LARSEN & TOUBRO

REACHING OUT

CSR Newsletter from L&T Construction

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Volume - 9, Issue - 1 *Special Edition - 2024*



MORE THE HANDS, BROADER THE SMILES.

Editorial

SEVERAL FACES OF CARING

A poor farmer's family from Ranipet, Tamil Nadu, is eternally grateful that their husband and father is being treated in a newly constructed state-of-the-art operation theatre. Thousands of students in Chennai are concentrating and studying better sitting comfortably on desks & benches while girl children are eager to return to their schools and books thanks to better sanitation facilities. A destitute old couple is traveling without trouble for their treatment in an autorickshaw that fetches and drops them back. A little boy is painstakingly working on a class assignment thankful that he can see the various components clearly with his new spectacles while another visually challenged young girl is listening attentively to a story being read to her.

These are not merely acts of charity but a few vignettes of how we are touching lives with our myriad CSR efforts to create long-term value for the society. With our investments in education, water & sanitation, healthcare, skill development, environmental sustainability, and community outreach, we are uplifting communities and building a better future for all, reflecting our commitment to inclusive growth and enhanced social well-being.

Our band of L&T-eers are proving that more than commercial commitments, just an investment in time is all that is required to care and reach out to lend a helping hand. In the last 5 months, we have witnessed over a thousand hours of L&T-eering to make paper bags, seed balls, plant saplings or paint school walls. Their collective efforts and sense of ownership and responsibility are resulting in more sustainable and impactful outcomes. With more, we can make a bigger difference in people's lives.

Our CSTIs are boosting the Skill India initiative by preparing trained personnel, including women, who have started to make a difference at our project sites and create a workforce that supports our nation's industrial and infrastructural growth.

Finally, even as we lead the charge to transit from fossil fuel to green energy, our eco-friendly practices & structures are effectively conserving natural resources, reducing carbon footprints, helping us to rapidly progress towards our stiff sustainable goals.

This October, as part of our Joy of Giving initiative, we welcome your support to extend our care and concern to animals as well. Truly, caring has no boundaries.

Vinod Jacob Chacko
Vice President & Head
Corporate Communications & Social Responsibility

















India's 78th Independence Day had special relevance to L&T-ites as Mrs. Meena Subrahmanyan, President - Prayas Trust, was conferred the prestigious Best Social Worker Award by the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M K Stalin, during the Independence Day celebrations recognizing her splendid and benevolent services for women and community and exceptional contribution to women's welfare in the state.

A Circular issued by the State Government on the occasion glowingly mentioned Mrs. Subrahmanyan's exemplary social service, flagging off her initiative to start a Certified Vocational Training Course in association with the Sector Skill Councils for Apparel, Textiles and Home Furnishings through Prayas Trust, that is benefitting some 600 women living below the poverty line. 'Mrs. Subrahmanyan was instrumental in establishing a specialized medical center with a 10-bedded dialysis facility in 2012 where any patient can undergo dialysis at a low cost of Rs 250.'

The Circular praised her efforts to establish special consultation services, physiotherapy, laboratory, ultrasound, echo, color doppler, ECG & digital X-ray to diagnose illnesses. 'Since 2015, she has been providing free medical assistance to destitute elderly people through mobile vans and assisting the Prayas Tuition Center at Virugambakkam, run for supporting students belonging to poor backward families where 60 children study daily. She has initiated Scholarships for 10 and 12th standard students to continue their higher education.'

"I am deeply honoured to receive this award," said an emotional Mrs. Subrahmanyan, post the event, reiterating that the award was a recognition of the collective efforts of the teams from both Prayas Trust & L&T CSR in Tamil Nadu. "We remain committed to empowering women and uplifting underprivileged communities," she added resolutely.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

15 AUGUST 2024

SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

MS. MEENA SUBRAHMANYAN

CHENNAI DISTRICT

THE AWARD FOR THE BEST SOCIAL WORKER WHO HAS SERVED FOR THE WELFARE OF WOMEN IS PRESENTED BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU.

