB-Higher Education Impact Conclave at Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled as chief guest on Wednesday. During the event, a white paper outlining Samarthanam's achievements and future requirements in higher education for students with disabilities was presented to him.



and sports facilities for persons with disabilities. He also applauded Standard Chartered Bank's (SCB) support in enabling Samarthanam to impact 3,500 students with disabilities, calling it a significant milestone.

completion of the Promoting Higher Education for Students with Disabilities in India initiative. This transformative program, aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8, has made remarkable strides in eliminating barriers to education and driving sustainable economic growth for students with disabilities.

Mr. Pinaki, AVP Sustainability at Standard Chartered Global Business Services, represented SCB and emphasized the bank's commitment to fostering inclusive education.

The initiative has empowered 3,500 students with disabilities by ensuring their enrollment, retention, and academic success across 725 colleges and 95 universities in 10 states.

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank, proudly announces the successful

ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಶ್ರಮ

ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸಮಾನ ಅವಕಾಶ: ಮಹಾಂತೇಶ | ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 28ನೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವ

• ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಲಿತಾ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಅವರು ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸನ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 28ನೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸಂತೋಷಪಟ್ಟು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 28ನೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸಂತೋಷಪಟ್ಟು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು.



ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಲಿತಾ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಅವರು ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸನ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು.

BENGALURU Edition

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

32 ಸಾವಿರ ಚರದ ಅಡಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಕಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಶ್ರಮದಿಂದ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ 'ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಕಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ' ಗಾಯನ ಕುಸಾರ್ ಗಾಂಧೀನಗರ, ವಿನಾಯಕ ಪುರವಾಸಿ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿದರು.



ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಿದರು.

'ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಕಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ವೈಶಿಷ್ಟ್ಯ'

'ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಕಲಾವಿದರ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಗೋಳಿಸಲಾದ ಸ್ಥಳವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ವಿಕಲತೆ, ಲಿಂಗತನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಕೊನೆಯ ಕಾಲದ ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರ ಕಂಡಾಟವನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿದೆ.'

ಸಮರ್ಥನಂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 28ನೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸಂತೋಷಪಟ್ಟು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು.

'ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಕಲಾವಿದರ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಗೋಳಿಸಲಾದ ಸ್ಥಳವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ವಿಕಲತೆ, ಲಿಂಗತನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಕೊನೆಯ ಕಾಲದ ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರ ಕಂಡಾಟವನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿದೆ.'

XPRESS FOCUS

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK EMPOWERS HIGHER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), in partnership with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, has transformed higher education opportunities for 3,500 students with disabilities across 10 states. Through its sustained commitment, SCB has played a pivotal role in eliminating barriers, fostering accessibility, and driving economic empowerment. This initiative has supported 1,350 visually impaired students (39%) and 1,860 girls with disabilities (53%), ensuring their enrollment, retention, and academic success across 725 colleges and 95 universities. SCB's funding has facilitated digital labs, assistive technologies, accessible infrastructure, and competitive exam coaching, paving the way for students to pursue PhDs, MBBS, MBA, and engineering degrees. At the SCB-Higher Education Impact Conclave hosted by Samarthanam, a white paper detailing the organisation's achievements and future requirements in higher education for students with disabilities was presented to Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka. Acknowledging Samarthanam's impact, Dr. Sudhakar assured his support and promised to connect the initiative with key bureaucrats to explore further opportunities, including the allotment of land to establish an inclusive global university and sports facilities for persons with disabilities. Karuna Bhatia, Head - Sustainability, SCB & GBS India, stated: "At Standard Chartered, we believe education transforms lives. Our collaboration with Samarthanam ensures that students with disabilities have the resources and opportunities to excel. Together, we are breaking barriers and building an inclusive future."

4c | 13 MAY 2025 | ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಿಟಿ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪ್ರೆಸ್ | ಹರಿಣಗಳ ಎರಡು ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಜಯ | ಮುಧೇನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ | 5 ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳ ಸರಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1-0 ಮುನ್ನಡೆ | ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 28ನೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸಂತೋಷಪಟ್ಟು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮರ್ಥನಂನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಿದರು.

XPRESSFOCUS

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled and BNP Paribas India Inaugurate State-of-the-Art Accessible Art Centre



Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled recently inaugurated the Samarthanam Art Centre, a pioneering, fully accessible facility designed to elevate and celebrate the artistic talents of individuals with disabilities. Covering over 32,000 square feet, this state-of-the-art centre is equipped with ramps, specialised lifts, and adaptable seating, creating an inclusive environment for audiences and performers alike. Purpose-built spaces for training, therapy, and creative development provide a supportive setting for artists to refine their skills, and also houses the Samarthanam Institute of Music & Performing Arts (SIMPA). With a 337-seat acoustic auditorium, advanced stage lighting, a cyclorama screen, and universally accessible design, the Samarthanam Art Centre stands as a landmark for talent cultivation and dynamic performances by artists with disabilities from across India. Located in HSR Layout, Bengaluru, the grand opening was enhanced by the presence of celebrity playback singer Kunal Ganjawala.



of equal opportunities, diversity and human rights. Today, there is a growing recognition of the need for genuine representation of disability inclusion and art has the potential to lead the way in this journey as it transcends all boundaries. Our partnership with Samarthanam is an enabler for Art Inclusion and dedicated spaces like Samarthanam Art centre fosters holistic development of underprivileged and underserved communities through creative endeavours.

