



## FOREWORD

Greetings from Swabodhini!

January began on a proud and memorable note with the visit of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, our Honourable Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways to our Tondiarpet Centre. It was a privilege to present our work and initiatives to him. He interacted warmly with our students and parents, including the parent of one of our students who is now successfully placed in a multinational company. We were deeply honoured when he planted a tree in his mother's name on our campus.

We are equally grateful to Shri Viswanathan, IAS, Chairman of Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Ltd, and Srimathi Irene Cynthia I.A.S., Managing Director of Kamarajar Port, for planting trees at our centre. Our Trustee, Ms. Malavika Harish Lakshman, and the Director also marked the occasion by planting saplings, making it a meaningful celebration of growth and commitment.

Republic Day was celebrated across all our centres with great patriotism and pride, instilling in our students a sense of national spirit and unity.

Pongal brought festive cheer to every centre. Our children, dressed in traditional attire, joyfully prepared sweet Pongal in mud pots and participated in traditional games, celebrating the harvest festival in its true spirit.

Helpers' Day was observed with heartfelt appreciation, as our Management and the teaching staff honoured the invaluable contributions of our support staff. It was a genuine gesture of gratitude towards those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of our centres.

We were pleased to welcome the students and faculty of the Computer Science Department from Sri Venkateswara College to our Thiruvananthapuram Centre. They expressed keen interest in developing a dedicated app for Swabodhini as part of their major academic project and interacted with our Centre Head to understand our requirements.

We also had the opportunity to showcase our facilities and activities at our Thiruvananthapuram and Velachery Centres to Mr. Jayanth Sridhar during his visit.

Birthday celebrations, as always, brought smiles and joy across our centres. We look forward to connecting with you again next month with more updates from Swabodhini.

Warm regards,

Nandini Priyakumari  
Director  
Swabodhini School and Vocational Centre for Special Children

## A MOMENT OF PRIDE AT TONDIARPET

On January 8th, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Honourable Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, visited our Tondiarpet Centre as part of a large and distinguished programme. The event was attended by senior officials including Shri. S. Viswanathan, I.A.S., the Chairman of Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Ltd., Smt. Irene Cynthia I.A.S., Managing Director of Kamarajar Port Limited and our Trustee Mrs. Malavika Harish Lakshman and Director Ms. Nandini Priyakumari. The dignitaries were briefed on our educational and therapeutic practices. The visit underscored the importance of inclusive spaces for children with special needs. It was a truly encouraging and proud moment for our community.



## CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF THE REPUBLIC

Republic Day was celebrated with pride and enthusiasm across all our centres. Students participated in flag hoisting, patriotic songs, and simple activities adapted to their abilities. The celebrations helped foster a sense of national identity and togetherness. The day was marked by joy, respect, and meaningful participation for all.







## CELEBRATING TRADITION TOGETHER

Pongal celebrations were observed across all centres with great enthusiasm and togetherness. Students engaged in traditional activities, songs, and festive moments at their own pace. The celebration offered valuable cultural exposure in a supportive setting.

## SHOWCASING ABILITIES AT PRODAPT

Our stall at Prodapt provided a valuable platform to showcase products created by our students. The experience encouraged confidence, communication, and social interaction in a real-world setting. Students participated with guided support, making the experience meaningful and empowering. With better role allocation and preparation, we aim to involve more students actively in future stalls.



## HONOURING THE HANDS THAT HELP

We celebrated Helper's Day by appreciating the tireless efforts of our helpers across all centres. Their role in supporting students and staff is integral to the smooth functioning of our school. The celebration allowed students to participate in expressing gratitude in meaningful ways. It was a heartfelt reminder of the importance of every member of our school community.





## OBSERVING TEAM SPIRIT

Students from our Velachery centre visited GNS to watch the interschool volleyball tournament. The experience offered exciting visual and social stimulation in a structured environment. Students observed teamwork, rules, and sportsmanship. Such exposure visits help broaden their learning beyond the classroom.



## VISIT BY MR. JAYANTH SRIDHAR

We were pleased to welcome Mr. Jayanth Sridhar to our school, where he gained an understanding of our programmes and therapeutic approaches. The visit offered an opportunity to showcase our work and the impact of structured therapies on student development.



## VISIT FROM SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE

Students and a teacher from Sri Venkateswara College visited our Thiruvannamiyur centre to learn about our programmes and activities. The visit provided an opportunity for meaningful interaction and exchange of ideas.

## GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

The kitchen garden at our Selaiyur centre continues to yield fresh, nutritious vegetables. It serves as a space for experiential learning and sensory engagement for our students. With improved planning and adaptive methods, we hope to increase student involvement further.



## AUTISM TODAY: RESEARCH, UNDERSTANDING, AND IMPACT

Recent research has greatly improved our understanding of Autism, showing that it is not a single condition but a broad spectrum. Each child with Autism has a unique combination of strengths and challenges, which explains why no two individuals are alike. Scientists have identified different biological and genetic patterns associated with Autism, helping us better understand how brain development may differ from early childhood.

Studies also highlight that Autism begins very early in life, often before the age of three, reinforcing the importance of early identification. Advances in research now focus on recognizing signs at a younger age and providing timely, personalized support rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach. Environmental factors, along with genetics, are also being studied to understand how they may influence development.

These scientific advances also promote a more inclusive and respectful understanding of Autism. Rather than viewing Autism only through limitations, research encourages us to recognize abilities, nurture potential, and provide the right support. With awareness, acceptance, and early intervention, children with Autism can lead meaningful, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Importantly, current findings support that early intervention makes a significant difference. With appropriate therapies, structured learning environments, and consistent support, many children with Autism develop communication skills, social understanding, and independence. Some are able to transition successfully into mainstream schools and community settings.

Swabodhini has long embraced these principles in its work with children on the Autism spectrum, guided by the belief that every child has untapped potential. Through personalised support, and sustained care, Swabodhini has helped open pathways to learning, independence, and dignity, enabling many autistic children to grow into confident individuals with hope and purpose for the future.

Nandini Priyakumari  
Director

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ACROSS OUR CENTRES

Birthdays were celebrated at each centre in a warm and inclusive manner. Students took part in simple celebrations filled with joy and togetherness. These moments helped build a sense of belonging and emotional connection. Every child was made to feel special and valued.

