

# Camp Report Saksham

Empowerment of People  
with Disabilities,  
Pune, Maharashtra  
20th - 25th December 2024

People with Disabilities Camp



## OVERVIEW

Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) was incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act and has been the CSR wing for the group companies to undertake CSR programmes since 2014. The vision of the Foundation is to build a sustainable society by improving the quality of life; protecting the planet through affirmative actions and establishing integrated and inclusive growth of people and the environment. The main aim of SMF is to work for community development by catering to Skilling, Livelihood Promotion, Women Empowerment, Facilitation of Healthcare, Empowerment of People with Disabilities and Sustaining the Environment. The Foundation runs projects and programmes for the communities in the semi-urban and rural areas majorly in 5 states of India- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The approach is need- based and focuses on collaborating with like-minded institutions to cater to a wide range of people around the nation. The programmes are conceptualised in such a way that they can be easily replicated and provide avenues to gradually scale up the programmes in the years to come. The CSR strategies are designed to address some of the global concerns in the Indian context keeping the programmes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals offered by the United Nations.

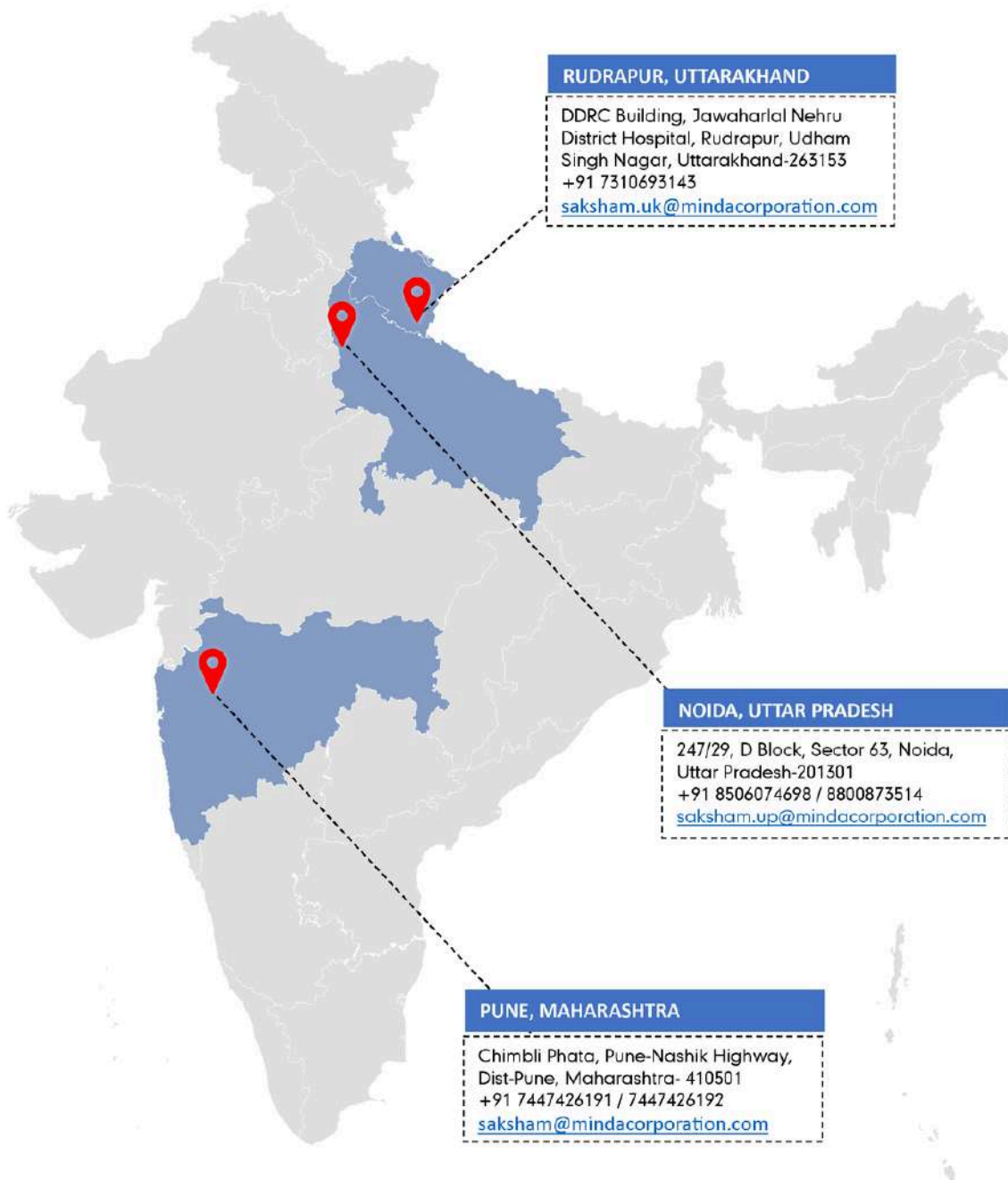


## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

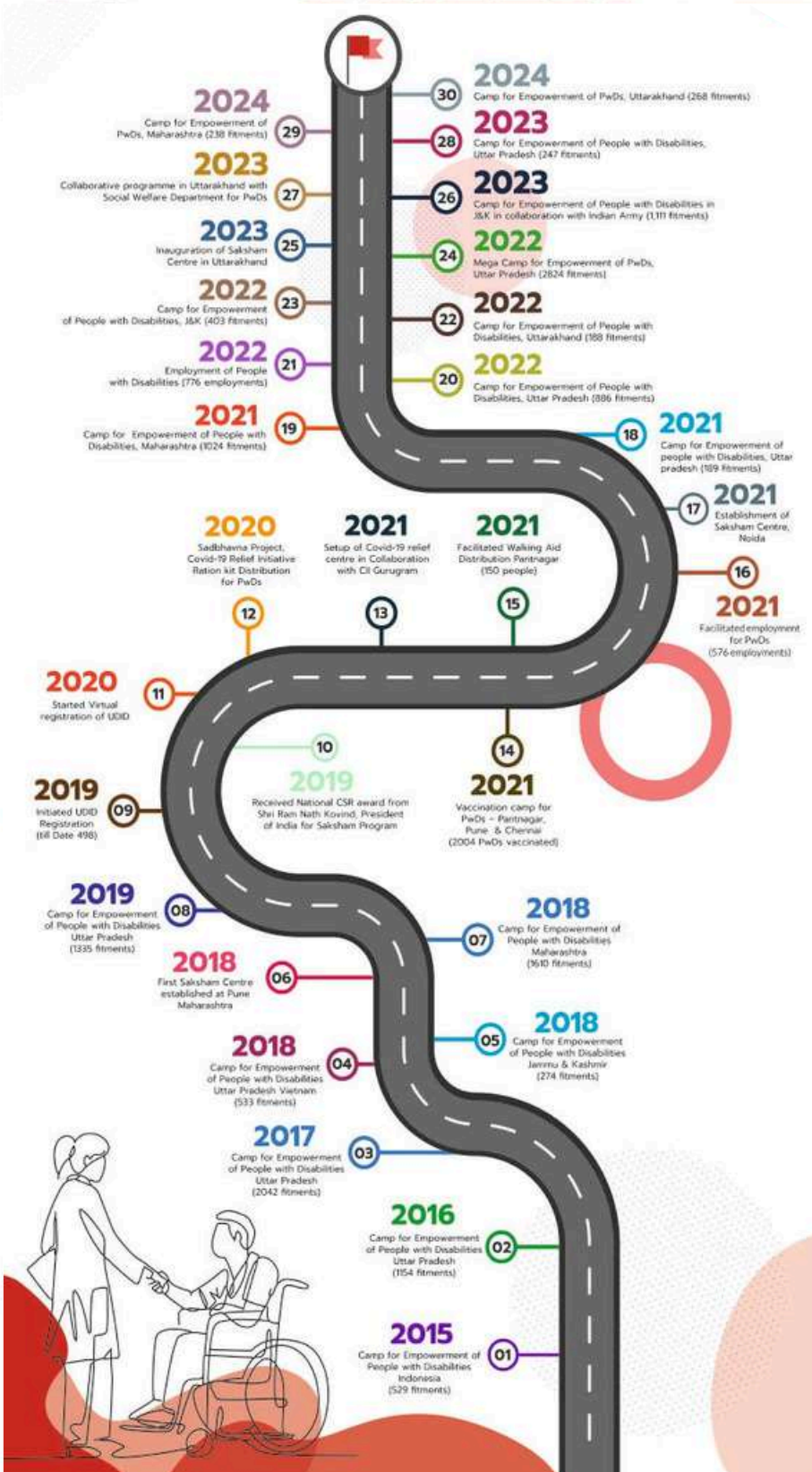
- Enhancing accessibility and providing assistive technology to empower PwDs.
- Offering guidance and support for the registration of UDID cards, ensuring official recognition for PwDs.
- Identifying and facilitating suitable employment opportunities for eligible PwDs through collaborations with partner organizations.
- Providing skill development initiatives and on-the-job training tailored to individual needs and industry requirements.



