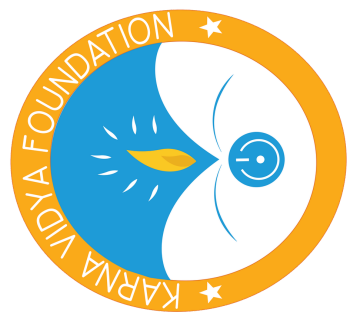


KARNA VIDYA FOUNDATION

Empowering Persons with Visual Impairments through Technology



2025-26 Annual Edition

Kiran

10
YEARS

EMPOWERING

PERSONS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



Contributors

Managing Trustee

Subramaniam V



Honorary Advisor

Dr.Raghuraman K



Advisor

Venkatesh C



Program Head

Sasikumar S



Library & E-pub

Shyla Viswanathan

Kumaresan G



Education Consultant

Hemavathi Jayaram



Outreach Coordinator

Khyati Goswami



Accounts & Admin Coordinator

Geetha Nandakishore



Admin Assistant

Rahul G

Dhivyanandan M



Trainers

Sathish D



Aravindan



karnavidyafoundation.org



From the Trustee

Remarkable journey of Karna Vidya, since its inception in 1999, is proof of the **determination and tenacity** of visually challenged to win their place in society.

"It is their way of thanking the volunteers who **read and scribed** for them, and the mentors who continue to **train them** and **instill confidence** through their own example."

kiran

Encouraged by the high aspirations and enthusiasm of over a thousand of visually challenged, Karna Vidya realised they had the **confidence** to build their own career with the **help of their own and assistance of technology.**

Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF) was formed by the **visually challenged and their friends on 26 February 2016** and has completed a decade of service.

*KVF is grateful to its generous **benefactors** who have made the visions of the visually challenged community into reality and enthused them **to hope and dream** for a better tomorrow. **Disability is not inability.** It is capability to bring out natural talent through results. Don't we see it all around?*

G Balasubrahmanyam

From the Trustee

Since its founding, KVF has delivered training in **computers and assistive technology** across Chennai and other centres in Tamil Nadu. Its programmes include **STREAM education, tactile 3D learning,** and innovative initiatives such as interactive educational devices developed with IIT Madras Research Park. Empaneled as a trainer with the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation,** KVF also provides **career guidance** to the visually impaired community, continually building a **dynamic education and training ecosystem** to meet their evolving aspirations.

karnavidyafoundation.org

In this issue

This special annual edition of Kiran invites you to journey through a remarkable decade in the life of Karna Vidya Foundation — a decade that reflects **resilience, innovation, and dignity** for the visually impaired community.

From its humble beginnings to becoming a transformative force in empowering persons with visual impairments through technology, the story of Karna Vidya Foundation is one of **vision, determination, and collective effort**.

Over the years, the foundation has nurtured dreams, created opportunities, and **built pathways for independence**.



In this issue

kiran

Let us explore the journey from inception to transformation through this issue.

There are many initiatives that shaped this decade...

*From **education and vocational training programs** that equipped individuals with **essential skills**, to impactful special projects such as **OASIS@Schools in Krishnagiri**, bringing **inclusive learning environments** closer to children with visual impairments.*



karnavidyafoundation.org

Join our journey, The Decade of dignity 7



Tech
Ma
SMART+
MF SM
SEPTE

Tech
Mahin
FOUND

kiran

Sasi Talks

To Khyati Goswami

Over the past decade, my journey and KVF's journey have never moved separately. Each stage of my growth strengthened the institution, and every institutional milestone expanded my leadership horizon.

"We evolved together on the same plane, with shared purpose".



karnavidyafoundation.org

"Leadership is not about eyesight. It is about vision"⁹

Manoj Kumar a visually impaired mountaineer and motivational speaker from India.)

kiran

From student to mentor:
How one training changed everything !!!

