



V-Excel Educational Trust  
10 Tiruvengadam Street  
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# ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-25

(APR 2024 - MAR 2025)



# INTRODUCTION

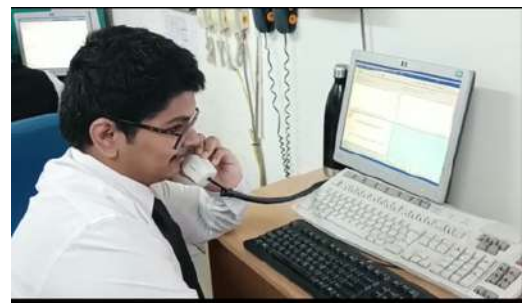
V-Excel Educational Trust is now a **CAF International Validated Organization** and has been vetted through an extensive review to ensure against the risk of fraud, money laundering, or other illicit activities.



# SUCCESS STORIES

V-Excel works with children and young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual challenges, Attention Deficit, Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD), Behavioural and Emotional Disorders, and Learning Disabilities such as Dyslexia. Every success is achieved by overcoming challenges, backed by perseverant efforts from teachers, trainers, counsellors and administrators. These are some of the year's success stories:

**Gokulakrishna Subramani** joined V-Excel's vocational training program in Mylapore, Chennai, when he was 18. Gokula is a slow learner with mild intellectual disability. He was shy, timid and calm. With training, patience and perseverance, he steadily progressed in learning new skills. His training program covered soft skills, personality development, personal grooming and vocational skill development.



Over time, his confidence improved and his gait and posture were more composed and confident. After a few months of intense counselling and priming, Gokula was placed in a reputed hotel chain. However, the pandemic struck and he lost his job within days of joining. V-Excel continued to be in touch with him and continued to provide the services for him to remain on-track and focussed.

Post-COVID, V-Excel found Gokula another opportunity with a different hotel chain. He joined there as a trainee and climbed up to become a part of their payroll. He was progressing well and was part of the Front Office team there. However, the hotel was acquired and shut down, and Gokula lost his job again. His parents grew anxious and worried.

But with dedication and devotion from V-Excel's staff and after a wait of 5 months, Gokula was placed at the Rane Group of Companies at their corporate office in Guindy. Gokula is involved in back-office work and has one of his colleagues mentoring him. He is enjoying his work and his workplace. With the Rane team's support, he has settled well. We are very grateful to the management, not just for affording this opportunity to Gokula, but also for allowing us to conduct an awareness session at their workplace.

# SUCCESS STORIES

**Rekha Vijaykumar** – is a 22-year young woman, who joined KLC when she was 10. She worked hard with her teachers in improving her skills, working on her emotional difficulties, showing interest in all activities of the class, becoming confident, taking care of her peers, leading, and helping them and the teachers. As she grew up, she excelled in all the vocational skills, be it cooking, stitching, candle making, carpentry, and worked responsibly and with precision in everything that she did.

She got an opportunity to be part of a training program at Writer's Cafe for 6 months. Her teachers and counselor supported her in overcoming the challenges she faced there. Looking at her work and assessing her skills, Writer's Cafe offered her a permanent job with them from June.



**Akshaya Saravanan**, a 29-year young woman, joined YES in 2018. She was diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. Despite academic challenges, Akshaya finished school until Class X. At YES, she was trained in several aspects of Printing and Documentation and in Culinary Skills. She exhibited a great willingness to learn and was able to follow instructions easily.

Akshaya interned at Writer's Cafe for 6 months and was absorbed as a full-time employee upon completion of her internship.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## April 2024

**Moving from Surviving to Thriving.** This year's **theme for World Autism Awareness Day**, championed by the United Nations, emphasizes the importance of shifting the focus from simply coping with autism to creating an environment where autistic individuals can flourish. This includes ensuring access to:

1. Early diagnosis and intervention: Early intervention programs can significantly improve outcomes for autistic children.
2. Quality education: Inclusive education settings that cater to individual needs are crucial for success.
3. Supportive employment: Creating opportunities for meaningful employment fosters independence and self-esteem.
4. Mental health support: Autistic individuals are more prone to anxiety and depression. Access to mental health services is essential.



On the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day, our CSR partner, Grundfos India, hosted senior representatives from their NGO partners for a roundtable discussion on the topic "**How organizations can enhance their neuro-divergent inclusivity**".

Ms. Charumathi Sriram and Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan represented V-Excel and Prof. Anand Jagadeesan represented Nivesh Foundation. Ms. Usha Subramaniam, Country President, Grundfos India gave the welcome address. Mr. Poovannam, Head of Country and Plant HR, and Ms. Krithika Iyer, Senior Manager – Sustainability & External Relations presented highlights of DE&I best practices in Grundfos India.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## April 2024

The **annual townhall meeting** was held on 22 April and it was, a day of camaraderie, reflection, interaction, exchange of ideas, and the sharing of best practices. The day was structured with an agenda of fun, learning, food, bonding with creativity and presentation from each center. The theme was "Beyond Barriers" and every activity was planned keeping the theme in mind. The day included presentations, sighs, applause, wonder, laughter and pride in everything we do.



On April 20, the **Third Annual Day of V-Excel, Nashik**, began with the Marathi prayer '*Heech Amchi Prarthana*,' followed by guest introductions and the traditional lighting of the lamp along with the inauguration of UDIT Rehabilitation foundation symbolizing a new era of hope and empowerment. The Ramleela performance by the students showcased various scenes, including the formation of the Ayodhya temple, Sita Swayamvar, 'Sita Haran' by Ravan, Hanuman Chalisa dance, and a depiction of the war between Ravan and Ram's forces.

The grand finale saw all students unite in a jubilant dance, echoing '*Bharat ka Baccha Baccha Jai Sri Ram Bolega*.'



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## April 2024



**Grandparents Day** was celebrated with joy and enthusiasm in V-Excel Nashik on April 25. A heartwarming celebration of grandparents took place, honouring the invaluable role of grandparents in caring for, and nurturing our students at home. The event featured various games and activities, providing a platform for grandparents to share their experiences. With dancing, laughter, and shared stories, the day was filled with joy and positive feedback, reflecting the enthusiasm and overwhelming spirit of the attending grandparents.

To promote autism awareness, V-Excel Solapur organized a function and named this "**SAH-CHETANA**" - (Sah - together, same Chetana - Consciousness, feeling) on April 7. Many in the community were interviewed and success stories were shared. The program was conducted to inspire parents to work more on their children. Dr. Sapna Asava (Principal of Vivekananda School) , Dr. Ashis Bhutada, Neurophysician and Dr. Vikram Hirekerur, Pediatrician, were the guests of honor.



A **free eye and ear screening camp** was organized by Ahalia Ayurveda Medical College, Palakkad, for our students and parents at Outreach Learning Center for exceptional children, Pollachi on April 20. Forty children, forty parents and fifteen staff availed of this camp.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## April 2024



On April 15, sixteen leaders of various nationalities from Grundfos along with Ms. Usha Subramanian, Country Head and Ms. Apoorva, Senior CSR Consultant visited VTU, Adyar. They were taken on a tour of the campus and to experience each vocational activity which they thoroughly enjoyed.



**Grundfos India's Employee Engagement Program** was held on April 25 at Besant Nagar Beach in Chennai. From V-Excel 30 trainees and 25 staff met 32 employees of Grundfos at the beach. The evening was spent playing cricket, throwball and frisbee.

Following a visit to YES, Chennai, by Mr. N. Gurunath, Director and Mr. Anand from Samunnati, our trainee Ramanathan Shankar, was selected for a **paid internship at Samunnati**. This is a great opportunity for Ramanathan, and a good breakthrough for V-Excel for placements in the agro-finance sector. Ramanathan will be working with a small team and be involved in scanning and other back-office work.