# OUR SAKSHAM CENTRES



# SAKSHAM - JOURNEY



Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) established a programme called “Saksham” for Empowering People with Disabilities (PwDs) in 2015. It is supplementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 of the Government of India.

Under this programme, SMF has catered to more than 18,000 PwDs, through providing them with Artificial Limbs, UDID (Unique Disability ID) Registration support, Skilling, Employment and Entrepreneurship support. Spark Minda Group is a proud employer of more than 1,000 PwDs. SMF has also established permanent Saksham centres for PwDs in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

# Empowerment Camp for People with Disabilities Pune, Maharashtra | December 20th–25th, 2024

The Saksham program has been meticulously designed to empower individuals with disabilities by promoting self-reliance and reducing dependence on external support for mobility and livelihood. This year's initiative, conducted from December 20th to 25th, 2024, focused on providing assistance to community members lacking the financial means to access essential services, such as artificial limbs and assistive devices.

During the program, a comprehensive range of services was extended to individuals from rural and semi-urban areas across Maharashtra. These efforts had a far-reaching impact, addressing critical needs and enabling participants to lead more independent lives. The program also facilitated the issuance of Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards, further enhancing access to government benefits. Through these interventions, Saksham not only improved participants' physical well-being but also offered them vital acknowledgment and support.

This year's camp was strategically organized near the Spark Minda Foundation Pune center at Rajgurunagar, Pune, and attracted a significant number of participants from various regions, including Junnar, Purandar, Kondhava, Bhor, Velhe, Sangamner, Solapur, Shirur, Belhe, Sinnar, Maval, Shrirampur, Ambegaon, Baramati, and Daund.

The Saksham initiative continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to empowering people with disabilities and enhancing their overall quality of life, serving as a powerful model for impactful community engagement.



## **THE METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED**

- a) Involvement of Government (District Administration) in the identification of PwDs for the programme
- b) Association with mobilizing partners/stakeholders (Ngo's and Panchayat)
- c) Organizing screening camps in identified areas for selecting PwDs
- d) Communication strategies applied for dissemination of the information about the camp

### **Registration Desk**

The registration desk was set up at the entrance of the camp to track the total number of PwDs attending the camp. Medical assistance was provided to the PwDs for the identification of Fitment types and Assistive Aids they require. Photography was used to maintain and support the pre and post fitment records.

### **UDID- Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities**

A UDID counter was set up to offer assistance to PwDs at UDID registration desk, PwDs were counselled and made aware of the benefits of the UDID card.

