










# Oct – Dec 2024 Newsletter

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**NEW**

## Help the Blind Foundation



Click on the boxes above  
to skip to sections ahead



Listen to this  
newsletter, hit play :



### Our Vision

To successfully elevate the economic status of the visually impaired and improve their image in the eyes of society.

### Our Mission

To provide access to university education, thereby enabling visually impaired students to get jobs in today’s modern economy.

# IDPWD 2024 Celebrations

International Day of People with Disabilities is celebrated every year on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. It emphasizes the spirit of unity and inclusivity, and calls on all organizations, agencies, charities, places of learning to join forces – all of whom have a vital role to play in identifying and addressing discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and inaccessibility that many people living with disabilities face. International Day of People with Disabilities is one day on the international calendar, yet it symbolizes the actions we should take every day, in order to create diverse and accepting communities.



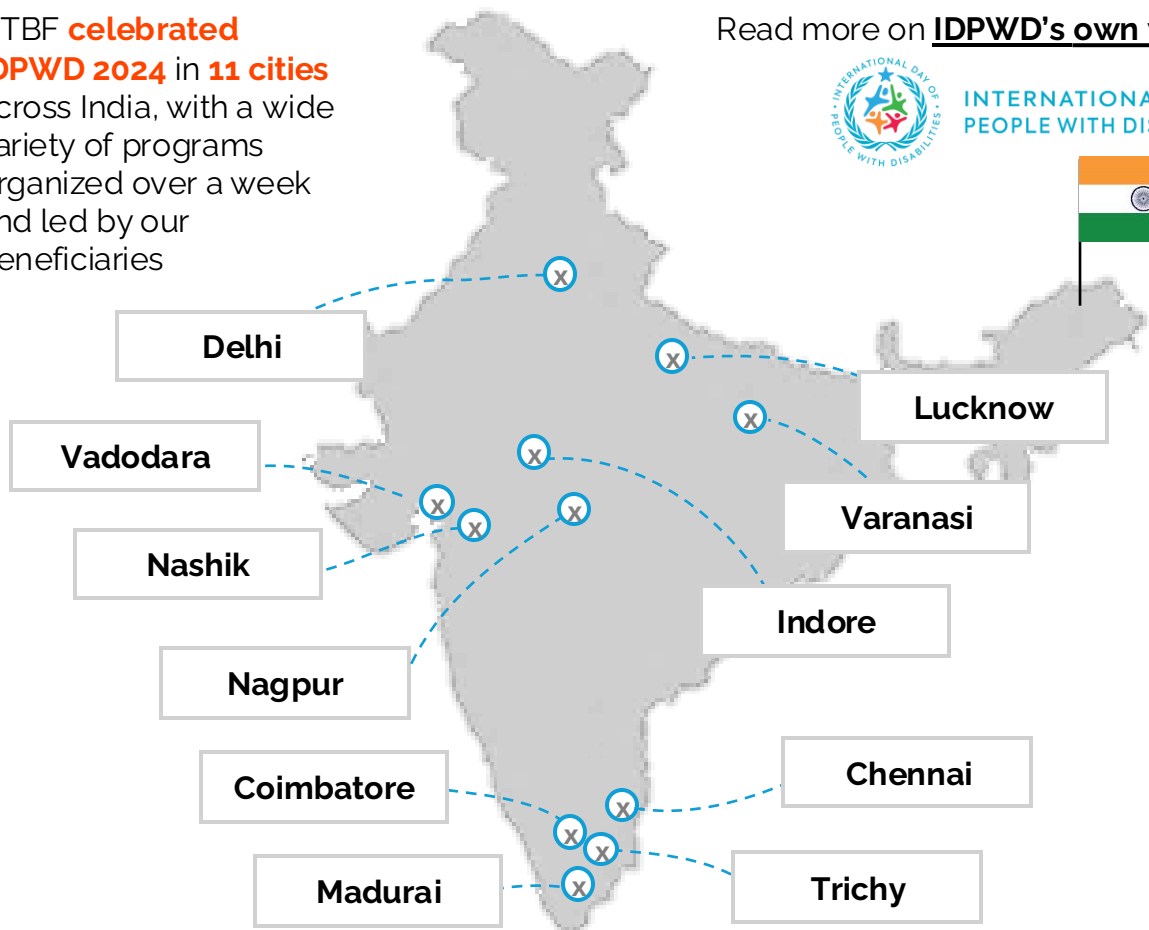
(Left to Right) : Students at Rajaji Park, **Madurai**; Students at Qutab Minar, **New Delhi**;  
Students at MS University, **Vadodara**; Students at KTHM College, **Nashik**

HTBF **celebrated IDPWD 2024** in **11 cities** across India, with a wide variety of programs organized over a week and led by our beneficiaries

Read more on [IDPWD's own website](#)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



# IDPWD Week at HTBF !



## New Delhi (3 Dec 2024)

Self-defence session organized for VI students by Delhi Police Officers from the Kamla Market Station at a government school.



