

Hi 5 Youth foundation  
wishes you a Happy

New Year

2024

### Founders Message:

*As we wrap up a remarkable 2023 filled with opportunities, expansions, celebrations, and victories, we're excited to step into 2024. Reflecting on our achievements, we carry this momentum forward into the new year to continued growth, community impact, and success. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year. We look forward to more positive contributions to the lives of youth through play!*

**Usha Sundar & R Sundar**

### Here's what we had in store for this quarter

1. Our newest (coolest) Basketball Court
2. Intra Hi 5 League - Regional and Nationals!
3. Meet and Greets all along
4. In sight of Pathways to Success

## About Hi 5 Youth Foundation

Hi 5 Youth Foundation is an organisation dedicated to running a FREE Basketball excellence program for underprivileged children and currently trains over 4000+ children across 35 centres (17 Government Schools, 9 Tribal boarding Schools & 9 Rural boarding schools) in 8 Indian States. We have built and refurbished 19 Basketball courts across India. The foundation's flagship program, 'Hope Thru Hoops', which is a multi-year basketball excellence program with life skills, and 'Pathways to Success', an educational support program that fosters excellence and allows underprivileged children to experience success and winning moments.

**4000+**

PARTICIPATING CHILDREN



GIRLS



BOYS

**8**

GEO LOCATIONS



**3**

TYPES OF PROGRAMS



Municipal schools - 17



Tribal residential schools - 9



Residential schools - 9

## 1.0 Hope Thru Hoops

### 1.1 Ronnie 2k Basketball Court Inauguration, Mumbai, Maharashtra

We're still buzzing with excitement from the unforgettable inauguration of our newest basketball court at MPS CBSE Mithagar School in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Teaming up with 2K Foundations for their debut court in India, and featuring Hi 5's inaugural court adorned with a breathtaking mural, the event was nothing short of a triumph!

Picture this: the sun casting a warm glow over the state-of-the-art outdoor court, cheers echoing as NBA 2K maestro Ronnie Singh, also known as Ronnie 2K (the face of the NBA 2K Series, a true gaming and NBA influencer with over a million followers), dedicated the court to the community.



In a moment of shared significance, Mr. Rajesh Kankal, the Education Officer of BMC, and Ronnie 2K jointly inaugurated the court, cutting the ribbon to mark this historic collaboration.

This court isn't just a physical space; it's a dynamic symbol of empowerment and positive change—it's the heart of a community beating with the rhythm of victory! A massive thank you to Ronnie 2K for being the driving force behind this historic collaboration. Let's relive the magic!



## 1.2 Elevating excellence:



In our relentless pursuit of excellence, our dedicated Basketball Technical Team, led by its Head, recently visited our centre Parivaar in Kolkata. This strategic expedition went beyond routine check-ins, aiming to meticulously assess coaching techniques, monitor player progress, and reinforce the commitment to elite coaching standards. These targeted visits serve as crucial milestones, actively contributing to the ongoing refinement of our coaching ecosystem, ensuring the highest quality training for our players, and affirming our dedication to nurturing talent and fostering growth. These

