

ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

This year has been one of **resilience, renewal, and growth**. We reached more players, awarded more scholarships, engaged more under-served children in schools, and expanded our competitive platform.

We also broadened our **partnerships** and strengthened our **life-skills program**, while earning **growing recognition** for the Great Goals Trust within the Sport for Development space.

Our program **funding saw encouraging growth** as well. In addition to CSR donations, sponsorships, and individual contributions, we received approval for our first grant-in-aid proposal through the **Australian High Commission, Chennai**. We also benefited from significant **in-kind contributions** from Great Goals, Thirumalai Charity Trust, Coromandel Productions, Cosco, and Kauvery Hospital.

The **Just for Girls program** remains the heartbeat of our Trust, continuing to expand its reach even as we navigate external challenges. Our **Barefoot Coach** program in Ranipet is transforming community women into inspiring role models and coaches. **Coromandel Productions** created a powerful video on the Just for Girls program, and our partnership with the **Simply Sport Foundation** enabled a meaningful menstrual health workshop for the girls.

We witnessed significant **growth in both the number of players and the range of opportunities** offered through our competitive platform.

This included an increase in **scholarships** awarded and expanded **participation** in key tournaments such as the Tamil Nadu State Youth League and the 7th Annual Great Goals Tournament.

Despite challenges—particularly the temporary closures in Ranipet due to child-safeguarding concerns—we are deeply proud of how our children, coaches, and community partners have continued to uphold and strengthen a **positive, resilient sporting culture**.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Zenoti - Wave of Goodness** program, the **Loveji and Home Foundation**, **COSCO India** and **Kauvery Hospitals**, and to all our **partners and supporters**, whose belief and commitment have made these strides possible.

→ **1734**
players reached

→ **608**
girls

→ **5**
schools

→ **196**
students

→ **84**
competitive players

→ **193**
matches

→ **RS. 28.7**
lakh donations and sponsorships raised

PRIYA GOPALEN



KAVITHA VIJAY



ABOUT THE TRUST

Great Goals was founded in 2013 with the aim of teaching children life skills through sports. We believe that sport is a metaphor for life, and through sport, children learn problem-solving, teamwork, leadership, respect, honesty, and perseverance. Very soon, we realized that there were barriers, economic and social, that prevented children from participating in Great Goals.

To remove these barriers, we began a series of initiatives in 2015 to promote sport at the grassroots. We began offering training scholarships, worked with low-income schools, and started the Just for Girls program to engage more girls in sport. We wanted every child who wanted to be a part of Great Goals to have access. We wanted to break economic barriers and close gender gaps, so that all children who love sports can play sports. As the demand for these initiatives grew, we realized that they needed a separate focus to achieve scale.

That's why we set up the Great Goals Trust in 2018. This non-profit arm of Great Goals seeks to give back to sport and society. Since 2018, this has been the mandate and aim of the Great Goals Trust– to grow these initiatives that bring sports to less privileged groups and schools. We began on a small scale with a few donors, mostly family and close friends. Since 2019, we have grown the number of activities and donors, and this will remain a focus for the coming year. So more and more children can Reach for the Stars through sport.

Great Goals Trust is registered under section 12 A, 80G and is an entity authorised for undertaking CSR Activities.

→ Vision

Engage, Inspire and Empower young boys and girls to Reach for the Stars

→ Mission

To create an ecosystem where sportsmanship is greater than sport.

We strive to level the playing field by lowering barriers for all young individuals, irrespective of gender, background or economic constraints.

→ Objectives

- Provide football and basketball scholarships for training for those who cannot afford or access Great Goals
- Provide playing opportunities that enable a player to maximize and showcase their potential by organizing and participating in tournaments and leagues
- Enable players of advanced skills to showcase their potential through state and national level platforms such as the I-League
- Enable increased participation of girls in sports through developing programs such as Just for Girls
- Partner with under-funded or under-resourced schools, clubs and organizations to offer year-round programs, camps and events

NOTE FROM OUR ADVISOR

Sankar K is a senior Advisor to Great Goals and the Great Goals Trust. He oversees the work in Ranipet, with Eureka Schools and the Greater Chennai Corporation Schools on the DAP program of the Australian Consulate. Sankar is also the Chair of the Referee Committee of the All India Football Federation amongst several other national accolades.



As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the journey we have taken together. Each of our programs — whether in the bustling neighborhoods of Chennai or the determined communities of Ranipet — has not only grown in numbers but also deepened in quality. The Great Goals Trust has once again demonstrated that structured training, committed coaching, and a focus on holistic development can truly transform lives. Our partnerships with the Greater Chennai Corporation in Saidapet (girls), Kottur, and New Market Farm (boys) have provided structured football opportunities for children who might otherwise never have had access to organized sport. Attendance has remained strong, and the players have steadily built confidence, discipline, and teamwork on the field.