## Lucknow (2 Dec 2024) with ASEEM INFRA FINANCE

The Metro Exposure & Awareness Program held at Hazratganj. Organized with support from AIFL to empower VI students to use accessibility features to navigate the metro.



## Varanasi (3 Dec 2024)

Bharat Kala Bhawan hosted VI students and took them through various sections of the gallery. The students were overjoyed - "we could feel history and art come to life", shared one of them !



## Nagpur (3 Dec 2024)

Street Play and Awareness Rally event held at Sitabuldi Metro Station, to spread awareness about social issues and promote equality through a drama.



## Trichy (6 Dec 2024)

200 strong crowd at St. Joseph's College came together to partake in activities like dark walk, guide techniques and white cane use.



## Indore (3 Dec 2024)

At Bombay Hospital, students engaged with nursing degree peers, sensitizing them on advances in assistive technologies & mobility.

# A tribute to my **tormentors**


It was 2 AM on a crisp Saturday night, and I was walking down a busy road as narrow as a climate change denier's grasp of science. The scene was chaotic—a perfect recipe for disaster. Passionate couples everywhere, balancing what seemed like an entire food court in their hands. Drunken youth zigzagged on bikes and wobbled on their feet, their sorrows and recklessness moving to kill like it's no one's business.

But I wasn't remotely worried. My gang of friends surrounded me like guardian angels, each of them acutely aware of the dangers on the road, alert to my needs, and skillfully navigating me around. We were returning from a late-night movie, landing on that treacherous stretch to savor some masala dosas and piping hot chai. Early breakfast? Late dinner? Who cares?

[Continue reading this fantastically insightful and captivating piece on our website.](#) 



**Uma Shankar Veeravalli**, our former beneficiary and the author of the above piece is an M.A. graduate from the University of Hyderabad, Telangana. He is incredibly funny and talented and dons many hats - a digital content creator, writer, podcaster and improv theatre artist. Through his work, he aims to spark constructive dialogue, promote inclusivity and raise awareness about disabilities and the stereotypes surrounding them.

Show him some  by following him and his content on **social media** :



## Shining **stars**

**Chhonzin Angmo**, our former beneficiary and star par excellence, recently successfully trekked up to the Everest Base Camp. For consistently pushing the envelope for persons with disabilities, she was felicitated with the **National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** (Sarvashresth Divyangjan) by the Honorable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu on December 3rd 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Chhonzin continues breaking these barriers while fulfilling her responsibilities as a Junior Associate at Union Bank of India, New Delhi. She has recently also been selected as part of the Indian contingent that will play in a friendly series against the Japanese Blind Women's National Football Team in Tokyo (Feb 2025).






Follow her incredible journey on her **Instagram** handle





**Naveen**, an extraordinarily determined student from Presidency College, Chennai and his team achieved glory by winning the prestigious **CM Trophy of Adapted Volleyball** for the visually challenged at the Tamil Nadu State Level. For their valiant efforts, Naveen and his team were awarded gold medals, the coveted CM trophy and an impressive INR 75,000 as cash prize for each team member.

Learn more about adapted  volleyball on **Sports TN's web handles** :   

Two of our beneficiaries from Delhi, **Ujawal Kumar** and **Noor Alam**, received **Education Excellence Awards** under the Persons with Disability category, and were felicitated by Honorable Ms. Atishi Marlena, Chief Minister of Delhi.



**Ujawal Kumar**, a 1<sup>st</sup> year student at Hindu College, Delhi, received the award for securing the 1<sup>st</sup> position at the district level and distinction at the 12<sup>th</sup> standard exams at Prasant Vihar School, Delhi.

**Noor Alam**, presently a 1<sup>st</sup> year student at Department of Education, University of Delhi is the topper of the Govt Boys Sr. Sec. School, Nand, Nagri, Delhi. He scored 87% in his 12<sup>th</sup> CBSE board exams.



