

# Annual Report

2024–2025





Scan the QR code to catch a glimpse of RNP's 2024-25 highlights, co-created with LastBench Studio.

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## Design Note

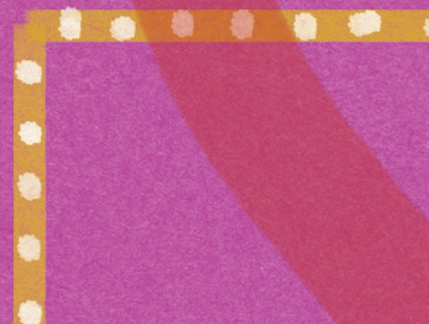
This year, the annual report's visual theme is "Jaatre".

A Jaatre, or a vibrant fair, is a public gathering that brings together culture, community, and commerce.

This makes it a perfect metaphor for the ecosystem we've built together at RNP.

Just like in a Jaatre, our community is enriched by the constant movement and diverse experiences of its people.

The connections and ideas exchanged here create a ripple effect, sparking progress and collaboration that extends far into the greater community.





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Agami's Justicemakers Mela 2024 was a first-of-its-kind gathering of over 700 justice changemakers. Held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the two-day event saw more than 100 unique experiences co-curated by 80+ organizations and attended by participants representing 220+ organizations from 180 districts, making it a true *Mela of the community, by the community*. The Mela acted as a physical manifestation of the field of law & justice, surfacing often overlooked gaps and blindspots within the ecosystem.



It was a space to connect, exchange ideas, and build trust across boundaries to reimagine critical systems such as dispute resolution, legal services and aid, legal literacy, legal education, and environmental justice. Anchored around three key themes: *Samadhan* (Resolution), *Nyaya Shakti* (Legal Empowerment), and *Utthaan* (Regeneration), each represented a vital facet of creating, sustaining, and growing justice.

Photo Credits: Verve Media



# Letters from Our Leadership





## Letter from the Chairperson

Dear Friends,

The world is undergoing extraordinary shifts. The climate crisis, political instability, and rising inequality take a toll on our mental, physical, and civic well-being. Yet I have made hope my religion, not empty optimism, but hope that drives us to good action, that allows us to respond with urgency and purpose. I've said this often. Social change is never easy and cannot have an end point, but I truly believe that the strength and potential within people is extraordinary. At RNPF, we witness this continuously, as our partners continue their work past extreme obstacles with much courage.

*As we look ahead in the journey, I'm reminded of how vital it is for us to exchange our learnings and experiences as we continue to build together.*

Coming together around shared purposes and common goals, even when our approaches differ is pivotal to this journey. This is a mindset, a philosophy rooted in trust, and with the belief that diversity in thought strengthens the whole. This mindset invites us to transcend silos, share both failures and learnings, and invest in long-term transformation for amplified dignity and agency.

The act of coming together can make for some discomfort, but also for renewal. Over the last year, we channelled our energies into encouraging both grant makers and civil society organisations to think beyond the immediate, to reimagine the possibilities of collaboration, deploy capital with greater boldness, and tell our shared stories with greater clarity and conviction.

It was an exciting year. We co-hosted women givers coming together to share unusual insights, we enjoyed hosting our first public Mental Health Festival, and bringing together our Climate & Environment portfolio for the first time.

We helped open up an urgent dialogue among finance professionals in the sector. We participated in the Hearth Summit Bangalore, to explore how to improve well-being for changemakers, and so much more. It has been a year of listening deeply and speaking openly: across rooms, roles, and realities.

When people gather with shared intent, a societal mission can take precedence over individual ambition. After all, the patchwork quilt that is Samaaj can be shaped better by the futures we imagine together.

I continue to reflect on the role of philanthropy in enabling lasting social change.

*Wealth, in its truest sense, should never be a wall that separates. Can it instead be a bridge between ideas, mental models and processes of change? Can it go beyond funding solutions, can it sit with complexity, hold space for discomfort, and stay open to being changed by the people it seeks to serve?*



These are the questions my team and I like to explore. So how can we support organisations in ways that go beyond grant-making, and truly engage with the dynamic interplay between society, markets, and the state? How do we ensure that our actions are rooted in context so that we don't just respond to the present, but shape a more equitable future?

