CABI conducts Selection Trials for the upcoming 5th ODI World Cup 2018

Samarthanam Walkathon 2017 supported by Allergan witnesses an extraordinary gathering!

Samarthanam honored with National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2017

CABI conducts Selection Trials for the upcoming 5th ODI World Cup 2018
Samarthanam at a glance

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

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

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

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

Samarthanam Reach

Statistics on Our Reach

EDUCATION
11000 kids educated since inception

LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE
9550 trained | 7100 placed

SUNADHA
100 artists | 3000 performances | 3 continents

SPORTS
touched >25000 visually impaired cricketers

PARISARA
2.4 lakh tonnes dry waste processed

WOW
300000 households covered

REHABILITATION
2567 women empowered since inception
From the FOUNDER’s desk

Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar
Founder Managing Trustee

Samarthanam closes year 2017 with overwhelming happiness and a true feeling of accomplishment. The National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities received from Government of India adds great boost to our mission and vision. I feel greatly honored and privileged to receive the prestigious award from Hon President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in presence of Hon Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot in a ceremony at New Delhi. Alongside, Samarthanam has been selected for AP State Award under the category, Best Institution working in the field of disabilities. The awards inspire us and add fuel to our efforts to do something more valuable and impactful to the society.

Samarthanam’s constant yearning to do its fair bit to the environment led us towards organizing Walkathon 2017. The event was a stage to promote the importance of a greener environment and urge people to adopt green practices. We wanted people to take a glance at the losing green cover of Bengaluru and take a step towards restoring it. I was amazed to witness the huge response on 9th December at Kittur Rani Chennamma Stadium where more than 10,000 people had gathered to pledge their support. I am grateful to the dignitaries for their valuable time and advice and also sponsors, partners, volunteers and media for their continuous support.

Only when we are positive on doing something right, we confidently take a step towards it. And only when we know that we would be supported, we complete the task. Samarthanam has been constantly supported and appreciated by people, corporate, Government and other organizations which drive us towards empowering the disabled fraternity. I convey my sincere gratitude for all the support that we have been receiving round the year and would dearly welcome new alliances in the direction of empowering people with disabilities.

Moving further, Samarthanam and CABI have a very enthusiastic game coming up in the New Year. The 5th ODI World Cup will be help in Dubai and Pakistan and I am glad that Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) is hosting the game. After a lot of hardwork and overcoming many difficulties, PBCC is organizing a wonderful game and I eagerly look forward to be a part of it. I wish all the teams participating in the championship the best.

We are going to start a new episode called 2018 and I would wish to thank all my friends, colleagues, followers, supporters, well-wishers and team Samarthanam for standing by me throughout the journey. I feel greatly obliged for your support and belief in Samarthanam.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and may the coming year be filled with happiness, prosperity, good health and present you with a wonderful future.

Thank you.

Mahantesh GK
Founder Managing Trustee
Samarthanam receives
National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2017

Samarthanam expresses great pleasure on receiving the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2017 awarded by the Government of India. Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam was felicitated by the Hon President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in presence of Hon Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot in a ceremony at New Delhi. Samarthanam is grateful to the Government for recognizing the services and honoring with the prestigious Award. And it would not have been possible without the continuous support from many people and organizations, who have been standing by us over the past two decades.

Samarthanam has also been selected for AP State Award under the category, Best Institution working in the field of disabilities. The organization has been working to empower people with disabilities with its diverse initiatives across the country. Samarthanam sets another milestone with the esteemed award and presents a stronger will to serve better. The organization is expanding and supporting people with disabilities and striving for the greater cause.

Samarthanam also takes great pride in Shekhar Naik, former Indian Blind Cricket team Captain, who received National Award for Best Sports Person. Shekhar has been nurtured and supported by Samarthanam through his blind cricket journey. His hardwork and dedication has put him on the success stage and today, he stands as a true inspiration for many people with disabilities.

The big game is coming! Selection trials completed for the 5th ODI World Cup 2018

As New Year approaches, Samarthanam has the 5th ODI World Cup for the Blind 2018 scheduled to be held in Dubai and Pakistan from 7th to 21st January 2018. The tournament is being hosted by Pakistan Blind Cricket Council after lot of hardwork and effort.

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled in association with Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Cricket Association for the Blind Maharashtra (CABM) organized the selection trials for the Indian team to represent India in the tournament. The selection trials were held from 13th to 15th November 2017 at Pune where the best 56 players took part. The players were divided into 4 teams and played Round Robin League to show their ability and performance to get into the Indian team. India is the defending champion in the last 4th ODI World Cup held at Cape Town, South Africa in December 2014.
Samarthanam organized Allergan Walkathon 2017
Raising awareness for a greener planet

Samarthanam believes in the making of a greener environment which can be presented to the next generations to live peacefully. With the theme, ‘Green Mission Clear Vision,’ Samarthanam organized the 13th Walkathon in Bengaluru on 9th December 2017 at Kittur Rani Chennamma Stadium, with support from Allergan. The walk aimed to raise awareness on environmental concerns and the need to strive for a greener planet.

Over 10,000 people that included corporate employees, NGOs, young and old, students, and the differently abled showed their support for the green change by joining the walk. Walkathon Souvenir was released at the hands of the guests with much admiration for the support garnered by the event. The Indian blind cricket team was also part of the Walkathon 2017.

