

HELP THE BLIND FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

January – March 2025 Edition

Dear Reader,

We hope this message finds you well. From our inspiring annual meetup to several empowering milestones within the Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF) and our vibrant blind and visually impaired community, the past few months have been nothing short of uplifting. It's been a joy putting this edition together, and we hope it brings a smile to your face as you read through it.

We're also excited to share that HTBF has moved to a new location!

You can now find us at:

1st Floor, No. 14, Pattulos Road, Express Estate, Thousand Lights, Chennai – 600002

**Warm Regards,
Team HTBF**

Listen to this Newsletter

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Annual Meet 2025: Charting a Brighter Path for Inclusive Education



Participants at HTBF's Annual Meet 2025 at the School of Ancient Wisdom, Bengaluru.

From February 10 to 12, the School of Ancient Wisdom in Bangalore became a hub of meaningful conversations, shared purpose, and renewed vision. The Help the Blind Foundation's Annual Meet 2025 brought together 105 participants including 50 staff members, 60 volunteers, partners from NGOs, dignitaries, and collaborators all united by a common goal: to make quality education and skill development more accessible to visually impaired (VI) students across India.

On February 10th, the gathering began on a poignant note with Founders' Day, honoring the legacy of Mr. D.K. Patel. His vision of empowerment was kept alive through a heartfelt speech by Mrs. Niti Patel and an inspiring address by Managing Trustee Mrs. Deepa Krishnamoorthy, who shared HTBF's achievements, challenges, and bold plans for the future. The evening closed with a cultural performance by VI students a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do. February 11 was a day of deep dives and honest dialogue. Volunteer teams evaluated the Scholarship Program while the Skills Development team (EMET) explored new ways to enhance training delivery and outreach. New ideas emerged from AI-based learning modules to expanding programs into new colleges and VI schools. The day ended in celebration, with staff taking center stage to showcase their talents and the strong spirit that binds the HTBF family. The final day, February 12, was focused on consolidating insights and shaping the road ahead. Discussions spanned HR, finance, operations, and strategy — paving the way for more streamlined systems and sustainable growth.

A special highlight was having Nibin Mathews, a blind tennis champion and global speaker, who shared his inspiring journey from a visually impaired student in Kerala to a successful corporate professional and athlete. Rajashree Natarajan, former CEO of the Cognizant Foundation and now a member of HTBF's advisory board, emphasized the power of self-advocacy and the essential role of education and training for visually impaired individuals. On the whole, what emerged from the three days was more than a plan. It was a renewed sense of shared responsibility and hope. With fresh energy and a clear direction, HTBF is poised to build on its impact ensuring that every visually impaired student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Read more about the annual meet

Help the Blind Foundation Retains GuideStar India Platinum Certification



HTBF receives GuideStar India's Platinum Certification for the second consecutive year

We are pleased to share that Help the Blind Foundation has once again received the Platinum Certification from GuideStar India for the period December 2024 - 2025, a recognition of our commitment to transparency and good governance.

GuideStar India is the country's largest and most trusted platform for verified non-profits, with over 12,000 listed organizations. Their Platinum Certification is the highest level of recognition, awarded after a thorough due diligence process that assesses accountability, compliance, and impact.

This marks the second consecutive year we've received this recognition, a reflection of our continued efforts to uphold strong ethical practices and organizational integrity.

We thank our donors, partners, and well-wishers for your unwavering support. Your trust and belief in our mission continue to inspire and guide our work.

Bringing Technology and Learning Tools Closer to our Students

This quarter, we proudly inaugurated three new Resource Centres – in Chennai, Nagpur, and Delhi – each one designed to empower visually impaired students with the right tools, environment, and guidance to thrive.