On April 18, upon our request and follow-up, the CSR coordinator from **Equitas**, Ms. Uma, visited YES to understand our services and to interview some of our trainees for internships. A week later, the YES was invited to Equitas along with the 2 shortlisted trainees, Srinidhi Sekar and Hariharan Natarajan. Mr. John Alex, ED, Equitas interacted with the trainees and was impressed with their skills and potential. Both trainees were selected for internships.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## May 2024

In a significant initiative to support children with special needs, Sri Ramanasramam is partnering with V-Excel Educational Trust to launch the **Bhagavan Ramana Center for Specially-Abled Children (BRC-SAC)** in Tiruvannamalai on May 6th. This collaborative effort will provide free special education and therapeutic rehabilitation services, encompassing early intervention for children aged 0 to 8, remedial education for those aged 3 to 14, along with lunch and transportation for children from lower socio-economic backgrounds.



V-Excel Educational Trust extends its heartfelt thanks to FICCI FLO for their initiative in providing valuable skills **training at Writer's Cafe** for our students. We especially appreciate the consistent support and guidance of Ms. Subha Srikanth and Ms. Meera, who ensured a seamless experience. Our sincere gratitude also goes to Mr. Tarun Mahadevan, Director of Advantage Food, for crafting an interesting and extensive training program. Ms. Sharada's continuous assistance was also a great support.



The collective efforts of such wonderful well-wishers have yielded fantastic results. We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of this enriching training course by four of our V-Excel trainees: Lokesh, Rekha, Akshaya, and Srinivasan. In a proud moment for all, their parents were invited to the celebratory certificate distribution ceremony. The certificates were presented by Ms. Subha Srikanth, Mr. Mahadevan, the current Chairperson of FLO, Ms. Divya Sukumar, and the Vice Chairperson of FLO, Ms. Niyati Mehta.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## May 2024



**Equitas** graciously invited YES to participate in their **Summer Sale** on May 11, 2024, held at their location. The YES product stall welcomed esteemed visitors including Mr. John Alex, CSR Head, ED & CEO of Equitas Holding Ltd, and Dr. G.N. Hariharan, ED, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, alongside the Equitas CSR team. The products were well-received, contributing to a successful event. V-Excel is thankful to Equitas for this opportunity and looks forward to a strong and enduring partnership.

“Unplug, explore, grow” that was the **summer camp motto at Anandam Special School**. The summer camp had activities like special sports, skating, yoga, western dance, band music, mat making, pot painting, *diya* painting, computer class for visually impaired students and independent snack preparation.



The **Grundfos Global Graduates volunteering engagement program** completed at VTU on May 3. Seven graduates were introduced to all the trainees and then were split into groups to engage in vocational activities. Trainees taught the groups bead work, quilling art, jute braiding, tailoring, block printing and scanning of documents. It was a new experience for the volunteers. They interacted well with the trainees. They also played some therapeutic games related to eye-hand coordination, bilateral function, focus and attention.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## May 2024



Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan, the Center Coordinator of YES, successfully completed a 10-week **online course on CSR Funding**. The course was organized and conducted by ImpactYog and Metapram

As part of **Hexaware's CSR Employee Engagement** program, a team of 12 enthusiastic volunteers and their families visited YES on May 11th. The visit commenced with an orientation session focused on understanding special needs and adults with special needs. The volunteers brought thoughtful gifts of games and fruits for the trainees and actively engaged with them for around four hours through shared activities like conversation, singing, dancing, group art, and indoor games. The positive interactions continued during lunch with the YES team, where the volunteers shared their enriching experiences with the trainees.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## June 2024

A group of 35 students and staff from YES, Chennai, recently experienced the "**Local '24' Art and Design exhibition at the Lalit Kala Akademi.**

Curated by Ms. Aishwarya Manivannan of Maisha Studio, the exhibition featured artworks by 16 of her students, centered around themes of connection and interactive learning. The exhibition presented a diverse collection of around 100 pieces spanning fine art, painting, drawing, installations, sculptures, film, photography, fashion, and product design, all created by 16 talented individuals aged 16 to 23. Maisha Studio generously sponsored the transportation and refreshments for the YES visitors, who each received an artwork bookmark as a memento of their visit.



On June 7th, as part of the Early Intervention (EI) Unit's outreach program, **a sensitization session was conducted for the teachers of Olcott School** by Ms. Lekshmi Ramesh and Ms. Nasrath Banu. Ms. Ramesh addressed the significance of early intervention, explaining its benefits for children with special needs and emphasizing its collaborative nature, involving parents, the school, and the early intervention team in addressing the child's needs. Furthermore, the teachers received an orientation on various learning styles and their impact on both teaching methodologies and the learning process. A total of 12 teachers participated in the session.

As part of the EI Unit's outreach program, supported by Chola MS General Insurance, a **screening camp was conducted at Cathedral Free Primary School** from June 19 to 21. During the camp, students from grades I through V underwent screening. A total of 122 children were screened, and the scoring and interpretations are currently being compiled in order to commence the intervention programs.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## June 2024

Every year, **International Yoga Day** is observed on June 21st to commemorate the physical and spiritual benefits yoga has brought globally. The theme for the 10th annual celebration was "Yoga for Self and Society." The term "Yoga" originates from Sanskrit, signifying "to join" or "to unite," symbolizing the integration of body and consciousness. Yoga offers a holistic approach to health and well-being by uniting the body, mind, spirit, and soul. Its transformative power is the focus of this special day of recognition.

In V-Excel, Yoga Day was celebrated across the organization on June 21st. The students performed a variety of asanas, demonstrating that individuals of all abilities could participate and practice yoga according to their own capabilities.

VTU Adyar organized a puja in which five priests performed the **Ganapathy, Navagraham and Lakshmi Hayagriva homam**. Charu, Uma, Mani, and Sushma joined in the homam chanting and performed the puja along with the priests. The homams were an auspicious way to seek blessings for the year ahead and to overcome any challenges that may arise.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## July 2024

**Guru Seva Nirata Sri PA Murali, Administrator & CEO of Sringeri Math** visited V-Excel on July 8. He came to V-Excel's head office, Sharada, took a walk-through of the entire building. He peeped into every room and spent time understanding the scope of the work that was being done.



On July 9, **V-Excel Pandharpur celebrated its first anniversary**. Guests of Honor included Smt. Rashmi Kaulware, President of the Inner Wheel Club District 311 and Headmistress of the Yashkirti Vidyalaya, Smt. Geeta Utpat and other Inner Wheel Club members. All the children were involved in the celebrations. The Inner Wheel club members donated sensory materials to the center.

On July 11th, a group of 25 trainees and 13 trainers from YES visited **Kanchipuram**. Their trip included a visit to the Ayyampettai Weaver's Cooperative Society, where they observed traditional silk and cotton weaving. The group then proceeded to the Manimandapam of Jagadguru Shri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Mahaswamigal at Orikkai. At the temple and gurukulam, the YES team distributed small bags of notebooks and stationery, to the gurukulam students. In return, the gurukulam students chanted mantras, including the *Dhanvantri Slokam*, for the well-being of the YES trainees. The YES team had lunch at the Orikkai temple's Bhojanaalayam. The highlight of the visit was an audience with the Kanchi Mutt Peetathipathi Sri Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal, who showed great interest in the organization and blessed the group.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## July 2024

The vocational students at KLC explored the inspirational story of Joan of Arc through a **trip to Pondicherry**. Carefully planned to encourage listening, observation, drawing, and real-world engagement beyond the school environment, the students visited the garden and Notre Dame Church, where Joan's statue stands. Their day involved navigating traffic, managing hunger, practicing independence at hotels, observing silence at church, enjoying the beach freely, showing reverence at an artists' village, and encountering diverse people, sounds, sights, challenges, and joys.



Despite being divided into teams (blue, yellow, black, and white), the V-Excel team experienced favorable weather as the usual Chennai heat gave way to overcast skies for their "**V-Excel Premier League (VPL)**". The energetic cricket match was played with enthusiasm. The meticulously planned event fostered a competitive yet spirited atmosphere among colleagues, reminiscent of a major tournament, filled with moments of quiet strategy and joyful celebration.