The event was flagged off by Sridhar Ranganathan, Managing Director, Allergan, KT Rajan, Director, Allergan India, Swati Singh, Minister of State of Women Welfare, Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh in the presence of Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam trust for the Disabled and Saalumarada Thimmakka, environmentalist.

The launch was also presided by Guests of Honour, Nagaraju, BBMP Corporator Byrasandra Ward, Raj Rajkumar, Director, TE Connectivity, Manish R Asopa, Finance Director, Northern Operating Services and Soumya Reddy, Vice President, Indian Youth Congress, Bangalore city.

Celebrity and also an inspiring personality, Saalumaraada Thimmakka, who is an environmentalist, was also present at the event. Representing the Brand Ambassador, Upendra, his wife, Priyanka Upendra graced the event.

As the dignitaries gathered on stage and spoke on the green initiative and its importance, the crowd expressed their consent by applauding and cheering. Samarthanam successfully created awareness in the minds of able and disabled that “A Green Tomorrow” is a necessity. Samarthanam extends gratitude to our title sponsor - Allergan, and other sponsors, Northern Trust, Time Inc, TE Connectivity, Landmark, Yaskawa, GKN Aerospace, Intuit, and Himalaya, and partners - Vijayawari, Dhivyajay, Vyoma Aerospace, Sankara TV, Ayush TV, Ramaiah, Red FM, Aircel, KMF, Aerolex Motors Pvt Ltd.
WALKATHON 2017
A walk towards a greener planet!

Green Mission
Clear Vision
SAMARTHANAM Schools

Samarthanam Schools provide inclusive education to children from various backgrounds. Along with education, equal focus is laid on arts, sports and other developmental activities with huge contribution from volunteers. We believe education is the building block for every person and we make sure the foundation is strong and reliable for a well-built personality.

NEWS FROM SAMARTHANAM WORLD

Celebrations for the quarter

Samarthanam schools celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi, Lalbahadur Shastri Jayanthi, Kannada Rajyotsava, Children’s Day and Diwali this quarter. As part of Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at HSR Primary school, children from Primary school performed various cultural activities receiving much appreciation from audience. Children’s Day, being an important day for children, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fun at Primary school where children from Primary and ID school performed various activities during the program.

Workshops for students

- Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore in collaboration with Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA) conducted ‘SAMA,’ a music therapy workshop for individuals with special needs.
- ID School children attended the 8th Udaan Camp held at Jain University. The main focus of the workshop was personal and occupational development on a holistic perspective. Power Yoga, Art and Craft and a talk by Dr. Shwetha was also included in the program.
- N D Basavarajappa demonstrated clay modeling and waste material art which was attended by all the children from primary and ID school.
- Department of Empowerment of Differently abled and senior citizens, Bangalore Urban District organized art and drawing competitions, sports and march past, cultural programmes for all disabilities at Balabhavan and Kanteerava stadium. Primary School children took active participation in all the events.
- Primary and ID School children participated in the World Disabled Day program at Freedom Park organized by Department of Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior citizens.
- Inclusive Dance Festival, Tandav conducted a work shop, Samhaara Tandav, for people with and without disability where 31 children from Primary school and 11 children from ID School took part in the program.
• A combined workshop was organized for PADA parents and Samarthanam ID school parents regarding sexuality for adolescents with disabilities. Dr Shoiba, a Clinical Psychologist from Enfold conducted the workshop.

Visits and interactions
Visits and interactions by various other school children, volunteers and executives from corporate aid Samarthanam children socialize and improve on their communication skills. This quarter, 100 children from Christ Academy visited Primary school as a part of their educational program. Also students from Bangalore public school visited Primary and ID school as a part of their academic activity. Around 50 children from Shanthinikethana School visited ID School and interacted with the children as a part of their educational program. In a separate visit, senior officials from SAP and NASSCOM visited ID School and interacted with the children.

Training and Workshop for teachers/volunteers
• Primary and ID School teachers participated in the Teacher Enrichment Program and gathered enhanced methods of teaching children.
• Two trainers from ID School conducted a training program for the employees of VM Ware where they trained them to make roses and flower vases. In a separate program, three trainers from ID School imparted training for volunteers from Thomson Reuters where they were taught to prepare tea-coasters and dust-bin covers.
• The staff of ID School participated in a session conducted by Dr. Shekhar Sheshadri, HOD, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS on the topic “Integrating Identity, Rights and Life skills in the context of Education of the Disabled.”
• Geetha K, Principal of ID School, attended an RCI approved CRE workshop organized by FAME India on ‘The stages of play and its importance in stimulating development in children with developmental delay.’
• Geetha.K and Aruna S.K, staff from ID School attended a video conference on National Trust Program organized by the Dept. of Woman and Child Welfare.
Volunteering Activities at Samarthanam Schools
Volunteering is an essential element in Samarthanam schools and we are greatly pleased at the volunteer’s interest, enthusiasm and energy involved in teaching and engaging the children through various activities organized often.