HTBF opens Resource Centers in Chennai, Nagpur, and Delhi

Presidency College, Chennai

Inaugurated on 29th January, 2025

With the support of HTBF, Hong Kong, we launched a fully equipped Computer Resource Centre at Presidency College. The space features 24 workstations, assistive tech, strong network systems, and on-site trainers—providing a much-needed digital learning environment for visually impaired students. The inauguration was graced by senior faculty from the college and coordinated by HTBF Senior Trustee, Mr. S. Narasimhan.

Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur

Inaugurated on 6th March, 2025

In partnership with NIIF IFL and Cognizant Foundation, Dr. Ambedkar College now hosts a dedicated Resource Centre at its Dikshabhoomi campus. The lab is powered with 24 personal computers and is guided by committed faculty members. Students are already making the most of this centre, using it for learning, research, and skill development.

Miranda House, University of Delhi

Inaugurated on 20th March, 2025

Our 7th Resource Centre for Persons with Visual Impairment was inaugurated at Miranda House's ADDRC Library. Built in collaboration with NIIF IFL, this centre includes 25 systems for visually impaired students and 5 additional ones for students with other disabilities. A signed MoU between Miranda House and HTBF marks the beginning of a committed partnership towards inclusive education.

Career Guidance Highlights Jan–Mar 2025

From boardrooms to factory floors, from soft skills to job readiness this quarter, our students explored what careers look like beyond the classroom.



Skill-building workshop by Airbnb at Miranda House, Delhi.

Skill-Building with Airbnb – Delhi

In February, we partnered with Airbnb to host a workshop at Miranda House, Delhi, focusing on professional ethics, resume building, and basic software skills.

25 students from Miranda House and Daulat Ram College participated in this hands-on session, led by HTBF trainer Ms. Khushboo and volunteer Ms. S. Rajasulochana Naidu. Airbnb donated KIBO devices to Miranda House—tools that convert printed text into accessible formats, helping blind and low-vision students navigate academic materials with ease.

Company Exposure Visit – Indore

In early February, 20 students visited Kores India Pvt. Ltd., a stationery production unit in Indore. They learned about the entire manufacturing process—from importing raw materials to packaging finished goods. Students got a firsthand look at how industries function, and left with renewed confidence after engaging with management teams who were impressed by their curiosity and tech skills.

Career Awareness Program – Bengaluru

In March, a career awareness session at Government First Grade College, Vijayanagar brought together over 20 students and speakers from Google, TCS, and Ernst & Young.

The session covered everything from using the STAR method in interviews to reframing feedback as a growth tool. Mock interviews gave students a chance to practise what they learned—and walk away with real-world tips from the pros.



HTBF volunteers and participants during the Career Awareness Program held at Government First Grade College for the Visually Impaired, Bengaluru.

The HTBF Spotlight

Community success stories, scholarships, assistive device distributions, and proud moments—here's what's been happening at Help the Blind Foundation this quarter.

Geeta Mahto Wins Double Gold!

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, New Delhi

Geeta, an EMET student, secured gold medals in both 100m and 400m races at the National Para Athletics Championship held in Chennai. A proud moment for her and the HTBF family.



Geeta Mahto wins gold in 100m and 400m at National Para Athletics Championship.

Darshan to Represent India in Judo

Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai

HTBF beneficiary Mr. Darshan Arun Kamble was selected for the IBSA Judo World Cup 2025 in Kazakhstan. He is the only participant from Maharashtra to be selected for this prestigious international tournament.



Darshan Kamble selected for IBSA Judo World Cup 2025 in Kazakhstan.

