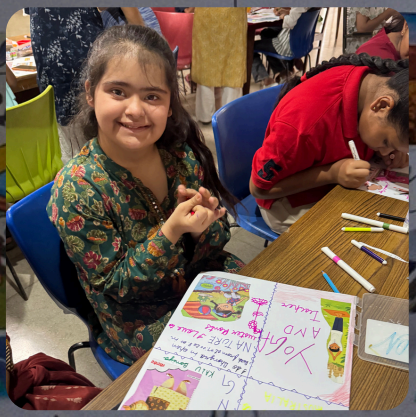
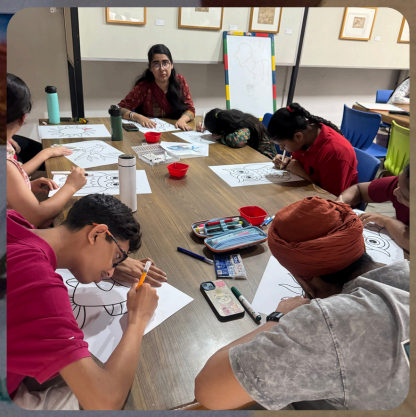
JANUARY- AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

SMILING DANDELION FOUNDATION

THE DANDELION DISPATCH







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JANUARY–AUGUST 2026

Smiling Dandelion Foundation | Events & Milestones

From the stage of Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja in Chandigarh to creative spaces, weekly storytelling sessions and the national conversation on inclusive education at ABLE 2026 in Jaipur, the first eight months of 2026 have been a journey of expression, participation and inclusion.

Through theatre, art, storytelling, collaboration and education, we have continued to create opportunities for people with disabilities to explore their abilities, find their voices and take their place in spaces that belong to everyone. These milestones capture not just what we did, but the people, partnerships and possibilities that continue to shape our work.

The summit also presented the Teacher Warrior Award, recognising educators who sustain inclusive practice without specialist staff, dedicated budgets, or reduced class sizes.

Our co-founder, Shivani Dhillon was among those honoured.



https://smilingdandelionfoundation.org

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21 MARCH 2026
Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja — Inclusive Theatre
Punjab Kala Bhawan, Sector 16, Chandigarh

To mark World Down Syndrome Day, Smiling Dandelion Foundation presented Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja in association with Down Syndrome Federation of India (DSFI), Chennai and Discover Ability Special School, Mohali.







15 days of intensive in-person rehearsals, with parents rehearsing alongside their children at home.



Directed by Shuchi Gupta, an arts-based therapist, the full-length Hindi production featured 35 children and young adults with intellectual disabilities as the majority of the cast, with performers ranging from approximately 5 to 40 years of age. The production was led by SDF founder Shivani Dhillon.

The journey to the stage involved 2 months of preparation, virtual sessions and 15 days of intensive in-person rehearsals, with parents rehearsing alongside their children at home.

The performance was attended by a 300+ audience and was graced by Madhavi Kataria, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, UT Chandigarh, as Chief Guest. For SDF, the play was more than theatre—it was an opportunity to challenge perceptions, put ability in the spotlight and demonstrate what inclusive arts can make possible.

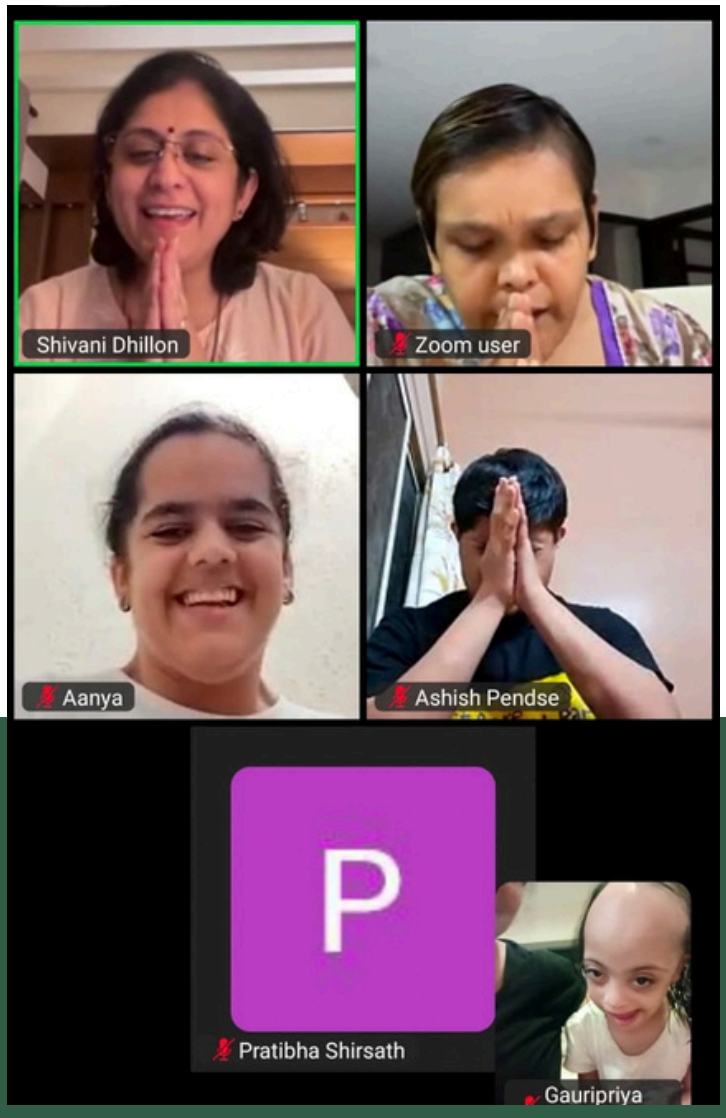
Samvid Stories and Beyond Storytelling Sessions — Monday & Wednesday Hanuman Chalisa & Bhajans- Tuesdays