DATE: 15.08.2024
PLACE: CHENNAI

CHIEF SECRETARY,
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Empowering underprivileged women who face numerous barriers to employment and professional growth has been of special interest to Mrs. Subrahmanyan. "Despite significant strides towards gender equality, they still account for a disproportionate share of unpaid labour and often lack access to the same educational and professional opportunities as men," she had remarked recently in her editorial for 'Prayas Times'. "Our CSR programmes through our affiliates Sparsh, Samarth, and Nai Umang are empowering disadvantaged women through vocational training in tailoring and beautician courses, equipping them with skills to be economically independent."

Among Prayas Trust's most successful initiatives is the tailoring unit, where several women have been trained and are now financially independent, supporting themselves and their families.

Prayas Trust's tuition centres benefit 150 boys and girls monthly, their tailoring units benefit 80 less privileged women each year, mobile toy vans provide learning opportunities and fun to some 3,600 students from Chennai's Corporation Schools, and mobile medical units covering 11 locations within the limits of Greater Chennai bring succor to the less privileged communities.

In 2018, the Trust had embarked on a comprehensive rural development initiative in the villages of Pandur, Irumbilicheri, and Edayathur in Tamil Nadu's Chengalpattu district focused on economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital building, with another comprehensive integrated village development programme on the anvil.

Even as L&T's concerted efforts continue to bring cheer to the lives of the underprivileged, Mrs. Subrahmanyan and her team can take heart that their selfless work is being noticed and receiving national acclaim.

LITTLE DROPS: A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE ELDERLY DESTITUTE

For some of the elderly destitute of Tamil Nadu and Bengaluru, life has come a full circle. After years of abandonment and hardship, they find solace and dignity in the arms of Little Drops, a charitable trust, dedicated to serving them for over three decades. Founded in 1991 by two childhood friends who had once faced economic adversity themselves, Little Drops has grown from its humble beginnings of caring for four elderly destitutes to now supporting over 1,000 residents across 10 homes, having rescued nearly 9,500 destitutes till date. These homes provide not only a roof and meals but also love, medical care, and a renewed sense of belonging.



"Our residents, though picked up as destitutes, become part of our family. Sharing our lives with those who have no one to call their own completes life for us," says E.J. Paul, Founder-Trustee of Little Drops.

L&T's commitment to Little Drops

L&T has enhanced the yeoman service of Little Drops by supporting them in various ways. From providing autorickshaws to transport residents for medical visits and other logistical needs to donating vital equipment like solar water heaters, inverters, body freezers, and kitchen utensils.

"We convey our heartfelt gratitude to Team L&T for walking this journey with us," Paul shares gratefully. "Their care and concern for the deprived and homeless elderly is truly remarkable and worth emulating by corporates across the country."

With 30-35 new admissions every month, Little Drops are spreading its arms wider to embrace the neglected and L&T's helping hand is strengthening their arm considerably.

9,500 DESTITUTES RESCUED TILL DATE

SUPPORTING **1,000** RESIDENTS

30-35 ADMISSIONS EVERY MONTH

WOMEN ARE MAKING A MARK IN CONSTRUCTION, THE SKILL HUB - MAYURBHANJ, WAY





"The training at Skill Hub – Mayurbhanj has given me the confidence and skills needed to secure a job and I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to my family and community." - Kunami Tudu, Masonry Trainee, at Skill Hub - Mayurbhanj, L&T's state-of-the-art vocational training institute, being run in partnership with the SLS Trust.

For trainees like Kunami, Raimat Marndi and other aspiring women, the learning at Skill Hub - Mayurbhanj, Odisha has been nothing short of transformative to move from the hinterlands of Mayurbhanj to securing an apprenticeship at L&T's Prestige City project in Bengaluru. They are challenging stereotypes by showing their skills in trades like masonry, scaffolding, welding, plumbing, rebar works and more and gainful employment that has endowed with more than a means to better livelihood; it has given them confidence and independence.