I walked into KVF during Vijayadhasami —that auspicious moment when students traditionally begin their learning journeys—as one of them. The program was simple: six months of Career-Centric Computer Training, a partnership with Enable India. No grand promises. Just computers, determination, and the quiet belief that skills could open doors.

What I didn't know then was that those six months would become the hinge on which my entire life would turn.

Sasi Talks

“The monsoon of 2015 was when everything shifted”

“I had learned Windows and MS Office, yes. But more importantly, I learned that knowledge grows when it is shared. A **screen reader is not just a tool—it is a bridge.** And helping someone prepare for an interview is not just about answers; it is about **helping them believe in themselves again**”.

So I became an ICT Trainer. Then an Employability Coach. Then someone who mentored resumes, facilitated workplace readiness, guided nervous candidates through interviews. And then came the day I was asked to train my first batch.

karnavidyafoundation.org

“The journey didn't just teach me something—it changed who I was.”

kiran

The moment everything made sense

Fifteen job seekers sat in front of me. Fifteen people with skills but without the confidence that comes from knowing someone believes in them.

We didn't just teach them how to use computers. We taught them how to walk into an interview room. How to speak about themselves. How to see themselves as assets, not afterthoughts.

When twelve of them secured placement in a single company—all on the same day—something crystallized in me.

Employment restores dignity.

It wasn't just a lesson. It was a truth I had witnessed.

Sasi Talks

The Ripple Effect

KVF at that time was still finding its footing. It was a computer training centre, focused on employability, operating on belief more than budget. But something was happening in those classrooms that went beyond curriculum. **Students began to walk differently. They began to speak differently. The distant dream of "getting a job" was becoming something tangible. Something real. Something *theirs*.**

And as the institution grew, so did something quieter but more profound: its credibility. Not because of fancy programs, but because results.

karnavidyafoundation.org

"Employment Restores Dignity"

Redefining Vision In STEM & Outreach

In 2016, KVF shattered the glass ceiling of inclusive education by proving that visual impairment is no barrier to brilliance.



Sasi Talks

Leadership

KVF evolved from local support to a state-wide movement, scaling to 5+ locations

Institutional Expansion

KVF grew into STEM Education, Accesibility Testing , Library & E-Pub for Accesible materials, Digital access initiatives and 300+Andriod device distribution



The transformation !!

Beyond mere inclusion, KVF stands as a landmark of leadership ownership, with 90% of its leadership roles held by visually impaired experts.

karnavidyafoundation.org



urai kall



From a simple spark of necessity in 2016, the Karna Vidya Foundation has ignited a revolution for students with visual impairment across Tamil Nadu.

What began as a local technology intervention has blossomed into STREAM—a visionary academic model proving that subjects like Science and Mathematics have no visual boundaries

Over the past decade, this journey has transformed the lives of more than 500 students, guiding them from specialized school training into diverse higher education paths.

kiran

1 Need-Based Foundation (2016-2017)

Launched in Guindy, this phase built digital autonomy through screen-reader and MS Office mastery. Workshops at Anna University and the "Vividha Curious Minds" initiative helped students transition from basic literacy to creating accessible science models and understanding complex mathematics.

2 Language and Digital Access Revolution (2017-2018)

Recognizing the synergy between literacy and technology, KVF integrated Tamil and English learning with digital accessibility. Through partnerships with **Bookshare and the Cognizant Foundation**, over 300 Android devices were distributed, pre-loaded with accessible EPUB versions of State Board textbooks.

urai kall

3 Government Approval and Institutional Partnerships (2018-2022)

Partnering with the Government of Tamil Nadu, KVF institutionalized **STREAM** training at state schools in **Thanjavur and Poonamallee**.

This phase expanded beyond students to include teacher orientations and specialized "Science Without Seeing" sessions.

