

Message from the CEO

Since 1959, APD has believed in the limitless potential of every person with disability. In APD Version 3.0, we combine innovation, scale, and sustainability to create lasting impact.

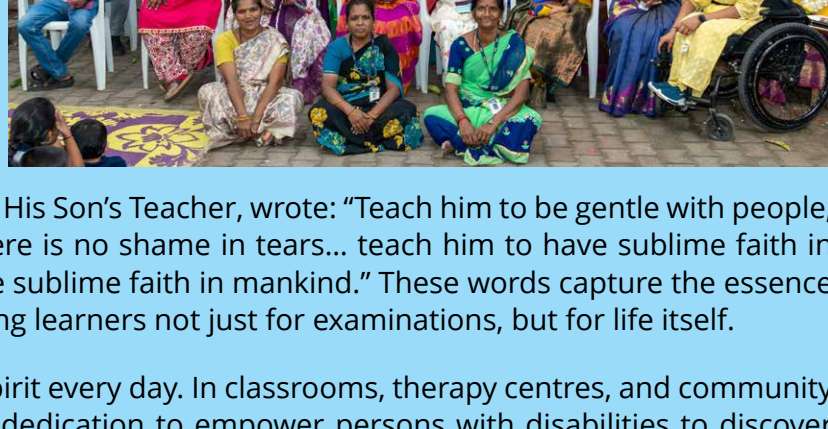
From early intervention and inclusive education to livelihoods, rehabilitation, and assistive technology, our initiatives transform lives and communities. Mobile therapy through Rehab on Wheels and the AI-powered “Yes to Access” app extend our reach to the most underserved.

I thank our Board, partners, families, and young people for their trust and courage. Together, we are turning barriers into opportunities and shaping a world where disability is celebrated as strength, diversity, and possibility.

Dr N S Senthil Kumar, PhD (Rehab)
CEO, The Association of People with Disability

Bridges of Hope: A Tribute to Teachers

Every year on 5th September, Teachers' Day reminds us of the profound role educators play in shaping not only knowledge but also character, courage, and compassion. For children and young people with disabilities, this role becomes even more significant. Teachers become not just guides in learning, but mentors who nurture resilience, instil dignity, and open doors to inclusion.



Abraham Lincoln, in his timeless Letter to His Son's Teacher, wrote: “Teach him to be gentle with people, tough with tough people... teach him there is no shame in tears... teach him to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind.” These words capture the essence of what every teacher strives to do-shaping learners not just for examinations, but for life itself.

At APD, our teachers carry forward this spirit every day. In classrooms, therapy centres, and community programs, they work with empathy and dedication to empower persons with disabilities to discover their strengths and step into a world of possibilities. Alongside parents, they form the first circle of care, transforming barriers into bridges of hope. This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to these champions-teachers who remind us that true education lies not only in lessons from books, but also in lessons of courage, kindness, and inclusion.

Today, **Anusha** is a beloved teacher at **Shradhanjali Integrated Primary School**, inspiring children not only in maths and English but also in human values such as respect, inclusion, and empathy. A wheelchair user, she radiates resilience and strength every day.

Her journey began in Malladihalli village, Chitradurga District, and took a transformative turn at APD's Centre for Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation and Research (SCIR). There, she learnt to travel independently, manage daily life with confidence, and even trained in parasports-unlocking her true potential.



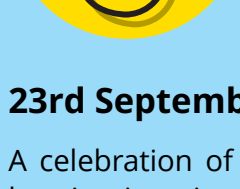
Anusha's achievements shine beyond the classroom. She has won multiple medals at state, national, and international para-badminton tournaments, including a silver at the Khelo India Para Games. From mastering independence to excelling in sports and shaping young minds, Anusha stands as a living example of the power of education, rehabilitation, and the human spirit.

Dates That Matter: Disability Inclusion in September

September is a month of awareness, reflection, and solidarity. It is observed as Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month in countries like the US and UK, reminding us of the importance of advancing care, research, and inclusion.