**S. Maharaja**, a former beneficiary from Tamil Nadu has been **appointed by the Tamil Nadu State Government as a Welfare Officer**. Maharaja has previously represented India at the International Level in Men's Blind Cricket (as a left-arm medium pacer and batter) and was named as part of the 26-member squad slated to represent India at the 2024 T20 Men's Blind Cricket World Cup.



Support our "**Men In Blue**" by following CABI's **web handles** :  



**V. Santhana Mari**, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year B.A. student from Rani Anna College, Tirunelveli, has led her adapted volleyball team to victory as captain of the team. Santhana Mari and her teammates triumphed at the **Tamil Nadu State Level CM Trophy** for visually impaired college students, held in Chennai. She and her team too were felicitated with a Gold Medals, Trophy and a cash prize.

**Manu Garg**, a former beneficiary from Delhi, has **cleared his UPSC Mains Exam** and will be appearing for the interview. Manu graduated with a B.A. Degree in Political Science from Hindu College, New Delhi.



Currently, a **Capability Enhancement Training Program** is being conducted for EMET students. A total of 13 students are participating in the program. Key success stories thus far are as follows :

- **Mahesh Kumar** has secured employment in **Amazon**
- **Pavan Kumar** has secured employment in **Infosys**



**Anitha Mardhaku** captained her women's cricket team called "The Strikers" to victory in the ICCL-IF MLRIT HAP Cup 2024. The cricket tournament was organized in Hyderabad, Her team beat out another VI women's team called "The Fighters" in the final game. The games were played on a 10 over format (T10). Anitha is a current beneficiary in her final year pursuing an M.A. degree from Hyderabad Central University, Telangana.

 Fun Fact : **HTBF was one of the sponsors** of the ICCL-IF MLRIT HAP Cup 2024 

The MLRIT HAP Cup 2024 – A Celebration of Abilities, was hosted at MLRIT Institute of Technology's Cricket Ground (Hyderabad).



Check out the highlights of the tournament on ICCL's Facebook Page :



**We wish all our beneficiaries the heartiest of congratulations !**

To follow more such inspiring success stories, join **HTBF on our socials** :   

# A Match Made in Heaven !



## Saint Gobain India - HTBF - Devnar Institutions Partnership

It's been **3 years** since the inception of a successful partnership between Saint Gobain India Private Limited, HTBF and Devnar Institutions, Hyderabad. This coming together has enabled the **VI students in Devnar College for the Blind** to further their educational ambitions and career prospects.



A total outlay of **INR 1 Crore** over these 3 years by our benevolent donor – Saint Gobain – has enabled HTBF to put in place opportunities for **Scholarships, Laptops, Computer Resource Centres** and a **Dedicated Fund for Teaching Faculty**.

A grand function was organized on 16 Nov, 2024 Devnar College's Campus in Hyderabad. **152 VI students were awarded scholarships** and **17 laptops were donated** to the Computer Resource Centre. The **Dedicated Fund for Teaching Faculty & Assistance** was officially instated and paid into. Last but not the least, **13 students** from Devnar College were **awarded as part of HTBF's Achiever's Incentive Scheme** for having secured more than 80% marks in their courses.



The ceremony was led by the below senior members from Saint Gobain India, HTBF & Devnar. Check out our coverage of the event on social media :



**Dr. Saibaba Goud**  
Chairman,  
Devnar  
Institutions  
**Guest of Honour**



**Mr. Nithin Kumar**  
Plant Head,  
Saint Gobain  
India  
**Chief Guest**



**Mrs. Deepa Krishnamoorthy**  
Manging  
Trustee, **HTBF**



**Mr. N. Sivaji Rao**  
Trustee –  
Resource  
Mobilization,  
**HTBF**



**Mr. R. Sunder Kumar**  
Trustee –  
Resource  
Mobilization, **HTBF**



# Laptop Mela – It's Pouring !



## Miranda House, New Delhi

Partner :  cognizant foundation india (3 Oct, 2024)

- Attended by Dr Bijaylakshmi (Principal), Mr. Kanwar and team from LGT Bank



## Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur

Partner :  cognizant foundation india (30 Sep, 2024)

- Distributed laptops, bags and headphones to 27 beneficiaries



## Satyawati College, New Delhi

Partner :  cognizant foundation india (3 Oct, 2024)

- Attended by college management, HTBF EMET team and volunteers.



## M.T.B. Arts College, Surat

Partner :  KOSHAMBH (7 Oct, 2024)

- Attended by college management, HTBF EMET team and volunteers.



