

April 2022

(A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij)









From Top: Shilanyas ceremony at Asawali on April 2; Navkshitij Friends, staff, volunteers and Founder President Dr. Desai with the Grand Highstreet team during the annual shopping event at the mall; Dr. Desai felicitating Mr. Lalit Fabiani, COO, Americorp; Parents' Meeting in progress

Mission of Navkshitij

To establish a sustainable and scalable solution for rehabilitation of mentally challenged friends (MCFs) by achieving excellence in caregiving for MCFs and senior citizens.

From The President's Desk

Shopping, fun and serious business as usual as the summer reign begins



By Dr. C. R. Desai

APRIL was an eventful month. Quick on the heels of our Foundation Day on March 26, we celebrated the *Shilanyas* of the construction of our Asawali unit, on April 2. We covered the event in detail in our last issue. We are now busy getting approvals for the revised building plan. The laying of the foundation stone ceremony was conducted with seamless efficiency. We celebrated with an ice-cream party the untiring efforts of our staff and the exemplary conduct of our special friends.

On April 16, we celebrated the birthdays of our April-born friends Vansh, Harshal and Mukunda. Vansh Nehra's family sponsored a yummy dinner and volunteer Parag topped it with ice-cream.

After two long years, on April 29, our special friends got the chance to spend their hard-earned "salary" at the most-looked-forward-to event, our annual shopping program. The best mall in Hinjawadi — the Grand Highstreet mall, a venture of Americorp group, graciously agreed to welcome our friends and staff. Right from the moment we stepped into the mall, we were treated like celebrities. We were welcomed in the traditional Indian style with aarti and tika. The head of the mall, Mr. Nayim, Marketing Manager Mr. Abhiskek and other staffers including Mr. Prahlad, Mr Santosh and Ms Tejaswini organised a guided tour of the mall for our Friends. The staff in each outlet welcomed us with a warm smile and helped each of our special friends to make a purchase.

Mr. Lalit Fabiani, COO, Americorp, was with us for almost four hours. He spent time with our Friends and helped them shop. He enjoyed playing with them in the Game Zone, which was kept exclusively open exclusively for Navkshitij. He had organised a surprise birthday party for Friend Harshal and helped him cut the cake. All of us enjoyed the sandwich and mango shake offered at the food court. Our special thanks to Mr Fabiani and Team Grand Highstreet mall.

It was our annual Parents' Meeting before the summer holidays, on April 30. The meeting was well attended. The parents were appraised about the progress that Navkshitij was making at various levels, including the difficulties that we faced. The best certificate was the spontaneous show of confidence of the parents. Mr. Manik Kawathekar (Friend Mukund's brother) gave a generous donation of Rs. 2 lakh. Mrs. and Mr. Bhatiya (sister-in-law and brother of Friend Sapna) and Mr. Gaurav Ghat (brother of Friend Gautham) have offered to sponsor a desert storm cooler each to make the heat more tolerable for the Friends and staff.

We welcome Prof Mrs. Smita Shetty, who has onboarded as a member of the Board of Trustees. We are preparing to start our Day School Centre at the earliest. *

A well-oiled machine running smoothly on its own steam

I joined Navkshitij as honorary PRO in December 2021. I started visiting Marunji on Thursdays and got interacting with the staff and the caregivers. I realised that the caregivers are angels doing God's work. They keep our Friends happy. They truly give CARE. Every time I went back learning more about what compassion and empathy truly mean and what pure emotions are. I yearned to go back every Thursday. This month, I was invited to join as a Trustee and I happily accepted the invitation. I opted to look into image building and corporate engagement, something I am passionate about.

When I visited Navkshitij for the first time as a Trustee, it was the day of the Parents' Meeting. All Friends were excited to meet their parents. Some smiled, some stared, some touched my hand... I must admit I was a little scared. But I saw some very heart-melting smiles and that was when I knew that I was going to be friends with them soon.

I saw Dr. Desai interact with all the parents and observed how well the staff members were conducting themselves. I realised that the institution was doing big work and I would have to first learn how it all works. I went through the Operational Manual and the SOPs and tried to get a gist of how the system worked at Navkshitij.

Navkshitij is a well-oiled machine that is running smoothly on its own steam.

By Ms. Smita Shetty, Trustee, Navkshitij, and professor of Management, BMCC, Pune







Top: Cake cutting for our April-born Friends; **Centre:** Special dinner sponsored by Vansh Nehra's family; **Bottom:** Ice cream party at Asawali

Thank you from Navkshitij to:

- Mr. Deepak V. Mahajan
- Hyster-Yale Lift Trucks India Pvt Ltd.
- Ramamangal Heart Foundation Pvt. Ltd.
- Milgard Services India Pvt. Ltd.
- Neurogen Brain & Spine Institute
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Mr. Kuldipkumar Nehra
- Mrs. Pallavi Abhishek Botre
- Neo Iturka Enterprises
- Vinita Vivek Dikshit
- Mr. Milind Chitrao
- Komal Kharatmal
- Mr. A. K. Bhandari
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Wg Cdr Jayakumar Virupaksha Todkar
- Mr. Sukesh Banthia
- Rekha Digamber Mahadik
- Dr. Chandrashekhar Desai
- Mr. Gaurav Ghat
- Mrs. Sunita Rupanar
- Mr. Gaurang Tamakuwala & Mrs. Tanishka Tamakuwala

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Upcoming Happenings

- May 23: Birthday party for May-born Friends
- May 28: Monthly Trek

Month's events

- April 2: Shilanyas of Asawali Unit/Gudi Padawa
- April 3: Ice-Cream Party
- April 12: Yoga session conducted by Sahajayoga group
- April 16: Common birthday party for April-born Friends & Ice-Cream Party
- April 29: Shopping at Grand Highstreet Mall
- April 30: Parent's Meeting





Left: Traditional welcome by Ms. Tejaswini at the mall; **Right:** Mr. Lalit Fabiani having fun with our Friends at the Game Zone





Volunteers from Indira School of Business Studies helping our Friends with the shopping





Monthly Sports Day events

Navkshitij Needs

- One-time lumpsum donation (Exempt under 80G of the IT Act; FCRA registered for receiving donations in foreign currency)
- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- Renovation of Day School Approximate cost Rs. 1,80,000
- 100 Chairs Approximate cost Rs. 35,000
- One Smart Board Approximate cost Rs 1,20,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642



May 2022

(A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij)

From The President's Desk

An MoU with SPPU; construction at Asawali... Excitement galore



By **Dr. C. R. Desai**







Top: SPPU Vice Chancellor Dr. Nitin Karmalkar (fourth from right) and SPPU Senate Member Dr. Apoorva Palkar (second from right) with Navkshitij Founder President Dr. Chandrashekhar Desai (fifth from left) and Trustees Mrs. Smita Shetty (third from right) & Mr. Anirudha Todkar (extreme right);

Centre: Dr. Desai, Mr. Suneel Kulkarni and Mr. Rajeev Sarode (on the right) supervising the surveying at Asawali;

Bottom: We have reopened the Day Care Centre after two years. Five special friends are attending this day-time facility in the Marunji campus.

Mission of Navkshitij

To establish a sustainable and scalable solution for rehabilitation of mentally challenged friends (MCFs) by achieving excellence in caregiving for MCFs and senior citizens.

IN spite of the scorching heat of May, the tempo of activities at Navkshitij rose to new heights. We reopened the Day Care Centre on May 2, which we had closed in early 2020, following the pandemic. Five Friends are attending this facility. Mr. Rajiv Risbud, father of Friend Anushka) has sponsored the eco-cooling paint for the roof of Recreational Hall and the Day Care Centre.

Our perseverance with Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) finally came to fruition, thanks to Dr. Rajendra Hiremath, Dr. Nitin Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor, SPPU, and Mrs. Apoorva Palkar, Director, Innovation, Incubation & Linkage, and Senate Member of SPPU. We signed an MOU with SPPU, which will partner with us for our courses for centre heads and caregivers. This is a feather in the cap for Navkshitij.

Officials from the town planning department in Satara gave us the nod to start the initial preparation for construction. Our trustee, Mr. Suneel Kulkarni, has taken up the mantle of the construction of our new unit. Along with architect Mr. Rajeev Sarode and a surveyor, he marked the exact position of the columns of the structure on May 15 and the construction work started on May 16. Mr. Ajit Bhate, MD, Precast India Infrastructures Pvt Ltd, sent two members of his transport team to check whether the huge trailers carrying the precast elements can reach the site. They suggested broadening the road by a couple of feet in certain patches of the approach road. Our Workshop Manager, Santosh Munde, shifted base to Asawali to ensure that the approach road comes up to the specifications of the transport agency.

Mrs. Prerna Agarwal (expert botanist and environmentalist) visited the site, along with Mr. Sarode, to plan the landscaping for our Asawali unit. Mrs. Agarwal identified the species and gave specifications for preparing the soil for 60 plants. The cost of each plant (4 to 5 feet high) is Rs. 1,500. A few well-wishers are sponsoring this drive; we need more help to complete the first phase of plantation.