By blending weekly online classes with intensive math workshops, the foundation trained over 400 students to navigate technology independently.

karnavidyafoundation.org

...a structured, three-level training model that empowered 300+ students to read independently, drastically reducing their reliance on human readers and boosting exam preparation.

kiran

4 Government Approval and Multi-School Expansion (2023-2025)

Collaborating with the Department of the Welfare of the Differently Abled and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, KVF expanded the STREAM model to 13 specialized and 15 regular government schools.

By executing a three-fold strategy—mastering technology, language proficiency, and STEM concepts—KVF distributed over 200 devices to empower students. This enabled them to pursue diverse subjects and independently complete examinations using accessible technology.

urai kall

5 Consolidation and Academic Confidence (2025-2026)

STREAM initiative has empowered over 500 students to navigate technology independently, with 400+ advancing in language and math. Notably, 40+ students now sit for exams independently using laptops, reflecting a surge in confidence and interest in higher secondary science tracks.





KARNAVIDYA
FOUNDATION
CHENNAI
(ANY DEGREE)



Going Places

'What was once seen as limited opportunity has steadily evolved. With the right training and technology, visually impaired professionals are proving their capability across sectors. Disability is not inability'

Addressing the Employment Gap

Despite strong academic credentials, visually impaired persons in Tamil Nadu face systemic barriers in employment — limited exposure to assistive technologies, lack of workplace readiness, and employer misconceptions.

KVF addressed this through five focused areas: technology training, employability skills, workplace readiness, employer sensitisation, and direct placement support.

karnavidyafoundation.org

kiran

Training and Skill

Development

Through intensive programmes in Chennai and Virudhunagar, candidates were trained in computer and assistive technology, corporate communication, and job-oriented skills. Government exam coaching for TNPSC and IBPS further widened career pathways. From 2017, KVF trained approximately 60 candidates annually.

Over a decade, KVF has facilitated employment for more than 140 visually impaired candidates across diverse industries – expanding corporate awareness and transforming career aspirations

Going Places

Breaking Private Sector Barriers

KVF engaged employers through sensitisation meetings and capability demonstrations. A breakthrough came when X-Ceptor E-Knowledge hired 12 visually impaired candidates in a single drive, proving that accessibility and productivity can coexist.

Accessibility Testing – A New Career Pathway

In 2018, KVF pioneered an Accessibility Tester Training Programme, preparing visually impaired professionals to evaluate digital platforms. Successful placements followed with Cognizant Technology Solutions.

karnavidyafoundation.org

Going Places



Looking Ahead

The journey toward full employment inclusion is still ongoing. Challenges remain, particularly in scaling opportunities and improving accessibility across workplaces. Yet the progress made between 2016 and 2026 proves that transformation is possible.

Karna Vidya Foundation continues to strengthen training programmes, expand employer partnerships, and advocate for inclusive employment policies.

By building bridges between talent and opportunity, KVF is not merely facilitating jobs—it is helping persons with visual impairments claim their rightful place in the workforce, contributing their skills, intelligence, and resilience to the development of an inclusive society.

LEARN. LEAP. LEAD



Lets Talk Metrics



The true measure of impact lies not only in numbers but in lives transformed—students who read independently, use technology with ease, and step forward with the confidence to shape their own futures. KVF continues to expand this impact, ensuring that every visually impaired child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and lead.

By Aravindan

kiran

CENTERS

30

ACROSS TAMIL NADU AND AP

VI PERSONS

3000+

EMPOWERED

JOBSEEKERS

500+

TRAINED

VI STUDENTS

2500+

EMPOWERED

VI JOBSEEKERS

170+

PLACEMENTS

Lets Talk Metrics





Library & E-Pub



In the early 2000s, a quiet pattern emerged in Chennai's educational circles, where students with visual impairment were repeatedly requesting the same study materials, sitting through reading sessions designed for sighted peers, and navigating an academic world that had not yet made space for them.

It was in response to this persistent, unmet need that the Karna Vidya Accessible and E-Publishing Library was born.