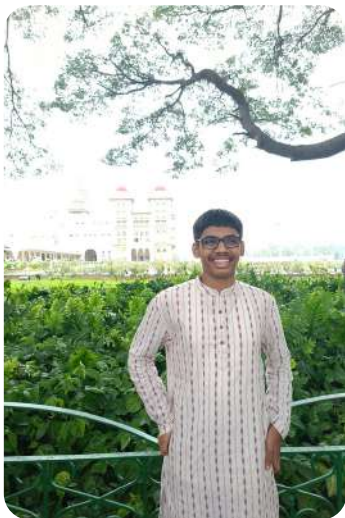
On July 6th, as part of their Atos Prayas Foundation-supported outreach, V-Excel Educational Trust's Ms. Lekshmi Ramesh led a **sensitization session at A.K.G. Public School** for 38 teachers. She highlighted the importance and collaborative nature of early intervention for children with special needs, involving parents, school, and the EI team. Following this, V-Excel's Ms. Shobana conducted experiential games illustrating the differing perceptions of everyday tasks for neurodivergent individuals.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## July 2024

The much-awaited **registration certificate for V-Excel Nashik was renewed** by the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Maharashtra State, Pune.

On July 20th, a group of 14 students and 12 staff from **V-Excel Erode visited the Mettur Dam** to expose students to real-life situations, fostering critical thinking, social and communication skills, teamwork, and community building. Their visit included a jaggery production unit where staff explained the making process. At the Mettur Dam, they experienced pleasant weather, viewed the dam from the viewpoint and higher levels, and observed the significant water flow due to rains. The group enjoyed packed food and snacks, visited a park where the children played, and explored the aquarium within the park.



On July 1st, **Arpith Ashok, a trainee from YES, Mylapore, commenced his internship** at the CA firm P.S. Subramania Iyer & Co. . He will be supporting the back-office team with tasks such as scanning and photocopying. This opportunity will also allow Arpith to further develop his social and communication skills. The organization extends its best wishes to Arpith for his future endeavors.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## August 2024

On August 2nd, 2024, V-Excel Educational Trust achieved a significant step towards its goal of expanding its reach to Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns with the **inauguration of its 22nd center in Kolapakkam**. This milestone was made possible through the initiative of RASEE Charitable Trust, with the support of Super Auto Forge, to provide free rehabilitation services to children with special needs in neighboring villages.



On August 10, 2024, **Disha, the parent forum of V-Excel Educational Trust, was reinitiated** at The Mylapore Club in Mylapore, with 30 parents in attendance. Following an invocation and the lighting of the traditional lamp, Ms. Charumathi Sriram, Coordinator of the Vocational Training Unit (VTU), welcomed the gathering and emphasized the significance of such support groups. Inspiring speeches were then delivered by Dr. Vasudha Prakash, Founder-Director of V-Excel Educational Trust, and the guest speaker, Ms. Radha Ramesh, Proprietor of Twin Twigs.



A panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan, Center Coordinator for Youth Empowerment Services, ensued, where participating parents shared their personal experiences and journeys. The forum was subsequently opened for a question-and-answer session, with Dr. Vasudha and Ms. Radha jointly addressing the queries. The event concluded with legal insights shared by Prof. Anand Jagadeesan, a discussion of future plans for Disha, and a lunch for all attendees.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## August 2024

Young Indians (Yi) invited V-Excel Educational Trust to their second edition of '**Walk Along 2.0**', an Accessibility Walk held on August 11, at the Namma Chennai Park. The event, supported by CREDAI Chennai and with the participation of various NGOs, aimed to promote inclusivity, raise disability awareness, and foster community spirit.

From V-Excel, a group of 36 trainees and students representing KLC, YES, and VTU, along with 17 teachers, trainers, staff, and parents, took part in the 600-meter walk. The event was inaugurated by Mr. A.R. Unnikrishnan, Vice Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu; Mr. Ajit Chordia, CII Vice Chairman of the Chennai Zone; and Mr. A. Mohamed Ali, President of CREDAI Chennai.

The walk uniquely paired each person with a disability with a neurotypical participant, walking hand in hand. The Accessibility vertical of Yi focuses on initiatives that encourage empathy over sympathy, thereby creating empowerment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.



V-Excel, in partnership with Sundaram Educational Trust, continues its thirteen-year tradition of presenting "**A Class Apart**" to mainstream schools in Chennai. This year-long professional development program, conducted over three three-day sessions, addresses the diverse learning challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals.

Beyond skill development, the program aims to transform educators' perspectives, fostering an internal framework to navigate the daily complexities of inclusive classrooms. The first module of this year's program engaged 37 teachers from 22 schools in dynamic activities involving movement, painting, singing, listening, and speaking. Through these experiences, the teachers learned that learning is inclusive and leaves no child behind in the classroom.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## August 2024

**Sangam '24**, the sports meet hosted by V-Excel Educational Trust, was a significant success. Held at St. Bede's playground in Santhome, Chennai, over two days on August 22nd and 23rd, the event was the culmination of months of planning, including invitations to other institutions serving special children/adults and the organization of preliminary rounds at their respective premises. A total of 352 children and adults from seven special schools, including V-Excel, participated, with 160 participants engaging in activities on the first day. The efforts of each participant were acknowledged with a Certificate of Appreciation.



### A life in the day of a teacher for special needs students

Bagavathi, 43, has been working as a special needs educator at a skills training centre in the city. She provides training in tailoring, jute braiding, block printing, and bag-making, among others.

srinathkumar S.  
CHENNAI

A yoga class is taking place at the V-Excel Learning Centre in Adyar, and Bagavathi, 43, dressed in a crisp light green saree, is busy guiding the 20-something-year-old students attending the session. "I'm giving out instructions, fixing their posture," she says.



passed away when she was young. She was raised by her mother. Chennai has since been my home away from home, she says. When not at work, she loves frequenting the Marina Beach. "It took me some time to get adjusted to Chennai. It was all new to me in the beginning."

V-Excel's skill trainer Ms. Bagavathi Raman, who has been with the Vocational Training Unit in Adyar since 2018, was featured in "A Life in the Day..." series of The Hindu on August 24.

As part of the EI Unit's outreach program supported by the Atos Prayas Foundation, a **screening camp was conducted at Reddiarpatti Government Primary School in Tirunelveli** from August 6th to 9th, 2024. Students in grades I through V were screened during this period. Out of a total of 232 children examined, 46 were identified as having significant difficulties with their psychomotor development and/or learning.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## August 2024

Niharikaa Dinakaran, a senior student in KLC, met the criteria for the **second training batch at Writer's Cafe**. Following her application, she was interviewed,. Through the process she demonstrated confidence and composure while responding effectively to the questions. She was then selected for a six-month training program at the Cafe.



V-Excel Nashik has received a **Certificate as a DISHA Implementing School**. The DISHA program, an initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, centers on early intervention and ensuring school readiness for children with developmental disabilities. This certification recognizes V-Excel Nashik's commitment to empowering students with special needs to reach their full potential.



In Nashik, students from Bridges Learning Academy's Vocational Unit and Learning Centre collaborated on a group dance centered around **Mental Stress Awareness**, using a medley of "All is Well," "Fikar Not," and "Love You Zindagi." Their impactful performance secured second place in the competition, marking the academy's third consecutive year winning a trophy. Adding to the academy's success, Aarisha Iyer and Himanshu Gupta, also from Bridges Learning Academy, received special medals for their exceptional individual contributions. This achievement underscores the students' artistic talent and V-Excel's ongoing dedication to addressing significant social issues through creative expression.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## August 2024

During the **District Differently Abled Welfare Officer's inspection at OutReach, Pollachi**, the accessibility and support systems for special students were noted as largely adequate, with specific mention of ramps, specialized teaching aids, and the use of individualized education plans. The officer identified areas for improvement, suggesting additional staff training and more inclusive classroom materials. The inspection concluded with recommendations aimed at enhancing overall inclusivity and ensuring adherence to accessibility standards. As a token of appreciation, the officer received a memento featuring vocational training products crafted by the school's special young adults.