Through our initiative Samvid Stories & beyond we continued storytelling sessions for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities. These sessions are very popular and create a consistent space for them to listen, participate, communicate and express themselves.

We believe storytelling is not merely entertainment, but is also a tool for building trust and connection, vocabulary, communication and cognitive development, while creating bridges between neurotypical and neurodivergent children.

Tuesdays feature the Hanuman Chalisa and Bhajans session, creating a familiar weekly anchor alongside spiritual connection, singing and interaction. The regularity of the sessions is intentional: familiar people, familiar rhythms and repeated engagement can create confidence and a sense of belonging.











11–12 JUNE 2026
The World of Creativity — Art & Inclusive Expression
Government Museum & Art Gallery, Chandigarh
Exhibition

During the summer break in school, we noticed so many different classes and camps were happening for the neurotypical children but none for our special children. We decided to do something about it. So, on 11th & 12th June, Smiling Dandelion Foundation brought participants together for a world of creativity.

1.Patterns of Nature: Gond Art
2.Dream It, Create It: Vision Boards
3.Pebble Creations
4.Emotion Walk Charades

- Patterns of Nature: Gond Art — Stories, patterns, colours. Inspired by a Madhya Pradesh tribal tale, children explored Gond art through vibrant motifs, intricate patterns and imaginative storytelling.





- Dream It, Create It: Dreams take shape. Children turned aspirations into vibrant vision boards using colours, images, words and imagination.

- Painted Pebble Creations — Little stones, big imagination. Children transformed pebbles into colourful expressions of nature, emotions, symbols and joy.







- Emotion Walk Charades —Feel it. Move it. Express it. Children explored emotions through playful movement, body language and expression.





Building Skills, Creating Opportunities Capacity Building at Discover Ability



One of SDF's key objectives is to provide capacity building for other NGOs working in the field of Disability. These non-profits maybe struggling with growth, processes and may require support in strengthening their people and organisation structure.

As part of this endeavour SDF is supporting Discover Ability Special School, Mohali in
their skill-building initiative 'Hunar' for young adults with intellectual disabilities. We help in creative ideation, product development, pricing and marketing—helping turn abilities into meaningful
opportunities.













June 2026 | Recognition for Contribution to Disability Inclusion Chandigarh University, Chandigarh

In June 2026, Shivani Dhillon, Co-founder of Smiling Dandelion Foundation, was recognised at Chandigarh University for her contribution to disability and inclusion.

The event also brought the work of Discover Ability School's students into the spotlight, with their products showcasing their creativity, skills and growing entrepreneurial potential.

For SDF, it was a meaningful reminder that inclusion can take many forms—from education and creative expression to recognition, livelihood and opportunity.









4 JULY 2026
Stronger Together



SDF's Stronger Together support group brought Caregivers of persons with disabilities together for an afternoon of connection, creativity and expression. When parents talked, shared and cried, their kids were engaged in a beautiful session facilitated by Anuksha Bansal, an arts-based therapist.

We're grateful to Anuksha for holding such a warm and welcoming space. We are also thankful to Sri Aurobindo School for supporting us in creating this space where caregivers could connect and feel like they are not alone.



Because inclusion grows when "us" and "them" becomes simply "together."









6–8 AUGUST 2026
ABLE 2026 — Education Summit on Inclusion
Jaipur | Organised by ScooNews

From 6–8 August, SDF joined ABLE 2026, organised by ScooNews in Jaipur, bringing together 400+ educators, school leaders and inclusion practitioners to advance disability inclusion in mainstream education.

Representing SDF, Co-founder Shivani Dhillon joined a panel discussion with Urvashi Warman, Principal of The Palace
School, Jaipur, discussing empathy, compassion and helping children understand differences from an early age.

It was an honour for the organisation when Shivani Dhillon received the Teacher Warrior
Award for her contribution to inclusive education.

For SDF, ABLE reaffirmed a simple belief: inclusion must become part of everyday educational culture—not remain a specialised conversation.









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

UPI :
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Thank You for Being Part of the Journey!
Every collaboration, conversation and shared experience brings us closer to a world where every individual is seen, heard and valued.
We're grateful to everyone who continues to walk alongside us—building inclusion through creativity, connection and meaningful participation.

With gratitude,
Smiling Dandelion Foundation