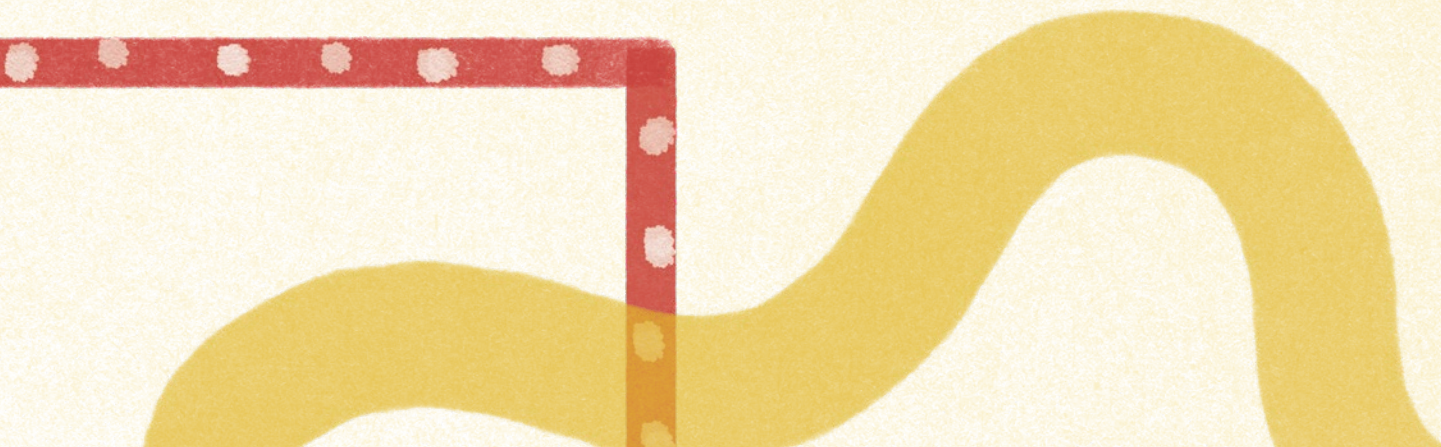
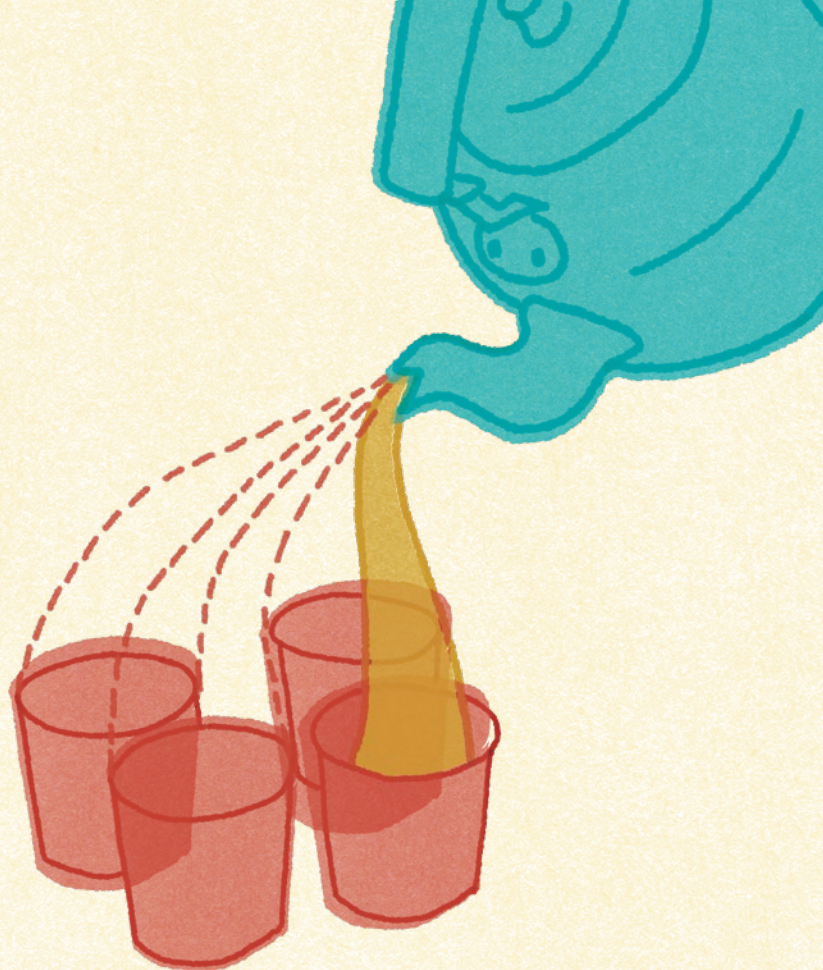
*When we come together with courage and clarity, we can build something bigger than programs or platforms.*

We can help nurture stronger communities, create deeper meaning in our lives, and lay the foundation for a more resilient society.