For their monthly PTA meeting on August 10, 2024, **Anandam Special School organized an open house** for parents. A thematic presentation showcasing the school's working system was displayed and explained. Teachers facilitated a walk-in for admission to the therapist curriculum and other activities, demonstrating their individualized approach with diverse materials. Parents toured the conceptual displays and expressed satisfaction with the students' learning experiences. The school's Managing Trustee, Smt. Bhageerathi Ramamurthy, also visited the school to view the exhibition.

Gayathri Suryanarayanan from YES successfully completed the **Associate Certification in Gestalt Psychology** through the Anil Thomas Fellowship Program. This 60-hour virtual program, held from August 15th to 18th, 2024, involved self-exploration, therapy sessions, and a written integration. Moderators evaluated the participants based on these components, and scoring was determined accordingly.



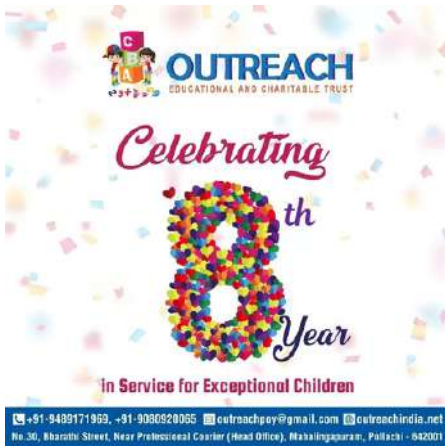
# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## September 2024

On September 4, 2024, V-Excel Educational Trust was invited to showcase and sell products from its three Chennai units at the Inner Wheel Club of Chennai's **Symphony Bazaar**, held at Chhajer Bhavan. Several V-Excel trainees actively participated, engaging with shoppers and proudly describing the production processes.



The products were well-received, fostering connections with the organization's mission as visitors took the time to understand V-Excel's work. The event also resulted in advance orders for Navratri and promising leads for future collaborations, making it a truly fruitful day.



**OutReach, Pollachi celebrated its 8th anniversary** on September 17. Reflecting on this milestone, Mr. Bala (Board Member) and Dr. Manju (Managing Trustee) expressed their gratitude to Dr. Vasudha Prakash, the guiding force of V-Excel, whose influence has drawn individuals like them to the organization since 2017. Today, the Outreach team remembers all direct and indirect patrons of V-Excel who have placed their trust in them and offered invaluable support during challenging times.

Mrs. Lekshmi Ramesh, Unit Head of Early Intervention and Remedial Services, was honored with the **Rotary Excellence Award for Special Children School Teachers** by Rotary International District 3233. This prestigious award recognizes selected teachers throughout the Chennai district for their tireless dedication and positive societal impact. The award ceremony took place at the Ethiraj College Auditorium in Egmore, Chennai.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## September 2024



The Owl House in Goa, a community service initiative offering skill support for individuals and families with neurological differences, conducts Fellowship programs for those interested in working with their students. On the concluding day of a recent Fellowship training period, **Gita Bhalla served as the panel expert**. Her session involved an in-depth discussion on the 12 senses, complemented by the in-house expertise of building bridges and fostering parent collaboration, with contributions from a few teachers of KLC

On a recent visit to the Youth Empowerment Center of V-Excel, Nashik, Shri Bhausahab Mhasu Narwade, an expert with 27 years of experience at Dr. Devendra Ohra Residential Matimand Vidyalaya in Sangamner, conducted a **seminar on Legal Guardianship** for parents of adults with special needs. The session, attended by all teaching and non-teaching staff and most of the parents, provided valuable insights into the legal aspects of securing the future of individuals with special needs.



Shri Narwade interacted informally with the parents, sharing real-life experiences and explaining relevant legal clauses and the benefits of legal guardianship. The information he provided offered both teachers and parents a new perspective on this crucial aspect of planning for the well-being of their adult children with special needs.

**Teacher's Day** is a global occasion to honor and appreciate the vital contributions of educators. It recognizes the crucial role teachers play in shaping the future by imparting knowledge, fostering critical thinking, and inspiring students. At Erode V-Excel, Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 21st, 2024, in a simple yet heartfelt manner. A lunch and a small token of appreciation were arranged for all staff members.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## September 2024

V-Excel Educational Trust, Solapur, and Maitra Foundation hosted a **workshop for parents focusing on adolescence**. Psychologist Prajakta Dhumal from the Tathapi Trust in Pune guided parents on topics including body literacy, the physical and mental changes adolescents experience, physical hygiene, and essential care. She also addressed how to navigate these issues specifically when raising children with special needs. The parents' questions were answered by Sujata Lohokare, Sunita Vaidya, and Prajakta Dhumal.



On September 4, YES (Youth Empowerment Services) and the VTU (Vocational Training Unit) team were invited to host a **product stall for the employees of Grundfos** at their company premises. The stall operated from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Yuvaraj and Sujanya, along with trainee Arvind Ramprasad, managed the stall during the first half of the day, while the VTU team took over for the latter half. The products were well-received, with the millet laddoos, handmade notebooks, and laptop sleeves garnering particular praise.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## October 2024

On October 5th, 2024, Nandha College of Physiotherapy invited the Erode center of V-Excel Educational Trust to participate in their **cultural and sports meet**, organized in observance of World Cerebral Palsy Day. V-Excel Erode actively participated in both the sports and cultural events, achieving winning positions in several games. In a gesture of inclusivity, all participants received certificates recognizing their performance, as the organizers chose to honor everyone rather than solely announcing winners this year. The Head of the Department conveyed special appreciation to both the students and teachers for their success, participation, and representation for the second consecutive year.



**"Unidos" or "Coming Together,"** a poignant documentary showcasing the power of social inclusion, is available for viewing exclusively on DD Tamil. This documentary was filmed at V-Excel's vocational centers in Adyar and Mylapore. Viewers are encouraged to watch it.

The Madras Dyslexia Association (MDA) organized a **'Dyslexia Awareness Walk'** starting from Besant Nagar Beach in Chennai at 7:00 AM on October 20, 2024. This event was part of a series of activities planned to commemorate 'Dyslexia Awareness Month', observed globally every October. These efforts were aimed to increase awareness among the local community, parents, and schools regarding the facts about dyslexia and individuals with dyslexia.

V-Excel was among the participants in the event. The designated color for the day was red, chosen due to its common association with highlighting spelling errors and low grades in school. Each trainee from V-Excel who participated received a certificate of participation.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## October 2024

A significant highlight of October 2024 was TATTVA, an art exhibition curated entirely by the YES (Youth Empowerment Services) team of V-Excel Educational Trust. Planning and preparations for the event commenced in August, incorporating several new initiatives and ideas from the outset. **TATTVA 2024** saw participation from 11 special schools, in addition to three centers of V-Excel. A total of 128 special artists showcased 178 artworks and photographs at Alliance Francaise on October 26, 2024. Key features of TATTVA 2024 included the inclusion of individual artists, a professional gallery setup, a day-long event, the auctioning of selected artwork, and the formation of volunteer groups from corporate organizations. The exhibition proved to be a resounding success, with a total of 160 artworks and photographs sold. The YES team expressed their excitement and gratitude for the widespread appreciation and positive feedback received.



On Vijayadasami, October 12, 2024, V-Excel Educational Trust, in collaboration with Super Auto Forge, **inaugurated a new early intervention center at Unamancheri**, located on the Kolapakkam highway. This center provides services free of charge to children with special needs.

The opening ceremony included a prayer, followed by consultations and assessments for children. Those children who were assessed and deemed eligible for interventions were invited to begin their therapy sessions the following week.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## October 2024

On October 16, 2024, a **mental health awareness session** was conducted for all teaching and administrative staff in Nashik by the school counselor, Smt. Pradnya Apte. The session centered on the well-being of teachers, highlighting the importance of identifying and managing their own stress levels. Teachers received guidance on strategies for maintaining mental health, reducing stress, and enhancing their overall well-being, with a strong emphasis on the necessity of self-care in their demanding professions.