5th September: World Spinal Cord Injury Day

Highlights prevention, rehabilitation, and empowerment for individuals with spinal cord injuries. Beyond physical challenges, many face emotional struggles, with higher risks of depression and suicidal thoughts. It is a reminder that rehabilitation must embrace both body and mind, offering pathways of hope, healing, and dignity.



10th September: World Suicide Prevention Day

Closely connected to the journey of those with spinal cord injuries, this day calls for compassion and support for mental health. It urges us to stand together to break stigma, foster resilience, and ensure no one feels alone.

23rd September: International Day of Sign Languages

A celebration of the identity and individuality of people with speech and hearing impairments, this day champions the recognition and use of sign language worldwide as a bridge to inclusion.



Together, these observances remind us that inclusion is not only about access, but also about empathy, understanding, and shared humanity.

APD Program Highlights

Research Publication

APD is proud to share that an article titled “Augmenting Conventional Therapy with Non-immersive Virtual Reality to Enhance Balance, Coordination, Motivation, and Functional Performance in Children with Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy: A Single-Blinded Randomized Trial” was published in the Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering (Springer) on 12 August 2025. The study was co-authored by Dr. N. S. Senthil Kumar (CEO, APD), Dr. Nishad Kassim (Ex-Director, APD), Agrawal Lucky Kumar Dwarkadas, Viswanath Talasila, Rama Krishna Challa, and K. G. Srinivasa.

Recognition for Shradhanjali Integrated Primary School



The Scouts and Guides unit of the Shradhanjali Integrated Primary School has secured First Place in the Special Category at the District-level Best Unit Award competition. Our Cubs and Bulbuls' dedication and teamwork were recognised on 7th August by former minister and State Chief Commissioner, Mr P. G. R. Sindhia. This achievement stands as a proud testament to their hard work and spirit of service. Heartfelt thanks to Director Mr

Mallikarjunaiyah and Vice-Principal Mr Jovial for their guidance and encouragement in achieving this milestone.

Spinal Cord Injury Rehab Mela: A Milestone in Maharashtra

APD's Spinal Cord Injury Rehab Mela in Maharashtra brought together more than 50 persons with spinal cord injuries (PwSCI) and over 70 rehabilitation professionals for a day of care, learning, and empowerment. The event featured inspiring addresses by APD CEO Dr N. S. Senthil Kumar, IAS Commissioner Shri Pravin Puri, and Paralympic champion Murlikant Petkar. It combined medical check-ups, workshops, and panel discussions on rehabilitation and livelihoods. The collaborative effort with St John's Medical College and CMC Vellore ensured high-quality care. The day concluded with para-sports and cultural performances, celebrating resilience and inclusion.



Donor Testimonial: Shared Vision, Real Change

“As part of our own philosophy and vision, Titan has been at the forefront of supporting persons with disabilities through education and skill training. We are happy to share that APD

has been our steadfast partner for close to a decade, helping deliver our vision to hundreds of underprivileged persons with disabilities across Karnataka.



Not only have they engaged beneficiaries at their Bengaluru campus, but they have also taken programs to rural hinterlands, where support is needed most. By enabling economic empowerment through employment with respect and dignity, APD has truly lived up to its mission.