Annual Day at IIT Kanpur

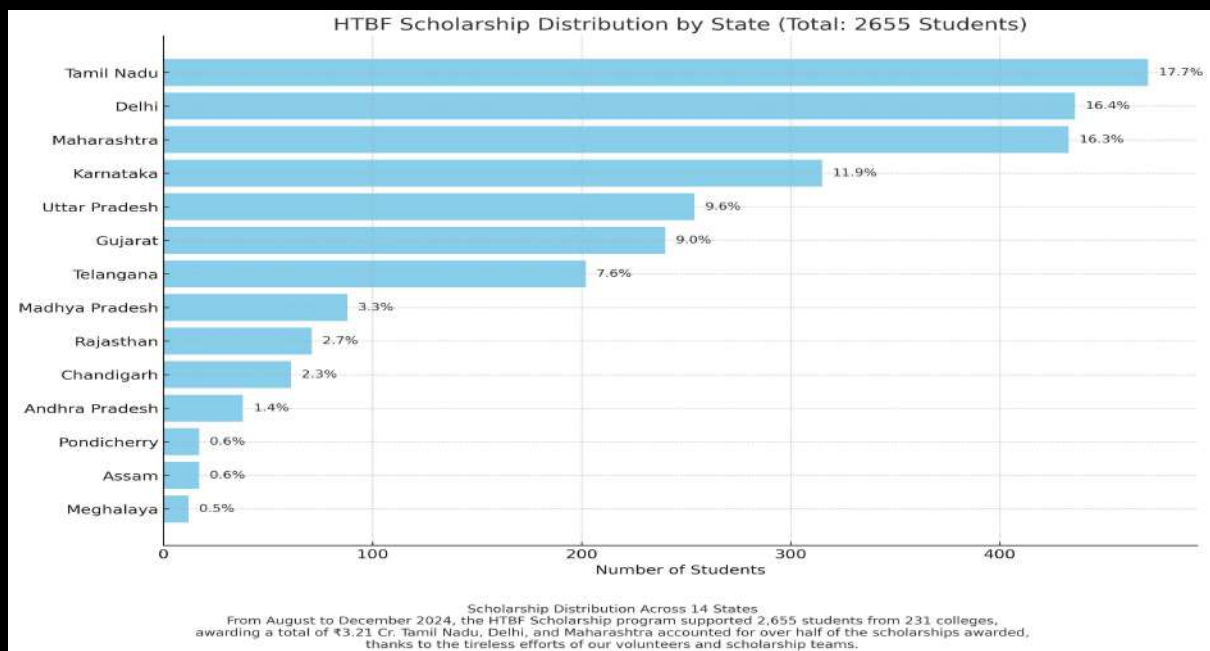
Cell for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP)

HTBF joined virtually to celebrate accessibility in education, with five students receiving scholarships. We thank Prof. Mandal, Mrs. Raka Ray Mandal, and the IIT Kanpur team for their continued collaboration.

Higher Education for All

Scholarship Disbursement Highlights

Between August and December, we received 3,039 scholarship applications and approved 2,655 students from 231 colleges across 14 states. A total of ₹3.21 crore was disbursed. Heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, trustees, and the HTBF scholarship and finance teams for their unwavering support in student interviews, application processing and prompt payments to the beneficiaries.



BHU Scholarship Drive

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

In a joint initiative with National Academy of Sciences India (NASI), HTBF awarded ₹10,000 each to 98 students during a session promoting inclusive science education. The event featured messages from Prof. Agrawal, Dr. Raka Ray Mandal, and HTBF's Ms. Deepa Krishnamoorthy.

Scholarships in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada

15 students from Vijayawada and Guntur received HTBF scholarships totalling ₹1.9 lakhs. Ms. Deepa Krishnamoorthy shared updates about the foundation.

Supporting Students in Nashik

KTHM College

33 students received ₹3.3 lakhs in scholarships from HTBF. The event was led by college leadership and HTBF volunteers and marked another step in our journey toward educational equity.



Nashik Resource Center

Vedant's Message: Self-Reliance First

Resource Centre, Nashik

HTBF beneficiary Mr. Vedant Mundada who is on his way to become a Chartered Accountant very soon, inspired 11 students with visual impairment, encouraging them to embrace independent learning and exam writing. His journey from student to mentor left a lasting impression.