A **special performing arts program** was organized by Bal Rangabhumi Nashik for special children, providing a platform for students from Bridges Learning Academy (BLA), Vocational Training Unit (VTU), and Learning Centre (VLC) to display their talents. The students presented a vibrant group dance centered on the theme "Stress Busters," which captivated the audience with its energy and creative expression. Additionally, themes such as "Circus," "Child Labour," and "Mangalyaan" were beautifully portrayed by the children through various performances. In recognition of their dedication to the students, the school principal, Mrs. Swati Gaikwad, and Senior Educator, Mrs. Niliesha Sharma, were honored with awards for their contributions.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## October 2024

On Vijayadashami, October 9, 2024, in Srirangam, a **visit to the Sankara Mutt** located at T V Koil took place by invitation. The group visited both the Sankara Mutt and the adjacent Panchamukeshwarar Tripurasundari Amman Temple. During the visit, the trainees received bags, notebooks, sketch pens, and *prasadam*. The trainees reportedly enjoyed the day and conducted themselves well.



On a day with scorching heat, VTU (Vocational Training Unit) trainees, staff, and teachers had the special opportunity to attend and **witness the Indian Air Force Air Show**, which was held at Marina Beach in Chennai after a hiatus of eight years. Prior to the event, their FA (Functional Academics) teacher, Uma, had prepared the trainees by explaining about the IAF and the air show through online videos. Upon arrival at Marina Beach, the group was granted special permission to be seated near the VIP enclosure. Despite the heat, the trainees thoroughly enjoyed watching the air show live, maintaining remarkable calm and composure. Officials from the Indian Air Force were attentive to their needs and even took photographs with the trainees.

Gayathri Suryanarayanan from YES successfully completed a **triple certification course** from Asian College of Teachers. This course includes Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education, Certificate in Teaching and Certificate in Counselling for Teachers.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## November 2024

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Sannidhanam, **the revered pontiff of the Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham, graced V-Excel**. Prof. Anand Jagadeesan, Chief Functionary, V-Excel warmly welcomed His Holiness and expressed gratitude for his blessings. During His Holiness' visit, the atmosphere was imbued with a sense of spiritual upliftment. The Jagadguru interacted with the children, showering them with blessings and words of encouragement. The Jagadguru's visit has further strengthened V-Excel's resolve to continue its noble mission. The institution remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a more inclusive society, where every child, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



V-Excel conducted a **5-day in-house training program** (11th to 15th Nov. 2024) for select participants from its satellite centres in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The workshop was designed to equip the members to understand the philosophy and background of curative education and get a practical insight into rhythmic movements, hand work sessions, circle time and finger rhymes, main lesson stories and vocational activities done in Chennai.

**"Chandramouli: A Real-life Story of an Adult with Special Needs,"** a CBFC-certified short documentary film by V-Excel Educational Trust, premiered at PVR Sathyam Cinemas in Royapettah, Chennai, on November 16, 2024. The film chronicles the transformative journey of Chandramouli Ramadoss, a young man with special needs, highlighting his remarkable achievements through unwavering support and personalized care at V-Excel. The film's primary goal was to foster public awareness regarding neurodivergent diversity and promote inclusion within mainstream society.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## November 2024

On November 13<sup>th</sup> a **storytelling event** was organized for the remedial and young adult students of OutReach, Pollachi with the support of Round India Table, who facilitated the session. The event utilized interactive pop-up storybooks to enhance learner engagement. The session aimed to improve literacy skills by making storytelling more engaging and visually stimulating. Students actively participated, displaying enthusiasm as they explored the pop-up books and listened to the stories, which helped to enhance their comprehension and imagination.



On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Charu Sriram, the Vocational Coordinator from VTU was invited to speak at the **Regional Parents Meet Conference** organized by NIEPMD in collaboration with Parivaar - National Confederation of Parents Organizations, South Zone. The short film on Chandramouli was screened and then Charu then addressed the parents regarding opportunities in open employment. The Meet was a gathering for parents to connect, share experiences, and learn about resources and support available for their children with multiple disabilities.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, six trainees from YES, accompanied by one trainer participated in the inclusive **Sargam choir performance** held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore. The event commemorated the birth centenary of the late Sri M.B. Srinivasan and also marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sargam Choir, led by Dr. Sudha Raja. The chief guest for the occasion was retired Judge Smt. Prabha Sridevan.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## December 2024

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, **Bala Vidya Mandir (BVM), Adyar**, hosted the students of **V-Excel Educational Trust** for an afternoon filled with sports, music, dance, and joyful activities under a beautiful blue sky. The cards, gifts, and messages from the BVM students were deeply heartwarming, reflecting the innate purity and kindness of children. All the children present enthusiastically sang along to "Tumbak-a-tumba" and V-Excel's own "Blue Blue Sky Choir." The initial curiosity in their eyes regarding the V-Excel students with special needs quickly transformed into genuine warmth and acceptance. V-Excel extends its sincere gratitude to BVM for their generous hospitality.



The **Trailblazer Award** has been conferred upon Dr. Vasudha Prakash and V-Excel Educational Trust! This recognition comes from SciArtRUs, acknowledging their efforts and commitment to creating positive change. The award stands as a testament to the dedication of the V-Excel team, its students, and the unwavering support of those who believe in their mission.

Eight trainees from YES along with Divya Venkatesh (Skill Trainer) and Gayathri Suryanarayanan (Center Coordinator), participated in the Star Book of World Records for a **Silambam Marathon** held at the YMCA in Nandanam on December 8th. The staff and trainees walked a distance of 5 kilometers while continuously practicing Silambam routines. At the conclusion of the event, the staff and trainees were invited to the dais, where the trainees were specifically acknowledged for their participation, enthusiasm, and determination.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## December 2024

In the customary spirit of Christmas, V-Excel's **Blue Blue Sky Choir** delighted an audience of students from Grades 1 to 4 at the Tattva School, Chennai. The children enthusiastically sang along and interacted with Santa and the teachers joined in the dancing.



On December 15<sup>th</sup> students from their special school in Nashik participated in a **sports competition** held at the Ashoka Universal School ground. The competition featured 38 different events for boys and girls across various age categories. The participants included students with autism, cerebral palsy, slow learning abilities, and intellectual disabilities. The event received coverage in the Nashik City edition of the Divya Marathi newspaper on the current date

December holds special significance as World Disability Day is observed annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year, V-Excel Educational Trust hosted '**December Bazaar**' at their premises, providing a platform to showcase products crafted by trainees from all their units. As part of this large event, the Early Intervention unit organized "Games Cart," featuring several games specifically designed with therapeutic benefits while ensuring maximum engagement. Open to all visitors, the area resonated with laughter as both young and old enthusiastically participated in and enjoyed the various games.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## December 2024

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, **V-Excel Pandharpur organized a lively Bazaar Day** for the children of the center. The event was honored by the presence of the chief guest, Mrs. Shailaja Anil Savant. Volunteers from the Visionar's Group of D.H. Kavathekar Prashala, Pandharpur, collaborated with the V-Excel Pandharpur team to support the event. Parents played an active role in assisting their children with preparations, while the student volunteers worked alongside the children, promoting inclusion. Together, they strategized on effective sales techniques for the children's products. Local community members were invited to attend Bazaar Day to offer encouragement, interact with the children, and support their efforts through purchases.



**V-Excel Erode initiated a tuck shop** within the school, operating every Thursday. The pre-vocational students prepare fresh and healthy snacks, along with other products such as turmeric powder, paper bags, and colored *diyas*. With the assistance of trainees, the students are now able to measure and pack the items themselves. This initiative has been successfully implemented and has received positive feedback from parents.

OutReach Special School proudly participated as a sponsor in the Pollachi Thiruvizha event. Dr. S. Manju, the Managing Trustee, had the honor of inaugurating the **Torch Light Rally**, which marked the beginning of the vibrant celebration. Two special students from the school, Susanth and Dharineesh, had the privilege of carrying and handing over the torch during the rally, adding a heartfelt element to the occasion. The school's involvement in this event highlighted the spirit of inclusion and community, contributing significantly to its success.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## December 2024

As part of their annual planning process, which includes a **trial overnight stay** before the main trip during the academic year, VTU Adyar organized a local overnight stay for ten new trainees at their familiar center. This yearly project aims to observe the trainees' Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and identify any potential challenges to ensure a smooth experience during the annual trip. The trainees stayed overnight at the center on December 6 and on the following morning, they followed their usual routines and continued activities at the center.



