



# NETHRODAYA QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT – Q1 2026

January – March 2026

*Empowering Inclusion, Justice, Education &  
Livelihood*

# About Nethrodaya

Founded in 2002 by a visually impaired individual, Nethrodaya is a dedicated social service institution committed to uplifting the visually impaired community.

It has been recognized as the Best Institution by the Government of Tamil Nadu and has also received the National Award from the Hon'ble President of India for its outstanding service.

For over 24 years, Nethrodaya has positively impacted the lives of thousands of underprivileged visually impaired individuals through its consistent efforts and meaningful initiatives.

# Wishing everyone a wonderful start to 2026!

The first quarter has marked a period of steady progress and purposeful growth for Nethrodaya. During this phase, focused efforts were made to enhance the accessibility and reach of services, ensuring greater inclusivity for beneficiaries.

Significant strides were also achieved in expanding our special initiatives by **launching free legal aid service to the disabled**. The scheme aims to assist differently-abled individuals by providing free legal guidance and thereby ensuring equal access to justice to those who are unable to afford legal representation in various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.

Through structured hands-on programs, targeted training sessions, and sustained community engagement, efforts have continued to embed in the promotion of **musical talent** among the visually impaired at the south Indian level.

These initiatives have contributed to creating more equitable OPPURTUNITIES In the field of music and thereby enabling them to perform on par with sighted singers in the music industry, while also fostering **more inclusive and accessible learning experiences** for all learners.

The achievements of this quarter have been made possible through the continued support and commitment of stakeholders, partners, and well-wishers, whose contributions remain integral to advancing Nethrodaya's mission.

# Free Legal Aid Service to the Disabled

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Mr. Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, inaugurated "Free Legal Aid to the Disabled," a unique initiative supported by leading law firms to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs) by ensuring access to justice. This meaningful initiative was launched on the occasion of Nethrodaya's 23rd Anniversary on 10th January 2026.



# Award of Excellence

Nethrodaya proudly recognizes and honors exceptional visually impaired individuals through its prestigious Award of Excellence, reaffirming its commitment to service, empowerment, and advocacy for persons with disabilities.

**Mr. Govindaraj**, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, was honored for **Excellence in Disability Rights and Empowerment**. Being visually impaired and heading a department at National Level (CCPD) speaks volumes of his accomplishments.

**Ms. Vaikom Vijayalakshmi**, a renowned Indian playback singer, received the **“Voice of Excellence in Cinematic Music”** award. Being a Visually Impaired and having sung hundreds of movie songs in South Indian Languages is a real testimony in itself.

**Mr. and Mrs. Yuvaraj** were awarded as the **“Made for Each Other”** couple. They successfully run a family with absolute self-reliance. Their visual impairment has not deterred them in the upbringing of their child.

## Shri S Govindaraj



**Ms. Vaikom Vijayalakshmi**



**Mr. and Mrs. Yuvaraj**



# Promoting Musical Talent among the Visually Impaired

Nethrodaya proudly hosted the **South Indian Level Singing Competition for the Visually Impaired – 2026**, a prestigious cultural platform celebrating the extraordinary musical talent of visually impaired singers across South India on **19th February 2026**. Renowned playback singers graced the event as jury members, lending their expertise to this landmark occasion.

The competition featured **participants from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Puducherry, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu**, all competing for the coveted title of “**South Indian Singing Icon 2026**.” Hundreds of talented visually impaired singers took part in this grand musical celebration.

As these budding artists took the stage, they not only showcased exceptional musical ability but also challenged societal perceptions—bringing forward powerful voices from the visually impaired community.

This unique annual initiative aligns with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), promoting the social, cultural, and dignified participation of persons with disabilities. The founder of Nethrodaya, Mr. C. Govindakrishnan, firmly believes that entertainment and culture must remain inclusive spaces for all.



# Community Connect

## Cow Project

The Cow Project Scheme of Nethrodaya, also known as the **Individual Cattle Rearing Unit for Poor and Uneducated Visually Impaired Families**, empowers beneficiaries by providing a cow and a female calf. The organization further connects them with local milk vendors to ensure a sustainable source of income.

Initiated two decades ago, this impactful program has **transformed the lives of nearly 500 visually impaired families** from remote villages of Tamil Nadu, enabling them to achieve financial independence and dignity.

### Sekar Cow Project



From receiving hope to creating it—livelihood that lasts



Once on the receiving end, now on the giving end. Through Netrodaya's cow donation initiative, Shekar, a visually-impaired individual has been empowered with a sustainable source of livelihood. This initiative not only provides financial independence but also restores dignity, self-reliance, and hope for a brighter future 🌸 🌟.

Small acts of support can create ripples of change, turning beneficiaries into contributors and inspiring communities along the way.

## Veerasamy Cow Project



Veerasamy from Thamaraikulam District in Thiruvallur lost his eyesight at a young age, leaving him unable to support his wife and children and placing them under financial strain.

Recognizing his hardship, Nethrodaya stepped in to help by donating a cow and a female calf. This support helped him regain stability, independence, and a renewed sense of dignity while improving his family's well-being.