Breaking barriers

Welcomed at The Prestige City project, the trainees were immediately given the necessary safety equipment and assigned their roles, to work alongside their male colleagues at the Common Reinforcement Yard and Villa Plastering works.



"Although traditionally, a male-dominated field, we are committed to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for women in construction and our goal is to inspire more young women to pursue careers in this field," says Project Director, K. Ravichandran, Prestige City project, who is gung-ho about this initiative. The trainees will continue to receive support from non-NAPS (National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme), securing their place as valuable contributors to the project.

The women trainees have been given comfortable off-site accommodation, adequate food and amenities, much to the satisfaction of Ms. Niharika Mallick, Vice-Principal of Skill Hub, who oversees their welfare.

Skill Hub – Mayurbhanj - A year of empowerment

Over the past year, 768 students enrolled at the Skill Hub, 546 of them have graduated, that includes 186 women. Among the 311 graduates who have already secured employment, 27 are women - small in number, perhaps, but significant in impact. The partnership between Skill Hub – Mayurbhanj and L&T's project teams has been creating real-world opportunities for women, ensuring they are not only trained but given opportunities leading to full-fledged careers.

From the trainees themselves, the feedback has been equally inspiring. Raimat Marndi, a masonry trainee, reflects on her experience: "Here, I've learned so much, not just about masonry but also about overcoming challenges and working together. With the support of our trainers, I'm confident in my abilities and excited about my future."

As Skill Hub – Mayurbhanj enters its second year, the institute continues to build on its success and with the participation of the local community, the Hub aims to train more youth and increase female participation to create a positive impact on the region's future.

NETHRAKSHA - ENSURING THAT THEIR FUTURE IS BRIGHT AND CLEAR

Pink eye (conjunctivitis), lazy eye, near- and far-sightedness, astigmatism and other refractive errors are some of the common eye ailments that afflict children. The key lies in early detection and quick correction. Unfortunately, such vision problems often lie undetected either due to parental negligence or unawareness especially in the underprivileged societal sections that could result in learning difficulties, maladjustment, and even in serious cases, blindness.

For some time, bright and sunny Priya was finding it increasingly difficult to read what was being written by her teachers on the blackboard. "No amount of blinking or washing my eyes seemed to help," she says teary voiced. Her academic performance started to dip as did her social skills, making her more depressed. Her parents were worried but, being from a humble background, were at a loss about their daughter's condition.

Shedding new light

For Priya, and others like her in her school who were battling eye-related issues, *Nethraksha*, an L&T-Aravind Eye Hospital collaborative effort has been heaven sent. Launched in August 2024, the initiative has already comprehensively screened some 3,500 students, like Priya, and students who require further evaluation for suspected conditions like congenital cataracts, squints and other ailments were referred to hospitals.
Now wearing her new spectacles, Priya can clearly read what's on the blackboard; her performance has started to move north, and suddenly, the world is hued with beautiful colors.

"We aim to screen and treat 15,000 government school students across four districts in Tamil Nadu this year," apprises Dr. S. Aravind, the Chief Medical Officer and Director - Projects, Aravind Eye Hospital, emphasizing the importance of early detection and prompt treatment of vision problems. "Ensuring that every child has early access to optimal visual health is not only a necessity but a fundamental responsibility and our mission to provide the highest standards of visual health services to them has received a huge boost with L&T's support."

More than just about providing medical care, *Nethraksha* also aims to raise awareness about the importance of eye health. L&T trains schoolteachers to conduct preliminary vision screenings, empowering them to identify students who may need further evaluation. "Parents play an equally important role in this effort. They must be perceptive to behavioral changes in their children and seek immediate help to identify reasons for prompt action," observes Dr. Tiruvengada Krishnan, Chief - Cornea & Refractive Services, Aravind Eye Hospital, while interacting with teachers during the eye camp.





Ensuring that every child has early access to optimal visual health is not only a necessity but a fundamental responsibility.