- Children of Grade 7 had an exposure visit to SAP as a part of their educational program where SAP organized fun games for the children who greatly enjoyed the visit.
- Marriott & Fairfield organized art and craft activities for the children of primary school where 15 children participated in the program and beautifully painted the diyas.
- Around 20 children from ID and Primary school participated in the Diwali celebrations organized at Manthri Square and performed activities like singing and dancing.
- Specialists from Johnson & Johnson scheduled activities related to Diwali with primary school children.
- Volunteers from GKN Aerospace conducted activities with 4th and 5th grade students of Primary school.
- Specialists from Banjara Academy organized a volunteering activity with the ID School children and taught them to make diyas using clay.
- VM Ware organized volunteering activity for ID School children and conducted activities like drawing and games.
- Children from ID school participated in the Special Olympics Meeting.
- Children from Primary and ID school participated in Children’s Day Carnival conducted by Dream India at Dean University and bagged many prizes.
- 20 volunteers from a corporate company conducted educational activities for students from 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 standards.
- Children from Primary school and ID school participated in Fund a child in India’s Annual Event and took part in “Draw your Dreams 2017” at Indian Social Institute winning many prizes.
- SLK celebrated Children’s Day with Primary and ID school children by organizing magic show.
- Flipkart celebrated Children’s Day with 5th, 6th and 7th grade children with activities like yoga and drawing.
Activities by Fidelity Cares team

• Radio Indigo celebrated Unibic Day of Happiness with 5th, 6th and 7th grade students with fun activities along with singing and dancing.
• A corporate celebrated its Global Impact Day with Samarthanam where the volunteers interacted with all the children, conducted activities like yoga and drawing competition and distributed prizes.
• Volunteers from Standard Chartered Bank conducted educational activities with primary school children and also organized drawing competition with prize distribution.
• In a Health Camp organized by a corporate firm for Primary school children, 119 children were assessed for ENT and General Health.
• ID school children participated in the activities conducted by Fidelity Cares Team.
• Seva in Action organized an inter-school quiz competition, ‘The Quizabled 2017 Knowledge for all’ exclusively for children with disabilities at their office. Children from Primary and ID school took active participation in the event.
• 40 children from Primary school participated in children’s Day celebrations organized at Brillio by taking part in various activities and performances at their premises.
• Experts from Gain Sight conducted drawing competition for primary school children.
• Volunteers from a corporate conducted academic activities for Primary school children.
• Children from 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade participated in the Christmas celebrations at Greenwood High School where the students were delighted to share greetings and presents with the children of Samarthanam.
• A sports meet has been organized for the Intellectually Disabled children by the experts from Tata Communication Service Ltd followed by prize distribution.
• Volunteers from a corporate distributed gifts to Primary and ID School children celebrating Christmas at the school premises.

HIGHER EDUCATION

• ELCIA Trust and Nayana Jyothi Trust had organized a “blind-folded” walk in which around 20 students participated and Project Vision had organized a separate blind walk on “World Sight Day” in Dharwad and about 30 students from Dharwad and Gadag participated in it.
• A beneficiary program was organized for higher education along with LRC convocation and the Mayor of Mumbai Mr. Vishwanath P. Mahadeshwar was invited to be the Chief Guest for the program held at Hindustani Prachar Sabha, Mumbai.
Skilling

In an effort towards inspiring the disabled community come forward and garner livelihood skills for the building of a better independent life, Samarthanam skilling centres offer training and allied services. This quarter Samarthanam continued to explore new opportunities and successfully initiated training programmes supported by many corporate throughout India.

SKILLING CENTRE BANGALORE

- Bangalore LRC initiated 2 new projects at Kanakapura and Kolar expanding its reach and assisting more people with disabilities.
- Students were accompanied on an exposure visit to Corporate named Allegis where they participated in sessions on resume writing, work etiquette and so on.
- Organizations and companies like GKN, Sales force, Red cross and ORACLE have volunteered and engaged trainees in different activities contributing to the overall improvement of candidates including self confidence and exposure.
- Regular Mock interview and assessments were conducted to assess the candidates and work on filling the gaps.
- Candidates received placements from companies like Life style international, Jubilant foodworks, KFC, Oh my goodness, Nelotex, Trent hyper market, Himalaya, Dell, Agastya Foundations, 22 by 7, Tech paradigm, Teknik motor cycles and Vindhya Infomedia.

SKILLING CENTRE CHENNAI

- A guest lecture on interview etiquette was organized by Nimal Raj, HR Manager of Mecheri Foundation.
- The second batch of students was given a send off in a convocation ceremony and the third batch was welcomed.
- A friendly cricket match was played between Samarthanam and Societe Generale with lots of energy and fun. Also 20 volunteers from Societe Generale conducted activities for the students.
- Mock interviews were conducted by BOA. Also job fairs by 5 companies (HCL, TechM, Vindhya Infotech, Imflux & Reliance) were organized where 120 candidates participated.
- Societe Generale donated refurbished 10 monitors and 2 printers which were given away by Ms. Sowmiya Suryanarayanan, CSR Head, Mr. Ramesh, Operational Head, Mr. Anandan, Senior leader, Mr. Baba, Senior Leader and Ms. Hanisha, Communication from Societe Generale as their contribution to Samarthanam.