Here's to building together!

*Rohini Nilekani*

Rohini Nilekani  
Chairperson, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies





## Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Some of the most important moments in life happen not when we are moving, but when we stop. Journeys take us to new places, but it is in gathering that we make sense of what we have seen. Travel broadens our understanding, yet it is in conversation that perspectives deepen, and ideas turn into something we can hold on to.

This past year at RNPF, we spent less time on the road and more time in rooms filled with partners, funders, and changemakers. We gathered to listen, share, learn, and co-create. To exchange ideas and test assumptions, sharpen strategies, and strengthen the relationships that make lasting change possible.

*Convenings became a lens through which we could see and connect the many threads of our work, from grant-making and field-building to knowledge creation and philanthropic collaboration.*

Gatherings work best when they increase our surface area for serendipity. The most valuable insights often don't come from scheduled discussions but from unexpected moments of connection: a conversation during a break, an idea sparked from a shared experience, or a partnership that forms over a simple meal. Last year, we saw that happen again and again.

Our convenings helped sharpen strategic direction across portfolios. In [Climate & Environment](#), 35 partners shaped a collective understanding of challenges, from conservation to climate adaptation and emerging technologies. [Manotsava](#), our first public-facing mental health festival, championed the idea of creating a platform that bridges the gap between science and society, one that celebrates scientific rigour, bold ideas, diverse voices, and collective joy. Gatherings in philanthropy explored trust, accountability, and values in giving, while a convening of finance and compliance leaders led to the formation of [PATTIC](#), a platform to strengthen transparency in civil society.

Our reports reflected the diversity and depth of the work we support. A study on [fatherhood](#), developed in partnership with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Equimundo, examined how men in India are redefining their identities as caregivers. It felt like a quiet but critical shift in the gender landscape. Our [longevity report](#), developed in collaboration with Dalberg and Ashoka Changemakers, reframes ageing as more than a health or demographic issue, widening the conversation to an opportunity to reimagine what purposeful living can look like in later life. Both were launched through multi-stakeholder consultations that mirrored our ethos of listening, dialogue, and co-creation.



We also leaned into emergent themes. Our work on heat resilience and disaster preparedness asked how communities adapt in the face of growing climate stress. In sustainable agriculture, our partnerships have surfaced important questions around farmer-to-farmer knowledge systems, ecological financing, and how data and indigenous wisdom can inform adaptive practices. We focused on Digital Samaaj, moving beyond the immediate applications or instrumentality of new technologies. Rather than framing this solely through lenses like responsible AI or digital literacy, we ask: how can emerging digital technologies foster greater equity and resilience in society, and where might they fall short?

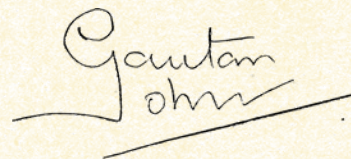
And of course, Rohini's presence continued to be a source of clarity and leadership. Whether convening funders, amplifying nature storytelling through [Nilgiris: A Shared Wilderness](#), or holding space at the Hearth Summit, she reminded us that philanthropy isn't only about solving problems. It is also about creating the conditions for insight, courage, and generosity to emerge.

*This year has deepened my conviction that philanthropy's greatest strength is nurturing relational capital. Resources alone do not create lasting change. Relationships do. The depth of trust between partners, the ability to align around shared goals, and the willingness to challenge and refine ideas together are what turn funding into real impact. Convenings build that capital by creating the conditions for long-term collaboration, mutual accountability, and shared learning.*

The deepest work often leaves no immediate trace: a conversation that plants a seed, a shared silence that builds trust, a question that lingers long after the gathering ends. Over time, these invisible threads weave the fabric of the field. Our task is not just to convene, but to cultivate these invisible bonds that carry change forward.

