

S'W'AMPADAM

NEWSLETTER

Swayam Siddha Industrial Co-operative Society for Handicapped Ltd.



Not Disabled But Differently Abled

Editor Speaks

Our readers in Maharashtra may be familiar with the Marathi 'Ank' – a Diwali special publication that features special stories, poems and artwork.

This November edition of S'w'ampadam is our Ank – many heartwarming and inspiring stories await in our pages. It is a grand edition with more than 12 pages to cover all the exciting events that transpired in the month of November.

Our grand Indian festive season ends with a flourish with Diwali, soon to be followed with the Christmas & the New Year.

The challenge here is to find new products and new ways to stay relevant and keep our members busy through the rest of the year.

It is also the time to pause and collect our thoughts and learning so that we are better prepared before the festive season of 2024.



Akhila Ramganesesh

16000 Coconut Candles made as a part of Morgan Stanley Gift Hamper



In the true spirit of Diwali, Swayam Siddha Society for Handicapped has once again demonstrated their commitment to creating unique and eco-friendly gifts. Last year, the society embarked on a massive project, producing **33,000 exquisite 'kandils'** crafted from handmade paper and cotton tassels for Morgan Stanley's Diwali hampers. This incredible endeavor was accomplished by a small team of just 30 members, and the results were met with widespread appreciation.

Such was the impact of their work that this year, Swayam Siddha Society was approached yet again by **Morgan Stanley**, seeking another eco-friendly addition to their Diwali offerings. Undaunted by the scale of the task, the society rose to the challenge, producing an impressive **16,000 coconut shell candles** made from organic soy wax.

But this project was about more than just crafting beautiful candles. The coconut shells used in the candles were sourced from the interiors of Tamil Nadu, a move that not only lent a touch of rural charm to the products but also supported livelihoods in rural communities.

The project kicked off at the end of August, with the procurement of raw materials. Months of meticulous planning and discussions led to the selection of vendors and suppliers by the time the project commenced. Timely supplies and the quality of raw materials were instrumental in the project's success.

Coconut Candles Project (contd.)



In just two short months, the society under the leadership of Jagruti Ma'am, produced an impressive 16,000 hand-poured coconut shell candles. While society members focused on safe tasks such as wick placement, packing, counting, and boxing, their mothers handled the more intricate aspects, including working with heated wax. The society ensured that all safety precautions were taken to protect the well-being of their members.

This remarkable initiative not only showcases the talent and determination of the Swayam Siddha Society for Handicapped but also highlights the incredible impact of collaboration and support. Their eco-friendly Diwali creations, appreciated for their beauty and the social good they represent, are a testament to the power of inclusivity and dedication in making the festival of lights even more special.



Coconut Candles Project (contd.)



लोकमत

दिव्यांग मुलांच्या कंदिलांनी दिवाळी होणार प्रकाशमय

दीड महिन्यात हजारो वस्तू तयार; २५ कंपन्यांकडून मागणी

अनंत पाटील

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क
नवी मुंबई : आपल्या सांस्कृतिक मर्यादा वाजुला सासून नवी मुंबईतील खाळे टाटीसी एमआयडीसीत दिव्यांग मुलांमुनींनी कोशल्याने हजारो वस्तू साकारल्या आहेत. यामध्ये कापड, कागद वापर केलेले आकाश कंदील, कलरफुल मेणबत्त्या, लहान-मोठे तोरण, लटकन, पीट, उडणे, सिरेमिक पीट, पणत्या, सोबट टोपळ आणि भेटकाई अशा इकोफ्रेंडली वस्तूंचा समावेश आहे. खस दिवाळीसाठी गेल्या ४५ दिवसांपासून दिव्यांग मुले या वस्तू बनविण्यात मग आहेत.

स्वयसिद्धा को-ऑप. सोसायटी फोर हेडीकेप या संस्थेच्या माध्यमातून खाळे टाटीसी एमआयडीसी आर क्लॉक आणि घेवुर येथे या दिव्यांगमुलांनी प्रशिक्षण आणि रोजगार केंद्र आहेत. दीड महिन्यात ५५ ते २० प्रकारचे इकोफ्रेंडली तोरण, वीक हॉगिंग, कंदील या दिव्यांग मुलांनी तयार केले आहेत.



नवी मुंबईतील खाळे टाटीसी एमआयडीसीत दिव्यांग मुलांमुनींनी मेणबत्त्यांसह पणत्या हाताने साकारल्या आहेत.