SKILLING CENTRE MUMBAI

- Leo Samarthanam Cricket tournament was organized in collaboration with Leo club of Vidya vivahar and Juhu as well as with the support of Cricket Association for the Blind Maharashtra (CABM)
- A work shop on financial literacy was conducted by Standard Chartered Bank with a team of 15 volunteers participating in the event.
- First aid training and health check-up camp was conducted by Seven Hills hospital with a team of doctors along with para medical staff. Various techniques of first aid in different emergency situations were demonstrated.
- On the occasion of World Sight Day, an eye check-up camp was organized
- A job fair was organized by Rotary club of Juhu and regular mock interviews sessions were also conducted for the candidates by the centre to improve interview skills.
NIPUNA GUNTUR - supported by Microsoft

• ACT Fibernet with a team of 6 members visited the centre to spend some time with the trainees and delivered inspirational and encouraging speeches.
• Baaji Baba, HR Manager, Hinduja Global Solutions, visited Samarthanam, Guntur to interact with the beneficiaries and a session on BPO, its job profile, facilities and opportunities was held imparting good knowledge on BPO to the students.
• A session on key skills was organized and led by Y. Phanidhar, Investment Manager, NRI who explained on the basics of banking and hints to improve analytical and logical thinking.
• The HR Manager of Phycare, Ashwini Dasari took a session on Skills required for entering into Corporate World with details on different opportunities available, communication skills and clarified doubts regarding placements.
• A session on job opportunities was held by Westside explaining on the job opportunities, profile, salary structure and working conditions in the company.
• Samarthanam, Guntur LRC conducted Allergan South Zone School Cricket Tournament for the Blind at RVR & JC College of Engineering with support of CABI (Cricket Association for the Blind in India). 6 Teams participated in the Tournament from various cities and Vizag Team won the Tournament.
• Samarthanam, Guntur conducted games for the beneficiaries and Kala Bharathi School Students on the occasion of World Disability Day. The games conducted were Debate, Singing, Chess and Caroms. Around 40 students participated in these competitions with great enthusiasm.

LRC ANANTHAPUR - supported by Microsoft

• A retired SBI bank officer took Personality Development class for the beneficiaries with sessions on improving communication skills, identifying strengths and weaknesses and working towards it for a stress-free and healthier life, better decision making ability, enhanced confidence level and a pleasing personality.
• Explaining the importance of a good communicator, a motivational class on “Communication Skills” was organized where Bala Krishna, PRO (Public Relation Officer), SK University spoke on the need of good communication skills, effective listening and presenting ideas appropriately.
• A visit to “Ultra Tech Cement Works” presented a chance for the students to glance at the insides of a cement production unit.
• A motivational class by Rama Krishna, Founder of “Suraksha Seva Samaj” Old Age Home on Social culture and roles and responsibilities towards aged people was organized to teach the beneficiaries life values and respecting elders.
• Samarthanam beneficiaries participated in District Level Sports organized by Andhra Pradesh Disabled Welfare Department, Ananthapur at PTC Grounds on “World Disability Day” winning many prizes.
LRC DELHI

• This quarter saw many volunteering activities organised at Samarthanam, Delhi by the Bank of America volunteers. Volunteers donated woolen clothes, blankets and headsets to the office/hostel. They also organised an interactive programme with the participants, led by Mr Paul X Chen, COO, Head of Risks and Controls, Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

• Barclays Bank organised a fund raising event, ‘Enable the Disabled’, which was followed by a Campaign with the same title on BitGiving. A lot of support came from Barclays employees as they visited the centre every weekend and provided yoga training to the participants. Two of our participants were also invited to perform at an event at Barclays Bank.

• Samarthanam Parisara- Bank of America dry waste unit was inaugurated in Gurugram. The day being Children’s Day, we organised a magic show for the children of the rag pickers colony where the Unit is located. Volunteers and senior leadership from Bank of America participated along with Mr Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

• We formally launched the vocational training programme for students with disabilities, supported by OTIS. 35 students with various disabilities have been enrolled under this programme.

• An eye camp was organised for the participants of the LRC and also for the residents of the rag pickers colony with support from Dr Shroff’s Charitable Eye Camp. A thorough assessment was done of all participants and a detailed report was submitted along with suggested interventions.

• A job fair was organised at the Samarthanam Delhi Centre which saw the participation of 6 companies and 100 participants. 8 were offered placement immediately and another 6 were invited for follow up interviews.

LRC JHARKHAND

• OTIS and NVIDIA led projects Graduation day was conducted at the center and were facilitated by LRC Head and Project Coordinator from Samarthanam Head Office. Others, among the Guest of Honor were Jila Parishad (East Singhbhum, Jharkhand), President and Secretary of Mahila Kalyan Samity and Mentor of Juvenile Court, Jamshedpur.
**LRC HYDERABAD**

