



India Report

APDSF AGM JAN 2026



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January 2025

- **Empowering Camp at Purple Jallosch Fest (January 19):** A dedicated support camp for individuals with Down syndrome was held in Pune, Maharashtra. This event was organized in association with local groups Pune Humsafars and Tickle your Art.
- **Unstoppable Spirit Awareness Event (January 28):** An inspiring awareness event held at Sri Balaji Dental College and Hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The event highlighted the talents of self-advocates, most memorably when participants showcased their determination by climbing several flights of stairs after the lift was unexpectedly out of service.

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February 2025

- 3rd Down Syndrome National Games (DSNG) (February 8-9): A major national sports event held in Kochi, Kerala, celebrating athleticism and inclusion. The games featured participation from over 150 athletes with Down syndrome from across India.

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March 2025

- **World Down Syndrome Day Celebrations :** India celebrated WDSO with events across the country. In Tamilnadu, a camp was organized at Coimbatore in association with Brookefields Mall where the self-advocates showcased to the world that they cannot and will not be written off
- **Lighting up of Buildings :** Across the length and breadth of the country, iconic landmarks including the Delhi airport, Chennai airport, Municipal buildings and bridges were lit up in yellow and blue, electrifying the country and announcing the arrival of our self-advocates.
- **Chennai Metro Rail :** At three of the Metro stations in Chennai, our self-advocate performed and were applauded by the audience. Awareness was created at the Airport Metro, Chennai Central Railway Station and the hub of metro – called Alandur Metro. It was a wonderful opportunity to spread awareness and our self-advocates made full use of it.
- **Airport Authority of India, Chennai –** Not only was the airport lit up for World Down Syndrome Day, but the staff also had a sensitization camp where performances by Ms. Babli Ramachandran, Ms. Nithyashree and Mr. Yuvan Balaji that had the audience in raptures. Dr. Surekha Ramachandran then gave an introduction to the condition to help the audience understand us and treat our parents and self-advocates with sensitivity.
- **Celebrating Caregivers –** March was a celebration of caregivers – people who ensured that the self-advocates were on the right track where their strengths were kindled and they became confident individuals.

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April 2025

- **Panel at World Health Summit Regional Meet (April 27):** DSFI, in collaboration with UNICEF, hosted a significant panel discussion in New Delhi. The panel was titled "**Disability Inclusion Starts with Us: Rethinking Accessibility & Care,**" placing DSFI's advocacy on a major international health platform.

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May 2025

- **6th Edition of Mom's Meet (May 1-4):** A special retreat held in Shillong, Meghalaya, designed to provide support, community, and respite for mothers and caregivers of children with Down syndrome. A camp was also organized along with this meet where parents had come from various parts of Shillong and Meghalaya. Mothers from other parts of the country interacted with them to provide inputs on what more could be done.

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June– August 2025

- **Dr. Surekha Ramachandran receives Carnatic Annual Award — Chennai** - The President of DSFI honoured for her service and advocacy by the Rotary Club of Chennai. The Carnatic Awards are a prestigious award that is given out every year to an individual for their Outstanding services to society.

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July 2025

- **A Day of Fun and Learning at Marina Beach (July 22):** A joyful and educational beach outing in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, organized for children from the Mathru Mandir center by their educators and parents.

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August 2025

- **Health & Therapy Camp — Indore** - A special Camp with multi-specialty consultations was organised at Indore in association with Shridha School, a school providing services for Persons with multiple disabilities. The doctors and therapists were able to meet 60 Persons with Down syndrome during the camp and provide them with a way forward towards their overall development.

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September 2025

- **India International Down Syndrome Conference (IIDSC) (September 11-14): The flagship event of the year.** This major international conference was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It featured plenary sessions, workshops, cultural programs, stalls run by self-advocates, and dedicated sessions for fathers and siblings. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Himanshu Shekhar Jha and the valedictory address was delivered by Shri Shailendra Solanki.
- **Announcement for the APDSF Games 2026:** The announcement was made for the First ever APDSF Games (the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation Games) to be held in Chennai on the 29th and 30th of January 2026. The Games would be featuring athletes with Down syndrome from across the Asia Pacific region. Almost 10 countries are expected to participate in this event in January.

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October 2025

- **DSFI Walkathon in Vellore (October 12):** A community walkathon organized in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, during Down Syndrome Awareness Month to spread awareness and promote inclusion.
- **Sibling Bond Celebrations (Throughout October):** DSFI highlighted and celebrated the unique and special bond between individuals with Down syndrome and their siblings through various activities and features across the month.
- **Participation in various events across the country involving Government and private institutions.** Each state had some program or other organized to celebrate our self advocates.

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November 2025

- **Camp at Rourkela:** Rourkela has played host to a camp every year for the past 2 years. This year was a bit different with not only children with Down syndrome but other disabilities too participated and reaped the benefit of medical support and therapeutic support.
- **Silver Jubilee Celebrations of DoST, Kerala:** The Down Syndrome Trust (DoST) with the support of DSFI celebrated their silver jubilee in style with parents and self-advocates being a part of the grand celebration. The multiple medical specialists provided their valuable inputs to help the family overcome various issues. With an illustrious guest list including IAS officers and Rekha Maa as the Guest of honor, this event was a remarkable for its bringing together of Kerala as a family, thanks to Dr. Shaji, the Chairperson of DoST.

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December 2025

- **Celebrating our Champions :** We at DSFI did not wait for World Disability Day to arrive to start celebrating our Champions. From a week prior to the D-day, we started a campaign celebrating our self-advocates and their courage. It was a celebration of the grit and determination and a time to applaud their achievements.
- **Picnic at Delhi:** The team at DSPS, the Delhi chapter of DSFI organized their annual picnic on the 21st of December 2026. The event saw some enthusiastic participation from the self-advocates and their families. Their effervescent laughter and fun and games made the event an unforgettable day of camaraderie and love.
- **Art Gallery Exhibition at Ahmedabad – Abhiram:** DSFI participants in association with Tickle Your Art will be showcasing their art work at the Jodhpur Art Gallery, Ahmedabad. Almost 14-15 of our artists displayed their vibrant art work that spoke volumes about their talent and dedication.

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Special Recognitions & Highlights of 2025

- **National Awards for Self-advocates:** Ms. Dhriti Ranka and Ms. Gayatri Gupta made the entire Down syndrome family in the country proud by winning the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2025
- **UNICEF Youth Advocate**
Appointment: DSFI Ambassador **Ms. Unnathi Suranaa** was appointed as a **UNICEF India Youth Advocate**, a prestigious recognition of her powerful advocacy for inclusion and mental wellbeing.
- **A "Special Kit" for a Cricket Legend:** On World Down Syndrome Day, DSFI created and Ms. Babli Ramachandran presented a special kit to cricket icon **Mr. M.S. Dhoni**. The kit included a Bubble Doll and a storybook, symbolic gifts representing creativity and the voice of self-advocates.



Thankyou