वस्तू तयार करताना मुलांना आनंद

मुलांनी बनविलेल्या वस्तू समाजापट्टी पोहोचविण्यासाठी संधी मिळते. त्यामुळे वस्तू बनविताना मुलांना आनंद वाटतो. असे माहिती संस्थेने दिली.
■ संस्थेचे अध्यक्ष ललण जूनचे, सचिव भरत राणे, डॉ. निरंदा जूनची राहा यांच्यासह सर्व पदाधिकारी दिव्यांग मुलांसाठी प्रदर्शन आहेत. याद्वारे दिवाळीसाठी या दिव्यांग मुलांनी दीड महिन्यात ५५५५० पर्यावरणसुरक्षी सौभेदा मेणबत्त्या साकारल्या आहेत. २५००० टोपळांचे तोरण लटकन, १०,००० आकाश कंदील त्याचबरोबर ५ ते ६ हजार दिवाळी शुभेच्छा कार्ड तयार केले आहेत.

मागणीनुसार केला जातो प्रकाश

मुलांनी बनविलेल्या वस्तूंना रिलायन्स, बडन, बीकेसी, कोडा, टाटा आदी २५ विविध कंपन्यांतून मागणी येत आहे. त्यानुसार मुलांचे हात विविध कलाकुसरीच्या वस्तू तयार करण्याच्या कामात गुंतले आहेत.

■ अगळे बळ असणाऱ्यांना जगात कुठेही मरण नाही. असे म्हटले जाते. कारण कला ही मनुष्यसंसाधनासह आपल्याला आपल्या पायावरील खंबीर उमे करते. त्यामुळे कलेच्या माध्यमातून दिव्यांग मुलांना आपल्या पायावर उभे करण्यासाठी संस्था मोलाचे कार्य करत आहे.

■ ज्ञानूची राहा, डॉ. निरंदा, स्वयसिद्धा को-ऑप. सोसायटी फोर हेडीकेप

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Swayam Siddha Society for Handicapped illuminates Diwali with 15,000 eco-friendly coconut shell candles

Empowering lives through creativity and sustainable practices

By Indrani Basu

The Swayam Siddha Society for Handicapped, led by the dynamic Ms. Kalpana Joshi, has once again captured hearts with their latest initiative, crafting 15,000 alluring coconut shell candles, embodying the essence of Diwali celebrations. These meticulously handcrafted candles, created using organic soya wax and sourced coconut shells from rural Tamil Nadu, serve as a glowing tribute to the society's commitment to empowerment and sustainability.

Under the guidance of the talented coordinator, Akhila Ramganesha, the members received comprehensive training in candle making through 'Atypical Advantage', an intervention program facilitating skill development for individuals with diverse abilities. This noble endeavor is a

mentally-abled members.

The remarkable project, executed for the renowned MNC (Morgan Stanley) as part of their Diwali gifting program, not only adds radiance to the festivities but also symbolizes the triumph of determination and collaboration within the community.

Ms. Ramganesha remarked, "This year's coconut shell candles mark a significant milestone for us, reflecting the dedication and skill honed through our previous successful project of crafting 33,000 exquisite 'kandils' for the same MNC's Diwali hampers last year. Our relentless pursuit of quality work for our members is an affirmation of our belief in fostering self-dependence and inclusivity."

The Swayam Siddha Society for Handicapped has long been a beacon of inspiration, recognized with the



Exhibition @ Headoffice of **croma** A TATA Enterprise



In the spirit of pre-Diwali celebrations, Swayam Siddha adorned the Tata Croma Head Office in Andheri with a vibrant stall. The atmosphere was not just supportive but also exuded the warmth of the upcoming festive season.

The accommodating HR team and the Culture team made our stall experience comfortable and inviting. Amidst the spacious setup, we were not only treated to timely refreshments but also experienced commendable sales. It was heartening to witness our products being well-received and appreciated by the Tata Croma community.

Hosting a stall in India's top retail space, especially under the Tata umbrella, filled us with immense pride. As the festive lights of Diwali approach, this event serves as a shining example of collaboration, empowerment, and the joyous spirit that defines this season.

We extend our gratitude to Tata Croma for this wonderful opportunity and look forward to more such festive collaborations that light up our path toward inclusivity and success.



Exhibition @



BAIN & COMPANY



In an unexpected and heartwarming turn of events, Swayam Siddha recently set up a Diwali special pop-stall in the vibrant cafeteria of Bain & Company's BKC Office in Mumbai.

The warm welcome, continuous care, and steady sales throughout the day made the experience truly remarkable. Engaging with India's top consultants and brilliant minds, sharing our cause and work, left us exhilarated.