### **Employment Desk**

An employment desk was set up to facilitate the employment of PwDs across the Spark Minda Group as well as external agencies and organisations. HR volunteers from group factories volunteered and counselled the PwDs for potential employment opportunities.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Project Swavalamban – As the name suggests, it is aimed at making people independent – financially as well as individually. It is designed to support PwDs and women from rural backgrounds through an entrepreneurial model. This project would help them to be self-reliant and independent. The project is an amalgamation of projects at Minda Silca Engineering PVT. LTD. (MSEPL) and Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) – Silca Keys and Accessories Storz (SKAZ) and Saksham respectively.

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## Prosthetics and Orthotics

This process involves empowering individuals with locomotor disabilities or those who have undergone amputations. It includes providing prosthetics (artificial limbs), orthotics (callipers), or other assistive aids. The first step is assessing the person's needs, followed by taking measurements based on the prescription. After fabrication, the device is fitted to the individual, followed by gait training and quality checks. This brings them closer to empowerment.





# CAMP INAUGURATION CEREMONY, DAY-1

The inauguration of the Saksham camp was held on December 20, 2024, in the distinguished presence of esteemed dignitaries. The event was honored by the distinguished presence of Mr. Omesh J. Pandita, Director at KTM - Sport Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Vineet Kumar Ratanpura, QA Head at Bajaj Auto Ltd.; and Mr. Protay Bose, Senior PPC Officer for EV Chetak at Bajaj Auto Ltd. Their participation added great significance to the occasion, and their words of encouragement and unwavering support infused the camp with enthusiasm. Their presence further enriched the experience of the participants, staff, and volunteers, who continue to work tirelessly to ensure the camp's success.



# CAMP INAUGURATION CEREMONY



# Empowerment Camp for People with Disabilities Pune, Maharashtra | December 20th–25th, 2024

The Saksham - Mega Camp for Empowerment of People with Disabilities, held from December 20th to 25th, 2024, in Rajgurunagar, Pune, Maharashtra, successfully registered 1,285 participants. A total of 1,586 fitments were provided, including 355 Prosthetic & Orthotic (P&O) fitments, 747 assistive aids, and 466 hearing aids, indicating a strong focus on mobility and accessibility support. Additionally, 40 Unique Disability Identity Cards (UDID) were issued, facilitating official recognition and benefits for participants. The camp also addressed employment needs, with 30 aspirants seeking jobs and 16 individuals receiving employment offers, demonstrating a holistic approach to empowerment through both assistive support and livelihood opportunities. These results highlight the camp's focused and efficient delivery of services, significantly enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

Saksham- Mega Camp for Empowerment of People with Disabilities		
Sl. No:	Items	Accumulated data
1	Total Registrations	1285
2	Total fitments	1586
3	P&O fitments	355
4	Assistive Aids	747
5	Hearing Aids	466
6	Unique Disability Identity card (UDID)	40
7	Employment Aspirants	30
8	Employment offer	16



# TESTIMONIAL

## "Striding Together: A Journey of Strength, Love, and New Beginnings"

"We are Santosh and Sarala Jorvekar from Sangamner, Maharashtra, a journey of 150 kilometers and four hours to attend this camp. Both of us have faced mobility challenges since childhood due to polio, which went untreated due to family ignorance.

This camp has been a life-changing experience for us. I, Santosh (45), received a new left leg caliper and a walking stick, replacing the old, broken caliper I had received years ago. My wife, Sarala (36), is thrilled to have received her very first right leg caliper and walking stick, which will significantly improve her balance and mobility.



We got married 16 years ago and are proud parents to two healthy daughters studying in Classes XI and VII. As part of a joint family of 14 members, our lives are full of responsibilities. I work in a hospital parking area, and Sarala prepares mid-day meals at a government school. The challenges of walking without proper support affected our daily functioning, but with these new aids, we can look forward to living life with renewed purpose.

