



## PRESS RELEASE

# Sri Arunodayam Recognizes Ten Remarkable Mothers with 'Special Mom' Award

**Chennai, October 20, 2024, Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust.**

On October 20, 2024, Sri Arunodayam's stakeholders and special guests at Radha Regent, Chennai, witnessed a heartwarming ceremony as the organization honored ten extraordinary mothers with its prestigious "Special Mom" Award.

From a pool of over 100 nominations across South India, these remarkable women were selected by a distinguished panel of experts through a stringent vetting process. The finalists' love, dedication, and belief in themselves and their children's potential made them shining examples of maternal inspiration.

Sri Arunodayam's "Special Mom" Award is a pioneering initiative in India. It was launched in 2017 by Iyyappan Subramaniyan, the organization's Founder and Managing Trustee. The award celebrates the incredible journeys of mothers raising children with intellectual disabilities, often without the support of their families and communities.

Iyyappan's unique vision is to create a powerful platform that brings to light the heroic nature of families with special needs who refuse to take the easy way out by abandoning their children. The award aims to challenge archaic social norms and break down barriers that isolate families with special needs to create a more inclusive and compassionate society. Iyyappan believes that society must become more sensitive towards these families who are often misunderstood, discriminated against, and judged.

The 2024 awardees, whose stories are as diverse as they are inspiring, have shown us the true meaning of love in an increasingly selfish and materialistic society. They are:

1. **Chellam C.** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Chellam>)
2. **Dr. Maria Fatima Josephine** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Maria>)
3. **Gayathri Sampath Kumar** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Gayathri>)
4. **Mahalakshmi S.** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Mahalakshmi>)
5. **Malarvizhi R.** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Malarvizhi>)
6. **Mohana** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Mohana>)
7. **Prabha Anand** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Prabha>)
8. **Rajakumari D.** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Rajakumari>)
9. **Rajalakshmi K.** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Rajalakshmi>)
10. **Santhi R** (<https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-stories-2024/#Santhi>)

**Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust**

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The winners received a cash award of INR 15,000/- each along with a certificate of excellence, a special trophy, a special gift hamper, and a special lifetime pass entitling them to a host of free support services from Sri Arunodayam.

"The journey of raising a child with intellectual disabilities is a rollercoaster of emotions, filled with both joy and immense challenges," shares Iyyappan Subramaniyan, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sri Arunodayam. "Parents often feel overwhelmed, isolated, and lost in the labyrinth of uncertainty. They yearn for understanding, support, and reassurance in this lonely journey."

"Mothers of special needs children possess a unique strength, a resilience forged in the fires of adversity," he continues. "They are the unsung heroes, the quiet warriors who sacrifice tirelessly for their children's well-being. By honoring them, we aim to shine a light on their extraordinary efforts and provide hope to countless families facing similar challenges. Through this award, we hope to inspire and foster a more inclusive and compassionate society. By sharing their stories, we can break down stigma, challenge stereotypes, and create a world where every child, regardless of their abilities, is valued and celebrated."

### **About Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust**

Sri Arunodayam is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing home for abandoned children with intellectual disabilities. Located in Kolathur, Chennai, the organization has been operational for over 22 years, offering essential care and support to these vulnerable children. Many of the children were abandoned in hospitals, crowded public places such as railway and bus stations, and even in dustbins. Through strategic partnerships with government agencies such as the Tamil Nadu Departments of Social Welfare and Social Defense, Child Welfare Committees, and ChildLine, Sri Arunodayam ensures that these children receive the necessary care, love, and opportunities to reach their full potential, despite their challenges. The organization aims to give them what they have lost – a home and a family.

For more information, visit: <https://sriarunodayam.org/>

For information on the 2024 award, visit: <https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-award-2024/>

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