We are immensely grateful for this extraordinary opportunity and eagerly anticipate the chance to be back at Bain Office, Mumbai, for another day filled with inspiration and impactful events!



Exhibition @

RELIANCE



Swayam Siddha added a touch of festive flair to the Reliance ADA Group Office in Koperkhairane with a pre-Diwali exhibition. Following our email request, the Reliance team promptly granted permission, ensuring smooth entry for our members. The warm welcome extended and the overall experience were nothing short of delightful. Grateful for this opportunity, we're eager to continue spreading joy through our unique creations. A big thank you to the Reliance ADA Group for embracing the spirit of inclusion and festive cheer!

Exhibition @



In a festive collaboration, Swayam Siddha was honored to host a stall at Air India's Diwali celebrations. The event, adorned with beautiful decorations, provided a perfect setting for our creations. The participation of many senior employees who shopped at our stall filled us with pride and appreciation. The love and encouragement from Air India's talented team serve as a powerful motivator, inspiring us to continue creating meaningful connections. We look forward to future collaborations, grateful for the recognition and support that fuels our mission of empowerment and inclusivity.

Exhibition @ Little Elites Pre-School, Roadpali



This was our 3rd exhibition with Little Elites Pre-school. Each event has been very special to us. The kind of reception that we get by the parents, teachers and the staff there are un-paralleled. Our members Ashok & Vishal learnt the ropes of hosting a stall successfully only from Little Elites Pre-School. They always look forward to being in the premises of Little Elites as it is such a colourful, positive and cheerful atmosphere.

The teachers are also very kind to them and make sure that every parent visits their stall and gets to know about our society and our cause.

The very first time, we hosted a stall there, we were SOLD OUT - this was a major push to our shy members who tasted such a big success that they were encouraged beyond measures.

This time as well, we had a very good sales at the school and more importantly, our handmade products were appreciated and our work was held in high regard.

We are ever-grateful to Ms. Sonali Daga ma'am, who welcomes us with such warmth time and again. We would love to be back at Little Elites and wish that the opportunity presents itself soon.

Exhibition @ Kharghar



It was not just corporates all the time - there were other community exhibitions too which are equally important to us as they let us connect to people and make Swayam Siddha a household name.

In a pre-Diwali event in a housing society in Kharghar, we were given opportunity to host stall and reach out to residents by **Purvi Joshi** ji, who is a wonderful person and talented Home-chef.

She offered the stall to us free of charge. Through this event, we could reach out to many residents and take our cause with them. We are very thankful to Purvi ji for this opportunity.

Reunion Gift Order

Reunions are one of the best things that can happen in life - they bring about cherished memories and an opportunity to reconnect with our old buddies and in a way, our own old-self.

When Swayam Siddha received a bulk order to make a reunion memoir gift, we were overjoyed as it meant being part of a treasured occasion.

Since the reunion was to happen in Goa, we chose the beach theme, with a calming sea background to print their special quote for the event and used shells to further enhance the beach theme. We received plenty of appreciations for the product and the packaging. We are really glad that we could add to an already joyous occasion with our little touch.



A Glittering Diwali Bash: Celebrating Success and Togetherness

The Rabale center of Swayam Siddha Society was ablaze with joy during our super-duper Diwali celebrations. Beyond the glow of festive lights, it marked the triumphant completion of a massive Diwali order and our continuous success at exhibitions.

The center sparkled with decorations, and a specially ordered lunch set the celebratory tone. Music and dance filled the air, and the talented **Ms. Meghna Nandu**, an International Garba Judge, led a lively Garba workshop, enchanting all our members.

Our joyous celebration welcomed esteemed guests, including **Ms. Geethanjali Gupta**, **Ms. Rajni Nadar**, and **Ms. Kajal Darshan** of **Business Binders**, adding to the festive cheer. Refreshments, special sweet boxes, and Diwali gifts were shared, creating cherished memories.

Heartfelt gratitude to **Mr. Ashish Narain Agarwal**, CEO of Property Pistol, whose generous sponsorship made this memorable occasion possible. The entire celebration was a culmination of our members' hard work, and we're grateful for the unity, joy, and success that filled the air.

We are thrilled to announce that our Diwali party, a culmination of our efforts, was captured by Navi Mumbai Awaaz tv and showcased on their YouTube channel. Experience the magic by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/ic_bYigoSio?si=6eC9EULJDJ4bvtA5.