As mentioned in our last issue, we received two industrial coolers from the families of Friends Mukund and Sapna. There were six aamras/mango parties, thanks to Mrs. and Mr. Bantia, Shrimant Dagadushet Ganapati Trust, Mrs. Ujjawala Ravindra Kulkarni, Mrs. Priya Godse, Mrs. and Mr. Khare, Mr. Laxmeshwar and Mr. Manik Kawathekar.

On May 27, eight 4th year students from Vasantrao Naik Marathawada Krushi Vidyapeeth enrolled for internship at Navkshitij.

The atmosphere is charged. June seems to be a promising and eventful month.*

Seeing the round-the-clock commitment from up close

I have known the Desai family for quite some time now and I had heard lots about the activities of Navkshitij from late Dr. Neelima Desai and our present founder president, Dr. Chandrasekhar Desai. However, it was only after joining the Board of Trustees of Navkshitij, in December 2021, that I actually got to see the tremendous efforts being put into building this organisation that works tirelessly, round the clock, for the betterment of special friends, some of whom are physically and intellectually challenged.

I salute the efforts of all the stakeholders of Navkshitij who are making sincere and committed efforts towards the cause of the upliftment of mentally challenged friends.

With Navkshitij now embarking on conducting courses for caregivers and centre heads, which will be recognised by the Savitribai Phule Pune University, I am sure we, together, can take our vision of serving mentally challenged friends to the next level.

By Mr. Anirudha Todkar, Trustee, Navkshitij, and MD, MAPS Industries (I) Pvt. Ltd.







Top: Well-wishers Deepa and Yogesh Bajaj celebrated the birthday, Rihika, with our Friends at Marunji; **Centre:** Aamras party at Marunji; **Bottom:** Ice cream party at Marunji

Thank you from Navkshitij to:

- Mr. Gaurav Gat
- Tanishka & Gaurang Tamakuwala
- Lalita S
- Mr. Chandrashekhar Potnis
- Mr. Shardul Fadnavis
- Mrs. Priya Godse
- Mr. Shree Vidya
- Mr. Raghavendra Manoha
- Mrs. Deepa Bajaj
- Mrs. Jyoti Satpute
- Mr. Goivindu S
- Mrs. Ujwala Ravindra Kulkarni
- Mrs. Sangeeta Banginwar
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Mrs. Sunita Rupnar
- Mr. Rajiv Risbud
- Mr. Ramesh Lokre
- Mrs. Rajalaxmi Khedkar
- Mr. Pankaj Gupta and Mr. Amey Talegaonkar

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Upcoming Happenings

- June 1: Birthday party for our June-born Friends
- June 5: Tree Plantation Drive at Asawali
- June 7 & 8: Trip to Bhimashankar

Month's events

- May 2: Day Care Centre reopened
- May 4: First aamras party of the month
- May 11: Signed MoU with Savitribai Phule Pune University, who will partner with us for the courses for caregivers and centre heads
- May 15: Marking at Aswali Unit
- May 16: Construction work initiated
- May 27: Ice-cream party hosted by Navkshitij
- May 27: Eight students from Vasantrao Naik Marathawada Krushi Vidyapeeth enroll for internship





Left: Ms. Shipra Vaidya (second from right) from the Rehabilitation Council of India visited Marunji; **Right:** Mr. Santosh Munde (extreme right), three other staff members from Navkshitij helping with the survey and marking at the Asawali plot.





Work in progress at Asawali





Left: Trustee Divekar Maushi joins the residents of Dhaneshree Block for lunch; **Right**: Friends look forward to Tuesdays: they get snacks from the New Poona Bakery.

Navkshitij Needs

- Tree Plantation at Asawali Approximate cost 67,500
- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- Renovation of Day School Approximate cost Rs. 1,80,000
- 100 Chairs Approximate cost Rs. 35,000
- One Smart Board Approximate cost Rs 1,20,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642



June 2022

(A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij)









From the Top: Mr. Shekhar Mundada, working president of Maheshwari Vidya Pracharak Mandal, addressing the students of the Mandal's Dronalaya course; Mr. Sandeep, member of Sankalp for Green, at the Tree Plantation Drive, with Trustee Mrs. Vasudha Divekar ready to lend a helping hand; Trekking through the Bhimashankar jungle area; Feasting on wild berries at Bhimashankar.

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From The President's Desk

Resident interns from Parbhani and Dehradun, Tree Plantation Drive... Back to our busy days



By Dr. C. R. Desai

JUNE started like any other month, with the birthday celebration, on June 1, for all our June-born Friends. We had the customary cake cutting. Friend Kunal Morwadkar's parents arranged for snacks and sweets. The birthday celebration of our senior most trustee, our beloved Divekar maushi, who turned 84, was next on our celebration list. Most of the trustees, the staff, all Friends and the interns from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krushi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, and UPES, Dehradun, attended the function and paid their respect to the stalwart of Navkshitij.

June 5 was World Environment Day, and off we all went to Asawali to plant the first thirty trees along the compound wall of our new unit. We could visualise how beautiful the campus is going to look once all the trees are planted and the lovely buildings come up one after the other. I'm happy to share that the entire cost of the Tree Plantation Drive was covered by contributions from well-wishers, siblings and parents.

Two groups of interns have come to Navkshitij for their field work — five from the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, and seven from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krushi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. The Dehradun interns breathed in the vibrant atmosphere of Navkshitij and took upon themselves the task of creating promotion material for social media. They are doing a good job. The interns from Parbhani rolled up their sleeves and plunged into the day-to-day life of our special friends. They are enriching themselves with the hands-on experience and the insightful learning that is bound to come from their close association with our staff and Friends.

The trip to Bhimashankar was a memorable one for our Friends and the staff. It was an overnight picnic. We enjoyed plucking and feasting on *jamun* and *karvanda* straight off the plants, as also loads of ripe mangoes from the trees in the jungle area. The evening was a treat; an experience of living off the land. Unfortunately, we could not see the glow worms that arrange a grand display for us on our annual visits. Everyone was disappointed, but it was more than compensated for by the lovely meals, the journey and the company.

On June 25, Mr. Shekhar Mundada, working president of Maheshwari Vidya Pracharak Mandal (MVPM), visited Marunji, and addressed a group of students doing the Mandal's Dronalaya course. In a touching gesture, some of the attendees gave their two days' earnings to Navkshitij!

The month was topped off with another ice-cream party. Looks like this will be the last of this season. This summer our friends enjoyed many *amras* and ice-cream parties; add *karvanda* and *jamun* to it and that's what summer at Navkshitij was all about.*

Our faith in humanity is paying off

DECEMBER 28 to June 28 is a matter of six months on a calendar. For us, at Navkshitij, it was a big turnaround in a short time. On December 28, 2021, Dr. Neelima Desai bid us adieu. With it came huge responsibilities. And a booster dose that gave us all the courage to set a timeframe to get the construction of the Asawali unit, Dr. Neelima's cherished dream, started. Our financial position was not something that could propel us to getting our feet in an 11-crore ambitious project.

Two young dynamic persons joined the Board of Trustees, which is now led by 67-year-young Dr. C. R. Desai as Founder President. With Mr. C. E. Potnis gracefully taking over as Vice President and Mr. Suneel Kulkarni guarding the treasury and taking responsibility for the construction of the new unit, our enthusiasm was at its peak. The core group, comprising Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle, Mr. Balu Wayal, Mrs Asha Wayal, Mr. Santosh Munde, Mr. Mahendra Survanshi, and Mr. Sainath Digole, also infused so much zeal, not to mention the parents and siblings. And we just took the plunge.

We had some cash in the bank and a huge cache of faith, confidence and courage in our hearts. On the day we laid the foundation stone, the promises for support began; promises that are being honoured. With every such blessing, our faith in humanity takes a quantum leap.

By Kanaka Cadambi, Trustee, Navkshitij, and Senior Editor, Clearly Blue Digital







From the Top: A traditional ceremony for our Juneborn Friends; Navkshitij Vice President Mr. C. E. Potnis, Treasurer Mr. Suneel Kulkarni, Founder President Dr. C. R. Desai, and Trustees Prof. Smita Shetty and Mr. Anirudha Todkar with Divekar Maushi on her 84th birthday; Friend Aditi Desai wishing Mr. Suneel Kulkarni on his birthday.