In the year ahead, our work will continue to evolve. We will hold smaller, focused convenings, spend more time in the field, and create even stronger bridges between partners, funders, and communities. Manotsava will return, bringing new conversations on mental health to a wider audience. Our work in justice, climate, and civic engagement will push further into cross-sector collaboration. And as always, we will stay close to our partners, shaping our work alongside those who know challenges and opportunities best.

*Gathering is not just something we do; it's something we are. It is how we build, how we listen, and how we grow. This year has shown us that the right spaces, held with intention, can create the kind of change that lasts.*



With gratitude,  
Gautam John  
CEO, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies





The India Civic Summit 2025, held on 8th February 2025, brought together over 150 civic leaders, urban practitioners, grassroots changemakers, and engaged citizens in a one-of-a-kind convention of active citizens. With the theme “Citizen Action for Climate-Resilient Cities”, this year’s summit focused on community-driven solutions to urban climate challenges. Oorvani Foundation’s objective has always been to connect and empower citizens with the tools, information, and networks they need to drive positive change in their cities. The annual summit, which witnesses much collaboration, enthusiasm, and vigour, raises hope and reinforces faith in the fact that the future of our cities can largely be shaped by engaged citizens.

Photo Credits: Oorvani Foundation






# About Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation (RNPF)





The background is a light yellow color with several colorful kites (red, teal, yellow, purple) and yellow brushstroke-like confetti scattered across it. A central square frame with a green border and white dots contains the text.

OUR GOAL

**A Quest for a  
Strong Samaaj**



## FY 24-25 Snapshot

TOTAL GRANTS (IN INR)

**118.22 Crores**

NUMBER OF PARTNERS

**155**

### VALUES

*Trust, Curiosity, Empathy,  
Embracing Failure, Humble – Not Modest*

### COMMITMENTS

*Unrestricted Funds, Multi-Year Grants,  
A Learning Partner*

### BEYOND GRANTS

*Collaborative Philanthropy, Research,  
Convenings, Content, Capacity Building*

### KEY PORTFOLIOS

*Climate & Environment, Mental Health,  
Active Citizenship, Access to Justice,  
Laayak – Young Men & Boys*

### OTHER PORTFOLIOS

*Ecosystem Building, Arts & Culture,  
Research and Academia*



# Our Board



***Rohini Nilekani***

Chairperson,  
Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies



***Nihar Nilekani***

Board Member,  
Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies



# The Team



**Abhishek Das**

Portfolio Lead



**Gautam John**

Chief Executive Officer



**Natasha Joshi**

Associate Director, Portfolio



**Poorna Sandhya Somashekar**

Executive Assistant  
and Office Manager



**Sahana Jose**

Associate Director,  
Communications



**Shruti Sundaresan**

Communications and  
Community Engagement Lead



**Srinidhi K**

Finance Lead



**Suresh Ponappa**

Chief Financial Officer



**Tanya Kak**

Portfolio Lead,  
Climate & Environment





To share the learnings of a 10-month-long digital campaign with micro influencers, CEQUIN India hosted a national conference, '#MardonWaliBaat: Unpacking Patriarchy, Gender Stereotypes & the Shaping of Indian Masculinities' at the India Habitat Centre in March 2025. The event brought together powerful experts and speakers from various fields such as the development sector, politics, media, cinema, funding, and academia.

It opened up space for deep, powerful dialogues on the changing masculinities in modern India and the strategies needed to engage men and boys as leaders in gender-transformative efforts. This conference created a powerful platform to unpack the social conditioning that shapes masculinities in India.