Dr. S. Aravind
Chief Medical Officer and Director - Projects
Aravind Eye Hospital



Healthy vision is crucial for students, especially during their formative years and the Nethraksha initiative is both unique and timely.

Mr. J Vasudevan
Principal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kovur, Chennai



Vision screening for refractive errors



Doctor consultation

"Healthy vision is crucial for students, especially during their formative years and the *Nethraksha* initiative is both unique and timely," says a grateful Mr. J Vasudevan, Principal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kovur, Chennai. "Providing free spectacles is a very thoughtful gesture too," he smiles, adjusting his own spectacles.

Aravind Eye Hospital, founded in 1976 by Dr G. Venkataswamy, has grown into Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), a non-profit NGO. Pursuing their mission to eliminate needless blindness by providing compassionate and quality eye care affordable to all, they operate from 138 facilities across South India, serving a population of 100 million across the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Pondicherry. 50% of the 730,000 surgeries they conducted in 2023-24 were either free or at subsidized costs, and they screened over 6 million outpatients, making them the world's largest eye care provider in terms of volume.



Vision screening by optometrist

4,500 SEATS OF LEARNING ENSURE THAT 18,000+ STUDENTS IN CHENNAI CAN CHASE THEIR DREAMS

By sitting on the 1,650 desks & benches donated by L&T this fiscal to eight corporation schools in Chennai, some 3,500 students do not have to sit on the floor anymore to learn. One of the recipients of L&T's largesse is the Chennai Higher Secondary School in Maduvinkarai, a beacon of hope that shapes the futures and aspirations of its students. Here, amidst the normal rise & swell of children's noises, little K Ravi in Class 9 can hardly hold himself. "It is so easy to write on these," he says excitedly, banging the desk on which he is sitting, perhaps for the first time in his life.



As both the students & teachers revel in this transformation, the Government are just as pleased with L&T's initiative. "The quality of the desks and benches is excellent and will go a long way in improving the learning environment for our students," observed Thiru Ma. Subramanian, Honorable Minister for Health, Medical Education, and Family Welfare, after dedicating the furniture to the school in early September 2024, in the august company of Ms. Priya Rajan, Honorable Mayor, Greater Chennai Corporation, Mr. Magesh Kumaar, Deputy Mayor, other senior officials from the Chennai Corporation & L&T.

Reminiscing about his school days, the Minister said "The exceptional desks and benches transported me back to my school days. As I sat there, I knew that these quality facilities donated by L&T will provide countless students with a foundation for lifelong success and cherished memories."



57
SCHOOLS

18,000+
STUDENTS IN CHENNAI

4,500
SEATS OF LEARNING

The exceptional desks and benches transported me back to my school days. As I sat there, I knew that these quality facilities donated by L&T will provide countless students with a foundation for lifelong success and cherished memories.

Thiru Ma. Subramanian
Honorable Minister for Health, Medical Education, and Family Welfare





Seated comfortably on the new desks & benches, teachers are already finding their students more engaged, attentive, concentrating better and confident that their performances will improve.

This donation by L&T is their latest in an ongoing association with the State Government to improve school infrastructure having already donated over 4,500 pieces of furniture benefiting 18,000+ children in 57 schools in and around Chennai, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, and Chengalpet districts over the last three years.

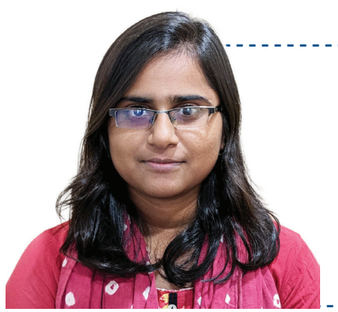


PROJECT 'WASH' KINDLES NEW HOPE FOR CHILDREN





An endemic issue with several schools in Chennai is inadequate sanitation facilities that adversely affect the health of children, their academic performance, attendance and even their wellbeing. Girl children face even more challenges. L&T's Project WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), in collaboration with United Way of Chennai, has certainly kindled new hope for children in government schools that initially aimed to improve the sanitation facilities in five government schools in Chennai. "It is more than just building new toilets," asserts Ms. Abirami of UWC, the Project Lead. "It is about creating a safe, clean, and hygienic environment where children can learn, develop and grow."



