



Press release

Standard Chartered to make 30 railway stations in India disabled friendly in partnership with Anuprayaas and Samarthanam Trust

- *Facilities will help disabled reduce dependency on others while travelling*

08 February 2022, India: Standard Chartered Bank is partnering with Anuprayaas and Samarthanam Trust for making 30 Railway stations across India accessible for people with disabilities by providing a host of facilities. This is under the Bank's "Seeing is Believing" initiative which tackles avoidable blindness and visual impairment.

This project aims to aid people with visual disabilities, people using wheelchairs, and people with hearing disabilities to travel independently and with dignity by reducing their dependency on others while travelling.

The facilities which will be provided include:

- Guiding Braille indicators at platforms and railings to identify platform numbers and facilities.
- Braille General Signs for facilities like a male-female toilet.
- Reflective strips at stairs for people with low vision
- Braille Maps of the station
- Braille information booklets at the Enquiry counters
- QR code to watch the video about the station in sign language
- Portable ramp & wheelchair to board the *divyang* coach.

Though Thane station will be the first to be ready, all facilities will be made available at these 30 railway stations by 1 April 2022. Some of the major railway stations to be covered under this project are Egmore Chennai, Bandra, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Mathura, Agra, Secundrabad and Jaipur.

India is the second most populous country in the world and home to over 21 million people with various disabilities. These people come from poor to marginalised socio-economic backgrounds and are highly dependent on public transport, including railway stations, for their commute. Railway stations serve as a major commute medium for these disabled travellers who travel throughout the country and locally on a daily basis. Yet there is a lack of better facilities in public places to assist people with disabilities to travel independently.

Commenting on this initiative, Karuna Bhatia, Head of Sustainability, India, Standard Chartered Bank, said, "Making railway stations accessible for people with disabilities is a positive step in our journey towards being an inclusive organisation. We always strive to bring the Bank's here for good brand promise to life by working towards affecting a real change and this is one such programme. While there is still a long way to go, this project under our Seeing is Believing initiative, reaffirms our commitment to increasing accessibility and dismantling barriers for people with disabilities."

Pancham Cajla, Founder Anuprayaas said, "Accessibility in public places is the basic requirement for ensuring inclusion and equality for people with disability in society. We thank Standard Chartered Bank for taking this initiative that supports dignity for people with disability and makes travel safe for them."

Mahantesh G K, Founder Managing Trustee at Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled said, "We extend our thanks to Standard Chartered Bank for selecting us as an NGO partner to implement the initiative towards creating accessible Railway Stations for People with Disabilities in 30 Railway Stations across 16 States in India. This support will enable People with Disabilities to travel independently with safety, security, and dignity."

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About Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered Bank has been operating in India since 1858 and has a network of 100 branches in 42 cities. Key business segments include Corporate, Commercial and Institutional Banking, Private Banking as well as Retail Banking. For more information, visit <https://www.sc.com/in/>.

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About Anuprayaas

Anuprayaas is a 7 years old social organisation on a mission to make India accessible and Inclusive for people with disabilities. Their work has been featured and appreciated by the United Nations, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment India & Ministry of Railways for making infrastructure accessible for people with disabilities. On ground project implementation and reporting is their key role in the project.

About Samarthanam Trust –

Samarthanam has received more than 20 awards in the areas of education, child welfare, environment, sports, women welfare and health and recognition such as UN Consultative Status in 2015. The latest in the row includes Open- Republic TV Award 2019 under the Special Jury Mention-Category and NAB SarojiniTrilokNath Award 2019, Best NGO award in providing skilling and placement for persons with disability, by Govt. of Karnataka, 2021. It has been certified by CRISIL recently as an organization with “Strong delivery capability and high financial proficiency”. Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled is a national award winning CRISIL rated 23 years’ young organisation incorporated under Indian public trust act 1882 on February 26, 1997 at Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. Majority of the present and founder members are persons with disabilities themselves and have been striving to promote effective and meaningful inclusion, holistic development, empowerment, promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the most excluded and poorest of the poor sections of the society with a specific focus on persons with disabilities. We have consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). Please refer to our website for more details about our welfare initiatives. www.samarthanam.org