Gratitude in Abundance: Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

In the heart of November, the Swayam Siddha Society received a shower of blessings in the form of generous donations from various compassionate souls. **Ms. Shubhangi Shinde**, in a beautiful gesture, sponsored **Swayam Siddha t-shirts** for all our members, adding a sense of unity to our cause.

Ms. Kamini Shetty & Ms. Riddhi Shetty celebrated **Pramod's** birthday by not only sponsoring a hearty **lunch** but also gifting two much-needed **standing fans**, offering respite from the sweltering Mumbai heat.

Preetilal ji's thoughtful contribution sponsored a day's lunch for our members, aligning with a special cause close to our hearts.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to **Kaushik Bhai** from London, who is our regular donor who donates month on month towards our members' stipends. For the month of November, he also contributed towards their **Diwali bonuses**, spreading joy during the festival of lights.

Yuthika Baar, a zealous young girl, did a Diwali special fundraising for many NGOs, our Swayam Siddha was one of them. She fundraised to provide a month's grocery to our centre.

To all our donors, your generosity fuels our mission and keeps us charged and motivated. We are profoundly thankful for your unwavering support, as you truly are the driving force behind our journey of empowerment and inclusivity.



Donations in Kind

As we have started hosting stalls regularly, the foremost problem our members were facing were in transporting our goods from our centre to the venue. We needed an easier way to pack and transport goods which also keeps the products safe while transit.

The best solution for to ship the goods in large travel suitcases which are easy for our members to wheel and transport.

Our single appeal for donation helped us garner three wonderful suitcases that are kept ready for our next set of exhibitions that are to happen in the month of December.

We are very thankful to Ms. Bhavna G of Andheri, Ms. Vijaya Mandlekar & Dr. Sarbani Sengupta of Seawoods for their generous donation of unused suitcases.

You have taken us one step closer to independence and being Swayam-Siddh. Thank you!



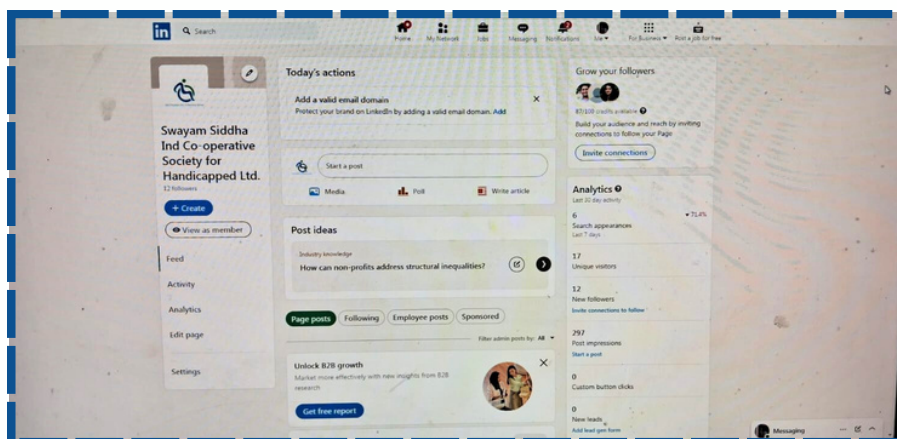
LinkedIn Page

As we are now aiming to be more professional in our communications and approach, it was increasingly necessary that we had a presence in the LinkedIn community.

As we slowly and steadily start working with corporates, our LinkedIn presence will enhance our reach and help us reach out to many other professional bodies, opportunities, and talents. It will also help us network with organisations who work in the similar space as us and help us work together to achieve the common goal of employment and inclusivity of disabled people.

We request our patrons to follow us on our LinkedIn page as well to stay updated with events:

www.linkedin.com/company/swayamsiddha1980



APPEAL

Our newly renovated Rabale centre needs a coat of paint to give it a happy and cheerful appearance. We request our patrons to contribute to the painting process either by donations in cash or materials or through sponsorship of labour.

Many of you might be aware that we own 3 shops in Chembur which were demolished for re-development. We never got the building back. Our society is now taking efforts towards constructing our own shops in the prime land in Chembur. We are in need of funds and donations regarding the same.

Even a small donation will go a long way towards building comfortable and safe structures for our members and society's further development.

DONATE

**Scan to Donate**

Donations can be made to the following account:

A/c Name - Swayam Siddha Industrial Co-Operative Society for Handicapped

Bank Name - The Maharashtra State Co-Op Bank

Branch Name - Chembur

A/c No: - 0017106420000442

IFSC CODE - MSCIO082017

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