- A three day workshop was organized with mobility training, lifeskills, motivational classes and interview tips taken up by different instructors and institutions.
- A visit to Allergan proved to be beneficial to the students as they interacted with the employees, learned about their work culture and also narrated their experiences.
- A team from Samarthanam visited BluJay Tech as part of an exposure visit and interacted with the employees gathering knowledge on their work etiquette, corporate culture and experiences. The HR team was very surprised to see Samarthanam beneficiaries’ performance and social skills.
- An eye camp with the support of Lions club team, was organized where all beneficiaries received eye checkup and were examined by professional doctors with suggestions and medicines prescribed.
- Team Samarthanam Hyderabad visited Google to teach employees how to read and write Braille. As a part of the event the team also taught them how to play blind chess and blind cricket.
- An environment tour to Pragathi Resorts was organized for the beneficiaries to see a huge area of plantation, medicinal plants and greenery. They were detailed on the types of trees, significance of greenery and contribution for our survival. There was also a session on pottery.
- A visit to Tech-Mahindra along with students greatly interested them in the corporate world. They also conducted activities like blind cricket, chess, musical chairs and carom.
- A rally was organized on World Disability Day in association with the Westmaredpally Police to raise awareness in the society.
- Samarthanam Hyderabad received State Level Award from the Telangana Disabled Rights Association where the Chief Guest, Hon Union Minister Bandaru Datatreya, Guest of honor, State BJP President and MLA Lakshman and GHMC Planning Commission member Srinivas Reddy were present at the ceremony.

**NORTH KARNATAKA**

Samarthanam is increasing its reach to the underprivileged youth and disabled with support from several corporate, institutions and individuals who have come forward encouraging Samarthanam’s noble cause.

- To enable youth with disabilities and underprivileged gain meaningful employment, this quarter, “Inclusion through Skill” Training program supported by Akamai Technologies India Private Ltd has been initiated in the LRC’s of North Karnataka. Also Deshpande Foundation has come forward with the objective of providing employment support for the 500 disabled youths in the same region.
- Mock interviews and Job fairs were conducted for persons with disability.
* Samarthanam completes 20 years of service to the disabled sector.

* A spirited performance by the Indian Blind Cricket team helped India beat Pakistan by nine wickets in the final of the T20 World Cup for Blind 2017 and lift the winning trophy—witnessed by a crowd of 25000 spectators, at the KSCA Chinnaswamy Stadium, the highest thus far in any disability sport in the country.

* Shekhar Naik, former Indian Blind Cricket team Captain, a beneficiary of Samarthanam receives the prestigious Padmashree Award for his contributions to blind cricket.

* Indian team felicitated by Hon Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and many eminent Union and State Ministers, celebrities, corporate and other personnel.

* Samarthanam launched Audio-Braille Libraries in Chennai, Hyderabad, Guntur and Kochi to serve the visually challenged fraternity.

* Samarthanam expands with new Skilling & Education Centres launched in Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai.

* Mahantesh GK, Founder and Managing Trustee, of Samarthanam honored with the prestigious ‘Kempegowda Award.’

* Samarthanam chosen to be one among the six NGO partners for ‘code unnati,’ a collaborative digital literacy and software skills development initiative by Government of India.

* Samarthanam received a CA site allotted by MUDA (Mysore Urban Development Authority) to expand its services in this area.

* Mahantesh GK meets the newly elected Hon President, Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu, on assuming office to congratulate and present a brief on Samarthanam.

* Australian High Commission in association with Samarthanam Trust launched Development4All campaign, a disability-inclusive development campaign, which is part of the High Commission’s Direct Aid Programme.

* Samarthanam Swachhta Abhiyan, a cleanliness drive organized in the footsteps of Prime Minister’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, promotes a greener and cleaner surrounding.
The year ahead....

* The 5th ODI World Cup for the Blind 2018 scheduled to be held in Dubai and Pakistan from 7th to 21st January 2018, hosted by Pakistan Blind Cricket Council.
* A movie on blind cricket, based on a true life story of a blind cricketer, is being discussed
* An accessible stadium for players with disabilities for easy access and training in sports & A plan to initiate Blind Cricket Premier League encouraging visually impaired cricketers.
* An accessible building for kids with disabilities to be set up at JP nagar, Dharwad and Mysore and Andhra Pradesh
* Samarthanam would continue to expand its reach by establishing its centres across India and enhancing its services.
* Expansion to Canada and Singapore.
* Collaboration with major corporate and public sector units on CSR and other projects
* Working in the direction of Vision 2020, that is to touch 100,000 lives of persons with disabilities by 2020

We wish to extend heartfelt gratitude for all the support received from every sector and individual.

Our success is incomplete without your encouragement!

Happy New Year!

* Mahantesh GK takes the stage at TEDx IIM Bangalore with inspirational words and ideas providing great encouragement to people with disabilities. He also spoke at TEDx NMIMS Bangalore.

* Sunadha troupe travelled across UK for a month performing on various stages and gathering appreciation and spreading the rich Indian culture through dance and music.

* Samarthanam receives the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2017 awarded by the Hon President, Ram Nath Kovind.

* Samarthanam awarded Andhra Pradesh State Award under the category, Best Institution working in the field of disabilities .

* Shekhar Naik, former Indian Blind Cricket team Captain, and a Samarthanam beneficiary received National Award for Best Sports Person.

* Samarthanam cutting edge disability-friendly free residential school opens its gates for inclusive education.