Thank you from Navkshitij to:

- Neena & Chaitanya Kaushal Trust
- Mrs. Anjaly Banarji
- Shital Bhushan Bari
- Mr. Todkar Pandharinath Shivajirao
- Dr. Noopur Desai
- Ms. Pooja Dubey
- Mr. Sudheendra Hangal
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Jai Vakeel Foundation
- Mrs. Aditi Navghane
- Mr. Rameshwar S.M.
- Mr. Shrinivas Adavirao
- Sankalp for Green (A group of Residents of R3, Life Republic)
- Mrs. Madhavi Gangapurkar
- Ms. Meena Harisinghani
- Mr. Ashutosh S. Bhalerao
- Extentia Information Technology Pvt Ltd

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Upcoming Happenings

- July 6: Traffic Awareness Programme
- July 13: Guru Poornima
- July 23: Monthly trek Dattagad
- July 24: Birthday party for our July-born Friends

Month's events

- June 1: Birthday party for June-born Friends
- June 2: Ice-Cream Party to celebrate Divekar Maushi's 84th birthday
- June 5: Tree Plantation Drive at Asawali Unit
- June 15 & 16: Bhimashankar Trip
- June 25: Visit to Marunji by a group of students enrolled for MVPM's Dronalaya Course





Left: Free health check-up at Asian Paints Community Hospital, Nayagaon; **Right:** Some of the interns at the Workshop area





Left:Students attending the Dronalaya course taking a tour of the Marunji campus;
Right: Maheshwari Vidya Pracharak Mandal gave donations in kind to Navkshitij





Tree PlantationDrive

Left: Friend Kunal Shewade; **Right:** Friends with the staff and the interns

Navkshitij Needs

- Three Washing Machines Approximate cost Rs. 42,000
- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- Renovation of Day School Approximate cost Rs. 1,80,000
- 100 Chairs Approximate cost Rs. 35,000
- One Smart Board Approximate cost Rs 1,20,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642



July 2022

(A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij)









From Top: Mr. Chris Wooten, Executive Vice President, NICE Systems (right) and Mr. Ramesh Gharmalkar, Director of Engineering NICE Ltd. (left) with our special friends; Dr. C. R. Desai addressing the team from BMC Software; Monsoon trek to Shivneri; Trip to Narayangaon Balaji temple

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From The President's Desk

Visitors, trekking in the monsoon rain...



JULY was marked by visitors to Navkshitij. On July 6, Capt. Chitale from Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), who is helping us get approval for our courses, visited Marunji. He was extremely happy to see the way Navkshitij is run, the facilities available, the efficiency of the staff and the smiles on the faces of our special friends. Later, Mrs. Aarti Nagarkar, also from the SPPU, visited Navkshitij. The university is now convinced that we are equipped to run the courses at Navkshitij.

The CSR team of an Israel-based company, NICE Systems, came to Marunji on July 7. Led by Mr. Chris Wooten, the executive vice president of the Surveillance Group, the team spent quality time with our special friends and appreciated the efforts we were putting in.

On July 18, some of our Friends and staff received the COVID-19 booster dose. We thank Friend Rachit's mother, Mrs. Shail Tandon, who coordinated this activity. The remaining Friends and staff got the booster shot at the Marunji grampanchayat.

On July 22, a group of young volunteers from BMC Software visited us. They played musical chairs and other games with our special friends. They gave us three washing machines, one 1 HP water pump and groceries for a month. The team left with the promise of further collaboration.

We set out on the first monsoon trek on July 23. The atmosphere was vibrant with anticipation from almost a week before. Accompanied by our staff and the interns from Vasantrao Naik Krishi Vidyapeeth, our Friends went to Shivneri Fort via Junnar. They climbed Shivneri fort, and visited the Shivai Mata temple and the birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. On the same day, our Asawali Friends went to the Balaji Temple in Narayangaon, near Kapurhole. Lunch was sponsored at a good hotel on the way by Friend Dattarak Wagle's mother.

We celebrated the birthdays of our July-born Friends on July 24, at both Marunji and Asawali.

The month ended with a meeting of the core group of parents of special friends on July 30. No plan can be successfully implemented without their active support and participation.

We bid farewell to the interns from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, and UPES, Dehradun. During their two-month stay here, they made significant contributions towards the branding of Navkshitij.

The continuous rain impacted the construction work at Asawali. When the rain abated a bit, our team laid the RMC (ready-made concrete) base for the precast columns of the two hostel buildings. *

The environment at Navkshitij makes a visitor empathise

BEFORE coming to Navkshitij, I did not know what to think about mentally challenged people. I knew of some stereotypes, just like the general public, and not much of the truth. Coming to Navkshitij, I feel I have gotten to learn a lot about humanity and being humane, caring and kind to these people who are special friends. Before coming to Navkshitij, I would have thought of them as simply retarded, mad or stupid.

The environment at Navkshitij is such that a visitor will empathise with and understand their shortcomings. Special friends live here like any human deserves to. They have a community of friends where they live in an ultra-social environment.

I have respect for the staff members that are like fairy godparents to the special friends. The special educators and caretakers never get irritated or fed up with them. If the special friends make a mistake or cause trouble, there is always a helping hand to guide them.

This mission to make a home for special friends could not have been possible without the late Dr. Neelima Desai and Dr. C. R. Desai. When I first heard the story of Aditi and how Navkshitij came to be, it struck a chord in my heart. I salute the entire Navkshitij family for making this world a better place to live in for mentally challenged people.

By Abhinav Sathe, Intern from UPES, Deharadun







Top: Work in progress at Asawali—laying the RMC base; **Centre:** Our Friends and staff with Mrs. Shail Tandon, after the booster dose; **Bottom:** Common birthday party at Asawali

Thank you from Navkshitij to:

- Dr. C. M. Chitale
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Mr. Anil Madhusudan Kulkarni
- Mr. Vishal Laxman Waadekar
- Gurudatta Earth Movers
- Ms. Pushplata Datta
- Ms. Anupama Kailash Katkar
- Mr. Madhav Punde
- Mr. Natwar Kishore Toshniwal
- Rivaan & Rinku Rajneesh
- Donatekart Foundation
- Mr. Sagar Singh Chauhan
- Mr. Rudra Sirohi
- BMC Software India Private Ltd.
- Mr. Vishwanath Sathe
- Mr. S. V. Kanade

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Upcoming Happenings

- August 1: Mehendi Evening
- August 7: Friendship Day
- August 11: Raksha Bandhan
- August 15: Flag hoisting on Independence Day
- August 19: Dahi Handi
- August 27: Monthly Trek
- August 31: Ganesh Sthapana

Month's events

- July 6: Visit by Capt. Chitale from the Savitribai Phule Pune University
- July 7: Visit by a group of employees from Israel-based NICE Systems Ltd.
 - July 13: Guru Poornima
- July 13: COVID-19 booster dose for some of our Friends and staff
- July 22: Visit by a group of volunteers from BMC Software
- July 23: Monthly Trek to Shivneri from Marunji and Narayanpur from Asawali
- July 24: Common birthday party for our July-born Friends
- July 25: Farewell for the interns from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani
- July 30: Core Parents meeting; Farewell for the interns from UPES, Dehradun





Farewell party for the interns from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (left) and for the interns from UPES, Dehradun (right)





Left: The volunteers from BMC Software playing musical chairs with our Friends **Right:** Lunch sponsored by the parents of Dattraj and Rajesh Jain from Asawali





Left: A team of doctors and volunteers from Asian Paints Clinic, Naigon at Asawali; **Right:** At Shivneri

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- 2 Laptops Approximate cost Rs. 60,000
- 2 Desktop computers Approximate cost Rs. 60,000
- 5 Solar Street Lights Approximate cost Rs. 30,000
- One Smart Board Approximate cost Rs 1,20,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642



Volume 11 Issue No. 5

From The President's Desk

Festivals, celebrations, fun times



This month, it was an avalanche of festivals and celebrations. Much as I would love to recap the joy of every event, paucity of space is a restriction that keeps me reined in.

We celebrated Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav with joy and the serenity that the event deserves, at both Marunji and Asawali. Dr. (Capt.) C. M. Chitale from the Savitribai Phule Pune University was our chief guest at Marunji and did the honour of hoisting our Tiranga. Stage actor and director, Mr. Dnyaneshwar Gaikwad, was the special guest of honour. Our special friends performed a melodious welcome song for the guests.

This year, officials from the Satara district collectorate invited our Friends for a function celebrating Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. Friends Kunal Shewade and Monika Sathe performed a classical dance. Hon'ble Shriniwas Patil, MP for Satara, Mr. Ruchesh Jayavanshi (Collector, Satara), Mr. Ajaykumar Bansal (Superintendent of Police, Satara) and Mr. Vinay Gowda (Chief Executive Office, Zilla Parishad, Satara) were impressed by the performance. Mrs. Ujjawala Patil, Dy. Collector, and Mr. Dasharath Kale, Tahasildar, Khandala, gave us tremendous support.

Here is the list of festivals that we celebrated this month: Nag Panchami, Rakshabandhan, and Dahi Handi. For Nag Panchami, it was Ladies' Day In throughout, with a mehendi session the previous evening and playing traditional games like Zokka. For Dahi Handi, Friends Gautam and Rajesh were the Govindas, respectively, at Marunji and Asawali. As is our practice, we had traditional meals on all the festival days.