The Just for Girls program in Ranipet, run in collaboration with the Thirumalai Charity Trust, has been particularly inspiring. We have witnessed a surge in participation, with girls not only joining in greater numbers but also showing remarkable improvements in skill, fitness, and self-belief. The Barefoot Coaches emerging from this program have become community role models — setting standards of commitment and professionalism that inspire the next generation.

At the Eureka Schools League in Kuvathoor and Vembakkam, the joy of competition has gone hand in hand with structured learning. Boys and girls played side by side, demonstrating that football is not just a sport but a platform for inclusion, equality, and personal growth. Across all programs, our deliberate focus on tracking player progress and enhancing coaching quality has led to measurable improvement. Regular assessments — technical, tactical, physical, and psychological — have enabled us to make data-driven decisions while keeping the human touch at the heart of our work.

We have also learned that progress tracking must remain consistent. Evaluations and feedback sessions are not merely about accountability; they motivate both players and coaches to strive for excellence. The discipline of monitoring outcomes has given us clarity on what works and what needs refinement. One of the most valuable lessons this year has been the importance of mentorship for coaches. Pairing experienced coaches with newer ones has fostered a culture of shared learning. Workshops conducted thrice a year have sharpened technical knowledge and instilled best practices across centers. In Ranipet especially, I have seen coaches evolve from hesitant facilitators into confident leaders of change. Finally, the year has reaffirmed that community trust is central to sustainability. Parents, schools, and local stakeholders have been key allies, ensuring that our programs are embraced and supported from the ground up. For me, the greatest achievement of this year has been witnessing transformation at every level — players becoming more confident, coaches becoming stronger role models, and communities embracing sport as a pathway to growth.

I am deeply honored to walk this path alongside our children, coaches, and partners. Together, we are not just building footballers — we are shaping lives, one session at a time.

– Sankar Komaleeswaran

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



JUST FOR GIRLS - RANIPET

The focus of the program remains in Ranipet, where we reached a total of 401 girls this year. With the addition of a new center in **Egambaranallore**, we welcomed 70 new participants into the program.

However, due to political issues surrounding a **national child-safeguarding case** that received significant media attention, the SIPCOT center had to be closed. The active number of girls currently engaged in the program now stands at 254 in Ranipet.

This year, we also launched an **Advanced Training Program** for 15 girls, with two U13 teams participating in the 7th Great Goals Tournament, where one team finished in fourth place. In celebration of Women's Day, we hosted a special event that brought mothers and grandmothers onto the field to play football — a joyful and empowering experience for all.

The **Just for Girls Blue Cubs League** continued as our flagship girls' league, featuring 88 girls, 16 teams, and 56 matches across two age groups (U10 and U12). This year, we celebrated commitment and consistency by recognizing 30 girls with special attendance awards. The League continues to build discipline, teamwork, and dedication among young players, while giving them the thrill of competition!



401
girls reached



100
reached with Menstrual
Health Education



88
girls in AIFF Blue Cubs
League



56
Matches





Barefoot Coach Program

The Barefoot Coach Development Program was established to nurture community coaches — women who bring their lived experiences and local understanding into coaching. Launched in 2023, the program has trained **18 coaches** to date.

During 2024–25, **five coach development sessions** were held in Ranipet, engaging 14 coaches. These sessions focused on key technical areas such as dribbling, running with the ball, passing and receiving, shooting techniques, and defending — all aligned with the Great Goals **Long-Term Player Development Philosophy**. In addition, coaches received training in classroom management and session planning. Each classroom module was integrated with on-field practical sessions and structured feedback, ensuring both theoretical and applied learning.

Furthermore, 14 coaches participated in a **Training of Trainers** program on menstrual health, conducted by the Simply Sport Foundation, equipping them to address important aspects of girls' well-being alongside football training.



Menstrual Health Education

As part of the ongoing life-skills education in the Just for Girls program in Ranipet, we curated a **Life Skills and Menstrual Health Education Program for 100 girls**, in partnership with Simply Sport, a Bengaluru-based organization. The program was intensive, engaging, and highly participatory, with the girls showing great enthusiasm and involvement throughout.

The first module on menstrual health aimed to educate both girls and coaches on menstrual well-being and its impact on athletic performance. The second module focused on **mental resilience and goal setting**. Through simple yet meaningful individual and group activities, the girls learned the importance of setting realistic goals and taking pride in their achievements.

These were first-of-its-kind experiences for many of the girls, and we are excited to build on this momentum and bring more such opportunities in the coming year.

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

This year, our school partnerships expanded to include **six schools**, reaching a total of 244 students, more than 50% of whom are girls.

