

Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 16th, Nov 2025

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Sunday 16th November 2025

Following were present

- Kasturi
- Komalavalli
- Rajaraman
- Shiva
- Sriram
- Sundaram
- Venkat

0 Ratification of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2025

Minutes of the meeting held were ratified unanimously except in so far as it related to the fixation of Pay of Ajay Kumar of Rajatalab. It was decided to examine this further by Sriram and Rajaraman and report the outcome in the next meeting.

1. Routine Staff Matters Loans. Key staff exit/hiring

Two proposals from Rajatalab and five proposals from Sangamam for sanction of loans to teachers were unanimously approved. The loan amount would be limited to Rs 60,000 and in case there was an existing loan the total amount outstanding should not exceed Rs 60,000. Other terms and conditions apply

Rajaraman explained the reallocation of duties to Manoharan and the consequent revision of his pay. He also mentioned some good teachers from the Sangamam project like Nithya Nesakumar and Susmitha Shruti had left Asha for personal reasons..

2. Asha India Conference. Continued from previous meeting

Asha India Conference would be hosted by Chennai Chapter dates being 26th to 28th December 2025

- Budget.for the conference

Rajaraman gave a ballpark figure of Rs 2 Lakhs for the event details of which would be finalised later after finalising the venue and hotel accommodation of guests etc

- Agenda

Chapter presentations by the various chapters from all over India would be the core agenda apart from discussion on general topics like Factors affecting Education and accounting practices across projects.

- Visitors

Confirmation from delegates were expected to be received shortly.

Our Volunteer Komalavalli,came forward to offer assistance in organising the conference.

3. Fund Raising Updates

- Amazon Updates.

Rajaraman was glad to inform that USD 1,00,000 had been granted to our chapter under Innovation Grant. For 26-27 it was expected USD 1,00,000 would be forthcoming from Amazon

- Michelin and Ashok Leyland

Rajaraman and Komalavalli visited Michelin, met the CSR team and discussed the prospects of the company funding schemes and projects of Asha Chennai. Michelin it appeared wanted to adopt one whole tribal village for all round development primarily related to children's education. This is likely to move forward. The hope is that they also see our other work in the area and support us in more ways.

Ashok Leyland – A person from their CSR team visited our project schools in Thiruvallur and also the Kanakamma Chathiram RTC. They were very impressed with the work we were doing. We hope to keep the contact alive and see if any opportunities come up.

- Review of Spreadsheet to report progress on Donor Contacts

The spreadsheet on Donor Contacts were gone through and prospective sources were divvied up between Venkat (Crossbow, CapGemini) and Rajaraman (Microsoft Teals) for vigorous pursuit. Venkataraman our volunteer would be requested to massage his contacts in CAMS

4. Debriefing by Venkat on code.org conference in Mexico

Venkat, an invitee, on behalf of Asha Chennai which is global partner of [Code.org](https://code.org) presented a brief account of the proceedings of the Global Partner Meeting of code.org in Mexico city on October 27th to 29th. Basically the meeting focused on the "AI for Education" (AIEDU) framework, emphasizing that Computer Science education must now evolve to include AI literacy as a fundamental right. Partners from India, Chile, Spain, Uruguay, and Mexico shared localized strategies for integrating Generative AI into classrooms while maintaining a focus on foundational literacy and equity.

5. Status of Activities Related to the government.

* Spark Program.

This program to introduce computer science in middle and high schools is being rolled out by the TN Govt. Asha Chennai had an opportunity to look at the curriculum. Unlike what we do in Asha of trying to impart knowledge for gaining mastery in one component of CS say Scratch programming in one year syllabus Spark tended to teach the subject bit by bit like we do in the case of regular subjects. Also, unlike in the ACE children studying in SPARK system had no opportunity to show their skills by executing projects. Feedback from some government teachers who have undergone ACE is that, our training and support really makes a huge difference and without that, implementing Spark is very difficult.

* ADW hostels bid

Only good news was that Asha Chennai's bid was still in the reckoning as the financial evaluation was reportedly in progress.

6. Some process improvements across projects.

- updates

Various trackers for monitoring Teachers, assets, Karadipath training progress have been launched and bugs fixed. Our software team was constantly interacting with Lead Teachers for improving data collection and accuracy of inputs and dashboards for a quick glance.

7. Purchases across projects

- Bags and accessories for ACE And RTCs

It was decided to purchase these covering 60 per cent of the strength of staff..

- Bags and accessories for Sprint teachers.

In this case it was decided to restrict it to 50 per cent of the teachers' strength

- 3D printers, Drones for RTCs

Here the idea in purchase was not to be carried away by fanciful gadgets but those which were functional and helpful in imparting knowledge to the students at the RTCs. They will use these in their Robotics and media editing courses.

- High end laptops for teachers

It was decided to buy Laptops costing around Rs 60,000 for lead teachers and those who were involved in content work etc.

8. Review of Oral assessments

Oral Assessments have been completed for the year 25-26. Processing of the assessment data is happening.

9. December Training in CS

December Training named Right Start CS Training was scheduled to be held from December 17th to 19th. Attempt was being made to bring a faculty member from IIT Madras who was involved in setting the AI curriculum for CBSE. One day would be devoted to MES activities.