

# THE DANDELION DISPATCH



#1 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER



**Dear Friends and Supporters,**

Welcome to the First Edition of the Dandelion Dispatch! At the Smiling Dandelion Foundation (SDF), we believe that creating a world where every child feels included, understood, and valued is not just a goal but a shared responsibility. Your unwavering support has helped us take small but significant steps towards this vision. Over the past few months, we've been privileged to bring joy, connection, and learning to children and young adults with intellectual disabilities. Here's a look at what we've been up to:





## A Day of Fun and Unity at the IPL Match

The IPL match wasn't just a day of sport—it was a day of connection. For our children, who sometimes find it hard to feel part of larger social events, the match offered a space where they could simply enjoy the moment, cheer loudly, and feel like they belonged. Their excitement was contagious, and the joy in their eyes reminded us that these shared moments can create lasting memories.





## Storytelling for Inclusive Classrooms

– Dept. of Education, Haryana

Storytelling has a unique power to bridge gaps between people, and in our session with Key Resource Persons from the Department of Education, Haryana, we explored how it can foster inclusion in the classroom. These educators are on the front lines of creating safe, welcoming spaces for children with intellectual disabilities, and we worked together to find ways storytelling can deepen understanding and empathy among students of all abilities.





## Music Workshop with Rudolf David from Humdrum

Music transcends words, and for many of our children, it's a way to express feelings that may otherwise go unspoken. In our workshop led by Rudolf David, the founder of Humdrum, 30 young people explored the joy of rhythm and sound. The sense of accomplishment on their faces as they learned to play the drums was nothing short of magical. For many, this was more than a workshop—it was a breakthrough in self-expression and connection with others.





## Musical Evening & Fundraiser: A Celebration of Ability

As a culmination of the music workshop, we hosted a musical evening where the children performed on specially designed drums by Rudolf David. Watching them play in front of a supportive audience was a profound reminder that when given the tools and encouragement, every child can shine. The evening was not only a beautiful celebration of their hard work but also a successful fundraiser, helping us continue to bring such experiences to more children.





## Storytelling Workshop at Chandigarh University

At Chandigarh University, we shared the power of storytelling with a new batch of B.Ed students, showing them how stories can break down barriers of misunderstanding in the classroom. We emphasized the importance of using storytelling as a tool to connect with students with intellectual disabilities, helping future teachers foster an environment of inclusion from day one.



## Pizza-Making Workshop at Pizza Express

Pizza-making brought out creativity and teamwork in our children as they worked together to craft their own delicious creations. For children with intellectual disabilities, activities like these offer more than just fun—they help build fine motor skills, encourage social interaction, and provide a sense of accomplishment. The kitchen was filled with laughter and pride as each child tasted their own handiwork.





## Talk on Inclusion and Diversity at the Vibrant Networking Forum

SDF Co Founder, Shivani Dhillon had the honor of speaking at the Vibrant Networking Forum, where we discussed the importance of embracing inclusion and diversity, particularly for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Our talk sparked meaningful conversations on how businesses and communities can better support individuals with different abilities, creating spaces where everyone feels valued and respected.





## **Stronger Together – Caregiver Support Group**

We're excited to share that Stronger Together, our caregiver support group, has recently held its first meeting. Families caring for individuals with intellectual disabilities gathered in a warm, supportive space to share their experiences, offer mutual encouragement, and build meaningful connections. The group serves as a reminder that through shared understanding, we truly become stronger together.





## **Talk at RIMT World School: Teaching Empathy and Inclusion**

SDF visited RIMT World School to talk with students about empathy and inclusion, specifically focusing on how they can make their peers with intellectual disabilities feel more understood and supported. Through storytelling and interactive discussions, we saw students open their hearts to new ways of thinking about inclusion, leaving with the tools to make their school a more compassionate place.



## Our Growing Social Media Presence

We're excited to share that SDF's social media platforms are growing! We're using Instagram and other channels to spread awareness, share personal stories, and provide practical resources for families and educators working with individuals with intellectual disabilities. Follow us to stay updated on events, insights, and ways to get involved!



## Weekly Online Storytelling Sessions

We've launched weekly online storytelling sessions for young adults, creating a space for them to engage with stories that inspire empathy, understanding, and creativity. These sessions not only encourage participants to think deeply about inclusion but also help build communication skills in a supportive, judgment-free environment.



## Rahul Jindal

### Co-Founder

Rahul is a curious, courageous, respectful and humble senior leader. With deep experience in general management globally, he excels at building better products, systems, narratives, and organizational capabilities. Rahul is also passionate about mentoring start-ups and entrepreneurs. Rahul's journey as a father has been a pivotal in his discovery of neurodiversity, and he strives to make a difference as an ally and public speaker building awareness and inclusion for people with disabilities.



## Shivani Dhillon

### Co-Founder

Shivani Dhillon's journey as an ex-BBC journalist, therapeutic storyteller and founder of Samvid- Stories & Beyond reflects a deep commitment to positively impacting the lives of those with intellectual disabilities and promoting inclusivity. Her rich background in journalism in both India and the UK, enables a blend of storytelling and journalistic skills to her current initiatives. Blessed with a daughter who has Down Syndrome, she founded Down Syndrome Support Group India.



## Yuvraj Wadhwa

### Head, Strategy & organisational planning

Yuvraj is an empathetic individual who is committed to being a catalyst for holistic change that improves the lives of the neurodiverse community. His younger sister, Simran, has Down syndrome who has completed her Senior Secondary Education & is an aspiring baker. Yuvraj is an investor at Accel Partners, a leading global venture capital firm, based in their Bangalore office. Prior to joining Accel, Yuvraj was a management consultant at Bain & Company.



## Aditi Sood

### Intern, Research

As a second-year law student Aditi's fervour lies in advocating for equality and rights of all individuals. Her interest in disability rights stems from the belief that it is imperative to acknowledge and support individuals with special needs to enable them to lead fulfilling lives as integral members of society.



We are a registered non-profit with an active CSR Certificate.  
Show your love and support by contributing to our fund raising efforts.

UPI id:

smilingdandelionfoundationforinclusion.8283812779.ibz@icici



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for being part of this journey. With your support, we are building a community where every child and family feels seen, heard, and valued. Together, we are creating ripples of change, and we look forward to sharing even more moments of joy and progress with you.

*And before we go, we'd like to leave you with this—never underestimate the power of joy and connection! Whether it's through a story, a shared laugh, or a slice of pizza made with love, we believe that the little moments are what truly make a difference. At SDF, we're all about those moments. Stay tuned for more smiles, stories, and maybe even a few more pizzas!*

With gratitude,  
*The Smiling Dandelion Foundation Team*