Founded in 2004 and led voluntarily by Ann.Shyla from the Rotary Club of Madras Coromandel, RI District 3234, the Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF) library began with the simplest of tools — cassette recordings of textbooks.

By Shyla Viswanathan

karnavidyafoundation.org

ACCESSIBLE

101

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Library & E-Pub

The ePub library's dedicated volunteer team — comprising retired individuals and homemakers driven by a passion for teaching and service — began their journey by reading aloud to visually impaired students who visited the library.

Over time, this committed group has embraced technology to transform their approach, developing accessible reading materials and building a rich knowledge pool that continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of visually impaired learners.

The initiative reflects KVF's commitment to building a modern, inclusive learning ecosystem where knowledge is truly accessible to all.

These women did not arrive with technical degrees in accessibility or digital publishing. They arrived with compassion — and then acquired the necessary Skills. Over the years, they equipped themselves with the skills needed to create and publish

content in accessible EPUB format

karnavidyafoundation.org



kiran

In Tamil “வளர் பிறை”
(Valarpirai) means the waxing
moon — a symbol of steady,
incremental, and visible
growth.



Valar Pirai

When Karna Vidya Foundation adopted this name for its Faculty Development Programme, it was not mere poetry. It was a precise and honest description of the journey that lay ahead: slow, structured, and ultimately, luminous.

Over ten years, from 2016 to 2026, KVF has transformed its faculty from a handful of generalist educators into a corps of forty-plus specialised, technology-fluent, and professionally grounded teachers — each serving the visually impaired community with authority and dignity.

By Raghuraman K

karnavidyafoundation.org

kiran

1 அரும்பு ARUMBU - (2016-2018)

Foundation Stage - 2-3 resource persons.

Basic digital literacy, screen reader exposure, introductory assistive technology. The early budding stage of institutional capability.

2 மொட்டு (MOTTU) - (2019-2022)

Structured Growth - 2019-2022 - 7 resource persons.

External collaboration, corporate exposure, formalized training verticals, professional communication and ICT pedagogy.

Valar Pirai

3 மலர் (MALAR) - (2023-2026)

Full Flowering - 2023- 2026 - 40+ faculty.

Four professional verticals, statewide reach, independent subject teachers, programming instructors and career mentors.



karnavidyafoundation.org

Faculty strength doubled from 10 to 20 within a year, reached 30+ by 2024, and surpassed 40 by

2025-26.

Valar Pirai

The outcomes of the Valarpirai programme are larger than training metrics. Pedagogically, faculty have transitioned from classroom assistants to full subject teachers **capable of independent curriculum handling. Technologically**, mastery spans accessible mathematics typing, Python and HTML programming, screen reader optimisation, and accessibility auditing — competencies that would be remarkable in any institutional context and are especially significant within an organisation serving visually impaired learners.





Oasis@Schools



Oasis@Schools is a flagship initiative of Karna Vidya Foundation designed to create an inclusive learning ecosystem for visually impaired students studying in government schools. The project focuses on equipping schools with accessible technology, trained teachers, and structured learning resources so that children with visual impairment can learn on par with their peers.

By Sathish Kumar

karnavidyafoundation.org

The project currently focuses on **Krishnagiri district**, where hundreds of visually impaired students in government schools are being supported through technology-enabled learning, accessible study materials, and skill-building programmes. By integrating **STREAM education, digital literacy, and innovative tools**, Oasis@Schools empowers students to pursue higher education and future careers with confidence.

Aligned with the vision of **“No Child Shall Be Left Behind,”** the project aims to build a scalable model that can be replicated across other districts, strengthening inclusive education for visually impaired children throughout Tamil Nadu.

kiran

Oasis@Schools

Through Oasis@Schools, KVF introduces computers, assistive technologies, accessible digital content, and specialized training that enable students to read, write, and access information independently.