* The 13th Bengaluru Walkathon, supported by Allergan, with the theme, ‘Green Vision Clear Mission’ raises awareness on environmental concerns and the need to strive for a greener planer, thousands participated in making the event a resounding success.
BALLARI CENTRE
- Organized an awareness rally towards first state level cricket tournament for the Blind and successfully organized the tournament.
- A special lecture on “Importance of science in students life” by Mr. Ibrahim Syed, Scientist was attended.
- The 14th batch inauguration program was organized where Rajendra Prasad donated note books and other stationery to the students.
- A cultural performance at Kannada Rajyotsava Program organized by Kannada Chaitanya Vedike was well appreciated by the audience.
- A special lecture by Venkatesh, Principal of JJMWS college, added great inspiration to everyone.
- Disabled sports organized by DDWO was enthusiastically participated in and received 15 prizes for various sports and cultural events.
- Smt. Jyothi, President of BJP Mahila Morcha visited the center and assured support near future.

DHARWAD CENTRE
- Job Fair
- Chess Tournament
- Mock Interview session
- Guest Lecture
Environment

Parisara

Parisara is a waste management service provider set in Bangalore with focus on creating a waste free environment and constantly works on building sustainable technologies. Parisara also works on raising awareness on the importance of waste management. In the last 3 months, materials weighing 173812 kgs have been received by Parisara for processing.

Encouraged by the appreciation and participation amongst the public and volunteers, Parisara is promoting environmental initiatives. The project is expanding into areas such as Green building mechanism in its HSR head office, which is being equipped with Solar grid energy solution, Sewerage treatment plant, RWH, composting and ornamental garden.

Other areas of environmental initiatives are Afforestation, Land and lake rejuvenation, Creating Eco Park and Eco tourism, creating awareness on alternate energy solutions to reduce the carbon foot print.

A recent launch was ‘Kapada Dhan’ donation of old clothes, this activity employs women from ‘Swadhara’ a resettlement program for women in distress.

Empowerment of Rag pickers is a project with Bank of America, in Gurgaon, which looks at the holistic development of the rag pickers community, in terms of health interventions, safe and hygienic waste handling practices, economic empowerment and better living conditions.

Plans are under process to create an Eco park on 27 acres land, beautification of a prominent road in the city, rejuvenation of a lake and similar projects, at various locations.

Corporate such as Allergan, Mahindra Lifestyles, Fujisto, Garden city hospitals, Arres have expressed their interest in funding and volunteering in such initiatives with us. Central Government and ministries such as IREDA and MNRE are discussing with Parisara team to launch nationwide Seminar and symposia, information and public awareness programmes and special area project demonstration programmes.
• Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) organized Swachhata Pakhwada programme with WOW Team at SG Palya as part of which a jatha was held to raise awareness in public.

• WOW along with VMware team joined hands for beautifying a blackspot and also to spread awareness on segregation at source to public. BBMP Corporator was also a part of the programme.

• A team from Ckinetics visited WOW, along with ITC officials, for better understanding the process of low value plastic. They also interacted with the residents and PKs to discuss on the changes after the involvement of WOW in the area.

• WOW team organized a session to raise awareness among School children on the importance of recycling and waste segregation at Pathima School, Madiwala.

• WOW team received appreciation from residents of BTM Layout who expressed their views on zero waste and told that they are ready to support to make city clean and green.

• A programme called “Chai with Charcha” was initiated by ITC Manager, Penchala Reddy where he interacted with PKs, explained them about the importance of segregation at source and objectives of WOW Project. He also spoke to BBMP officials and residents encouraging them to adopt green practices.

• This quarter, 4761 tonnes of waste has been collected by WOW team.
Sports

East Zone School Cricket Tournament
The East Zone School level Cricket Tournament for the visually impaired was organized at BJB
College Grounds, Bhuvaneshwar. The tournament was organized by Cricket Association for the
Visually Impaired, Odisha in association with CABI- Cricket Association for the Blind in India and
sponsored by Allergan, SSEPD Department-Govt of Odisha, Adhikar.

The Tournament was inaugurated by Shri Prafulla Samal,
Minster SSEPD and Mr.Priyadarshini Misra, MLA-
Bhuvaneshwar. Participating teams were School for the
blind-Korapore, Bangala Blind School-West Bengal,
Abasi Blind School-Jharkhand, Govt Blind School-Jharkhand,
Subham Bikas Vikalang Vidyalaya-Bihar, BB School-
Bhu


24th National Cricket Tournament in Mumbai
Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), World Blind Cricket (WBC) in association with
Cricket Association for the Blind Maharashtra (CABM) organized the 24th National Cricket
Tournament in Mumbai. The tournament is a platform for selecting the Indian team for the
upcoming 5th ODI World Cup 2018. About 7 International Countries are going to take part in the
5th ODI namely India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, South Africa.

Training Camp for Indian cricket team for 5th ODI World Cup
A training camp supported by Book a Smile was organized
for the Indian blind cricket team from 15 to 22 November for
the upcoming 5th ODI World Cup tournament. Sessions on
yoga, meditation, breathing and concentration improving
techniques were introduced to the players followed by
regular cricket practice sessions.