Our collaboration with **Eureka Schools**, a project of AID India, continued to thrive in 2024–25. Great Goals has been working with Eureka Schools since 2018, and this year's engagement brought together over **150 children** from the **Koovathur** (near Kalpakkam) and **Vembakkam** (in Kanchipuram) campuses. The program culminated in the Eureka Football League, held on March 1, 2025, where students from Grades 3, 4, and 5 competed in spirited 4-a-side and 5-a-side matches. The day-long league showcased remarkable improvements in the children's game understanding, teamwork, and confidence — the result of consistent coaching sessions throughout the year.

In partnership with the Thirumalai Charity Trust, Great Goals was awarded a grant under the Development Aid Program of the Australian Consulate-General, Chennai, to provide football coaching in **three Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) schools**. The program builds on our earlier work under the CITIIS-Football Program and represents our first grant-in-aid initiative — a significant step towards diversifying the Trust's funding sources.

Under this program, **70 students** across Chennai's corporation schools have discovered teamwork, resilience, and joy through football — a small but powerful step toward building stronger, more active communities. This partnership illustrates how structured sports programs can transform children's physical literacy, confidence, and leadership.

Our collaboration with the **Guild of Service** – Seva Samajam Schools also continued this year, with **24 students** selected for football coaching at the **Seva Samajam School in Saligramam**. The program concluded with an end-of-year league, where the students displayed their learning and progress through a series of spirited matches and standout performances.

→ **6**
schools

→ **244**
students

→ **2**
coaching sessions per week

→ **9**
months

It's been more than a year since we started the Football Coaching Program with Great Goals on the Guild's Primary School campus, Saligramam.

The children are very happy to come early to school for the coaching and are very attached to the coaches - this speaks volumes for the dedication of the coaches and the way the program is being conducted. Thank you, Great Goals, Priya and Sandhya for adding joy and meaning to the lives of these less privileged kids.

Himani Datar, Hony. Secretary at Guild of Service (C) Chennai



Guild of Service School - Saligramam



Guild of Service School - Saligramam



GCC-DAP Program



Eureka School - League



Eureka School - League



GCC-DAP Program



7th Annual Great Goals Tournament



Ranipet - Women's Day Celebration



Great Goals Just For Girls U-13 Team



GCC-DAP Program



Great Goals U-9 Team



Great Goals U-15 Team



HUC Football Club Summer Camp



Ranipet JFG Life Skills Training



Ranipet JFG Blue Cubs League



GCC-DAP Program

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Great Goals Trust continues to champion access and inclusion in sports by providing financial support through scholarships across its Regular and Competitive programs.

This year marks the highest scholarship beneficiaries at the Great Goals Trust. A total of 484 players were provided with scholarships during the year. This year we streamlined the scholarship process, introducing a scholarship application and a committee that review each application, establishes eligibility and decides the scholarship amount.

Over 80% of the scholarships fall in the >₹16,000 bracket, driven by the large-scale inclusion of the Ranipet girls, accounting for 87% of the total recipients.

The 2024–25 scholarship cycle reaffirms the Great Goals Trust's dedication to equity, inclusion, and excellence in sports. Through this extensive scholarship effort, the Trust continues to shape confident, capable, and community-minded young athletes. The Grassroots program continues to anchor the Trust's grassroots engagement, providing both athletic and social development opportunities. The Ranipet Just for Girls initiative exemplifies the Trust's vision of sports as a catalyst for empowerment, particularly for the empowerment of girls.

We thank Zenoti, Loveji and Homai Foundation, BITS 88 Wave of Goodness, the Thirumalai Charity Trust and our many individual donors for supporting the scholarship program.

→ 401/ 254
girls in Ranipet

→ 68/ 15
boys/ girls in Chennai

→ RS. 17.65
lakhs in Scholarships
from Great Goals

→ RS. 30
lakhs in scholarships
from Thirumalai Charity
Trust

ENABLING COMPETITION

The 2024–25 season saw Great Goals teams across **six competitive age groups** — U9, U11, Advanced U13/15, HP13, HP15, and Girls U13 — participate in over **190 matches**, including practice fixtures, tournaments, and state leagues. These experiences strengthened players' resilience, tactical intelligence, and confidence — the cornerstones of our long-term athlete development pathway.

Our youngest competitive squad, the **U9 team**, focused on developing technical mastery and agility. Training sessions emphasized ball control, coordination, and positional awareness, exposing players to multiple roles on the field to nurture early tactical understanding.

The **U11 group** made remarkable strides this season, with 12 players progressing to the High Performance pathway — a significant milestone in our development structure. The team demonstrated strong improvements in combination play and positional discipline across both 5-a-side and 7-a-side formats, achieving an impressive 82% win rate. Regular team-building and classroom sessions further enhanced their understanding of tactics and teamwork, creating a cohesive and confident unit.