The programme also provides teacher training, curriculum support, and continuous mentoring, ensuring that inclusive education becomes a sustainable practice within the school system.



karnavidyafoundation.org



11:19 AM
8/15/2025

Government Interactions



Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF) has proactively engaged with key government bodies to expand educational and vocational opportunities for visually impaired individuals. Through timely and purposeful interactions, KVF sought formal recognition and support from the **Department for the Welfare of the Differently Abled and Samagra Shiksha** – two pivotal departments committed to inclusive education and skill development.

By Geetha Nandakishore

kiran

Government Interactions



KVF closely working
with Samagra Sikhsha



Working with the
Department for the
welfare of differently
abled for STREAM
Education



KVF has a productive
partnership with NSNOP
for projects like
Oasis@schools

karnavidyafoundation.org



KIRAN Highlights



The Aruncheyal 2.0 State-Level Skill Competition for Students with Visual Impairment was organized by Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF) in association with SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), under the guidance of the Directorate for Welfare of the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The event aimed to enhance the reading, writing, creativity, and public speaking abilities of visually impaired students across Tamil Nadu.

By Rahul G

karnavidyafoundation.org

KIRAN Highlights

Academic Excellence:

Any visually impaired student who is able to address their academic needs of reading/writing everyday and writing their examinations using technology at ease, either Tamil or English, or both.

STEM Genie: With the guidance of teachers/parents/School management visually impaired students should prepare themselves for short presentations / working models/ tactile materials on various Science/Math concepts covered up to classes 10.

Innovation Catalyst: Any Student up to class 12, who could build a solution or create a working model could participate in this activity.

Creative Budding Minds - Young author: Any student up to class 12 is eligible to participate to become a young author whose stories if accepted will be published as a book.



SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DATE
15.11.2025
TIME
AM - 06.00 PM

VENUE
Hall 1,
P.Ganesan
atorium, SRMIST

attankulathur, Chengalpattu Dist
EDUCATION CELL IN ASSOCIATION
DYA FOUNDATION UNDER THE GUIDANCE
DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED - GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Presents
N'S DAY SPECIAL EV

16
ents w



Happenings @Karna Vidya



Karna Vidya Foundation has been a decade-long journey of joy, growth, and meaningful experiences.

From festivals and tactile painting to mock interviews and team outings, KVF has continually brought the visually impaired community together — **celebrating milestones and inspiring ever-growing participation along the way.**

By Dhivyanandan

kiran

KVF proudly celebrated Independence Day and Republic Day, honoring the spirit of patriotism that unites us all.



Happenings@KarnaVidya



Students with visual impairment celebrated Teacher's Day with great Joy & Enthusiasm



KVF stepped into the creative workshop 'Tactile painting' organised by MSW intern from DG Vaishnav colleg, visually impaired students experienced the splash of the colours.

Math became Fun activity for visually impaired students in Pudukottai government school. students from the grade 1 to 3 were taught numbers using shapes.



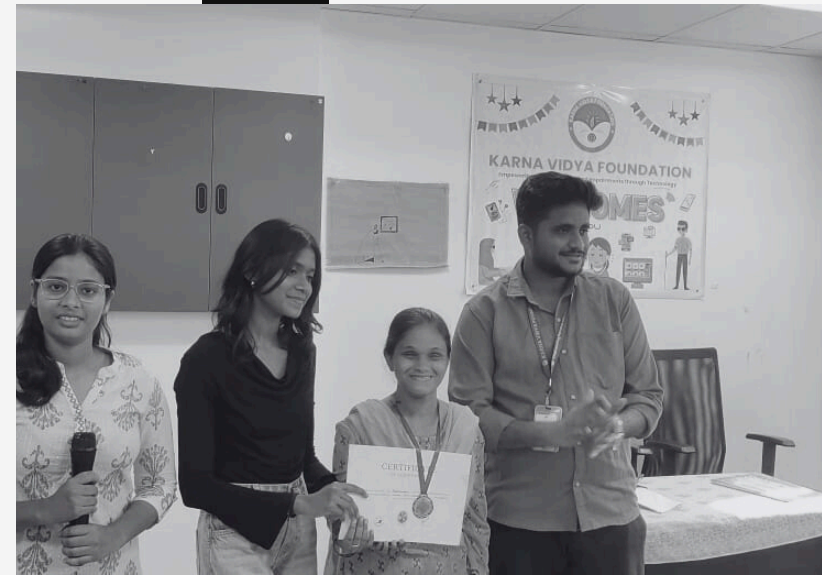
KVF opened the brand new centre at Bargur Krishnagiri as a district office.