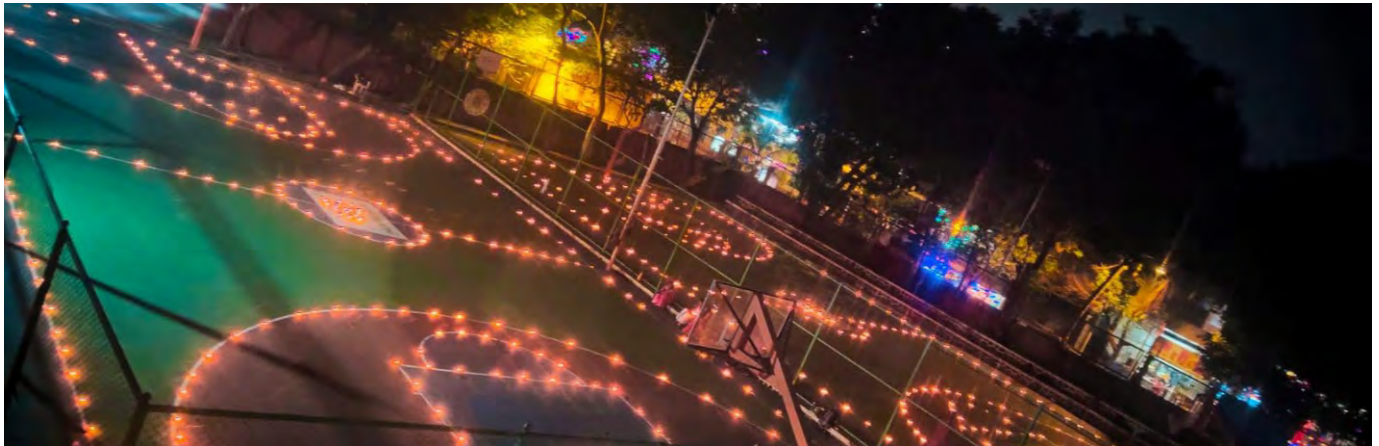


visits across our training centers are pivotal in our ongoing commitment to excellence, reinforcing our dedication to constant refinement and the creation of an elite coaching ecosystem.

## 1.3 Training in Festive Glow - Celebrating the festival of lights



In the heart of Diwali's vibrant festivities, our centers radiated a dual spirit—courts adorned with the soft glow of diyas and the focused echoes of extended training sessions. Rather than traditional camps, we utilized the Diwali break to conduct extended regular sessions, providing our children with additional time for team practice and valuable extra reps to prepare for upcoming tournaments.



While schools were on vacation, our aim was clear - to maintain training consistency while also infusing the festive season vibes with fun and celebration.

The flickering light of traditional lamps mirrored the vibrant energy of our players and staff, creating an atmosphere that seamlessly blended the joy of Diwali with determined preparation for excellence.

## 1.4 Our Founders Usha and Sundar meet with President - Basketball Federation India

Our founders extend gratitude for the opportunity to meet Mr. Aadhav Arjun, President of the Basketball Federation India (BFI), in December, where they engaged in an inspiring discussion about the future of basketball in India and delved into the shared commitment to empowering children to become champions both on and off the court.

### BFI's Post-Meeting Applause:

In a heartfelt Instagram post, BFI praised the Sundars for their profound passion and unwavering commitment to empowering underprivileged youth. The post celebrated the Sundars' energy, likening it to a celebratory "high five" in the game, aligning goals for a brighter future. BFI proudly declared standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Hi 5, aligning their goals to empower children for a brighter future both on and off the court.



Buoyed by the positive momentum, our founders continued their journey with a follow-up meeting in Chennai, immersing themselves in Mr. Arjun's basketball academy. This first-hand experience solidified the collaborative vision, exploring the possibilities for future joint endeavours.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/C09Gf\\_ZpMIF/?igsh=cHc0aHB1dnBvaTJp](https://www.instagram.com/p/C09Gf_ZpMIF/?igsh=cHc0aHB1dnBvaTJp)

## 1.5 Enriching moments



Hi 5 children from our centre at Spoorthi Foundation had the honour of attending a charity dinner hosted by Ms. **Sudha Reddy**, founder of the Sudha Reddy Foundation, at her residence in Hyderabad. Ms. Sudha Reddy, Director of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), is a distinguished businesswoman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Notably, she was the sole Indian attendee at the 2021 Met Gala and made her debut at the White House Correspondents' Dinner 2023 as a guest of honour.

cutting, receiving hoodies as gifts, enjoying a movie, and concluding the evening with a delightful dinner.






Children engaged in various activities, including decorating a Christmas tree, participating in games and dance sessions, joining a cake mixing session for a future cake

A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Sudha Reddy for extending this gracious invitation. We are grateful for your commitment to empowering and uplifting these budding stars.

## 1.6 Tournaments

**The winning streak continued in quarter 3, more teams, more matches and more players experienced that winning feeling!**



Hi 5's Podium Finishes			
		(Oct to Dec' 23)	(April to Dec' 23)
	1st Position	13	22
	2nd Position	2	14
	3rd Position	6	6
	Semi-Finals	8	20
	Total	29	62

\*External Tournaments across all states\*

## 1.6.2 Intra Hi 5 League



In the heart of the Hi 5 basketball calendar, our very own version of the "Intra Hi 5 league" unfolded with the energy and intensity reminiscent of any popular competition. Here, the court became the stage for young talents from different states to showcase their skills and passion for the game.