## Rajdhani College, Indore

Partner :  cognizant foundation india (7 Oct, 2024)

- A colourful function was held to accompany the distribution



## Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara

Partner :  KOSHAMBH (8 Oct, 2024)

- Ceremony organized at the MSU Region Head Office

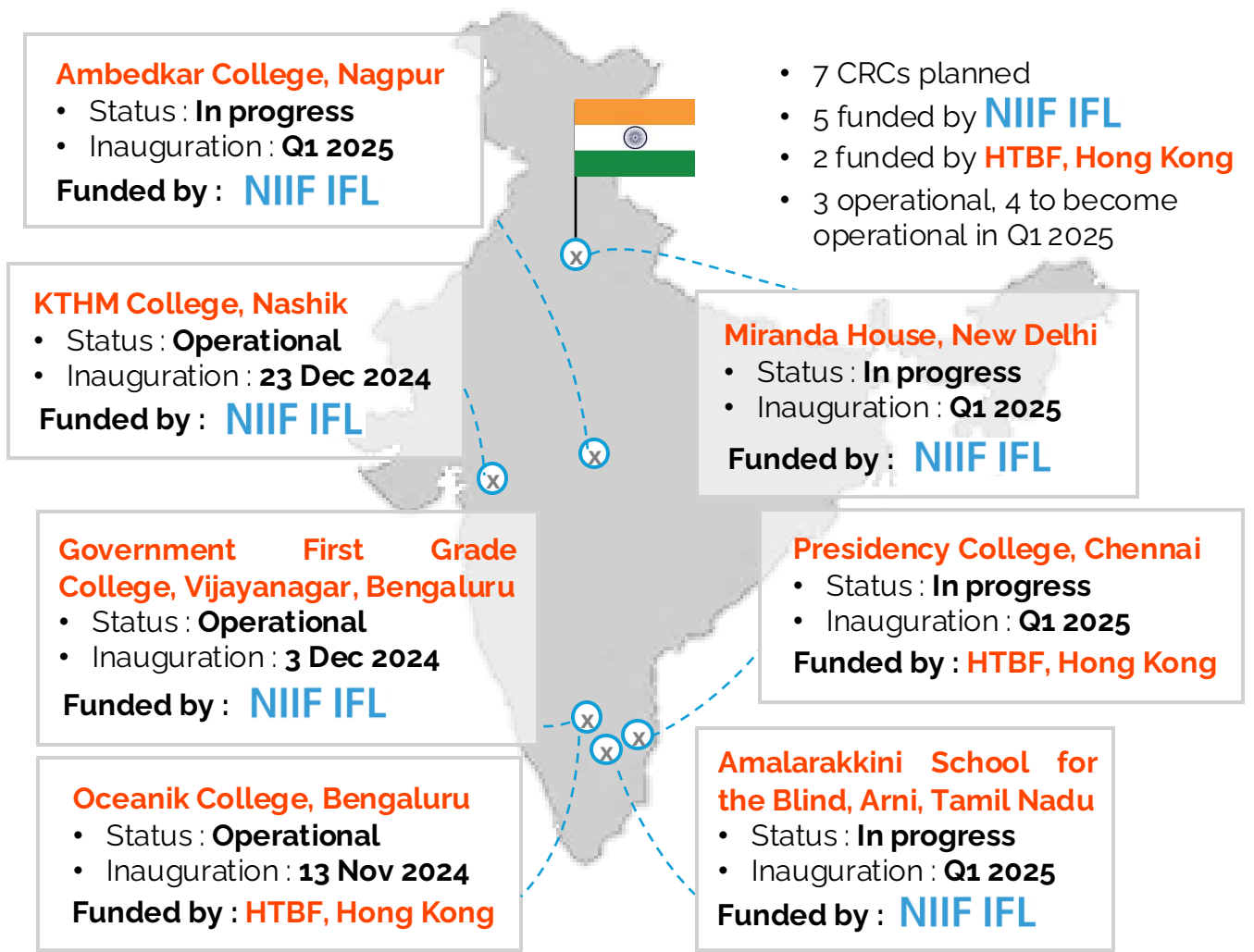


# Resource Centre Openings

We identified the installation of Computer Resource Centres (CRCs) in Colleges and Schools as one of our primary objectives for the AY 2024/25. Towards this objective, we worked out a plan of providing 25 seated workstations in these institutions, exclusively for use by our VI beneficiaries. As on date, we have identified 7 institutions as part of this program pan-India. We are pleased to update that 3 CRCs have already been inaugurated and are operational as of Q4 2024.