Photo credits: Daljeet Singh







# Our Portfolios & Partners

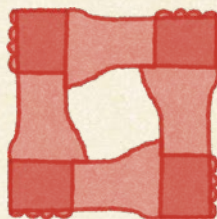




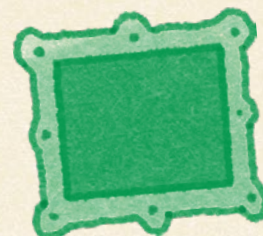
## Our Portfolios



*Access to Justice*



*Active Citizenship*



*Arts & Culture*



*Climate & Environment*



*Ecosystem Building*



*Laayak*



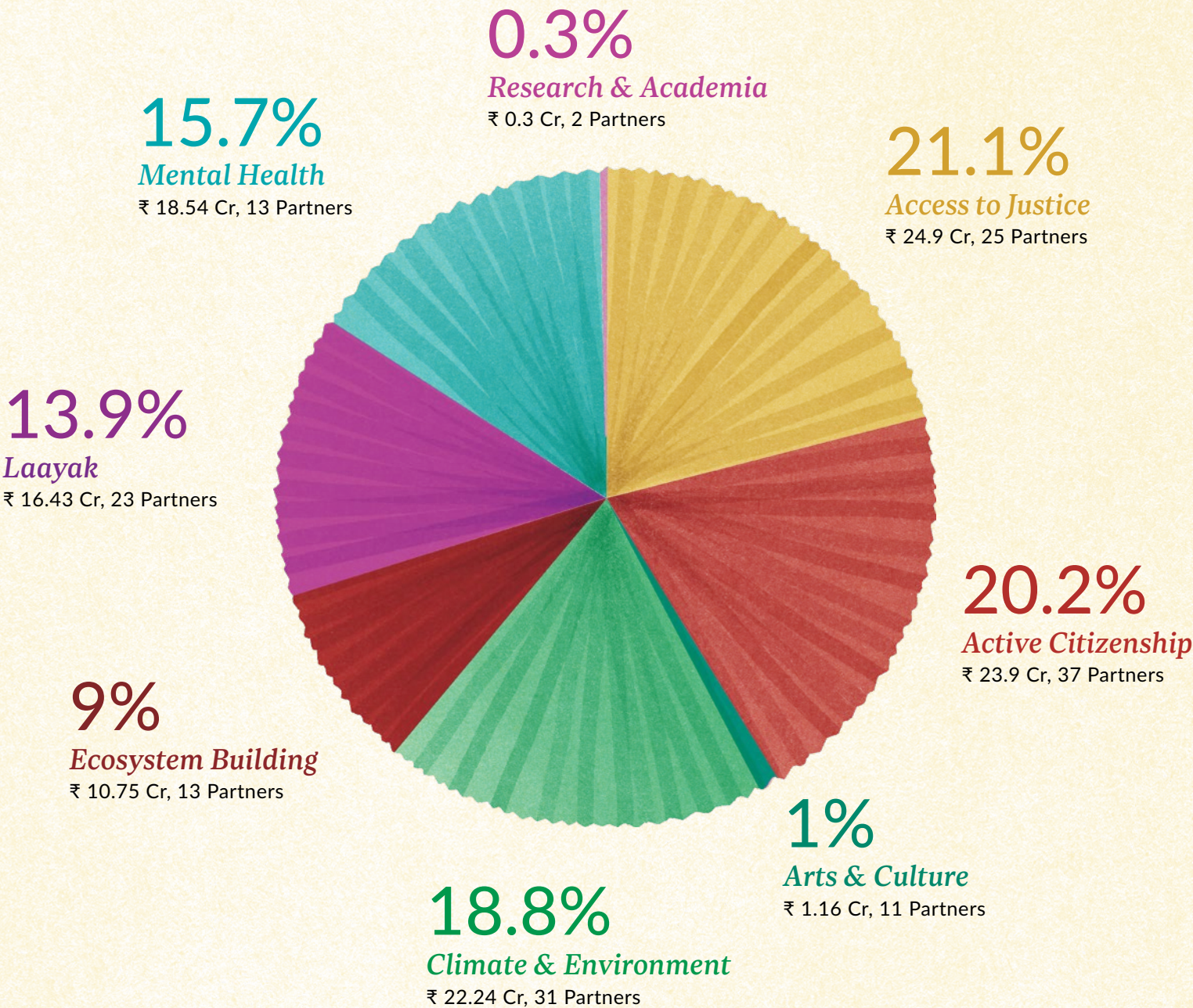
*Mental Health*



*Research & Academia*



Grants Given (in INR)



₹ 118.22 Cr 155

Total Grants Given Partners



## Our Partners

### Active Citizenship

Action for Community  
Organisation, Rehabilitation and  
Development (ACCORD)  
ALM Prayog Seva Samaj  
Anubhuti Charitable Trust  
Association for Rural & Urban Needy  
CIVIS  
ComMutiny: The Youth Collective  
CounterMedia Trust  
DPML Learning Foundation  
Foundation for Social  
Transformation (FST)  
Fundamental Pillar Association  
Goonj