### Regional Tournament in Mumbai and Telangana:

The journey started with regional battles, embodying the Intra Hi 5 League spirit. In the 2022-23 academic year, Hi 5 launched the league in Maharashtra, a two-and-a-half-month basketball extravaganza that ignited a vibrant culture in our Mumbai centres. In the 2023-24 season, we extended the league to Telangana, maintaining its fervour.

The league in Maharashtra followed its standard format for U17 and Senior Categories, while Telangana debuted in Intra Hi 5 with six participating schools. The regional leg concluded in December, building anticipation for the grand showdown



### Here are the Results for the regional Intra Hi 5 League

Mumbai	U17 Boys	U17 Girls	Mens	Womens
1st Place	Goshala Gladiators	Dixit Dynamos	Motilal Mavericks A	Motilal Mavericks B
2nd Place	Dixit Dynamos	Deendayal Eagles	Motilal Mavericks C	Dixit Dynamos

Telangana	U17 Boys	U17 Girls
1st Place	Krushni Home Kings	Chegunta Aces
2nd Place	Jinnaram Jaguars	Sphoorti Dolphins

## National tournament

As the regional dust settled, the anticipation reached a crescendo, and the spotlight shifted to the Hi 5 Nationals (U17 Category) hosted in Telangana from 18th - 20th Dec.



The games were a canvas of emotions, with players putting on a captivating show on the court. It echoed with cheers, strategy discussions, and the occasional sighs of disappointment as teams fought for supremacy.



The semifinals and finals reminded us of the final four in NCAA March Madness, where



every dribble, pass, and shot carried the weight of dreams and aspirations. The atmosphere was electric, emotions ran high, and the competition resembled the climatic moments of an epic tale, showcasing the immense talent and potential bubbling within the Hi 5 community. Just like March Madness has its Cinderella stories and buzzer-beaters, our Nationals had its fair share of thrilling moments, where underdog teams challenged the odds and where the final buzzer was a symphony of both triumph and heartbreak. The Hi 5 Nationals may not be March Madness, but in our world, it was an epic tale of basketball dreams and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

Special thanks to our partners in Telangana, Krushi Home and Spoorthi Foundation, for their warm hospitality, offering accommodation, delectable meals, and hosting all the boys, girls, coaches, and staff of Hi 5. Their exceptional hospitality was instrumental in the success of the event

## Here are the Results

Telangana	U17 Boys	U17 Girls
1st Place	Goshala Gladiators (Maharashtra)	Dixit Dynamos (Maharashtra)
2nd Place	Sevalaya Sparks (Tamil Nadu)	Parivaar Tigers (West Bengal)
3rd Place	Krushi Home Kings (Telangana)	Chegunta Aces (Telangana)

## Our partners for Intra Hi 5 League



Nivia, our **equipment partner** for the Intra Hi 5 League, generously sponsored 100 basketballs, 8 pairs of shoes, and 8 backpacks. It didn't just provide essential gear; it sparked immense happiness and fueled unparalleled motivation among the players.

Akshaya Chaitanya, our **Hospitality partner**, deserves heartfelt appreciation for the nourishing hot meals served during the Mumbai leg. The nutritious food provided a boost that went beyond mere sustenance—it ignited the players' fervour and the drive to excel.

### Under 17 Boys

Winners : **Goshala Gladiators** (Maharashtra)



### Under 17 Girls

Winners : **Dixit Dynamos** (Maharashtra)





## 2.0 Pathways to Success

### 2.1 Hi 5 Pragati

At Hi 5 Pragati, the study centre, continues to provide our children with a safe and supportive learning environment, as well as access to English Second Language (ESL) classes. Our ESL teachers create a fun and engaging learning environment that helps students develop their language skills and prepare them for success in school and beyond.



Drawing Competition

Here are some activities conducted at Hi 5 Pragati

- Daily ESL sessions for our children from grade 5th to 10th
- Group Discussion and Q & A' round related to the topic of my school and my family.
- Drawing competition
- Usage of Library for building sentences and an improvement in reading.