Each CRC facility includes the establishment of standardized core infrastructure :

	25 sets of computer equipment + accessories		Good network systems		Assistive Devices		Modern classrooms ably supported by HTBF trainers
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# Corporate Involvement

Visits to private companies and a wide variety of different professional organizations give our EMET students a chance to learn more about various job opportunities and network with corporate employees.

These interactions also create more awareness among corporate organizations about how visually impaired graduates can be a productive part of the workforce and develop sensitivity towards the needs of the visually impaired. These interactions are a vital part of our EMET Program, and we sincerely thank all the companies, organizations and their staff who made these possible.



Networking & Awareness session conducted at **S&P Global, Ahmedabad** with 22 students from Ahmedabad and Vadodara partaking



HTBF Trainer exploring **Orange Technolab's** assistive technologies during an Awareness Session conducted at their office in Ahmedabad



Career Guidance and Mock Interview Workshop conducted by **Deloitte India** at Madras Christian College, Chennai for local students



Job Readiness, Mock Interview and Resume Building Workshop conducted at **Allegis Group's Office in Hyderabad**, with around 20 students partaking in the program



Career Counselling session in collaboration with **IMRSoft**, held at Nestor, Hyderabad with 30 students partaking

# Mrs. Naidu's Infinite Passion

I'm passionate about helping others and believe in creating a more inclusive society. I've always been drawn to volunteer work, and my experience working with my visually impaired colleague in my previous job further solidified my desire to contribute to Help the Blind Foundation. Seeing her joy and resilience despite the challenges she faced was truly inspiring, and it made me realize how important it is to provide support and opportunities to individuals with vision loss.

I'm particularly interested in exploring opportunities to teach math to visually impaired students, adapting my approach to their unique learning needs. I'm also eager to learn and develop my scribing skills to assist individuals with vision loss in their academic or professional pursuits. Volunteering with HTBF is allowing me to combine my passion for helping others with my desire to learn. Witnessing our students grow and thrive is incredibly inspiring! These experiences not only equipped them with valuable life skills but also empowered them to navigate the world with confidence.



**Mrs. Rajasulochana Naidu**, a retired Senior Banker, has been actively volunteering with HTBF in Delhi since 2021

As a volunteer, I had the privilege of accompanying a group of enthusiastic HTBF trainers and EMET VI students on a memorable day trip to two iconic cultural landmarks in Delhi: the vibrant Divya Kala Mela at India Gate and the awe-inspiring National Museum. We took a moment to pay respect at India Gate. The students with visual impairment enjoyed celebration of art and creativity by differently-abled artists. They explored art and history with enthusiasm at National Museum. It was an enriching cultural experience.



Mrs. Naidu with students on an **industry visit to F2 Fintech's HQ** in Delhi

## Empowering Events



Inter-Collegiate **Adapted Volleyball Tournament** hosted at **Madras Christian College (MCC)** on 6 Dec 2024 as part of the college's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. The tournament was sponsored and supported by HTBF.



On 22 Oct 2024, students visited the **GRC Kamptee Army Camp, Nagpur**. This exposure visit aimed to create awareness about the functioning of the Indian Army and provide VI students a firsthand experience of army life. The officers encouraged students to explore potential careers in defense & national service.



On 23 Dec 2024, 11 students from Government First Grade College Vijayanagar, B.E.S. College, and Surana College in Bengaluru embarked on an **exposure visit to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**. The students were excited to learn about ISRO's pivotal role in Indian space exploration.

On 3 Jan 2025, our students took a **field trip to V3S Mall, Delhi**. They confidently navigated escalators, embraced digital shopping at Smart Bazaar, and practiced independent movement. A special shout-out to our volunteer, Mrs. Kalgaonkar, whose enthusiasm truly shone through. She arranged to celebrate two of our students' birthdays with a delightful snacks party at the mall !



**HTBF sponsored Tamil Nadu Blind Football Association's (TNBFA) partially sighted team**, to help the team compete in the **1<sup>st</sup> AIBFA Partially Sighted National Football Championship 2024**, held in Bhuj, Gujarat, from 18-21st Oct, 2024. The sponsorship was used to purchase kits and essential sporting supplies for the team. The team eventually emerged as champions of the tournament !

On 5 Oct 2024, Ms. Ambika and Mr. Jaganathan from our EMET team, along with two students, **conducted an awareness program on visual impairment, at IIVM College of Optometry**. The program was attended by 70 optometry students, along with the college principal, director, and professors.



# Big thanks to all our donors



## Help The Blind Foundation

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+91 78458 60197 (Donor Connect)

Scan the QR code and help us fill out a short google form to indicate your interest in joining to the cause !



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