We are grateful to Mr. Vinayak Dabolkar, our local point of contact, for informing us about this camp. The support we have received here not only boosts our confidence but also inspires us to ensure a better future for our children, who have received all their vaccinations, including polio, on time. This camp has truly given us hope and a chance to lead more fulfilling lives."

# TESTIMONIAL

## "From Silence to Sound: Rudra's First Words of Wonder"

"My name is Rudra Nilesh Pawar, and I am 7 years old. I live in a small village called Sawaea, Maharashtra, with my family of four. My father works as a welder to support us, and life has been a constant struggle, especially for me.

Since birth, I have been unable to hear from both ears. Communicating with others was always a challenge, as I had to rely on lip reading to understand what people were saying. This made me feel isolated and different from other children.

One day, my mother learned about a special camp organized by the PUC. Filled with hope, she brought me here, and it turned out to be a life-changing experience. For the first time, I received a hearing aid, and the moment I put it on, the world transformed. I could hear sounds I had never heard before—the chirping of birds, the laughter of children, and my parents' voices clearly for the very first time.

This hearing aid has truly changed my life. I feel more confident, happier, and ready to attend school without the fear of being left behind. It is not just a device; it is a gift that has given me a new chance at life.

I cannot express how grateful I am to everyone who made this possible. Your kindness and generosity have brought immense joy, not just to me but to my entire family. Both my mother and I shed tears of happiness today, and I will always cherish this moment of hope and transformation."



# TESTIMONIAL

## "Walking Tall: Defying the Odds with Every Step"

My name is Manjiri Sonavane, a 21-year-old who has faced immense challenges but refuses to give up. After being diagnosed with a brain tumor and mucormycosis that had already spread to my brain, I was left paralyzed on my left side and developed serious eye problems. No hospital was willing to take on my case except Sasoon Hospital in Pune, where both the brain and mucor operations were done together. Unfortunately, the surgery left my eye cells dead, but it gave me a second chance at life.

I'm raised by a single mother who works as an Anganwadi school teacher. My journey has been driven by faith and strengthened by my mother's unwavering prayers. Before, I had to rely on others to move around and was confined to a wheelchair, unable to work. Doctors told me I would never walk again and that my vision loss was permanent, but I have proven them wrong every single day.

Thanks to the walking stick that now helps me balance, I can move around independently. I am no longer bound by the limitations that once defined my life. Though the path ahead is challenging, I am determined to keep going, setting an example for others facing similar struggles. Life may have tested me, but my spirit remains unbroken."



# FELICITATION OF POCs

The trust, dedication, and ownership demonstrated by the POCs—from the initial identification and screening of people with disabilities (PWDs) to their visit to the camp venue to receive their fitments and assistive aids—has been remarkable. The response we received on a daily basis exceeded expectations, surpassing the target of reaching 800 PWDs over the course of this six-day camp. The visible success of the Saksham Camp in Pune would not have been possible without their invaluable support. In recognition of their efforts and to encourage all POCs to continue making a positive impact in the lives of many more, we held a small ceremony each day to honor them.



# GLIMPSES FROM THE CAMP





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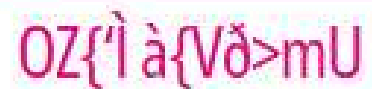
# GLIMPSES FROM THE CAMP



By forging strategic partnerships with governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, trade associations, and kindred CSR groups, the scope of impact expands, paving the way for a substantial improvement in the lives of PwDs. This approach not only adheres to the ideals set forth by the SDGs but also amplifies their positive influence on the lives of those with disabilities.

# TOGETHER WE CAN

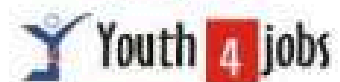
## SUPPORT & GUIDANCE



## EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT



## TECHNICAL PARTNER



## SKILLING PARTNER





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