# Monthly Free Grocery Scheme

To combat poverty and hunger among visually impaired families, Nethrodaya launched the Free Monthly Grocery Scheme. This initiative provides essential groceries at no cost to underprivileged families.

For over four years, hundreds of families have benefited from this program, which ensures food security, alleviates financial burdens, and restores dignity and stability in their daily lives.

On 10th of each month around 30 Visually Impaired families are given free groceries kit containing 23 provision items worth Rs. 1,500. For the past three from January 2026 to March 2026 on an average Rs. 1, 50,000/- has been spent towards the purchase of groceries.



# Death with Dignity

Introduced seven years ago, the Death with Dignity scheme ensures that visually impaired individuals receive a respectful and dignified final farewell. Recognizing the financial and social challenges faced by many families, this initiative supports cremation or burial arrangements, allowing loved ones to be honored with the respect they deserve.

## Paulraj



**R. Paulraj**, a visually impaired individual from Karimedu in Madurai, passed away on 17th January 2026 following a post-laparotomy condition. His untimely demise left his family in deep grief and distress.

In their moment of loss and helplessness, his wife reached out to Nethrodaya's helpline seeking support to perform his final rites. Responding with compassion and dignity, Nethrodaya extended its assistance under the Death with Dignity Scheme, ensuring that Mr. Paulraj was given a respectful and honorable farewell.

This gesture brought comfort to the bereaved family during a profoundly difficult time, upholding the value that every life deserves to be remembered with dignity.

## Rani



**Rani Murali**, a visually impaired woman from Madurai District, passed away on 25th January 2026, leaving her family in deep sorrow.

In the face of this loss, her husband reached out to Nethrodaya's helpline for support in carrying out her final rites. Understanding the family's plight, Nethrodaya extended timely assistance under the Death with Dignity Scheme, ensuring that her last rites were performed with care and respect.

Through this support, the organization stood by the grieving family, helping them navigate a difficult moment with dignity and compassion.

## **National Seminar – 24th March 2026**

Nethrodaya organized a **National Seminar on Real Inclusion of Persons with Visual Impairment in collaboration with MSSW**. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, inaugurated this historic event **on 24 March 2026**.

The plenary session titled **“Education as Empowerment for the Visually Impaired: A Historical Perspective and Present Challenges”** was delivered by **Dr. Hemachandran Karah, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras**. The session provided valuable insights into the evolution of educational opportunities for the visually impaired and the challenges that persist today.

The **first panel** discussion on **“Optimizing Technology as an Effective Tool for Empowering the Visually Impaired”** was moderated by Dr. J. Karthika, Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Accessibility Research Centre, IIT Madras. The panel comprised Mr. B. Kannan, Assistant Manager, Information Technology Department, The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Chennai; Mr. Vinod Benjamin Rayan, Assistant Consultant in Accessibility Testing; and Mr. Shankar Subbiah, Assistive Technology and Accessibility Consultant. The discussion emphasized the role of technology in enhancing independence and accessibility for the visually impaired.

The **second panel** discussion, titled **“From Inclusion to Specialization: The Role of Special Schools in Educating the Visually Impaired,”** was moderated by Mr. C. Govindakrishnan, Founder of Nethrodaya. The panelists included Dr. K. Murugananandan, Assistant Professor and Head, PG Department of English, Government Arts and Science College, Kallakurichi, and Ms. M. Muthuselvi, Vice President, All India Confederation of the Blind. The session highlighted the importance of specialized educational approaches alongside inclusive systems.

During the valedictory session, Mr. Jesuin John Bose, Program Head, MSW (D&E), was conferred with the **“Trend Setter in Social Work”** award in recognition of his contributions in the field of social work.

## Panel Discussion 1



## Panel Discussion 2



## Photo of the Gathering





## Other Training Initiatives

Nethrodaya's **Centre of Excellence and Empowerment** offers specialized **coaching for competitive examinations** to underprivileged blind and locomotor-disabled students, along with free boarding and lodging facilities.

For this initiative, a tie-up was established with Radians IAS Academy to provide coaching support. Regular coaching classes were conducted during the period from January 2026 to March 2026.

A total of 15 differently abled students enrolled in these training program. The program aimed to enhance their academic preparedness and provide equal opportunities for success in competitive examinations. This initiative also paves the way for securing employment opportunities in the government sector (State/Central).



# **Nethroaya provides:**

- Free Residential Special School for Visually Impaired and Locomotor Disabled
- Training and Learning Academy
- Training and Learning Academy for Visually Impaired and Locomotor Disabled graduates who hail from remote villages of Tamil Nadu.
- Free hostel facilities for college-going students with disabilities
- 24/7 free medical aid services for the visually impaired
- Livelihood support initiatives for economically disadvantaged families.

If you know any visually impaired or locomotor-disabled individuals who require admission to our free residential school, computer training, or coaching for competitive examinations, we encourage you to connect with us.

If you wish to support visually impaired individuals in rural areas, please reach out:

**Email: [nethrodaya@gmail.com](mailto:nethrodaya@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 9382896636**

**Website: [www.nethrodaya.org](http://www.nethrodaya.org)**