

NEWS & VIEWS

An Inspiring Educational Institution

Empowering is said to be the core purpose of education. In that context Bangalore's SAMARTHANAM Trust for the Disabled stands above all modern educational institutions. And what are they doing? Not just producing graduates many of whom including engineering graduates on whom their parents as well as the nation invest huge amount of money for them to complete the basic qualifications, are declared UNEMPLOYABLE when they come out

with their degree. Here is an institution focusing on empowering PwDs or Persons with Disabilities which is running without collecting any fees, but transforming the God forsaken defective born fellow citizens to live with dignity in Gandhiji's format of "live with your sweat money."

The event was a function to mark the inauguration of the first phase of 'completely accessible disabled friendly state of the art facility' – a new building for their teaching



Union Ministers Sri Anantha Kumar and Sri Thaawarchand Gehlot jointly inaugurating the new Educational facilities for the Disabled at SAMARTHANAM, Bangalore

and training purposes – by Union Ministers Anantha Kumar under whose parliamentary constituency the event happened and Thaawarchand Gehlot (Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment) at HSR Layout, Bengaluru on 12th April.

It was a function with a different stroke all together. Reflecting the idiosyncrasy or strange working style of decisiveness of their leader, the Prime Minister, they made on the spot time bound commitments. Sri Anantha Kumar during the course of his inaugural address referring to Samarthanam's Managing Trustee G.K.Mahatesh's statement earlier in the welcome address that they require Rs.7.5 crores to construct a new building with additional facilities on the land allotted to them, adjacent to the present facility, by the Bangalore Development Authority, asked how much time they will need to complete the work provided they have fund ready and then himself declaring that by Deepawali after next Deepawali the building will be ready for inauguration, announced that he will ensure funding of Rs.3.5 crores under CSR schemes of various Union Ministries. Just after this an announcement came from the organizers that WIPRO has sanctioned Rs. One Crore for the project. The strange reality here was that the organizers only made a mention of their requirement and did not make any special



A dance programme by blind students of SAMARTHANA

appeal for fund, but there was a spontaneous and solid positive response; a reflective response of the “Karmanye Vaadhikarasthe ...” statement in Bhagavad Gita. Sri Gehlot stating that his Ministry does not have funding provision for infrastructures, declared that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, will allot the expenses needed for educational purpose of the inmates of Samarthanam for any number of students. He also called upon the Samarthanam team to expand their activities which are now operating in different parts of the State, to North Eastern States assuring full support of the Govt. of India.

Another pleasant sight was Corporate representatives of a number of companies who are supporting Samarthanam, expressing their joy and pride in supporting Samarthanam in its activities and declaring that their organizations will continue their support to Samarthanam.

A.V. Balakrishnan - Editor

