



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Sri Arunodayam Honors 20 Mothers at its Unique 'Special Mom' Award Event**

**Kolathur, Chennai, India – August 8, 2023:** At a grand ceremony on August 6, 2023 at Radha Regent, Chennai, Sri Arunodayam hosted its unique 'Special Mom' Award, honoring 20 mothers for 2022|23. The winners are mothers of children with intellectual disabilities (ID), selected through a stringent vetting process by eminent panelists. More than 100 applications were received this year from families across South India.

Sri Arunodayam's 'Special Mom' Award is the first-of-its-kind in India that honors and supports mothers of children with intellectual disabilities. The award was first launched in 2017 by Iyyappan Subramaniyan, Sri Arunodayam's Founder and Managing Trustee. Iyyappan conceptualized the program based on his unique vision of enabling transformation in the disability sector in a manner that India has not witnessed before. He believes that society must become more sensitive towards families with disabilities who are often misunderstood, discriminated against, and judged. The program has evolved into a powerful platform for advocacy, bringing to light the heroic nature of such families who refuse to take the easy way out by abandoning their children. Through the Award, Sri Arunodayam seeks to recognize mothers who uphold true family values in an increasingly materialistic and self-seeking world.

For 2022|23, Sri Arunodayam recognized 20 mothers whose progressive abilities made a significant impact on the lives of their children, families, and communities. They are:

1. Alapati Naga Sowjanya, Chennai
2. Ambiga S., Tiruvannamalai
3. Bargavi K. B, Chennai
4. Dhanalakshmi P, Coimbatore
5. Jayakodi S, Tirunelveli
6. Kalarani, Kanyakumari
7. Kamala S, Chennai
8. Maheshwari L, Coimbatore
9. Mary C, Chennai
10. Nirmala M, Chennai
11. Ponnammal K, Tiruvannamalai
12. Pooma, Kanyakumari
13. Pothiyammal G, Chennai
14. Prathiba Sudhakar, Chennai
15. Ruckmani S, Chennai
16. Sajeetha Parveen Syed Ibrahim, Chennai
17. Santhakumari J, Madurai

### **Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust**

35, Sivananda Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099 (TN), India  
<https://sriarunodayam.org>



18. Sasikala Baskaran, Chennai
19. Srikala V, Chennai
20. Subbulakshmi M, Tirunelveli

The winners also received:

- (1) A Certificate of Excellence
- (2) A Trophy
- (3) Cash Award of INR 15,000/- each
- (4) A special gift hamper
- (5) A Special Lifetime Pass entitling them to a host of free support services from Sri Arunodayam

“Parents of children with intellectual disabilities are never really prepared for what lies ahead in the journey with their children. The stress and frustration mount daily and that’s why they often need positive reinforcement. They need to know they are not alone in this journey,” says Iyyappan Subramaniyan, Sri Arunodayam’s Founder and Managing Trustee. “Out of necessity, mothers of special needs children tend to be more flexible, compassionate, and resilient than other mothers. They are long-suffering, braving the odds for their children. We honor them by focusing the spotlight not only on their challenges but on their ability to overcome them, which makes them inspirational role models for society. By bringing their experiences to light, the program seeks to provide hope and encouragement to mothers of special needs children all across this country.”

### **About Sri Arunodayam**

Sri Arunodayam is a home for abandoned children with intellectual disabilities (ID) in Kolathur, Chennai. For over 21 years, Sri Arunodayam has provided a safe and caring environment for these children, most of whom were abandoned in hospitals, crowded public places such as railway and bus stations, and even in dustbins. The organization works with the Departments of Social Welfare and Social Defense (Government of Tamil Nadu), Child Welfare Committees, and ChildLine. Sri Arunodayam tries to give these children what they have lost – a home and a family! For more information, visit: <https://sriarunodayam.org/>

### **Press Contacts**

- 1) Iyyappan Subramaniyan, Founder, Managing Trustee | +91-9444915803 | iyyappan@sriarunodayam.org
- 2) Althea D’Sylva, Head of Communications | +91-9840350120 | althea.dsylva007@gmail.com