- Bangalore Cricket Guild (BCG) felicitated the Indian blind cricket team who inaugurated a
  function organized by them. The team also played a friendly match with BCG and exchanged
  T-shirts as a friendly gesture.
- England mainstream cricket player, Mr. Justin Hollingsworth and Mr. Ross Hunter from NATWEST club
  have coached the Indian cricket team on certain bowling techniques and helped them
  understand a lot on the bouncing of balls during bowling.
- Indian blind cricket team were interviewed by many media channels with interviews and articles
  published in papers like Deccan Chronicle, Bangalore Mirror, CNN-IBN etc.
- Government Blind School Darbhanga organized a T20 Bilateral Cricket Tournament for the Blind
  at Poor Home, Darbhanga, where 2 teams, Govt. Blind School Darbhanga and Shubham Viklang
  Vikas Sansthan Muzaffarpur competed against each other and team Darbhanga won the match.
  The event was also witnessed by a huge crowd of local spectators of over 1500 people.
Rehabilitation

Swadharagruha
Swadharagruha is the home for women in distress supporting them in highs and lows. This quarter 11 women have come to Swadharagruha seeking assistance. Swadharagruha provides rehabilitation, counseling and training to women according to the requirement. This quarter, yoga and spoken English classes were organized each day of the month for residents. A counseling session by Banjara Academy counselor proved to be helpful as well. A monthly medical check-up was arranged assessing the good health of the beneficiaries and helping them understand its importance. Along with the regular activities, a meditation and yoga program was conducted by Heartfulness Meditation Center.

Alongside, 12 residents of Swadharagruha have completed their choice of training and reunited with families to move on with their regular and happy living.

Working Womens Hostel
The working womens hostel in Prashant Nagar, Bengaluru provides secure residential facility under vigilant supervision to working women with disabilities, employed with various organizations in Karnataka. This quarter, beneficiaries have actively participated in Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations in their respective colleges winning many prizes. Students always show great interest in sports and arts and have participated in many competitions in respective colleges gathering prizes and appreciation.

Arts & Culture

Sunadha
The artists at Sunadha have been excelling in their performances across the country and beyond. The troupe performed at Yuvajanotsava, a District level cultural competition for youth. The theme was based on folk culture and several Bangalore urban district colleges actively participated. Samarthanam singers and dancers won prizes amid the crowd applauding for their performance. Samarthanam dancer also received a special prize for the performance at State level Yuvajanotsava in Udupi.

The troupe also performed at the first ‘State level HR conference’ where HRs from various companies were present as delegates and the chief guest was Mukhyamantri Chandru, an actor and a politician. They received immense admiration after the performance.
Volunteering at Samarthanam

There were total of 40 volunteering activities conducted by corporate in this quarter. To name all corporate who volunteered with us this quarter we have SLK, SAP, Citi Bank, Kloh, GKN aerospace, L’Oreal India, VMware, Johnson & Johnson, Oracle, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Moody’s, Fidelity, BMC, Brilio, Societe Generale, Flipkart, Radio Indigo, Standard Chartered Bank, Allegis Group, Gainsight, Greenwood High International School, Fintellix, Uber, Lenovo and Northern Trust.

Total of 748 volunteers had participated in this quarter and contributed approx 2,865 hours of voluntary service.

Science Fair by Thermo Fisher Scientific

Thermo Fisher Scientific organized a science fair for the high school children where a total of 30 volunteers participated in the whole day activity. They performed many scientific experiments for the children and also gave an exercise to the students on building a 3D model. The activity was educative and highly informative.

L’Oreal activities at LRC

L’Oreal India celebrated the Corporate Citizenship with our LRC trainees. Total of 70 volunteers participated in a half day activity. Volunteers conducted various team building activities for the trainees and towards the end sponsored a good meal for all the students.

Social Awareness visits

There were total of 12 social awareness visits from various institutions including TISS, IIM-B, Christ School, Oxford College, Bangalore University, Azim Premji University, Christ Academy, Prema Academy, Bangalore Public School, NIFT, Acharya College and Gurudev Arts and Science College, Kerala.

Internship programs

About 33 students completed their internship at Samarthanam in this quarter. They were exposed and engaged in all the programs right from schools to LRC. These include students from Christ University, SDMIMD Mysore, St. Joseph’s College of Arts and Science, O P Jindal Global University, Mount Carmel, Jyoti Nivas and Banjara Academy.

SNIPPETS

- Samarthanam public library has been inaugurated at Samarthanam HSR premises encouraging people of every age to join the library and reinstate the habit of reading. MLA Sathish Reddy inaugurated the Public library along with CS Purnima and Dr. Satish Kumar S. Hosamani who greatly appreciated the initiative.
- Celebrating the International Day of People with Disabilities, ANZ organised a panel discussion on “The Diversity Imperative: Making Abilities Inclusion Successful” where Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam was a Panelist along with Santosh from NASSCOM and Pavithra from Vindhya
- Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust delivered a speech about people with disabilities at Kannada Sahitya Parishat.
- Samarthanam Trust for Disabled has spread its wings to Mysore and registered a land in the city approved by the Mysore Urban Development Authority.
Samarthanam expands its realm

Samarthanam’s cutting edge disability-friendly free residential school at HSR Layout Bangalore is designed to house around 700 students with and without disabilities from economically deprived communities and enabled with completely accessible features being to address all needs of the persons with disabilities with ultramodern infrastructure. The Basement Floor is complete and has been occupied as well. The rest three floors are close to completion with the final level of fixtures to be arranged. The electrical work, flooring and wall tiles are complete along with water proofing of the terrace. RO water plant installation and other safety features.