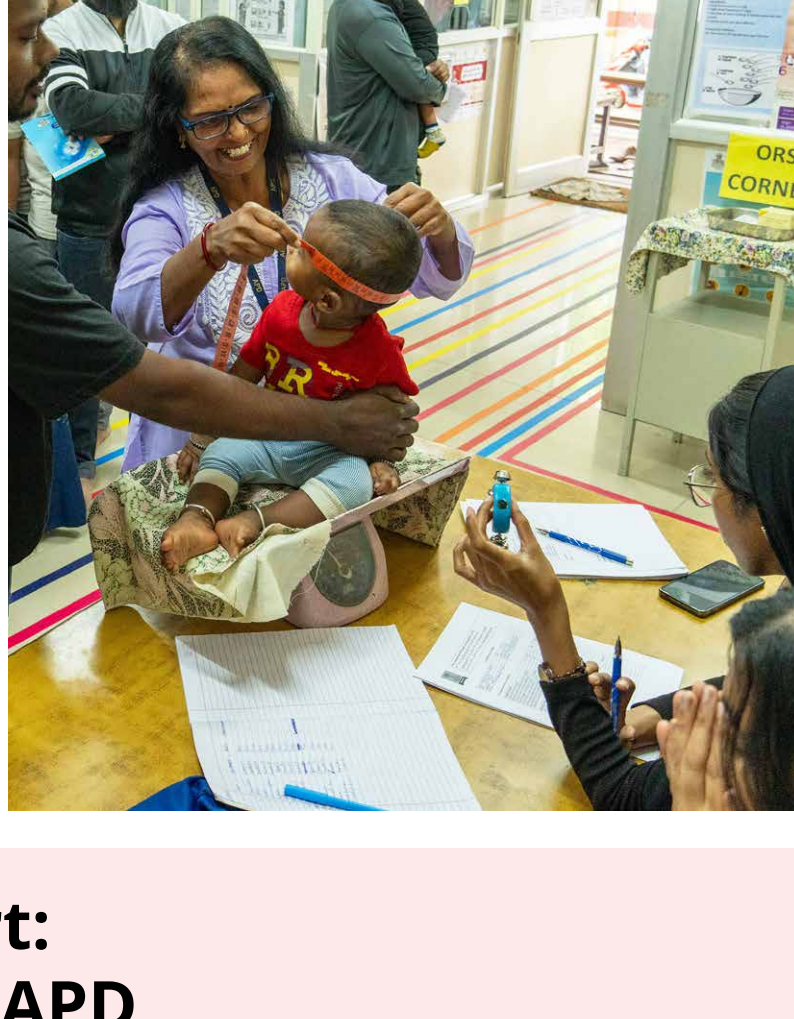


They have been receptive to our ideas, making thoughtful changes to programs and actively engaging us in strategy creation, which makes them a dependable and credible partner. I wish APD continued success in the years ahead.”

— N. E. Sridhar, Chief Sustainability Officer, Titan Company Limited

Mass Screening Drive for Children with Special Needs

On 4th September, APD staff, in collaboration with physiotherapy students from five leading Bengaluru colleges and Namma Clinics, conducted a mass screening drive across the city, reaching 2,000 children in a single day. The initiative aimed to raise awareness among students and the public about the needs and circumstances of children with special needs, promoting early intervention and inclusive practices. The drive identified 78 children requiring specialised support, underscoring the importance of community engagement and timely assessment in building a more inclusive tomorrow.



A Decade of Support: ABB's Journey with APD

ABB has been a steadfast supporter of The Association of People with Disability (APD) for the past nine years, backing programs that transform lives and foster inclusion. Their support has strengthened several key initiatives, including the Shradhanjali Integrated Primary School, Early Intervention, Livelihoods, Assistive Adaptive Technology, and the innovative Rehab on Wheels program.

We spoke with **Ms Dhenuka Srinivasan, Sustainability Manager at ABB**, who shared her thoughts on the partnership and its impact.

What inspired ABB to support APD and its work with persons with disabilities?

APD's pioneering work in disability inclusion is inspiring. For over six decades, they have empowered persons with disabilities through holistic programs in education, rehabilitation, livelihoods, and assistive technology. Their vision and sustained efforts align with ABB's commitment to social responsibility and inclusive development.

How do you see ABB's partnership with APD making a difference?

Over the years, we have witnessed how APD creates opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. From education to mobility and skill-building, the impact is visible in the confidence and dignity of individuals whose lives have been touched.

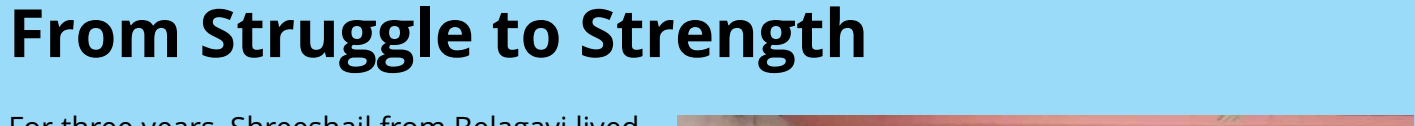
What has been the most memorable experience or interaction you have had with APD?