On the evening of the 7th, they attended an award function and had dinner at a restaurant. They then returned to the center for the night, where all necessary arrangements had been made, and the next day they had breakfast and a delicious lunch before returning home. For most of the trainees, this marked their first experience of being away from their parents and staying overnight in a different environment with new friends.

In December 2024, seven trainees and two trainers from the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) unit were part of the **inclusive choir group, 'Sargam'**, and performed at several events across different venues in Chennai. On December 6th, they performed at the inaugural function of Margazhimatram, in Mylapore. On December 10th, the choir performed at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore, then on December 13th at the Sankara Vidyashram Auditorium in Thiruvannamiyur and their final performance for the month was on December 28th at Sri Hariharan Hall in Adyar. Throughout these programs, the YES choir group collaborated with the members of the Sargam Choir, led by Ms. Sudha Raja, to perform a repertoire of devotional, Carnatic, and patriotic songs.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## January 2025

It is with great pleasure that we announce **the appointment of our Founder-Director, Dr. Vasudha Prakash, to the Tamil Nadu Government's Committee for Research on Disability.** This appointment marks a significant step forward in the pursuit of a more inclusive society within the state.

A group from V-Excel Educational Trust's Chennai centers participated in a beautiful choir performance led by Dr. Sudha Raja and the Sargam Choir at the Sri Aurobindo Auditorium in Auroville on January 4, 2025. The group included seven trainees from YES (Chennai), two trainees from VTU, and three staff members, who were part of Auroville's Margazhi festival celebrations.



At a two-day conference held at IIT Madras on January 4th and 5th, V-Excel's team of special educators, led by Associate Director Gita Bhalla, along with Neha Bharadwaj and Puja Bhalla, conducted a three-hour participatory workshop on **"Inclusion in the Early Years."** This workshop was part of a series of upskilling sessions and seminars featuring experts from the Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (IACAM) and the education industry. The series aimed to share knowledge on researched alternative teaching methods, classroom inclusivity, and related themes.



On January 5th, a panel comprising child psychologists, educators, researchers, and policymakers was convened to discuss and share insights on addressing often overlooked challenges and potential solutions within the education sector, among other pertinent topics. Ms. Lavanya Ashok, the Early Intervention Coordinator for V-Excel in Chennai, was a member of this panel.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## January 2025

At #COSTAA2025 held at the IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai on January 8, 2025, Dr. Sudha Raja of Sargam Choir delivered an inspiring lecture-demonstration on "**Choir Pedagogy and Accessibility**." During her session, she highlighted the therapeutic benefits of music and shared her experiences in training individuals with special needs. Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan of V-Excel Educational Trust also contributed by sharing the inspiring journeys of trainees within the inclusive choir.



The Information and Resource Centre (IRC), a unit of Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, in collaboration with Rotary Bangalore (West), organized and conducted Kalaangana 2025, a cultural festival encompassing art, yoga, dance, and music for differently-abled children. As part of the celebrations held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, the organization bestowed a **Lifetime Contribution Award upon Dr. Vasudha Prakash**. The award ceremony took place at the Vidya Vihara Hall in Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

The Chief Guest for the event was Padamashree Dr. K.S. Rajanna, the Former State Commissioner for the Government of Karnataka. V-Excel Educational Trust extends its sincere gratitude to Shri V.R. Ramesh (Head of IRC), Smt. Vidya Udani (Unit Joint Head - IRC), and Shri Yogesh Pachisia, the Club President of Rotary Club of Bangalore West, for their kindness and hospitality.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## January 2025

On January 18, 2025, V-Excel Educational Trust hosted an insightful **Disha parent forum meeting** at Sharada, their Head Office in R.A. Puram, Chennai. The forum, themed "The Next Chapter - Transition Planning for Success," brought together 70 participants, including parents and members of the V-Excel team. The session was expertly led by Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan, the Center Coordinator of V-Excel's Mylapore center.



During the meeting, parents openly shared their personal experiences, the challenges they face, and the specific areas where they require support. The attendees included parents of trainees who have already secured employment and those whose children have opted for either exclusive or inclusive community living arrangements. Heartfelt stories and effective strategies for navigating challenges were shared, providing valuable insights for all present.

Dr. Vasudha Prakash, the Founder-Director of V-Excel, along with Mrs. Usha Rajagopal, the Program Director, and Mrs. Jayadevi Jayaprakash, the Counselor, also addressed the gathering. They shared their suggestions and recommendations regarding crucial aspects of transition planning.

The staff from the Early Intervention - Vocational Rehabilitation Center (EI-VRC) embarked on an **experiential trip to Trivandrum**, where they visited the Different Art Centre, an initiative by the renowned magician, Mr. Gopinath Muthukad. This center focuses on educating and empowering children with various disabilities, broadening the scope of training beyond magic to encompass art forms such as music, dance, drama, cinema making, painting, and skills in diverse musical instruments. The Different Art Centre has nurtured the talents of approximately 200 differently-abled children, showcasing their abilities to the wider world. The visit provided a wonderful and insightful day for the EI-VRC team to experience the center's impactful work firsthand.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## January 2025

From January 29th to 31st, 2025, Nagpur hosted the **Green Skilling Program by Craftizen**, a training initiative for trainers focused on the production of eco-friendly, craft-based livelihoods for adults with intellectual disabilities and underprivileged women. Nitya from V-Excel Chennai and Suvarna from V-Excel Nashik participated in this program. They are expected to share their newly acquired knowledge and skills with their colleagues, ultimately leading to enhanced opportunities for the trainees to engage in meaningful product-based work.



On January 9, 2025, trainees from the Vocational Training Centre in Nashik participated in a **road safety awareness session** at the Traffic Education Park. Miss Shilpa, a senior trainer, led an engaging PowerPoint presentation, explaining crucial safety measures such as the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts, and the dangers of using mobile phones while driving. The trainees actively explored the park's traffic signals, road signs, and pedestrian crossings, providing them with practical, hands-on learning.

The session further reinforced key safety concepts through the use of informative videos and real-life demonstrations highlighting the significance of zebra crossings, footpaths, and subways.

V-Excel Nashik students delivered an **outstanding performance at the district-level sports competition for children with special needs**, held on January 16th and 17th, 2025, making the organization very proud. The talented athletes secured a total of 19 medals, comprising 9 Gold, 4 Silver, and 6 Bronze, across various categories including intellectual disability and multiple disability. Their achievement stands as a testament to their hard work, perseverance, and the consistent and dedicated support provided by their teachers and sports coach.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## January 2025



OutReach Special School, Pollachi, received the prestigious **Community Rehabilitation Award** in the category of Organizations Empowering Persons with Disabilities. This recognition was presented by Dr. Shymala Naveenatha Krishnan, Chairman of Pollachi Municipality, and acknowledges their dedicated work in supporting individuals with disabilities through direct intervention and Government school adoption programs since 2017. This award serves as a significant motivation to continue pushing boundaries and striving towards their vision.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## February 2025



**Oviya Sangamam**, a vibrant art exhibition, was held at Semmozhi Poonga, Chennai, on February 2, 2025.

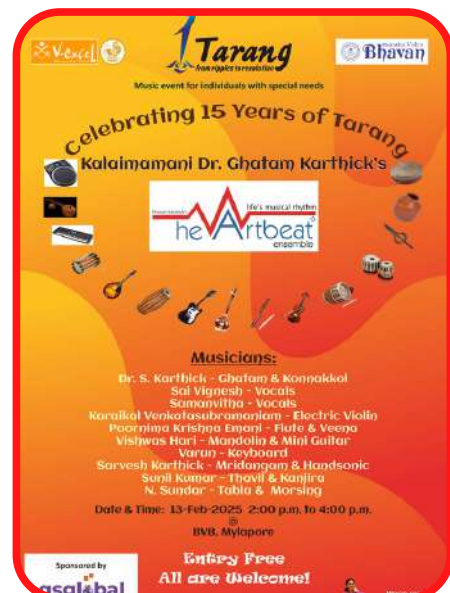
Organized by the Indian Art Factory, this special event showcased the remarkable talents of young artists from five institutions, including YES (Youth Empowerment Services) from V-Excel Educational Trust and other special schools. Their stunning artworks highlighted the creativity, passion, and boundless imagination of these young individuals.