It is more than just building new toilets. It is about creating a safe, clean, and hygienic environment where children can learn, develop and grow.

Ms. Abirami
Project Lead, United Way of Chennai

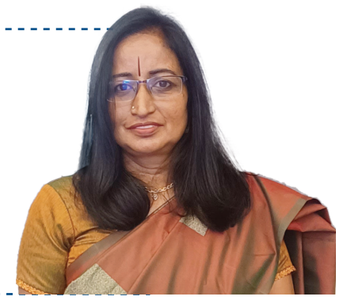
Immediate & far-reaching impact

The renovated toilets and newly constructed sanitation blocks immediately brought much-needed relief from the aging infrastructure, instilling in the children a sense of dignity and self-respect. At the same time, the programme has driven home the importance of clean & healthy living, like washing hands and menstrual hygiene, through educational sessions and awareness campaigns using novel methods including puppetry. "We are really happy to see a marked improvement in the children's health and academic performance after the launch of this programme," shares a delighted Mrs. Kalyani, Head Mistress of Govt High School, Mettukuppam, Chennai. "It will certainly have a lasting impact on their future," she adds confidently.



We are really happy to see a marked improvement in the children's health and academic performance after the launch of this programme.

Mrs. Kalyani
Head Mistress of Govt High School, Mettukuppam



Government Higher Secondary School – Alapakkam, Government Higher Secondary School – Maduravoyal, Chettyar Agram Panchayat Union Middle School & Poothapedu Panchayat Union Middle School are the other 4 schools to benefit from Project WASH.

The entire community is enjoying the ripple effect of Project WASH too. Girls and women are feeling increasingly empowered to face the challenges of menstrual hygiene; it is even helping to break down social taboos and create a more equitable environment.

Yet another of L&T's game-changing initiatives in the children & sanitation space, Project WASH is set to sweep the board.



CELEBRATING A THOUSAND PLUS HOURS OF L&T-EERING

Since April 2024, L&T-eers have dedicated over a thousand hours to make a difference to both the underprivileged sections of the society and the environment. While the 'Back to School Hampers' brought joy to countless children, L&T-eers planted hundreds of trees, rolled thousands of seed balls, and crafted eco-friendly paper bags too. Here's what a few of our change agents have to share …





Nizalini Parida
B&F IC

I have had an amazing volunteering experience! As an artist myself, the 'Paint-A-Thon' was a creative outlet for me. I loved the 'paper bag making' and 'seed ball making' activities. I wish these events happened every weekend – they are a great way to give back and have fun. Highly recommend participating!



A Venkateswaran
WET IC

Engaging in volunteering activities is fun and fulfilling. There is joy in helping and great satisfaction while engaging in activities like paintathon, seed ball making and paper bag making for a greener and pollution free future.



Megha V Vittalkar
HC IC

It feels great to participate in multiple volunteering activities and work very closely with the community nearby. My personal experience has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am excited to continue volunteering with the team.



Shivendra Yadav
WET IC

I don't know how to describe it but we are getting lot of happiness while doing these activities which are really noble causes that we as an organization are involved in.



Sanatan Moharana
WET IC

One underrated aspect of volunteering at our events is that the activities are choreographed in a way that makes our labour fun and engaging. I have never felt bored even for a single moment and have enjoyed activities like seed ball making, painting school walls, planting trees and creating learning materials for Anganwadi children.



Dhurai Rajiv Gandhi J
WET IC

L&T's CSR initiatives have transformed lives and the environment, and I have witnessed the impact first-hand. By painting schools and through the seed ball/tree plantation activities, we help create engaging learning spaces, promote sustainability, and bring joy to children. One has to see it to believe it.