Independence Day celebrations at Asawali Unit



Special Friend Gautam as a Govinda



Flag hoisting at Marunji by Capt Dr.Chitale

There was a sports day on August 2. Our Friends played cricket, musical chairs, and many fun games. August 7 marked Friendship Day this year, which we celebrated with four volunteers.

We had a common birthday party for our August-born Friends on August 20. There was biryani, sponsored by some of the parents. For this month's trek, we went to Lohagad fort, near Karle Bhaje village.

It wasn't all fun and no work. On August 17, we conducted a workshop for more than 40 special educators and art teachers from all over Maharashtra. This was to help them teach MCFs and prepare for another exciting event on our calendar—our annual Natyamahotsav. The workshop was held at Bal Kalyan.

We ended the month on a high. Friends Amol, Mukunda, Vikram, Vishal and Abhijeet won the second prize at a singing completion organised by Lions Club on August 27. We brought home our favourite Lord Ganesh ji and installed him at our two campuses. Come September, there'll be more festivities and celebrations. There's never a dearth of fun and activity at Navkshitij.



Dr. C. R. Desai and Prof. Smita Shetty with Shri Shriniwas Patil





Workshop for special educators and art teachers



Shri Shriniwas Patil. MP. Satara. felicitating our Friends

Let us be inspired by our special friends

After waiting for three long years, I could finally come back to India and visit my beloved Navkshitij family. From 2017-18, I was a volunteer, supporting the special friends in their daily lives and making handicrafts in the workshop.

In 2019, I came back for a visit; now, in 2022, I am so grateful to meet them again. When I heard about Neelima Madam's passing away, it was a big shock for me. Coming to Navkshitij, knowing she is not there anymore made me feel sad. She is still a big role model for many people. What she has built and the love she has sown are incredible.

It also made me so happy to see many of the people living and working there. Even though my friend Kiran Chawda and I were there only for a few hours, we felt so relieved to see that everything was going on as usual. Navkshitij is growing.

Nothing can describe the magical moment of coming there when the special friends call out, "Anna Tai, Anna Tai, we missed you!" The way they spread love is so beautiful! Let's take this as an inspiration; we should all be this kind, honest and openhearted! I can't wait for my next visit.

A special thanks to Rameshwar Fundipalle, who is always giving me the possibility to stay connected to the happenings at Navkshitij.

By Anna Lisa Pieper, ex-Resident volunteer from Germany



Mr. Narayan Shinde, Pune Zilla Parishad official, during an inspection at Navkshitij



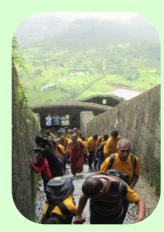
Dahi Handi at Asawali



A group of volunteers from Infosys BPM Ltd at Marunji



Day Care students went on a oneday trip to Tamhini Ghat, Pune



Monthly trek to Lohagad



Navkshitii team won the second prize at a group singing contest organised by Lions Club



Asawali Friends trekking at Asawali hills









Thank you from Navkshitij

- Mr. Chris Wooten
- · Mr. Ajit Dwarkanath Deshmukh
- Mr. Vinay Mahendra
- Mr. Sandeep Garg
- · Mr. Nithya Prakash
- Mrs. Shubhangi R. Patil
- Mr. Satish Khawashe
- Khushboo Parashkar
- Gooni
- Qodequay Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Tejraj Kulkarni
- . Mr. Vinod Venugopal
- Infosys BPM Ltd
- Marquardt
- Tarachand Ramnath Seva Trust
- Emcure Pharmaceuticals

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months —
 Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- · Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- 2 Laptops Approximate cost Rs. 60,000
- 2 Desktop computers Approximate cost Rs. 60,000
- 1 Projector Approximate cost Rs. 30,000
- 4 tyres for Tata Sumo Gold Approximate cost Rs 30,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642

Our Address

We are located here Please click on the map icon



Mission

To establish a sustainable & scalable solution for rehabilitation of mentally challenged friends (MCFs) by achieving excellence in caregiving for MCFs & senior citizens.

September in a Capsule

September 1: Common birthday party for our September-born Friends

September 5: Teacher's Day celebrations

September 6: Ganesh Visarjan

September 14: Traffic Awareness Programme

September 17: Remembering Dr. Neelima Desai on her birthday

September 24: Monthly Trek to Naneghat

Months Events

August 1: Mehandi Evening

August 2: Nag Panchami & Sports Day

August 7: Friendship Day

August 11: Rakshabandhan

August 15: Independence Day celebrations

August 17: Workshop for special teachers art teachers from all over

Maharashtra to help them prepare for the annual drama competition, Dr. Neelima

Desai Karandak, for mentally challenged friends

ugust 19: Dahi Handi

August 20: Birthday party for our August-born Friends

August 27: Monthly trek to Lohagad

August 31: Ganesh Sthapana



Birthay party for Friend Deepak



Bringing home Lord Ganesha









Vol. 11 Issue 6

From the President's Desk

Navkshitij joins core group of Parivaar Sahyadri



SEPTEMBER was full of action and great tidings. During the first week, the sounds of the dhol and tasha rent the air. Until visarjan day, September 6, when we saw Lord Ganesha off with music and dance. Mr. Akash Buchade (at Marunji), Mr. Anna Jadhav and Akash Jadhav (at Asawali) performed the final aarti for this year.

On September 1, we had a party to celebrate the birthdays of our September-born Friends, at both units. We celebrated Teacher's Day on September 5. It also happens to be my birthday. Our staff and Friends swept me off my feet with their love. They gave me a beautiful present. I had earned a place in their hearts. The mantle of president seemed to fit better that day. On September 17, the birthday of our beloved Neelima madam, we basked in sweet memories and had sweet rasmalai, her favourite sweet dish.

The Grand Highstreet mall at Hinjawadi invited our Friends and staff for the screening of the movie Bramhastra to mark the auspicious launch of PVR cinema. After the movie, there was a warm meal waiting for us. For this month's trek, our Marunji Friends went to Naneghat and the Asawali group went to Pandavdara on September 25.



At PVR Studio in Grand Highstreet Mall, Hinjawadi, for the special screening of Brahmastra



Ganapati Aarti by Special Friends



Celebrating Dr. C.R. Desai's birthday

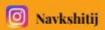
On the same day, Rameshwar Sir, Munde Sir, trustees Smita Shetty and Anirudha Todkar and I attended Parivaar Sahyadri's AGM at Latur. At the meeting, we got a platform to address stalwarts working in the field of rehabilitation of MCFs. In a short talk, we emphasised the need for a residential facility for MCFs. We explained that the main problem in running such a venture would be a paucity of well-trained caregivers and empowered centre heads. We also announced our plans to set up a training centre for caregivers and centre heads as the best way to make the solution scalable.

The concept received spontaneous and unanimous support from the attending parents and heads of NGOs. The proof: they appointed me as a Core Member of Parivaar Sahyadri for a three-year term, effective immediately. We have been invited to write about this concept for a souvenir to be released at the national conference of Parivaar, to be held in Thrissur in November 2022.

Three days later, we met Mr Amit Ranade of MKCL to discuss designing course content for our two courses. Looks like the right time for the training centre has arrived.



Mr. Dasharath Parab, Secretary of Parivaar Sahyadri, felicitating Dr. C. R. Desai









Celebrated birthdays of September-born special friends at Marunji



Asawali Friends on a trek to Pandavdara



Our Friends presenting gifts to Mr. Umesh Iyyer, CCO India Land, Pune & Centre Director, Grand Highstreet Mall, Hinjawadi

Learning how to handle life from special friends

After visiting Navkshitij, we were filled with mixed emotions. We were happy to have spent time with special friends and brought a smile on their faces.

We realised that life is not easy for all. Life throws challenges for all of us and we must accept it. How creative these people are. Nothing has stopped them from making beautiful artwork because they have accepted their challenges. They are doing what they can.

We have seen how optimistic they are about everything. Spending time with them was a good opportunity for us to learn about handling life from them. After seeing the special friends, we feel very motivated. Hats off to the management and the people who handle the special friends.

The aim is to provide integrated care, with professionals working together as an inter-disciplinary team to give the best possible care. The staff and management work closely with the MCFs and their families to provide coordinated care that works.