Students from Anandam Special School also presented an inspiring collection of paintings at Oviya Sangamam 2025. These pieces, created by children with autism spectrum disorder and specific learning disabilities, reflected their unique imagination, artistic skills, and individual perspectives on the world.

V-Excel celebrated the **15th anniversary of Tarang**, with a notable performance featuring Kalamani Dr. Ghatam Karthick and the "HeArtbeat Ensemble." The event's aim was to promote the integration of individuals with special needs into an inclusive society, allowing them to experience the beauty of the creative arts and benefit from the therapeutic effects of performing arts in special education.

The event was thoughtfully curated by Usha Suresh and her team, in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, ensuring that Tarang continues its mission of bringing the magic of music to those who can benefit from it the most.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## February 2025



From February 5th to 8th, 2025, the trainees and staff of the **Vocational Training Unit (VTU)** Adyar enjoyed a memorable **outstation trip to Ooty**, filled with learning, laughter, and connection.



Their itinerary included visits to the vibrant Botanical Gardens, where they appreciated the beautiful color combinations of the flora, and the serene Ooty Lake, where they experienced the joy of boating. They also enjoyed walking across a hanging bridge, exploring Doddabetta Peak, and watching the captivating musical fountains.



Visits to local chocolate, tea, and varki (crispy vegetarian snack)-making factories provided interesting insights into these processes, while the intricate beauty of the Thread Garden left everyone in admiration. A highlight of the trip was the magical Ooty Mountain Train ride, which took them through tunnels and picturesque valleys.



Beyond the sightseeing, the trip fostered a sense of connection, as everyone embraced nature and enjoyed each other's company, reinforcing their sense of belonging. A particularly serene experience was their visit to Isha Yoga & Adi Yogi, where the trainees seamlessly integrated into the peaceful and meditative atmosphere.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## February 2025



The Rotary Club of Madras Temple City organized a **Wellness Carnival** at CP Art Centre on Sunday, February 23, 2025, bringing together a notable group of experts, organizations, and advocates for physical and mental well-being. V-Excel Educational Trust was a proud participant in this impactful event, showcasing the handcrafted products created by students from their Youth Empowerment Services (YES) and Vocational Training Unit (VTU). All purchases made at their stall directly supported the growth and skill development of these talented students.



A significant highlight of the carnival was an insightful panel discussion focused on "Sane Teens." Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan, the Centre Coordinator at YES, contributed her expertise to the discussion, particularly addressing the unique challenges of adolescence faced by individuals with special needs. Her perspective enriched the conversation, fostering greater understanding and awareness among the audience.

Thanks to the **Inner Wheel Club of Madras**, facilitated by their existing partner EcoKonnectors Trust, the tailoring program at YES has received a valuable enhancement. Their **donation of a new sewing machine** will expand the training opportunities available to the trainees, allowing them to produce a wider range of items.

On February 25, 2025, Ms. Shamantha Reddy, the President of the Inner Wheel Club, and Ms. Ruchita Saraogi, the Secretary, along with Ms. Sumithra Srikant and Ganga Sridhar from EcoKonnectors Trust, visited the YES center for the official inauguration of the new machine and a tour of the facilities.



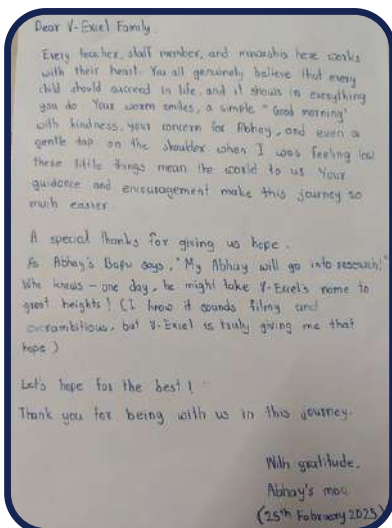
# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## February 2025

The YES team embarked on their **annual outstation trip** for 2025, flying to Visakhapatnam (Vizag). A group of thirty-four individuals, comprising 21 trainees and 13 staff members, traveled on an IndiGo flight to Vizag on February 17, 2025, and stayed at the Landmark Hotel. Over their three-day stay, they explored various attractions, including Kailasagiri, the Simhachalam temple, Rushikonda Beach, RK Beach, VMRDA Park, the Sea Harrier Museum, the Tupolev Aircraft Museum, and the INS Kursura Submarine Museum. They also took a scenic long drive to Lambasinghi, the nearest hill station, where they enjoyed a relaxed visit to a strawberry farm, a flower garden, and picturesque viewpoints.



The image was shared by the mother of Abhay Bhopale, a 5-year-old child at V-Excel's Learning Center in Solapur, on the occasion of his birthday. This heartfelt acknowledgement is **testament** to the small human touches being used in the daily work at the center. They also serve as the driving force for the team, working with the child. These simple words of acknowledgement are truly encouraging and motivating.



As Dr. Vasudha describes it, "Ultimately isn't this what we wanted to do for every person we try for every child, parent and family? The words encapsulate the essence of our work – pure intention, sincere striving, warm connection, love dignity and respect for every child and parent/caregiver, giving clear guidance, filling them with hope and aspiration and being there for them – a simple set of ethos that each one of us should follow across the organization."

Thank you, Sunita Vaidya and the entire team in Solapur.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## February 2025

### **Voices Unseen: Bridging Gaps; Building Hope**

Hosted by a consortium of NGOs, with V-Excel leading the way, a unique one-day conference for the disability sector was held on February 1, 2025 at the E Hotel in Royapettah, Chennai.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- identify challenges
- encourage collaboration and networking
- facilitate knowledge sharing
- highlight innovations and needs
- support and empower parents and caregivers
- recommend a set of parameters, norms, and standards for governmental consideration
- highlight the process of getting recognition and obtaining legal guardianship, and
- act as a bridge between governmental agencies and PwDs



Seventy-seven organizations participated. This included 74 NGOs and 3 corporates and a total of 169 participants.

On February 8th, 18 students from various grades in KLC participated in **Javate 2025**, an annual inter-school cultural competition for special students held at Lady Andal School in Chennai. KLC has been a regular participant in this event for several years. Their students competed in categories including art, individual and group singing and dancing, a talent show, and a fancy-dress competition. The students responded well to the training and actively participated.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## February 2025

**V-Excel Solapur's annual day celebration**, marking the culmination of the academic year, took place on February 1st at Nirmal Fadukale Sabhagraha. The event was graced by guests Ritu Rathi and Nihar Bhurte. This year's theme, Krishna Leela, showcased the birth of Krishna and his playful interactions with friends through various performances, including dance sequences set to Krishna songs. The children were dressed as characters from these narratives, delivering an outstanding performance on stage. The annual day serves as an occasion for the school community to unite and celebrate the students' efforts and the teachers' dedication. The event concluded with the distribution of snacks to the students.



On February 2, the **RMKV Nellai Marathon**, powered by the Nellai Runners Trust, took place in Tirunelveli. This year's event focused on uniting the community to promote the message "Say No to Drugs, Yes to a Healthy Lifestyle," advocating for wellness, resilience, and a drug-free future. The marathon featured three race categories: 5 km, 10 km, and 15 km. Four students from V-Excel's Tirunelveli center, accompanied by staff, represented the organization in the 5 km run. They successfully completed the race in 25 minutes, earning widespread appreciation and receiving medals for their participation. The experience was a novel one for both the students and the accompanying staff members.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## March 2025



YES Mylapore celebrated **Women's Day** with a well-received event titled "The Bold and The Beautiful," which brought together 35 women, including YES mothers, trainees, and staff members from various V-Excel units.