The inauguration was graced by Sanjay Singh, CEO and Head of Territory at BNP Paribas India, who was the Chief Guest. Joined by representatives from GIC, JLL India, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and NTT Data, the event was presided over by Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Founder and Managing Trustee of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

Sanjay Singh remarked, "At BNP Paribas, we have embedded inclusion not only in financial solutions but across multiple fronts such as financing for the social economy or promotion

Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar expressed his gratitude and excitement: "The Samarthanam Art Centre is a dream realised—a space where creativity knows no boundaries and talent flourishes in a fully accessible, inclusive environment. This centre not only supports artists with disabilities but also challenges the world's perception of their capabilities." He extended special thanks to BNP Paribas and other corporate partners for their invaluable support in making this vision a reality.

US woman seeks to widen boundaries of blind cricket

Pearl Dsouza
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Visually challenged Abey Finklea, a 27-year-old from Wisconsin, US, never imagined she would discover her passion in distant India. After training for blind cricket — which she had no idea about till last year — in namma Bengaluru, Abey is now planning to make the game popular among visually challenged women back home.

Abey's tryst with cricket began at National Federation of the Blind convention in Florida in July 2024. It was there that she encountered Samarthanam Trust, an Indian organisation promoting blind cricket and headquartered in Bengaluru. "I had never even heard of cricket till then," she said. "But after meeting Mahantesh (founder of the trust), I got a chance to play and it was exhilarating."

Mahantesh was in the US promoting the sport with an all-male team, going from university to university. Impressed by Abey's enthusiasm, he invited her to Bengaluru to train and eventually start a team back home.

The excitement of playing a team sport, something she never thought possible, was life-changing. "Growing up in small-town Wisconsin, I had no access to blind sports. Playing cricket has been empowering. It's



SHE'S A SWEEPER!
Abey Finklea, 21, is blind in one eye & has blurred vision in the other, but this hasn't stopped her from embracing challenges

more than just a game — it's about community and support, having each other's back when you're low," she said.

A degenerative condition left Abey blind in one eye and with blurred vision in the other, but it hasn't stopped her from embracing challenges. Arriving in Bengaluru on Oct 11 with her brother, Abey joined a training camp with 26 other girls in her team. "Everyone here has been very welcoming. I don't speak the local language, but they've been teaching me and I've been learning a lot," she shared. Her training runs until Nov 7, after which she plans to return to the US and "create a community of blind women who will play cricket to feel empowered and supported, have camaraderie, no matter their abilities".

Before arriving in India, Abey was fascinated by Asia but didn't know what to expect here. "My interactions with Indians were super po-

sitive, so I was really excited to come here. I'm learning a lot, not just about the game but about the culture too."

Trouble on the streets

Abey does admit that navigating the streets of India has been a challenge compared to her life in Wisconsin. "The streets here are very different; there aren't always clear places to walk, and cars are everywhere. Back home, the sidewalks are typically easy to navigate, but here it's a bit challenging for a blind person. But we have had help here," she said.

Back in the US, Abey plans to continue pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education, driven by her passion for teaching. "I always wanted to be a teacher and work with young children," she said. She taught primary school students at the age of 17 and also taught children with autism how to ride horses when she was 14.



समर्थन ट्रस्ट फॉर डिसेबल्ड भोपाल ने बार्कलेज के सहयोग से

सरकारी आईटीआई में दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए रोजगार मेला का आयोजन

भोपाल प्रदा। समर्थन ट्रस्ट फॉर थे डिसेबल्ड भोपाल ने बार्कलेज के सहयोग से सरकारी आईटीआई में दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए रोजगार मेला का आयोजन किया। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत मुख्य अतिथि श्री उमाशंका गुप्ता जी (पूर्व ग्रह मंत्री), श्री अंकुर मिश्रा (एडोएम), श्री रवि श्रीवास्तव (एसडीएम), श्री आर.के.सिंह (संयुक्त निदेशक सामाजिक न्याय), श्रीकांत गोर्खी (आईटीआई प्रिंसिपल), श्री सतीश च (पैन इंडियन प्लेसमेंट) के साथ कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन हुआ इसके अलावा रोजगार मेला में आये विभिन्न कंपनी वाले तथा 411 दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों ने रोजगार मेला में पूरे मध्य प्रदेश से साक्षात्कार में भाग लिया। हमें यह बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि

31 नियोजता विभिन्न नौकरी भूमिकाओं के साथ अपने संगठन में संभावित मानव संसाधन को नियुक्त करने के लिए आगे आए। 136 को शॉर्टलिस्ट किया गया। उम्मीदवारों को आईटी/बीपीओ/स्टिल सेक्टर आदि जैसे विभिन्न डोमेन में शॉर्टलिस्ट किया गया है। जीब फेयर ने विभिन्न ग्रामीण पृष्ठभूमि के विकलांग व्यक्तियों के लिए एक साझा मंच प्रदान किया है।