A group of volunteers from Nice System, Hinjawadi



Trek to Naneghat by Marunji Friends



Lunch sponsored by a well-wisher at Marunji



Lunch sponsored by a well-wisher at Asawali



Thank you from Navkshitij

- Mr. Dattatrey Ambadasrao Toke
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Mr. Arun Sahu
- Mr. Suresh Sudam Kolekar
- Mr. Navnit Baldha
- Mr. Sulabh Gupta
- Mr. Pradip Shankar Bhawalkar
- Harshal Foundation
- Mr. Chandrashekhar and team from John Deere
- Indira Institute of Management, Pune
- Donatekart Foundation
- Deepti Dhondge
- Mr. Mihir Madhani
- Mr. Suraj Shivale
- Swati Kadu, Nice Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd
- Nice Cxone
- Mrs. Rukmini Srinivasan
- Mr. Ankush Jindal (Nice System Group)

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- 1 Smart Board Approximate cost Rs 1,80,000
- 6 Tabs Approximate cost Rs 54,000
- 4 tyres for Tata Sumo Gold Approximate cost Rs 30,000
- 1 Four-Wheeler Approximate cost Rs 7,00,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642

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Voice Of Navkshitij

A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij.

October in a Capsule

- October 1: Common birthday for October-born Friends
- October 2: Street Play and Walkathon on Fergusson /College Road, Pune
- October 5: Dussera
- October 9: Kojagiri Poornima
- October 21: Diwali Party
- October 22: Parents' Meeting
- October 24–26: Diwali

Month's Events

- September 1: Common birthday party for September-born Friends
- September 5: Celebrating Teacher's Day; Dr. C. R. Desai's birthday
- September 6: Ganesh Visarjan
- September 17: Remembering Dr. Neelima Desai on her birthday
- September 22: Special screening of the movie *Brahmastra* at PVR Grand Highstreet Mall, Hinjawadi
- September 24: Monthly Trek to Naneghat (from Marunji) and Pandavdara (from Asawali)

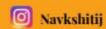


Ganapati Visarjan at Marunji



Ganapati Visarjan at Asawali









Volume 11 Issue No. 7

From The President's Desk

Overwhelming response from parents to appeal for starting ancillary units



October came in dancing on the wave of Navratri and dandiya and concluded with Diwali celebrations. The spirit of festivities, of sharing, also meant we had a month filled with setting up stalls and completing orders for our products.

On October 1, we had a party for our October-born Friends. On Gandhi Jayanti (October 2), after a gap of two pandemic years, we resumed our annual tradition of a walkathon and street play. The topic for the street play was organ donation. Our late founder president, Dr Neelima Desai, had donated her body as a final act of placing others before self. Chief guest Mr. Madhav Bhandari, well-known author and political analyst, promised support for our new projects. Our Vice President Mr. C. E. Potnis thanked Mr. Bhandari for sparing his valuable time for us.

We got the go-ahead for the revised building plan of our Asawali project, which was approved by the Town Planning and Sub Divisional Office, Wai. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. Sanjay Sakala, Assistant Director, TP, Satara, Mr. Rajendra Jadhav, SDO, Wai, Mr. Dasharath Kale and Mr. Madane, it happened within four months.

A group of volunteers from BMC visited us on October 6 and donated two laptops, two desktops and a projector.



Navkshitij Vice President, Mr. Potnis, felicitating Mr. Madhav Bhandari



Our Friends at Trumpf India Pvt Ltd for Diwali Pooja



Dr C. R. Desai addressing the gathering at TALKD

On October 11, TALKD invited us to their pre-diwali celebrations. CEO Pranali Vichare and co-founder Shashi Sudhanshu welcomed us. Friends Monika and Kunal impressed the audience with their captivating dance performance. TALKD has shown a keen interest in assisting us with the branding and positioning of Navkshitij.

On the 15th, Wayal Sir and I attended the regional conference of Parivaar Sahyadri, where we learnt about various government schemes for the intellectually disabled (IDs). I was given the honour of chairing the session on residential rehabilitation of IDs. There was an overwhelming response to our idea of establishing small residential units.

At the Day Care Centre parents' meeting on October 14 and at the one for the parents and siblings of our Resident Friends (held on October 22), the attendees showed keen interest in starting ancillary residential centres.

From October 21 onwards, it was Diwali celebrations with traditional sweets, lights and crackers. Our Friends were looking resplendent. We thank Maha NGO federation, TALKD, Bosch, Western Union Services India Pvt Ltd, Syngenta India, Enzene Biosciences Ltd, Emcure, Tata Autocomp, Trumpf India Pvt Ltd, Adient and Multiversity Pvt Ltd for making Diwali a super celebration for our Friends.

We ended the month with a full-day Trustee meeting, from 9 am to 4.30 pm. At the meeting, we discussed strategies and roadmaps with reference to the ancillary units and the training institute.



A team from BMC at Marunji











Walkathon down Fergusson College Road



Street Play on Organ Donation: Friends performing near Fergusson College gate

MY experience at Navkshitij was very fruitful and blissful. Everyone was so

Fruitful, blissful internship at Navkshitij

welcoming and amiable.

Navkshitij was around 40 km away from where I was staying. So "distance" was my first hurdle when my internship commenced. But when I came here the first day and met everybody, my reservations disappeared and there was no turning back. I decided that distance shouldn't keep me from working in this organisation and with the special friends here.

The mentally challenged friends (MCFs) were so kind and they taught me the purest form of unconditional love there can be. Every morning, the first thing I did when I entered the premises was to meet the MCFs at their breakfast table. The girls there hugged and complimented me, displaying the utmost affection in their smiles. Even the teachers and staff were very kind and cooperative.

We are all very thankful to the trustees who taught us a lot in the short meetings that we had. Desai sir and Smita ma'am were a guiding light to us. Being the content writer, I learned a lot from Kanaka ma'am. I will definitely miss my time at Navkshitij and would love to come here whenever I can.

By Ms. Ananya Pahwa, Intern from UPES, Deharadun



A pat on the back for Friends Kunal and Monika from Mrs. Pranali Vichare, CEO, and Mr. Shashi Sudhanshu Cofounder, of TALKD



Friends presenting a Street Play at Infosys



What the press is saying about our Walkathon and Street Play



Volunteers from Nitor Infotech at the Workshop, helping our Friends complete corporate orders for the festival season







Thank you from Navkshitij

- Genau Industries Private Limited
- Dr. Chandrashekhar Desai
- Mrs. Aruna Mukesh Katara
- Mr. Ajay Vasantrao Varade
- Mr. Sandeep Singh Parihar
- Mr. Sachin Suhas Deshpande
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Dr. C. M. Chitale
- Mrs. Neelima Hemant Rajpathak
- Mr. Yogesh Vasantrao Kulkarni
- Mr. Amit Madhukar Patil
- Mr. Manik Kavthekar
- Mr. Rohan Sonas
- KAM-AVIDA Enviro engineers Pvt. Ltd.
- Syngenta Services Pvt.Ltd
- Sane & Ghonacharya
- Mr. Adinath Bhosale
- Akansha Kelkar

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- · Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- 1 Smart Board Approximate cost Rs. 1,80,000
- 6 Tabs Approximate cost Rs 54,000
- 120 Cotton Bedsheets Approximate cost Rs. 18,000

Contact: Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle 9403043169 / 9850092642

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October in a Capsule

November 4: Common birthday party for our November-born Friends

November 26: Mahabaleshwar Trek

Month's Events

cober 1: Common birthday party for October-born Friends

October 2: Street Play & Walkathon on Fergusson College Road, Pune

October 5: Dassera celebrations

October 9: Kojagiri Poornima celebrations

October 21: Diwali Party

October 22: Parents' Meeting

October 24-26: Diwali Celebrations



Kojagiri Poornima celebrations at Marunji



Celebrating Bhai dhooj at Asawali



Diwali celebrations at Marunji









November 2022

(A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij)









From Top: Our Founder President Dr. C. R. Desai addressing the crowd at a programme organised by Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, SPPU and Karve Institute of Social Sciences; Navkshitij Trustee Prof Smita Shetty giving the welcome speech at the meeting with the members of the newly-formed Advisory Board; The foundation being laid for the admin and classroom building at Asawali; At Raireshwar for our monthly trek

Mission of Navkshitij

To establish a sustainable and scalable solution for rehabilitation of mentally challenged friends (MCFs) by achieving excellence in caregiving for MCFs and senior citizens.

From The President's Desk

There is a definite shift towards residential rehabilitation



By Dr. C. R. Desai

NOVEMBER began on a low note, with our Friends coming back from their Diwali holidays. Some were excited to share the fun they had had at home and some felt bad that they had to leave the family and come back to the grind. The tempo picked up with the common birthday party for our November-born Friends, which they celebrated with great gusto.

There were some important events during the month. On November 12 and 13, the national conference of Parivaar Sahyadri was held at Trissur, Kerala. It was attended by parents and representatives of parents' organisations from across the country. The atmosphere was vibrant and we realised that the parents were ready for fundamental changes in the approach to the rehabilitation of the intellectually disabled (ID). The mood was definitely shifting towards residential rehabilitation.

On November 20, we addressed a crowd of about 700 mental health professionals and some key government officials at a meeting organised by Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) and Karve Institute of Social Sciences, at Gandhi Bhavan. We drew their attention to the issue of ID rehabilitation. We announced that Navkshitij, in collaboration with Pune University, was launching a course for caregivers and another for professionals who will be trained to start new residential units. The personnel completing the courses will make it possible for groups of parents to start residential centres that can house 15–20 IDs.