One of the most memorable moments was during a visit to APD's Shradhanjali Integrated School (SIS), where ABB supports the operation of the school. A young boy with cerebral palsy, who had never walked independently, received a customised walker through the program along with access to education. Watching him take his very first steps-his face lit up with a beaming smile while his mother broke down in tears-was deeply moving.

It was not just about mobility; it was about freedom, dignity, and possibility. That moment reminded us why we do what we do. For ABB, this partnership goes far beyond corporate responsibility—it is about truly transforming lives.

What message would you like to share with others about supporting inclusion?

Disability inclusion is not charity-it is about ensuring equity and access for all. Organisations like APD show how focused interventions can bring systemic change, and we believe more stakeholders should join hands to scale such impact.

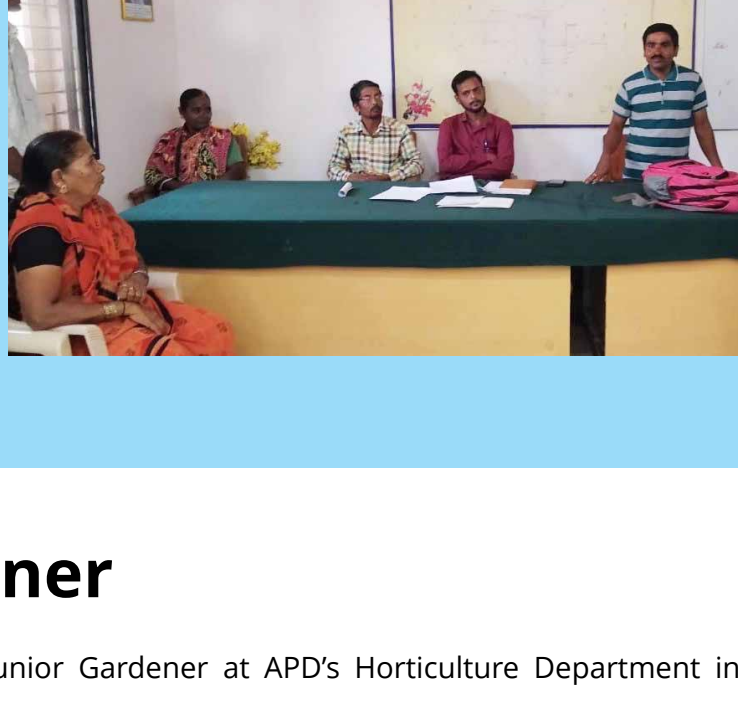


From Struggle to Strength

For three years, Shrees hail from Belagavi lived with severe mental illness, leaving his family burdened with stigma and financial stress. Exorcism and costly rituals brought no relief.

When APD's Community Mental Health Program reached his village, he received regular medication, counselling, and family support. Today, Shrees hail has regained his health, resumed responsibilities at home and on the farm, and actively participates in community life. He now leads the Kittur Taluka Mental Health Federation in Belagavi District, inspiring others to seek help.

His journey shows how access to care and community support can restore dignity and wellbeing.



From Learner to Earner

Today, Iranna Rudrappa Dalawai works as a Junior Gardener at APD's Horticulture Department in Bengaluru, earning Rs.12,000 a month. His confident smile and growing expertise with plants reflect how far he has come.

Just a few months ago, Iranna, a 20-year-old from Hiregarasangi village in Vijayapura District, had never attended school and relied on his family's agriculture for survival. When he attended APD's assessment camp, our team identified his interest and potential in horticulture. With the support of donor D. E. Shaw, he joined a 90-day training program in May 2025. The training honed his skills in watering, weeding, plant propagation, and vegetable farming.



His journey from training to employment illustrates that disability does not limit ability. With opportunity and determination, Iranna has turned opportunity into achievement.