Celebrated Dussehera

### 2.2 Pathways to Success visit telangana

Our team embarked on a mission to explore potential expansions of our "Pathways to Success" program in Telangana with a threefold purpose - firstly, to assess the need for the "Pathways to Success" program; secondly, to connect with students and understand their

aspirations; and lastly, to engage with coaches and gain insights into the backgrounds of the students under their guidance. This exploration is a vital step in determining the feasibility and impact of extending the program



## 2.3 Radhika Memorial Scholarship



Initiated by Mr. Ravi Padmanabhan, a dedicated board member of Hi 5 USA, the Radhika Memorial Scholarship, started in 2020, proudly celebrates the achievements of five outstanding students who excelled in their 10th-grade Annual exams. Established in loving memory of the Late Mrs. Radhika Ravi Padmanabhan, this scholarship awards five deserving students annually on December 17th. This year, we are delighted to announce that five more children have been honored,

bringing the total number of scholarship recipients to 20 since its inception.



## 2.4 Other initiatives for holistic development

### Mock Interview Prep:

Guiding SY/TY students through mock interviews to enhance their job readiness and interview skills.



## Rapport Building Workshop:

Conducting workshops at our Ashram school centre in Vajreshwari to boost confidence, encourage language studies, and provide guidance on scholarships, study materials, career counselling, and college admission for 8th to 10th graders.



## Diwali Camp Empowerment:

Organizing a Diwali camp for our children in Vasind, focusing on English grammar, HSC board writing skills, and interview preparation to empower students for future opportunities.



## Vocabulary Enhancement:

Initiating a self-dictionary test for 11th Std students in Vasai to improve English vocabulary and enhance language skills for a brighter academic future.



## 3.0 Hi5 USA



Hi 5 USA is the fundraising arm of Hi 5 Youth Foundation India. Hi 5 USA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization set up in the USA to help the children in India with the Hope Thru Hoops - a Basketball excellence program and Pathways to Success - an education initiative program.

### 3.1 Sevathon

Big thanks to everyone who ran, walked, or danced at Vasona Park, Los Gatos, CA, Sevathon 2023 on behalf of Hi5 Youth Foundation USA! Your energetic participation contributed to sponsoring a year of education for the underprivileged children in India, aligning with our 'Children Helping Children' motto. Your impact will continue to make a difference & we look forward to seeing you next year.



### 3.2 Miles 2 Smiles 2023



A big shoutout to all the 110 runners from various parts of the US who enthusiastically took part in the 'Miles 2 Smiles' Run/Walk/Bike 30-Day Challenge for Hi 5 Youth Foundation! Your combined efforts have made a meaningful impact on our 'Hope Thru Hoops' program in Telangana, positively influencing the lives of 1000 children.



Special recognition goes to the Ruby Hill groups in Pleasanton, CA, whose members not only competed vigorously but also provided mutual support, demonstrating strong solidarity for Hi 5.

A standout performer in this year's challenge is Surendra Gade as he achieved an extraordinary feat, completing a half marathon



every day throughout October, setting a remarkable example of enthusiasm and commitment. We deeply appreciate the passion and energy that participants like you bring to our cause.

### 3.3 Donor Appreciation Dinner



Hi 5 recently hosted its FIRST Donor Appreciation Event in the Bay Area on December 2nd. Since 2018. Our donors have been unwavering supporters of our "Hope Thru Hoops" program, and this event aimed to express our deep appreciation for their generous contributions.

A special acknowledgement goes to Mr. Mani Krishnan (Founder, Shasta Foods), a dedicated basketball enthusiast, who has consistently sponsored Hi 5 events and supports our cause



in a significant way. Another heartfelt thank you to Mr. Ambarish Malpani and the Malpani

Trust family for donating land in the Mumbai vicinity for a dream project of Hi 5, promising exciting details in our future newsletters.



The highlight of the evening was the presence of Ronnie 2K, who added tremendous energy to the event by engaging with young fans. Through a Fireside chat, he shared insights on his journey as the face of 2K and as an influencer with a million-plus followers.

To conclude the Donor Appreciation Event on a musical note, live performances by Hritika Badri of New Jersey, accompanied by a local band, created a festive atmosphere and added to the overall success of the evening.

### Hi 5 Feature in Publications

<https://www.ekalavyas.com/p/new-mumbai-basketball-court-inaugurated>

<https://www.thephilanthropist.org/article/from-basketball-courts-to-boundless-dreams-hi-5-youth-foundation-s-journey-of-empowerment>

### Concluding note: Making a lasting difference!

*In 2024, our intent is to continue fostering positive change, expanding our impact, and creating opportunities for the youth we serve. Thank you for being part of our journey, and here's to a year filled with continued growth, success, and meaningful contributions.*

*Our mission remains steadfast: to change young lives through play.*

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### Our Partners & Supporters



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