On the 26th, we organised the first meeting of the trustees of Navkshitij and the newly-appointed advisory body. We are obliged to Dr. Capt. C. M. Chitale, Former Dean, PUMBA, Pune University, Dr. Vivek Sawant, Chief Mentor, MKCL (Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd.) and Cdr. Shrirang Bijur, Former President, Parivaar National, an association of parents of intellectually disabled persons, for accepting our invitation to join the advisory board. Mr. Chandrakant Dalvi, former divisional commissioner of Pune Division, was our guest of honor. We received excellent guidance from them at this meeting.

The work at the Asawali unit has gained momentum. We have shifted our special friends from Asawali to Marunji to accommodate the team of construction workers from Precast India Ltd. We are all eager to see the building take shape. *

New learning, memorable experiences

Where should I begin? There was so much I enjoyed during my internship at Navkshitij. Meeting people and getting to know MCFs.

I worked as a video editor and YouTube manager at Navkshitij. I found the work really interesting, but sometimes hard. I learned a lot from my work experience. I believe my time management and organisational skills are my greatest strengths.

The internship at Navkshitij has played a very important role in my life. I came here as a guy who thought, "Why am I doing this internship here?" I want to go someplace where I get paid to do the work and leave, but now that the internship has ended, I did get paid. Instead of money, I got knowledge and experience. It is a completely different world, created for people who are challenged.

Change is hard. This internship was something we did not have in mind before, but it was new learning for us. I think it's great to spend time in a different world that you don't know about.

By Hriday Checker, Intern from UPES, Deharadun







Top: Children's Day with the franchise owner and a team of volunteers from New Poona Bakery; Centre: On the occasion of the second anniversary of Naad Brahma Idli, its director, Mr. Krishan, visited Navkshitij and treated our Friends and staff to some delicious snacks; Bottom: Dr. Shailesh Vadodaria, Founder, Help Smile Trust, UK, at Marunji

Thank you from Navkshitij to:

- Emcure Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.
- Bhavya Janardhan
- Mr. Ajay Sahni
- M. J. Biopharm Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Bandu Fuke
- Mr. Narsingh Kakanikar
- Ibis Hotel
- Bajaj Finance Limited
- Dr. Renu Naidu
- Dr. C. M. Chitale

www.navkshitij.org

+919881791915

Watch us on:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqWCHoC PqE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM17TYamUNI Follow us on:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Navkshitij/35925179 7476875

December in a Capsule

- December 3: World Disability Day
- December 16: Common birthday party for our December-born Friends
- December 28: Dr. Neelima Desai's death anniversary
- December 31: New Year's Eve party

Month's events

- November 4: Common birthday party for our November-born Friends
- November 14: Children's Day celebrations
- November 21: Visit by Dr. Shailesh Vadodaria, Founder, Help Smile Trust, UK
- November 26: Trek to Raireshwar





Well-wisher Dr. Renu Naidu, assistant professor at Marathwada Mitra Mandal, visited Marunji with her family members (left); Celebrating Children's Day with volunteers from Adient, Pune (right)





Birthday party: For Friends Aditi and Neha at Marunji (left)
And Friends Prajyot and Kishor at Asawali (right)





A team from Asian Paints' Mobile Clinic at the Aswali Unit

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- Sponsor a day's meal for 63 resident MCFs Approximate cost Rs 11,000
- Two Semi Auto Washing Machine Approximate cost Rs 14,000
- One 42" LED TV Approximate cost Rs 24,000

Contact: **Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle** 9403043169 / 9850092642

Navkshitij

Voice of Navkshitij

December 2021

(A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij)

From The Editor's Desk Navkshitij will march forward







From Top: Dr. Neelima Desai and Dr. C. R. Desai with Navkshitij Friends; Dr. Desai addressing the gathering at the Prayer Meet; Staff members recalling memories and emphasising their support; a parent expressing confidence in Navkshitij

Mission of Navkshitij

The mission of Navkshitij is to create a world that offers mentally challenged friends (MCF) a life filled with happiness, dignity, warmth, excitement and joy and helps them be an accepted part of society, and where parents of adult MCF have the reassurance of seeing their wards leading their lives happily, and in this way motivate and empower other NGOs and parents to start many centres like Navkshitij, replicating the Navkshitij model.

ON its way out, the year 2021 dealt a stinging blow. On December 28, we lost our dear Dr. Neelima Desai, Founder President and MD. She was aai, tai, madam, Neelima, ma'am... Many were the caps that she donned. Whatever the role she played, she lived it to the hilt.

Dr. Neelima's name was synonymous with Navkshitij. She was a caring and committed organisation head, an excellent administrator and a loving human being. Her approach to problem solving was unique. She was a wizard at tweaking a person to inspire him or her to deliver only the best, especially the problem makers. Once, during the early days of Navkshitij, she told me, "Maybe I should do an MBA." She didn't need to. She learnt so quickly on the job. Before we knew it, management institutions were inviting her to deliver talks to their students.

I would call her a D-specialist. Diligent, dedicated, determined. The 25 awards given to Navkshitij within a span of 18 years say it all. Dr. Neelima knew that the secret to the success of an organisation lies in delegating—the right tasks and responsibilities to the right person, at the right time.

Dr. Neelima had delegated a deserving person, Dr. C. R. Desai, her husband and our erstwhile Vice President, to ease into her role as Founder President and MD. Not only did she pass on the baton but she also ensured that he was ready with time availability and the expertise that this particular role demands. Dr. Desai is also an extremely strong and empathetic person.

The change of guard was seamless. It must have taken a huge effort to get on to the track so soon after the personal loss. Coping with the loss of a spouse is no ordinary test; coping with the loss of someone like Dr. Neelima is a Himalayan challenge. Nevertheless, Dr. Desai is there, in full charge. His tremendous mental strength and skills in management, communication and connecting with people will ensure that Navkshitij stays ahead in the game.

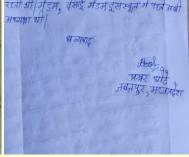
When we shared the news of Dr. Neelima's demise, many people wondered what would happen to Navkshitij. We assure you that with an equally capable head and the unstinting support of our staff, parents and well-wishers, the Board of Trustees of Navkshitij will carry the legacy forward.

For men may come and men may go/Navkshitij should go on forever. As we step into a wonderful new year, we wish you all a very Happy 2022.

By Kanaka Cadambi, Editor, Trustee of Navkshitij

A special friend pays tribute





Prakar Dhote is a Resident Friend staying at Marunji. He has the unique gift of recalling vehicle numbers.







Special Friends at the Prayer Meeting

Thank you from Navkshitij to:

- Mrs. Vanita Vijay Ambike
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Nitor Infotech Pvt. Ltd.
- Ms. Poonam Kale
- Emcure Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Rahul Rameshrao Gourshettiwar
- Ms. Jayalakshmi Haridas
- Mr. Tushar J. S.
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Aarete Technosoft Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Subodh Dinkar Sapatnekar
- Mr. Vijay Ilke
- Ms. Sunita & Mr. Raju Rupnar
- Mr. Mayuresh Biware
- Mr. Vishwanath Koparde
- UK Online Giving Foundation
- Mr. Bipul Kumar Upadhyay
- Mr. Ashwini Kumar

<u>www.navkshitij.org</u> +919850092195

Watch us on:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqWCHoC_PqE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM17TYamUNI

Follow us on:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Navkshitij/35925 1797476875

Upcoming Happenings

- January 1: Birthday party for our January-born Friends
- January 14: Makar Sankrant
- January 22: Monthly Trek
- January 26: Republic Day celebrations

Month's events

- December 3: International Disability Day
- December 16: Common birthday party for our December-born Friends
- December 28: Sports Day
- December 30: Prayer Meet in memory of Dr. Neelima Desai
- December 31: Year-end Party





Left: Common birthday party for our December-born Friends; **Right:** Xmas Day celebrations with a team of volunteers from TATA Motors





Left: Volleyball match at Asawali (Sports Day); **Right:** Three-legged race at Marunji (Sports Day)



Felicitating the winners at Marunji (Sports Day)

Navkshitij Now Needs

- One Projector Approximate cost INR 25,000
- One Home Theatre Approximate cost INR 3,500
- One 1-HP Water Pump Approximate cost INR 6,000
- One Portable Sound System Approximate cost INR 18,000
- Five 15' x 15' Floor rugs (Sataranji) Approximate cost INR 20,000
- One Digital Camera Approximate cost INR 20,000



Vol. 11 Issue 10

From the President's Desk

The many highs in January



Welcome 2023! The month of January welcomed us with many opportunities disguised as challenges. The construction work at Asawali picked up pace. A number of trailers with precast columns, beams and slabs were being delivered. The sheer size of the trailers makes it necessary for the deliveries to be made in the wee hours of the morning, between around 3 am and 5 am. Our staff at Asawali stayed up the whole night to ensure there were no difficulties along the narrow roads that passed through the village of Kavathe. About 40 employees of Precast India Ltd are working at Asawali, with many of them living on–site. We had to shift our special friends from Asawali to Marunji to make room for them. Our staff at Marunji rose to the occasion and welcomed our friends with open arms.