karnavidyafoundation.org

kiran



Karna Vidya Foundation hosted a range of enriching activities — including a hygiene workshop for women by Tamil Nadu Foundation USA, smart device distribution by Jyothi, a public speaking workshop to boost confidence among job seekers, and an engaging science workshop by the Vividha Curious Minds team in addition to our regular training programmes.

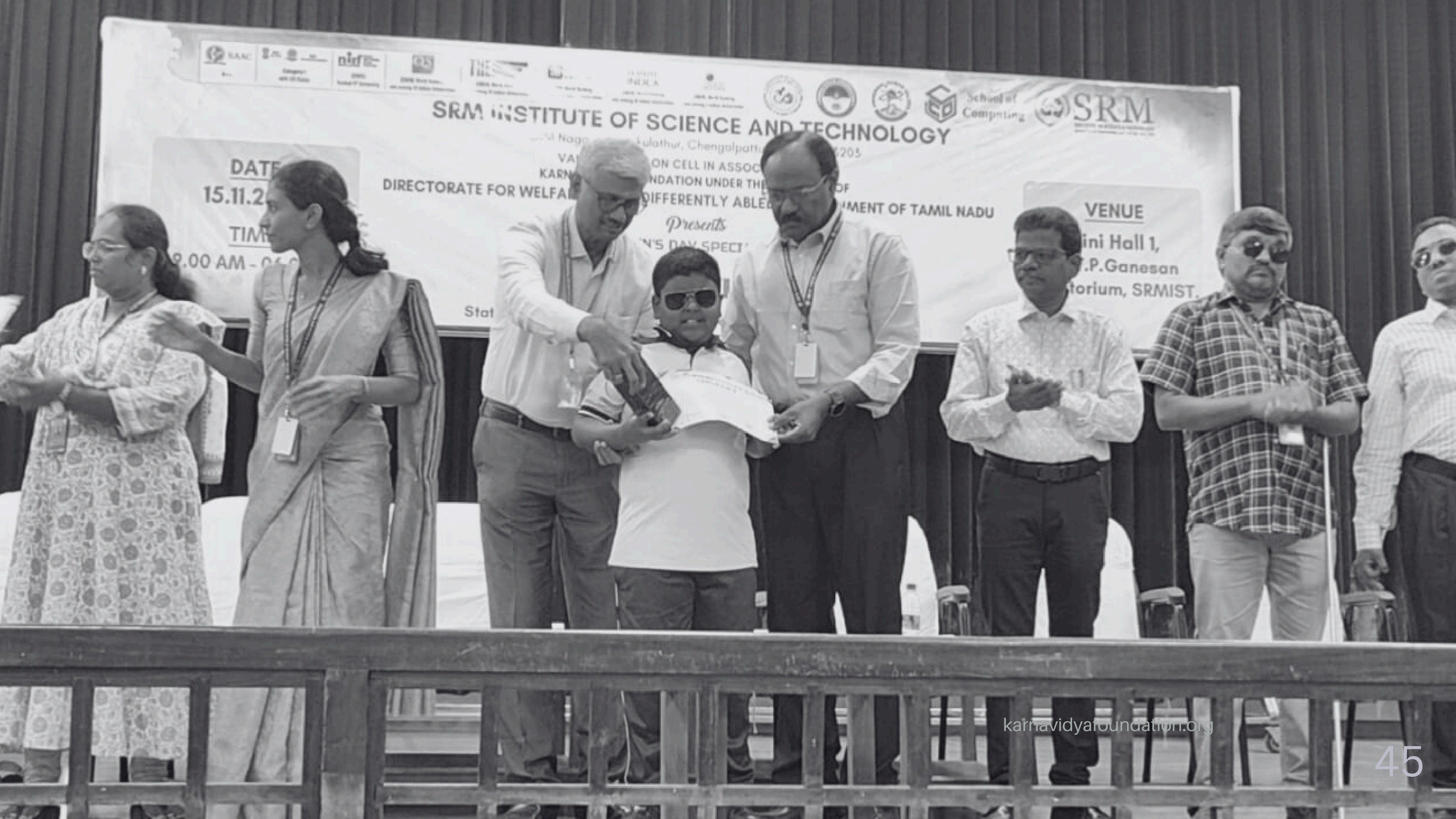


Happenings@KarnaVidya



we continually strives to broaden horizons for our students through team outings, inspiring guest speaker sessions, and hands-on learning experiences. This year, a special Accessibility Workshop was organized in collaboration with Chakshumathi NGO and Team Saaksham.

karnavidyafoundation.org



SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DATE
15.11.2019
TIME
9.00 AM - 06.00 PM

VARIATION CELL IN ASSOCIATION WITH KARNATAKA FOUNDATION UNDER THE Aegis OF DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN GOVT. OF TAMIL NADU

VENUE
Mini Hall 1,
P. Ganesan Auditorium, SRMIST.

Presents
WORLD'S DAY SPECTACLE

Achievers

