



PRESS RELEASE

Sri Arunodayam's Special Mom Awards 2026 Honours Families Redefining Parenthood

Chennai, May 10, 2026 – Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

Sri Arunodayam's 9th Annual Special Mom Awards brought together families, supporters, and distinguished guests at Bharani Studios, Chennai, to honour extraordinary parents raising children with intellectual disabilities.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. S. Govindaraj, Commissioner from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, along with Justice P. N. Prakash, Former Judge of the Madras High Court; Mr. S. Kumar, District Differently Abled Welfare Officer (Tiruvallur District); Mr. S. Thenpandian, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (Tiruvallur District); Mr. Srikanth, SP, Crime Against Women and Children (CAW & CW) Wing, Chennai; and Mr. T. Srinivasan, President of MEL Systems and Services Ltd.

Launched in 2017 by Founder and Managing Trustee Iyyappan Subramaniyan, the Special Mom Awards is a pioneering initiative in India that recognises mothers caring for children with intellectual disabilities. Since its inception, the initiative has honoured and supported 125 families who continue to navigate emotional, social, and financial challenges with remarkable resilience and love.

This year marked a special milestone, with 20 awardees being honoured — including, for the first time, a father. Their stories, though diverse, reflected the same spirit of deep commitment, sacrifice, and unconditional love.

At its heart, the initiative seeks to spotlight families who choose compassion and responsibility in the face of adversity. It also challenges the stigma surrounding intellectual disabilities and advocates for a more inclusive society that supports families instead of isolating or judging them.

The audience witnessed moving stories of courage and determination through specially curated films on the awardees, while Sri Arunodayam's children lit up the stage with joyful performances that brought warmth and celebration to the event.

Sri Arunodayam proudly honoured the following finalists at the event: Akila Vaidyanathan, Catherine Rathnabai S, Gayathri R, Geetha Varadharajan, Jayanthi T, Jeeva S, Kavitha D, Mahalakshmi V, Manimegalai N U, Meenakshi Kulkarni, Meera Balaji, Rajeshwari Krishnamurthy, Renuga Devi K, Rupavathi R, Sandhya Krishnamoorthy, Sharmila J, Sritharani M, Umamaheswari S, Vanitha Pushpam O, and Velliyamoodu Govindaraj Devaraju.

Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

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Each awardee received a cash prize of INR 15,000, along with a certificate of excellence, a commemorative trophy, and a lifetime pass providing access to a range of free services from Sri Arunodayam.

Selected from nominations received across South India, the awardees were chosen through a rigorous evaluation process conducted by a distinguished jury panel. Their journeys stand as powerful examples of parental strength.

Speaking about the initiative, Founder and Managing Trustee Iyyappan Subramaniyan said:

“Raising a child with intellectual disabilities is a journey filled with both joy and profound challenges. Many parents experience isolation and uncertainty, and what they need most is understanding and support. These parents demonstrate extraordinary resilience every single day. Through the Special Mom Awards, we honour their strength, share their stories, and hope to inspire a more empathetic and inclusive society where every child is valued.”

The event concluded with lunch, bringing together awardees, families, supporters, and special guests in recognition of the extraordinary love and determination shown by these parents every day.

About Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

Sri Arunodayam is a Chennai-based non-profit organisation dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of abandoned and destitute children with intellectual disabilities. Through a holistic approach that includes medical care, nutrition, therapy, education, and social integration, the organisation strives to provide dignity and a nurturing environment for every child under its care. Over the years, Sri Arunodayam has become a trusted voice in advocating for the rights and well-being of children with special needs.

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

For information on the 2025-26 award, visit <https://sriarunodayam.org/special-mom-award-2025-26-finalists/>

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