On January 15, we started a new satellite centre at Somatne, which will accommodate our special friends from Asawali. Our staff, especially Munde sir, Mahendra sir and Asha tai, adapted the residence to the needs of our special friends in record time. Kudos to our team! Finally, our special friends from Asawali are living in a well–constructed building instead of the shed that we were forced to keep them in. The centre at Somatne is the proof of concept (POC) that small, self–sufficient satellite centres can be established and run by staff trained at Navkshitij.

Birthday celebrations and Sankranti with gol-poli added to the joy of our special friends and staff. Our Foundation Day, scheduled for January 21, had to be rescheduled due to an unavoidable circumstance. It will now be held on February 5. We are sure that the delay will only help us put up an even better show.



Vinod Nair, Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President, Milgard, US, & his Pune-based team visited Navkshitij



Friend Chaitanya Mhetre being felicitated with an award for his contribution as Office Assistant by the founder of Survadatta Group



Inauguration of our new satellite centre at Somatane, Pune



Lokmat & Maha NGO Federation honoured Navkshitij with an award, which was presented by Padmshri Girish Prabhune

We launched the courses for caregivers and centre heads on January 20. It is a beginning, though a modest one, towards our aim of establishing a sustainable and scalable solution to the problem of residential rehabilitation of the Intellectually Disabled.

Our staff and special friends are gearing up for the Republic Day celebrations on January 26. Close on the heels of Republic Day follows our annual Parvati hill climbing competition, which is to take place on February 1. Our staff is busy getting permissions and participation from other schools.

A big pat on the back for our staff. The pace at which we are growing leaves them no time to breathe, no respite.



Friend Kaushik Vaidya received the Best Bowler award at a national-level limited overs cricket tourney. It was given to him by Mr. Sunandan Lele, renowned sports writer.







A group of employees from TALKD visiting Navkshitij



Dr. C. R. Desai and Mr. C. E. Potnis with Mrs. Pranali, CEO, TALKD, and her team



Volunteers from Hexaware Technology at Navkshitij

Navkshitij: A safe haven for us employees too

I have been working at Navkshitij for the past two and a half years. I work in the office and am in charge of filing, documentation and keeping accounts.

Basically, an engineering student, I had never worked in an organisation for the intellectually disabled. But the atmosphere was so good that I just started enjoying working here. Every morning when I come to work, I am welcomed by our special friends. They always have a kind and appreciative comment to make, sometimes on the dress I am wearing or just to tell me that I am looking good today.

I would like to specially mention our youngest member, Divekar Maushi. She is just 82 years old but her enthusiasm and perseverance inject us with energy. I have learnt a lot from her, especially about maintaining ledgers and being meticulous in whatever work one is doing. Navkshitij gives us a sense of belonging.

We feel this is the safest place to work and I am thankful to Navkshitij for giving us a safe haven.

By Mrs. Ashvini Prashant Gudade, Office Assistant



Making delicious laddu for Makar Sankranti



Ready for the kite flying on Makar Sankrati



Navkshitij Friends at the national-level limited overs cricket tourney organised by Kamayani, Gokhalenagar, Pune



Construction at Asawali



Our Friends participated in Jallosh, a programme organised by the Suryadatta Group of Institutes



Dr. C. R. Desai and our Friends were invited to the inaugural function of BITOSA (Birla Institute of Technology Old Students Association, Pune Chapter) Global Conclave 7,0n January 28.









Thank you from Navkshitij

- Mr. Dattatrey Ambadasrao Toke
- · Nitor Infotech Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Arjun Narayan
- Milgard Services India Private Limited
- Mr. Manohar Sonwaldas Bhagwanani
- Dr. S. R. Kumawat
- . Ms. Mamta Sarang Kunte
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Mr. Rajendra Shinde
- Ms. Payal Sunil Nikhare
- · Mr. Yogesh Kumar
- · Mr. Kota Milind
- Syngenta Services Private Limited
- Ms. Shilpa Kulkarni

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- 1 LED TV Approximate cost Rs. 22,000/-
- 5 Foldable Dining Tables Approximate cost Rs 15,000
- 1 Sintex Tank (10,000 liters) Approximate cost Rs 20,000
- 1 Digital Camera Approximate cost Rs 30,000

Contact Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle on +91 9850092642

Mission

To establish a sustainable and scalable solution for the rehabilitation of Mentally Challenged Friends (MCFs) and achieve excellence in the training of caregivers and centre heads.

Our Address

We are located here Please click on the map icon



Voice Of Navkshitij

A monthly newsletter published by Dr. C. R. Desai and edited by Kanaka Cadambi on behalf of Navkshitij

February in a Capsule

- February 1: Parvati Climbing Competition for the Intellectually Disabled
- February 5: 19th Foundation Day
- February 9: Common birthday party for our February-born Friends
- February 18: Mahashivratri
- February 25: Monthly Trek

Month's Events

- January 2: Received award from Lokmat media & Maha NGO Federation at the hands of social activist and writer Padmashri Girish Prabhune and Mr. Krishna Prakash, IPS
- January 12: Common birthday party for our January-born Friends
- January 14: Inauguration of our satellite centre at Somathane; Makar Sankranti celebrations
- January 20: Inauguration of our two courses: Course for Caregivers and Course for Centre Heads
- January 26: Republic Day celebrations
- January 28: Monthly Trek



Well-wisher Mr. Yogesh Kumar donated a washing machine

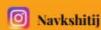
Common birthday party





Celebrating the 74th Republic Day with our special Friends, Dr. Vikas Patil hoisting the flag.









Vol. 11 Issue 11

From the President's Desk

Shortest and the busiest month thus far



The shortest month, February, has been the busiest thus far. We began the month with our Annual Parvati Hill Climbing competition. The 19th Foundation Day celebrations on the 5th, with Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale as the chief guest, was an event like never before. The huge hall was filled with more than 400 guests. Our advisory board members, Capt. C. M. Chitale, Mr. Chandrakant Dalvi and Mr. Vivek Sawant, graced the occasion with their presence. Representatives from our major CSR partners endorsed their support by attending the function.

Our new compere, Ms. Neeraja Apte, was a revelation. She started the programme with a touching tribute to our founder, Dr. Neelima Desai. The programme began with Ganesh Vandana by our special friends. This was followed by a video in the voice of Neelima ma'am, in which she shared her dream for the future of Navkshitij. Her voice made the experience so real; we all felt as if she would walk on to the stage at any moment and take charge of the proceedings in her inimitable style.

The video of the journey of Navkshitij highlighted her life's work and concluded with current stage of construction at Asawali. In the short period of three months, Mr. Ajit Bhate and his team have accomplished the impossible: the infrastructure of columns, beams, slabs and staircases for 31,000 square feet of construction is ready.

On the occasion, our star performer, Divekar maushi was felicitated at the hands of Air Marshal Gokhale.

We appreciated the active participation of our CSR partners by felicitating Mr. Ajit Bhate of Precast India Ltd and the representatives of Bajaj, MKCL, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Nitor Infotech. This was followed by the most important event: the release of our coffee table books, Smiling Faces in English and Hasare Chehare in Marathi



Dr Desai presenting the coffee table book to Mrs. Shefali Bajaj, Chairwoman, Bajaj CSR Committee



Mrs. Gangasagar Munde from Navkshitij receiving the Best Caretaker of the Year award



Founder President Dr. C. R. Desai and Vice President Mr. C. E. Potnis receiving Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale, on our Foundation Day



Flagging off Parvati Hill Climbing competition

Our Vice President Mr. C. E. Potnis and our Founder President Dr. C. R. Desai shared their vision for the future of Navkshitij, which was followed by an encouraging speech by our chief guest. We thank our trustees, especially Ms. Smita Shetty, and our staff for making the programme a grand success.

We had an Advisory Board meeting on Feb 20. Dr Bhupatkar, Chairman, Kamayani was the special invitee.

On the 26th, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Tanaji Marathe, we conducted a meeting for parents of intellectually disabled (ID) from Talegaon. About 30 parents attended the meeting. After seeing our Marunji unit and the smile on the faces of our special friends and listening to a motivational talk by Dr. Desai, the concept of launching new homes for IDs received a spontaneous response from all the attendees.