Corporate Acknowledgment

We are thankful for the support and encouragement received from the following corporate organizations. And look forward to a long term relationship.

- ITC Limited
- Infosys Foundation
- Anvin Technologies
- Wells Fargo India Solutions Pvt Ltd
- IndusInd Bank
- Yokogawa India Ltd
- Fidelity Business Services India Private Limited
- United Way Of Bengaluru
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Give India Foundation
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- Yaskawa Electric India Pvt Ltd
- Akamai Technologies India Private Ltd
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- Lifestyle International Pvt Ltd
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- VM Ware Software India Pvt Ltd
- Time Analytic & Shared Services Pvt Ltd
- Bigtree Entertainment Pvt Ltd
- Societe Generale Global Solution Centre Pvt Ltd
- Samarthanam USA
- Target Foundation
- Himalaya
- Thomson Reuters International Services Private Limited

Samarthanam Human Resources

The Human Resources team of Samarthanam plays a crucial role in gathering necessary facilities for an uninterrupted implementation of programmes at Samarthanam. Similarly this quarter the HR team played a pivotal role in organizing various celebrations at Samarthanam. The team has implemented ESI benefit to Samarthanam staff that covers one third of workforce under health security. The unit also started working on setting up specific objective and role clarity for each employee to streamline organization structure at all levels. The team is also working on asset audit.
Stories of Change

**Deepa B Jore**

Deepa B Jore comes from a financially deprived family. She hails from Dharwad District in Karnataka, born in 2001. Her father is an agriculturist and mother is a home maker. The family’s financial stature is very unstable and have the responsibility of supporting 5 children. Deepa is very talented and active in studies. She completed her tenth standard with distinction marks. With great passion towards education, she wanted to study further but her family could not support her financially. She approached Samarthanam for financial aid to complete her studies. She is currently pursuing 1st PU in Geerjamba Government College. Deepa has been active in sports and culture. She won prizes in Volleyball and Kabbadi in District level matches. The young woman loves singing and has won 1st prize in Bavageethe. She has also won 1st prize in inter school Dance competition. She utilizes all the opportunities that come to her and is confident of excelling in life.

**Shiddarooth H. Hunasyal**

Shiddarooth H. Hunasyal belongs to a village called Nagarahalli, in Kalaburgi District of Karnataka. He is from an economically challenged family and is visually impaired since birth. After completing Class 12th in Pandit Panchakshari Gavayi College in Gadag, he is currently studying B.A. Music in the same college. Shiddarooth’s father is a vegetable vendor and his mother, a housewife. His father has financial constraints and was struggling to support Shiddarooth’s higher studies. He approached Samarthanam for help which, with support from Oracle, has taken care of his further education expenses. Also, Samarthanam provided facilities like free accommodation, food, library, educational needs, etc. that immensely helped him overcome difficulties. Along with studies, he has a passion for Kannada writing and recently published a book “Swara Chandira” with beautiful poems in Kannada. He is also a singer and a music composer. His next goal is to come up with an audio album. At a personal level, Shiddarooth is a well disciplined, hardworking, industrious student with a pleasant personality. His dream is to become a music composer.

**Suchithra**

Suchithra is a bright young girl who dreams big. She wants to chase the bad out of the society by becoming a police officer. But her dreams did not receive financial backing to complete her education. Owing to her poor economic status her parents could not provide her with continuous education. Suchithra has a brother and sister and it was being difficult for her family to support her schooling. To pursue her ambitions Suchithra took help from Samarthanam where she is looking forward to complete her education and study even further. She is currently in tenth standard and scores good academic grades. She also takes interest in sports, singing and dancing. With education, accommodation, books, uniform, food and other necessities received from Samarthanam, Suchithra is glad to have joined the school. She believes that she would now definitely achieve her goal.
Mail the donation form to the below mentioned address:
To
Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled,
CA: 39, 15th Cross, 16th Main, Sector 4, HSR Layout,
Bengaluru – 560102 Karnataka State, India
Tele: +91 9449864784

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CSR Partnership with Samarthanam
Choose Samarthanam as your CSR partner this financial year! We welcome employee engagement, monetary contributions, volunteering, diverse projects and long term partnerships.
Contact Kumarswamy at kumar@samarthanam.org or 9449864775 for associating with Samarthanam

(CABI)
Cricket Association for the Blind in India
We believe Cricket has no boundaries!

JOIN US
for the 5th ODI World Cup Championship 2018 in Dubai and Pakistan
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For more details log onto www.blindcricket.in
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<tr>
<td>Samarthanam USA, Inc., 21 Southwest Cutoff, Northboro MA 01532</td>
<td>Registered Office: 447, Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, United Kingdom, HA3 0XY</td>
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Income Tax exemptions available under section 80G of Indian Income Tax Act
Donations made in the USA are exempt under 501C3
Samarthanam is also qualified to receive contributions through Give India, Give to Asia, United Way, Charity Aid foundation, USA and American service to India, USA

www.samarthanam.org