HTBF Beneficiaries Represent India in Tokyo

Women's Blind Football Tournament – Japan

We're proud of Ms. Jeeramani Mahto (I.P. College) and Ms. Chhonzin Angmo (Union Bank of India), who were selected to represent India in a friendly football series against Japan. Wishing them success on the international stage!

Empowerment Through Technology

Smart Vision Glasses & Laptop Distribution

On January 25, HTBF distributed Smart Vision Glasses to 20 visually impaired candidates at Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur. These assistive devices enable users to recognize faces, read text, and navigate independently. The event featured guests including Mr. Shailesh Bahadure, Mr. Gajanan Pawar, and Mr. Rajamani, and was anchored by Mr. Rohan Sirsat.



HTBF volunteers and team members at the Smart Vision Glasses distribution event in Nagpur.

On February 15, HTBF donated a laptop to Mr. Senathipathi, an MBA student in Coimbatore. He went on to win the Best Manager Award at an inter-college meet hosted by Janson School of Management. His confidence and performance were a true testament to the power of accessible tools and opportunity.

A Fulfilling Closure to This Quarter

Charting Inclusivity in Corporate Hiring in Hyderabad



HTBF and The Head Quarters host Inclusive Talents to promote hiring of visually impaired professionals.

On 29th March, Help the Blind Foundation and The Head Quarters hosted Inclusive Talents—an initiative to open up conversations on hiring visually impaired professionals. Students from Devnar College, mentored by our trainer Archana, showcased their tech skills, while many visually impaired leaders shared powerful stories of breaking barriers in the corporate world.

The highlight? Sighted and visually impaired participants coming together to discuss real, actionable solutions for inclusive hiring. A big thank you to all our partners who made this afternoon possible and supported us at every step.

A Big News for a Greater Beginning

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Niti Patel for her generous donation of 3 crore to Help the Blind Foundation. This fund will support the construction of a dedicated training and activity center for visually impaired students in Chennai. The land is expected to be identified and purchased within this year. We welcome further support for this visionary project. For details, please contact Mr. Sunder Kumar at sunderkumar@helptheblind.in.



Mrs. Niti Patel with managing trustee Deepa Krishnamoorthy and other trustees

[Listen to her inspiring speech](#)

The Dialogue Box

This quarter, we bring you heartfelt letters from our beneficiaries and trainers—capturing the real impact of our work, straight from the ground.

A Heartfelt Message from Pavan, an EMET Beneficiary from Nagpur

When Pavan first joined the EMET course, he didn't even know how to use a laptop. Today, after braving open-heart surgery and pushing through every challenge, he's on his way to becoming a certified trainer. His journey is nothing short of inspiring.

[Read Pavan's Letter](#)

Empowering Lives: My Journey as a Trainer in EMET

by Ms. Varsha D, Skill Development Trainer, Chennai

"As a visually challenged trainer, being part of the EMET program has been as much a learning journey for me as it is for my students. Every session is filled with stories of grit, growth, and genuine connection."

Read this heartfelt reflection on teaching, learning, and empowering the visually challenged through EMET

[Read Ms. Varsha's full story](#)

Before We Sign Off

Your Feedback Matters

If something in this newsletter resonated with you—or sparked a thought, suggestion, feedback, or question—we'd truly love to hear from you. Write to us at marketing@helptheblind.in.

Explore More

"Accessibility is not just for PWDs, it is for everyone.", says Mr. Vignesh Basuvaraj, Placement Executive, HTBF

[Read the blog](#)

Inspiring, heartwarming, and absolutely must-listen episodes from our HTBF podcast.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Witness the inspiring transformation of visually impaired graduates across India through our EMET program.

[Watch Video](#)

Follow HTBF everywhere online so you never miss an update!



With heartfelt gratitude

To all our donors—thank you for believing in the potential of every visually challenged student we serve. Your support lights the path to a more inclusive and empowered future. If you'd like to be part of this journey, we warmly invite you to support our initiatives through a donation. Every contribution, big or small, makes a lasting difference.



[Click Here to Donate](#)