Trustee Mr. Suneel Kulkarni and architect Rajeev Sarode inspecting the ongoing work at Asawali





Coffee table book release



Ganesh Vandana by our Friends on Foundation Day



Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale felicitating Mr. Ajit Bhate

Simplicity is Divekar Maushi's middle name

When one writes about Divekar Maushi, one wonders whether one should be focussing on her age, qualifications (Rashtrabhasha Pandit, with a Secondary Teacher's Course certificate and a Certificate in Physical Education) or her indefatigable energy. She is more than these.

Divekar Maushi is a very simple lady. Simple in her living. And in her thinking. I cannot resist sharing an incident here. I missed attending a milestone birthday. When I visited Pune next, I carried a gift for her. Neelima suggested we could go across to her room and give it to her. As it happened, Neelima got a call and had to leave early. So I went alone, met her and gave her the saree, which my daughter had lovingly selected for her. She flashed her inimitable smile and said, "Neelima is not here. I cannot accept a personal gift without her knowledge."

It took me a while to convince her that Neelima was fully in the know and that we were both planning to meet her together to hand it over to her. And that she could accept it. That is Divekar Maushi, simplicity being her middle name.

Navkshitij has been blessed to have this wonderful human being supporting us as Trustee and Secretary.

By Kanaka Cadambi, Trustee



The proud winners of the Parvati Hill Climbing Competition 2023



Mr. Mohammed Pasha, Vice President (Sales & Business Development) Bosch India Pvt Ltd, visited Marunji with a team of volunteers



As part of its 10th Foundation Day celebrations, a team of volunteers from Confluxys Pvt Ltd visited Marunji



Special felicitation for Divekar Maushi by Air Marshal Gokhale



Interns from Indira Institute of Management,
Pune at Marunji



Mrs. Sunita Subhash Lele, founder of Saad (Support all abled Differently), a therapy centre in Pune, visited Navkshiti with a group of parents of children enrolled at Saad



Thank you from Navkshitij

- Kunal Chhajed And Co.
- Mr. Vinod Guiar
- Dr. C. M. Chitale
- Mr. Tribhuwan Joshi
- · Mrs. Varada Jagadish Sathaye
- Dayanand Shankar Deshpande
- Mr. Sujeet Arvind Deshpande
- Mrs. Anita Chhibba
- Confluxsys Private Limited
- Mr. Siddharth Satpute
- Dr. Seema Sudame
- Dr. Shekhar Sudame
- Mr. Ashok Anant
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Donatekart Foundation
- · Pallavi Deshpande
- Mr. Chandrashekhar Potnis
- UK Online Giving Foundation
- Mr. Sagar Ranjit Ogale, Bosch

Navkshitij Needs

- Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months Rs. 1,50,000/75,000
- Sponsor a Caregiver
- Sponsor a festival/event/activity
- Camera Approximate cost Rs 37,490
- Solar Water Heater System Approximate cost Rs 17,759
- 10 Wall Mounting Fans Approximate cost Rs 25,000

Contact Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle on +91 9850092642

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March in a Capsule

- March 5: Common birthday party for our March-born Friends
- March 6: Holi Celebration
- March 7: Dhulwad / Rangpanchami
- March 8: Sports Day
- March 22: Gudi Padava
- March 25: Trek to Chaturshringi Temple

Month's Events

- February 1: Parvati Hill Climbing Competition
- February 5: 19th Foundation Day
- February 9: Common birthday party for our February-born Friends
- February 18: Mahashivaratri
- February 25: Trek to Firangai Devi
- February 26: Meeting with parents of IDs from Talegaon



Mr. Rajiv Risbud, a parent, hosted a chhole bhature party

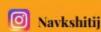
At Firangai Devi, for our monthly trekking





Common birthday party for our Februaryborn Friends









Vol. 11 Issue 12

From the President's Desk

Navkshitij Experienced a Frenzy of March End

1

For the first time in 20 years, Navkshitij experiences a frenzy of March end. Thanks to the generous contributions of our CSR partners, Bajaj, Precast India Itd, MNGL and BMC. We were sucked into the vortex of receipts, invoices, GST, fund utilization certificates and audited statements. We are grateful to all our CSR partners for giving us a taste of what they go through at the end of each financial year.

At Navkshitij it was fun as usual with many birthdays being celebrated on the 5 March with the usual gusto. This was followed by Holi celebrations on 7 March with the Emcure team.

Navkshitij with the Emcure team celebrated the festival with a rainbow of colors and yummy snacks for all. Melodious Breeze, a group of professionals from Hinjewadi organized a musical event for our special friends. Our friends from our Somatnane unit also participated in the madness of Holi/Dhulwad/Rangapanchami.

The next day we organized a Sports day at the Mulshi cricket ground. Rachit's parents added to the fun by treating all with Misal pav. Our special friends participated in this event with great enthusiasm showing no signs of fatigue after the activities of the previous two days. Kudos to our staff for matching their enthusiasm.

The construction at Asawali has gone to the next phase. Precast India has completed constructing the beams, the columns, slabs and the staircases of 31,000 sq. ft of construction. Their team consisting of 49 workers left after completing the water proofing of all slabs.

We received 42,000 bricks and 6 trucks of stone crush from the generous brick owners and stone crushers around Asawali. A new team has now moved in and the brick laying work has commenced. Looks like Navkshitij is on the fast track



Gudi Padwa celebrated at Marunji Unit



A group of wellwishers supported Navkshitij by fulfilling grocery requirements



Mr. Santosh Munde, representing Navkshitij at the felicitation program organized by SCMHRD



Founder of Sadhana Village conducted a guest lecture for the Caregivers' batch



A Sports Day was organized at Mulshi Cricket Ground



Current status of construction of Aswali unit





Field visit of Caregiver's batch to Sadhana Village, Paud, Pune



Emcure team celebrated Holi with Special Friends at Navkshitij Marunji campus



A Sports Day was organized at Mulshi Cricket Ground

We Are Grateful...

We at Navkshitij are very grateful for the kind support of all those who have joined us in our journey of rehabilitation of our special friends.

We thank Bajaj finance Itd for having shown faith in our mission and supporting us in a big way. Your kind support is appreciated and plays a big role in helping us achieve our dream of getting smiles on the faces of our special friends.

We thank Emcure for participating in the Holi event every year with enthusiasm and making our special friends so happy! We look forward to celebrating this event every year with you.

Navkshitij is blessed to be associated with generous donors who make it possible for us to give our friends facilities and happiness which they deserve. A heartfelt thank you to all the individual donors who have supported us in different ways. We are able to achieve our mission because we have you by our side.

We thank Nitor Infotech for their constant support in many of our activities. We are grateful to you for your kind support.

Thanks to Neo Iturka Enterprises, Parksley Global, Trimurti Fabricators, Sea bird Medicare for the generous donation. We look forward to associating with you again in future.

Thanks to Atmasamman and the Young Volunteers organization for the support.We also like to thank the interns from the Indira Institute of Management, Symbiosis institute for spending time with our friends and making them happy.



A team of Melodious breezee organized a musical program on the occasion of Rangpanchami



Gudi Padwa celebrated at Marunji Unit



Gudi Padawa at Somatane Unit



Holi celebration



On the occassion of Holi, Sapana's family members offered Thandai to all special friends and staff members



Birthdays celebration of Marunji Friends











Thank you from Navkshitij

- Nitor Infotech Pvt. Ltd.
- Neo Iturka Enterprises
- Parksley Global Pvt. Ltd.
- Mrs. Hemavati Karoli
- **Bajaj Finance Limited**
- Trimurti Fabricators Pvt. Ltd.
- Atmasanman (Self Respect)
- Mr. Bharat Gopujkar
- SEA BIRD MEDICARE PVT LTD
- Mr. Nachiketas Bhatkar
- Mr. Rajendra Patil
- Young Volunteers Organization
- Mr. Chandrashekhar E Potnis
- Mrs. Manisha Mehendale
- Mrs. Shruti Santosh Dastane
- Emmers Society
- Mr. Ajay Kumar Sahni
- BOM RET Emplyees Welfare Org.
- Mr. Keshav Agarwal
- Mr. Shivam Ramesh Vinode
- Mr. Rahul Garg

Rs. 1,65,000/82,500

Rs. 2,00,000/1,00,000

Rs. 1,50,000

- Rammangal Heart Foundation
- Abhang Prabhu Medical Accademy LLP

Navkshitij Needs

Sponsor an MCF for one year/6 months -

• Sponsor a Caregiver for one year/6 months -

Contact Mr. Rameshwar Fundipalle on +91 9850092642

• Sponsor an activity - 2D &1N Outing -

March in a Capsule

- April 16: Common birthday party for our April-born Friends
- April 22: Marunji Trek
- April 29: Parent's Meeting

Month's Events

- March 5: Common birthday party for our March-born Friends
- March 6: Holi Celebration
- March 7: Dhulwad/ Rangpanchami
- March 8: Sports Day
- March 22: Gudi Padava



First Sugarcane juice party of the summer



Holika Pujan at Marunji Campus

Beautification of Somatane unit is being done by our Special Friends and staff members

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