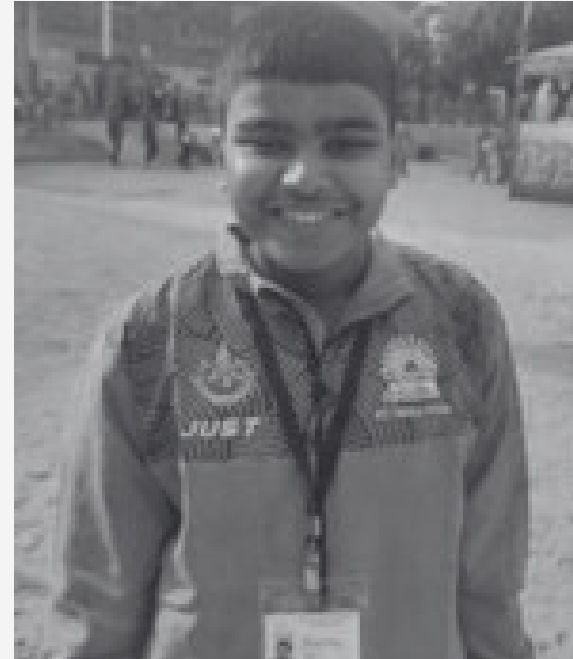
We extend our heartfelt gratitude and admiration to every achiever of the Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF), whose **determination, resilience, and courage** have turned challenges into triumphs.

Each one of you has not only transformed your own life but has also become a beacon of hope and inspiration for thousands of visually impaired individuals across Tamil Nadu.

To the over 2,000 individuals who embraced the skills imparted by KVF, to the 101 trailblazers who carved their paths in IT, ITES, banking, and beyond, and to every learner who walked through KVF's doors with a dream — your achievements are a **testament to what is possible when opportunity meets perseverance.**

kiran

John Harris joined KVF at the early age when he was in 3rd std and began to write his exams independently with the support of Computer, currently pursuing 9th grade @ Kendriya Vidyalaya HVF School Avadi



Achievers



Sharwin S from Kendriya Vidyalaya Island Ground wrote his 12th Board Exams using computers. He learnt the skills at KVF when he was in 3rd std.