समर्थन ट्रस्ट से रोजगार के माध्यम से सशक्तिकरण में विश्वास करता है और हम अधिक नियोजताओं से उम्मीदवारों के इस प्रतिभाशाली पुल से नियुक्ति का अनुरोध करते हैं। संपूर्ण समर्थन परिवार चर्चित उम्मीदवारों को उनके भविष्य के लिए शुभकामनाएं देता है।

विज्ञान मंचों के माध्यम से दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों को रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने का प्रयास

मकड़ों के विज्ञान मंचों को आयोजन में शामिल करने का प्रयास किया गया है, मकड़ों के माध्यम से दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों को रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने का प्रयास किया गया है।

विज्ञान मंचों के माध्यम से दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों को रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने का प्रयास किया गया है।

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विज्ञान मंचों के माध्यम से दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों को रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने का प्रयास किया गया है।



TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

GOALS FOR 2025-26

Samarthanam aims to empower 1 million people with disabilities by 2030 through advocacy for inclusive workspaces, job opportunities, and accessibility across sectors.

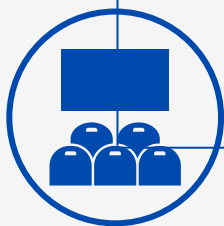


Education facilities will expand nationwide with Tinker Labs, Smart Classes, Mini Science Centres, and Digital education emphasizing STEM, while improving academics, teacher development, student well-being, inclusion, community engagement, and employability skills for children with disabilities.

CABI- Cricket Association for the Blind in India will focus on the 1st Women's World Cup- Cricket for the Blind 2025, aiming to elevate India's presence on the international stage, inspire global participation, foster cross-country collaborations, and promote blind cricket as a recognized sport worldwide.



Sunadha artists will grow through collaborations, training, community outreach, digital presence, innovative projects, and global recognition. The Samarthanam Sisters plan a US tour— Music of Inclusion Tour—and will support the USA Women's Blind Cricket Team



Parisara will expand waste management, corporate outreach, and awareness campaigns across 15 wards, plant 1 million saplings, implement 100 water conversation projects, beautify metro stations, black spots, and schools, uplift 3,000 waste handler families, and engage volunteers in environmental and community sustainability.



The Samarthanam Accessible Art Centre will host events to nurture young artists and houses SIMPA (Samarthanam Institute of Music & Performing Arts), with the goal of expanding as a musical university.



The Digital Library will expand to more cities, accelerating book recording with volunteer support.



The Fundraising Team will expand to multiple cities, drive innovative campaigns, digital initiatives, and CSR partnerships, strengthen impact reporting, and build strategic collaborations to secure sustainable long-term support.



LRC plans to empower 13,500 beneficiaries through IT/ITES training, tailoring courses, upskilling programs, and 50 job fairs fostering sustainable livelihoods and independence.



The Overseas Department will expand its international footprint through strategic partnerships and registrations, reflecting global inclusivity and empowerment.

ATA will integrate smart classrooms, digital literacy, and accessible content, develop new assistive technologies, host awareness events, foster global collaborations, and invest in R&D.



Samarthanam will launch operations in Canada and Singapore, collaborate with an African NGO, and explore partnerships with Afghanistan and Iran to promote blind cricket.

Swadhara will offer vocational courses to more women, fostering independence.



Volunteering goals for 2025–26 include engaging 1,000+ participants contributing 10,000+ hours in disability awareness, green initiatives, and community projects.



The Mid-Day Meal Program will expand to reduce malnutrition and serve more schools.

SAMARTHANAM'S PAN INDIA PRESENCE



All Donations to Samarthanam are 50% Tax
exempted under section 80G of Income tax Act



ONLINE PRESENCE



43514
FOLLOWERS



14398
FOLLOWERS



8390
SUBSCRIBERS



6670
SUBSCRIBERS



1850
SUBSCRIBERS

OUR OFFICES

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Samarthanam Helpline No. 080 68333999

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New Delhi - 110 068 | Ph: 011 49049515

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Bhopal Division

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Kodikonda Division

Survey No.579, Kodikonda Branch
Kodikonda, Check Post, Opp: HP Petrol Bunk-NH 14,
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Sri Sathya Sai (District) - 515601 | Ph: +91 6364867797

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Kurla Kamgar CHS LTD, Row House 15-D,
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Mumbai - 400024, Maharashtra | Ph: +91 6364867809

Gurugram Division

73/J-1 1st Floor Central Corridor
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Sector 83, Gurugram, Haryana - 122004.
Ph: +91 9480812126

Chennai Division

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Colony, Chitlapakkam, Tambaram, Chennai
Tamil Nadu - 600064, Land Mark: Varadharaja Theatre
Ph: +91 9840610316

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Belagavi Division

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Ph: +91 9480809598

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Plot No 22/A, Ward No 21, Vanasiri Nagar
Sattur, Near Radhakrishna School
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Bubaneswar Division

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