The celebration was structured into three engaging sessions. It commenced with a lively self-introduction round, fostering connection among the participants. This was followed by informative sessions on fitness, self-defense, and beauty. Mr. Kumar, a skilled yoga and martial arts instructor, demonstrated practical self-defense techniques that the women enthusiastically practiced. He also shared a fundamental full-body fitness routine.

Adding to the day's enriching activities, Ms. Swathi Rekha from Naturals provided valuable insights into hair and skin care. Accompanied by two colleagues, she demonstrated basic makeup application and offered makeovers to several delighted attendees.



V-Excel Learning Center along with Navjeevan Children's Multispecialty Hospital, Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) all based in Pandharpur organized a **one-day Autism Awareness Program** for doctors and physicians. The program was organized by pediatrician Dr. Shital Shah of Navjeevan Children's Multispecialty Hospital in Pandharpur. V-Excel's Founder-Director, Dr. Vasudha Prakash, was one of the speakers. She was joined by Dr. Suneel Godbole (Developmental Pediatrician) and Dr. Ashwini Godbole (Joint Director of Chiranjeev Child Diet and Development Centre).

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## March 2025

Ms. Uma Swaminathan, an Experiential Learning Consultant at V-Excel's Vocational Training Unit in Adyar, was invited to share her expertise on **the significance of arts in inclusive education**. Her presentation offered valuable perspectives on the transformative impact of artistic engagement. This participation was part of the Indian Theatre Arts for Integrated Development (ITAID) Project which receives support from the Tamil Nadu Government and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India.



V-Excel Educational Trust, Nashik, proudly celebrated the remarkable achievements of two of its students at recent state-level competitions in Nagpur.



Ms. Anamika Pendharkar demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill, securing first place in the Women's Category (ID) at the **State-Level Swimming Competition** held on Sunday, March 23rd. Her victory exemplifies V-Excel's commitment to fostering potential and empowering individuals to reach their goals. Adding to this proud moment, Mr. Kuber Mankar also achieved first place in the **fast walking competition** for the Multiple Disability category at the State-Level Sports Meet on March 22nd.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## March 2025

On the auspicious day of Gudi Padwa, **V-Excel Nashik** celebrated a significant step forward with the **Bhumi Pujan (ground-breaking ceremony)** for its future school, located on newly acquired land.

The sacred ceremony commenced with Mr. Dilip Kulkarni and Mrs. Alka Kulkarni from Mumbai leading the rituals as the main Yajmans (hosts). The puja was graced by the presence of esteemed donors, Mrs. Uma and Mr. Suryanarayan. Honoring the occasion were V-Excel Committee Members Mr. Jayant Bhatambrekar, Mr. Krishnakumar Rao, and Mr. Jagdish Gilda, alongside the guiding force behind V-Excel, Founder Trustee Dr. Vasudha Prakash. V-Excel's Regional Director Jayanthi Vishwanath and Coordinator Mrs. Sunita Vaidya were also present.



**OutReach Special School**, with the assistance of their internship students, **organized a handmade product stall** at NGM College, Pollachi. The stall showcased a variety of handcrafted items created by their special needs children and young adults, including soaps, herbal *sambrani*, bracelets, scented candles, and lip balms. All proceeds generated from the sales directly supported the welfare and development of these individuals, fostering skill-building and promoting self-sufficiency.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## March 2025

OutReach Special School in Pollachi, in a collaborative effort with Gurukrupa School, has embarked on a significant initiative to **promote inclusive education by welcoming special needs students** from Gurukrupa School into their learning environment. This integration is made possible with the support of Swami Vignesh, the correspondent of Gurukrupa School, and aims to provide these students with a supportive setting where their academic, social, and emotional needs are met.



The month of March in KLC was a whirlwind of activity as **preparations for the school play** intensified. The process involved securing the venue, crafting props, and sourcing costumes for each character across numerous scenes. This necessitated frequent trips to the bazaar, online orders, rigorous quality checks, and obtaining necessary approvals. Simultaneously, dialogues and narrations were recorded, and the cast and crew list was finalized. Filming for the play also took place amidst the escalating momentum of rehearsals.

Initial practices involved only the school's students, but as the scenes developed, trainees and five staff members from the YES and VTU vocational units were integrated into the rehearsals, joining daily from the first week of March, bringing the total number of participating trainees to 21. The task of developing and staging 12 scenes with a cast of over 110 individuals – comprising 71 students and trainees and more than 35 staff members, many of whom played multiple roles to support the students – presented a significant undertaking.

# CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating festivals plays a vital role in fostering inclusivity by providing shared experiences that transcend individual differences. These events create opportunities for people of all abilities and backgrounds to come together, participate, and feel a sense of belonging within the community. Festivals often incorporate diverse traditions and customs, allowing for the recognition and appreciation of varied cultures and perspectives. By actively involving everyone, including those with special needs, in these joyful occasions, we promote understanding, break down barriers, and cultivate a more accepting and cohesive society where everyone feels valued and included.

Festivals and national holidays were celebrated with gusto and fervor in all the branches of V-Excel.



## *April 2024*

World Autism Awareness Day  
Mother's Day  
Eid-ul-Fitr  
Tamil New Year  
Gudi Padwa  
Hindu Nav Varsh Swagat  
Grandparent's Day

## *June 2024*

International Day of Yoga

## *July 2024*

Founder's Day (VTU)  
Ashadhi Ekadashi  
Guru Purnima

## *August 2024*

Founder's Day (VTU)  
Ashadhi Ekadashi  
Guru Purnima  
Independence Day

## *September 2024*

Ganesh Chaturthi  
Onam  
Eid-e-Milad  
Teacher's Day

## *October 2024*

Dussehra  
Ayudha Puja  
Vijayadashami  
Diwali  
Gandhi Jayanthi

## *November 2024*

Children's Day  
Karthigai Deepam  
Sanvidhan Divas  
Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Punyatithi  
Gandhi Jayanthi

# CELEBRATIONS

## December 2024

International Day of Persons with Disabilities  
Christmas

## January 2025

New Year's Day  
Republic Day  
Pongal

## February 2025

Vasanth Panchami  
Ramabai Ambedkar Jayanti  
Marathi Bhasha Divas  
Shivaji Jayanti  
Shivaratri  
National Science Day

## March 2025

Women's Day  
Gudi Padwa  
Holi  
Eid-ul-Fitr  
World Down Syndrome Day



# CAMPS

## *April 2024*

- Summer Camp at KLC
- Summer Camp at V-Excel Pandharpur
- Summer Camp at V-Excel Erode
- Free Assessment and Counseling Camp in V-Excel Solapur
- Summer Camp at V-Excel Solapur
- Free Screening and Assessment Camp in Pollachi
- Free Eye-and-Ear screening camp for students and parents at OutReach Learning Center
- Free Medical Camp for the children at Anandam

## *May 2024*

- Summer Camp at KLC
- Summer Camp at Anandam

## *June 2024*

- Screening camp was conducted at Cathedral Free Primary School (EI/VRC)
- Sensitization session for teachers at Cathedral Free Primary School (EI/VRC)

## *July 2024*

- Screening camp at Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School
- Sensitization session for teachers at A.K.G. Public School
- Screening camp at C.P.S. Kallikuppam School

## *August 2024*

- Screening camp at Reddiarpatti Government Primary School, Tirunelveli
- Sensitization session for teachers at Reddiarpatti Government Primary School, Tirunelveli



# CAMPS

## *December 2024*

- Free dental camp at V-Excel Solapur

## *January 2025*

- Parent training program on ABA at V-Excel Solapur
- Entrepreneurship Awareness Program at Anandam
- Faculty Development Program at Outreach Remedial Center, Pollachi

## *February 2025*

- Group sessions for students of Olcott Memorial School

## *March 2025*

- Lectures on preparation for puberty and adolescence at V-Excel Solapur

# LOCATIONS

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Contributions to V-Excel Educational Trust can be made by cheque/DD/cash at any of the V-Excel branches.

Use Net Banking/Wire Transfers for online donations at [www.v-excel.org](http://www.v-excel.org)

Donors from India can avail of tax benefits under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

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