Ashwin S 12th grade student currently in Grove School, Alwarpet affiliated to CISCE board, wrote his 10th ICSE Exams independently using computer.

Sanjith C class 10th student from Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Shivananda Higher Secondary School and learning Math & Science at KVF.



karnavidyafoundation.org

kiran

Varun a 25-year-old job seeker who lost his vision in the middle of his peak IT career, joined a vocational course at KVF. He secured a job as an HR Recruiter and, within a year, transitioned into IT Quality Control.



Achievers



Saleem a Device specialist at Amazon

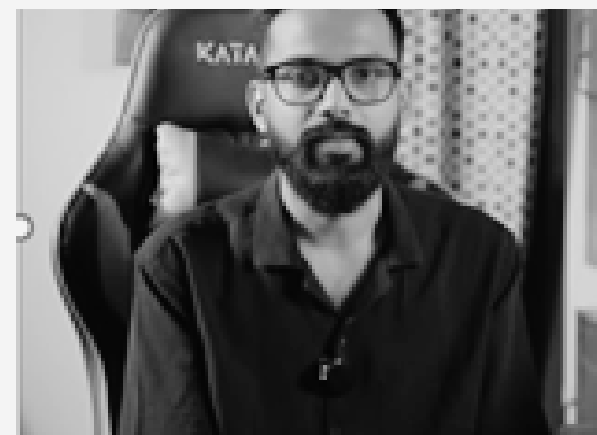
lost his confidence after facing rejection in the end while clearing all the interview rounds in the beginning only due to his vision impairment. He

joined KVF and learnt skills, Accessibility testing and joined TCS and got promotion twice due to his hard work and interest in learning tech skills.



Chinnakaruppasamy joined KVF as a training faculty. He gained his tech skills and organised STEM workshops/Seminars for childrens with visual impairment at schools. He is currently working in an IT sector as a Tester.

Arun Kumar a Senior Software Engineer lost his Eye sight. He learnt NVDA screen reading software and Accessibility testing @ KVF and joined back Software field.



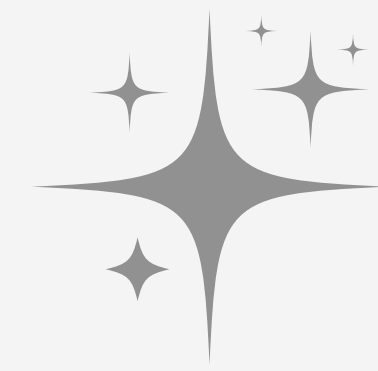
kiran



Coming Up

from

Invisible



to Visible

karnavidyafoundation.org

kiran

Inclusive Learning Platform

KVF plans to equip educators with technology tools to foster inclusive learning for all students, across every stream — from Arts to Medicine.

Advocacy

KVF works closely with Government and administrative bodies to ensure that primary guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, and course materials for Science, Medicine, and Engineering are designed to be inclusive..

Coming Up

Placement Support

KVF will identify a suitable job roles for visually impaired individuals in both private and government sectors.

Entrepreneurship for visually impaired Community

KVF plans to conduct in-depth regional studies to identify self-employment opportunities for the visually impaired, working to build a supportive environment and ecosystem where they can truly flourish.

karnavidyafoundation.org

CSR Partners

*We extend our deepest gratitude to all our **CSR partners and donors** whose generous support has been the backbone of Karna Vidya Foundation's journey.*

Your belief in our mission has empowered countless visually impaired individuals to learn, grow, and succeed. Together, we are building a more inclusive and empowered world for visually impaired community.

MINDSPRINT

 agilysys

2025-26 Annual Edition

Kiran

For more information:

Karna Vidya Foundation,
Fifth Floor, RR Towers 2,
TVK Industrial Estate, Guindy,
Chennai 600 032 India

Contact:
Sasikumar - Program Head:

+919789800794/9840018012

www.karnavidyafoundation.org

www.karnavidyafoundation.org