The newly introduced **Advanced U13/15 group** served as a crucial bridge between grassroots and elite football. Along with the **U13 girls' team**, they focused on build-up play from the back, possession retention, and game intelligence. Players showed visible growth in confidence, decision-making, and role clarity. Their adaptability and tactical awareness have positioned them well for progression into the High Performance level.

The **HP13 squad** displayed outstanding tactical maturity and discipline, clinching two tournament titles — the Great Goals Tournament and Football Plus Cup — while also finishing third at the Puzhal Cup and reaching the semifinals at the Madras Cup. Their focus on transitions, wide-area play, and set-piece execution solidified their reputation as one of Tamil Nadu's most consistent youth teams. The **HP15 squad** delivered equally impressive performances, finishing 5th in the Tamil Nadu State Youth League, 1st in the Great Goals Tournament, and 3rd at the Puzhal Cup. Their structured build-up play, compact defensive organization, and dynamic transitions exemplify Great Goals' philosophy of confident, possession-based football. Their 11-a-side experience has provided a strong platform for senior-level readiness.

Pathway Impact

Together, these squads form a comprehensive competitive pathway from U9 to U15. The alignment across development, advanced, and high-performance teams ensures both continuity of philosophy and progression of skill. Great Goals athletes are not only learning to compete but also to think, adapt, and lead — both on and off the pitch.

→ **84**
players

→ **193**
matches



Great Goals U-11 Team



Great Goals Advanced Team



Great Goals HP-13 Team

GREAT GOALS TOURNAMENT



The 7th Annual Great Goals Tournament, Chennai's premier grassroots football competition for academies, took place over two days in February. This year's edition saw 48 teams compete across various age categories.

23,332 views	62 stories	510 players	163 goals	116 awards	96 matches	48 teams	6 groups	70 girls
23,332 views	62 stories	300 Fans	2 days	3 posts	5 sponsors	48 teams	263 Likes	2 days

The tournament saw participation from a mix of local Chennai teams and five outstation teams. Notable among them were teams from Anantapur and Neyveli, which performed exceptionally well, with players earning the MVP and Golden Glove awards. Additionally, the Under-13 girls' category featured competitive teams from Great Goals, Anantapur, Ranipet, and Neyveli, reinforcing the importance of promoting platforms for girls in football.

Reflecting on this year's edition, coaches and teams praised the event's smooth execution, tight scheduling, and high competitive standards.

The tournament also served as a platform for player scouting, with standout performers being offered trial opportunities. Every event presents learning and betterment opportunities, and we've identified areas to do better in the next edition. **We are grateful to the support our sponsors, partners, players and parents for keeping the Great Goals Tournaments, Chennai's largest and fairest grassroots tournament.**

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners

- Platinum sponsor: AVT Gold Cup
- Gold sponsor: Zenoti India Pvt. Ltd.
- Silver sponsor: Vidiem by Maya Appliances
- Equipment sponsor: Cosco India Ltd.
- Medical sponsor: Kauvery Hospital



Support to the HUC Community Football Club

Our annual support for our partner club, HUC Football Club—a community-based organization—includes providing equipment for their summer camp and integrating their players into our development and high performance programs. We supported their summer camp with equipment including footballs, markers and cones.

A Video on the Just for Girls Program

Coromandel Productions created a video of our work in Ranipet and the Just for Girls program. The video was launched in January 2025 and beautifully captures the spirit and essence of our Just for Girls program. The video is available for view and download on youtube: <https://youtu.be/2IX0Y10X5LE>

Recognition in the Sport for Development Universe

The Great Goals Trust was invited to two prominent events in the Sport for Development space. Trustee Priya Gopalen was a panelist at **Aatashala**, speaking on “*Enhancing Life Skills and Promoting Values Education for Young People Through Sport.*” The Trust was also invited to present at **CII’s Vision 2036: Grassroots to Greatness**, where we were one of 14 organizations from across India invited by CII to **share our experiences and recommendations** for developing CSR policies and strategies in sports.

Both events not only enhanced Great Goals Trust’s **national recognition** but also provided valuable opportunities to network and collaborate with others working in the Sport for Development sector.



THANK YOU

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Zenoti India Pvt. Ltd
AV Thomas and Company
Maya Appliances
BITS 88 - Wave of Goodness
Loveji and Homai Foundation

RESOURCE PARTNERS

COSCO India
Kauvery Hospitals

SCHOOL PARTNERS

Guild of Service, Seva Samajam
Eureka Schools/ AID india
The Chennai Schools/ Greater Chennai Corporation

NGO AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thirumalai Charity Trust
Venkatraman Trust for Education
Kindness Foundation
HUC Football Club

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Anand Arvind	Suchitra Girish
T G Venkateswaran	Girish Shankar
Yashika Poorvi Deva	Deepa Krishnan
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