Pyla Jayashree
WET IC

I love participating in CSR activities organized by our organization! The events give me a sense of pride and purpose. I enjoy meeting like-minded people and making new friends. The care with which the team handles the event makes participating even more worthwhile and truly special. Thank you, and I look forward to many more.



Chinthada Alekhya
PT&D IC

I first thought it was a strenuous chore, but the activities have proved me wrong and are worthwhile causes that everybody should participate in. I encourage more people from our organization to enroll themselves for such volunteering activities which are a way of unwinding from the daily grind.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN ASSAM









It is certainly brightening in the east as Assam is describing its growth story fueled by infrastructure development. However, the serious issue of the dearth of skilled construction workers is threatening to spoil this story. In response to this serious issue, the Government of Assam, in partnership with L&T, has established two Construction Skill Training Centres (CSTCs) at Ballamguri and Gogamukh dedicated exclusively to upskill the existing construction workers and their family members.

L&T's role is, as a knowledge and technical partner, providing essential support, contributing in instructional design, supplying equipment including tools & tackles, and training the instructors recommended by the Government of Assam to ensure that the CSTCs offer high-quality training programmes that meet the demands of the industry.

Through structured 3-month training programmes in six trades, the CSTCs have thus far trained 99 candidates over the last eight months, 71 of whom have been employed at L&T project sites in Assam and elsewhere in India. The rest are trying to be entrepreneurs.

L&T's 'Train the Trainer' programme has been rewarding for the instructors from Assam. "The TOT program I attended at CSTI, Kanchipuram was a game-changer for me," said Fwshabsri Brahma, an ITI, Electrician Instructor from Assam. "I learned several new techniques and gained confidence to deliver engaging and effective training sessions to my students."

Ajanta Basumatary, a trainee at the Ballamguri L&T CSTC, is an example of the programme's success. "Soon after the training, I was placed as a supervisor at the Mumbai-Maharashtra bullet train project site with a monthly stipend of Rs. 18,400. I thank CSTC and L&T for the opportunity," he exults.

Dr. B. Kalyan Chakravarty, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam (Labour Welfare and Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department), urges more Assamese youth to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity to get trained.

There is no doubt that these two CSTCs will soon start to play a crucial role in keeping Assam's growth story intact.

The TOT program I attended at CSTI, Kanchipuram was a game-changer for me.



Fwshabsri Brahma
Electrician Instructor, CSTCs - Ballamguri and Gogamukh

SNAPSHOTS

Grooming students to be employment-ready

The Skill-Ed programme, integrated into the college syllabus, aims to equip final year students, especially from underprivileged backgrounds, with IT and soft skills to make the most of today's job market. Launched in August 2024 by Bhoomi at the Vallal P T Lee Chengalvaraya Naicker Arts & Science College, the programme involves 70 hours of intensive training to develop industry-relevant skills and enhance employability. The Skill-Ed programme will cover 150 final-year students this year.





Boosting sports development

The Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation is a recipient of L&T's largesse of ₹1 crore to support sports development and youth welfare initiatives in Tamil Nadu and transform the state into a sports hub. Mr. M.V. Satish, Advisor to the Chairman & Managing Director, L&T, presented the cheque to Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Government of Tamil Nadu. The foundation provides financial support to athletes and para-athletes from diverse backgrounds, helping them access training and equipment.

Foundation for a bright future

L&T Construction sponsors Rs. 2.5 crores for Sankara Matriculation Higher Secondary School's second-floor expansion. This new wing will improve the school's educational facilities and provide more space for students.





For top-class yet affordable healthcare for the underprivileged

With the ₹1 crore donation from L&T, the Thirumalai Mission Charitable Hospital in Ranipet, is building a state-of-the-art operation theatre under the Sanjeevi Surgery Scheme to provide top-class yet affordable healthcare to the local farmers and underprivileged population.

THE JOY OF LOVING KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES ...

This October, let's celebrate the Joy of Giving by supporting the PAWS Mission that is committed to reduce human-animal conflict and make ours a stray-less city.



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