



# SUKRITAVAANI

September 2025



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Sukriti!

When we talk about travel, avid travellers often recall their experiences during the COVID lockdowns—feeling grounded, dejected, and uncertain about when they would journey again. They speak endlessly about the challenges of being confined at home and the toll it took on their physical and mental health. After all, travel reduces stress, exposes us to new cultures and cuisines, strengthens relationships, and brings joy.

But what about the *disabled traveller*?

Are our tourist destinations truly accessible for persons with disabilities?

For many people with disabilities, the experience of being “locked in” is not limited to the pandemic—it is a constant reality. Whether it is adventure trails, wildlife reserves, or religious tourism, most places still lack basic accessibility. Even many hotels and resorts do not offer accessible rooms, making travel a near impossibility.

Yet, the glass is not fully empty—it is slowly filling with hope. Awareness is growing, and more people are beginning to recognize that accessibility must be an integral part of infrastructure and planning. In this issue, I am happy to share my visit to one such place that is leading the way.

Meanwhile, all our regular activities continue with the same vigour—be it the distribution of orthopaedic aids to children or the provision of free physiotherapy at our centres. I warmly invite you to visit us and see first hand the work you are helping make possible.

With warmth and gratitude  
**Sowmya Simhan**

### **A Journey to the Statue of Equality**

Equality does not always mean treating everyone in the exact same way—it is about creating opportunities and support so that the outcome can be equal for all. This principle applies everywhere, including the world of travel and tourism—whether it is places of worship, amusement parks, hotels, or resorts.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to travel to Hyderabad for a residential spiritual retreat. We stayed at Leonia Resorts, which thoughtfully provides accessible rooms. The space was designed with care—wide sliding doors, a spacious washroom, and every detail in place to make it comfortable for wheelchair users.

After the retreat, I visited the Statue of Equality—Ramanuja Temple, and the experience was truly overwhelming. The entire complex has been designed with accessibility in mind. At the entrance counter, one can request a helper and a wheelchair. Ramps connect each level, making movement much easier, though a few safety features could be improved. What stood out most was the respect and dignity with which the staff treated visitors with disabilities. They were trained, attentive, and supportive, which made the visit seamless and heart warming.

Usually, inaccessibility in public spaces leaves one feeling agitated and left out. But here, the environment created a sense of ease and belonging. It showed how thoughtful design can transform an experience.

If more places across India adopted such inclusive practices, life for people with disabilities would become significantly easier. The Statue of Equality is truly a must-visit destination for every traveller with a disability.



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