Haiyya Foundation  
India Rising Trust  
Indus Action  
Jhatkaa.org  
Make a Difference (MAD)  
Movement for Scavenger Community  
Nagrika  
Nirvanavan Foundation  
Oorvani Foundation  
Praja Foundation  
Pravah  
Reap Benefit  
Responsive Governance and  
Transformation Foundation

Sahjani Shiksha Kendra  
Samavesh Society for Development  
SaveLife Foundation  
SEARCH  
Socratus Foundation for  
Collective Wisdom  
Synergy Sansthan  
The Action North East Trust (the ant)  
UNICEF  
VikasAnvesh Foundation  
We The People Abhiyan (WTPA)  
World Comics India  
Yugantar

### Climate & Environment

Centre for Budget and  
Policy Studies (CBPS)  
Centre for Sustainable Agriculture  
Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS)  
Clean Coonoor  
CommonsTech Foundation  
Council of Philanthropies For Climate  
Action (India Climate Collaborative)  
Council on Energy, Environment  
and Water (CEEW)  
DustyFoot Foundation  
Environmental Defense India  
Foundation (EDIF)  
Ferns Naturalists Society  
Indian Institute of Science  
Education and Research - Mohali  
Indian Institute of Science Education  
and Research - Tirupati  
Keystone Foundation

Krapavis  
Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)  
People for Animals  
Prayas  
ReefWatch Marine Conservation  
Sahjeevan  
Second Chance Sanctuary  
SEEDS  
The Shola Trust  
Utthan  
Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy  
Waste Warriors  
Water, Environment, Land and  
Livelihoods (WELL) Labs  
Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR)  
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)  
Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT)  
Wildlife SOS  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

### Mental Health

Aagaaz Theatre Trust  
ApniShala Foundation  
Herbertpur Christian Hospital  
Medecins Sans Frontieres India  
Mithra Trust  
National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)  
NIMHANS  
One Billion Literates Foundation (OBLF)  
Prakriti Foundation  
Sangath  
Society for Nutrition Education  
and Health Action (SNEHA)  
Vihara Innovation Foundation  
Viridus

### Research & Academia

Pratham Education Foundation  
University of Transdisciplinary Health,  
Science and Technology (TDU)



## Our Partners

### *Access To Justice*

Agami  
 Anubhuti Trust  
 Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives Trust (AALI)  
 Counsel to Secure Justice  
 Daksh  
 IDIA Charitable Trust  
 Indian Justice Report (IJR)  
 iProbono  
 Justice Initiative Foundation  
 LAW Foundation  
 Madhav Menon Leadership Foundation  
 Neev Foundation for Legal Aid  
 Prayas - TISS  
 Prison Aid + Action Research (PAAR)  
 Project 39A, NLU Delhi  
 Project Second Chance (TYCIA Foundation)  
 South Asia Women Foundation India (SAWFN)  
 Studio Nilima  
 Sumanasa Foundation  
 The Migration and Asylum Project (MAP)  
 The Square Circle Clinic (NALSAR University of Law)  
 The Yuva Ekta Foundation  
 Vayam  
 Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy  
 Zenith Society

### *Arts & Culture*

Chennai Photo Biennale  
 Forum for Knowledge and Social Impact  
 INTACH  
 Itivrat Foundation  
 Kalavahini  
 Kalkerī Sangeet Vidyālaya  
 Kathalaya  
 Ooty Literary Festival  
 Sanket Trust  
 The Community Library  
 Vakku Development And Media Consulting Private Limited

### *Laayak*

Bebaak Collective Sanstha  
 Breakthrough Trust  
 Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3)  
 Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ)  
 CEQUIN  
 EMpower India Trust  
 Equal Community Foundation (ECF)  
 Equidiversity  
 Gender Lab Foundation  
 I M Every Woman (Durga)  
 International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)  
 KC Mahindra Education Trust  
 Maraa  
 Men Against Violence & Abuse (MAVA)  
 Milaan Foundation  
 Nirantar Trust  
 Patang  
 Population Foundation of India (PFI)  
 Project Khel (Society for Development Activities)  
 PUKAR  
 Sukhibhava Foundation  
 Swayam  
 WeLive Foundation

### *Ecosystem Building*

Ashoka Innovators for the Public  
 Atma  
 Development Management Foundation  
 Ekyam Impact Foundation  
 Foundation for Accelerating Philanthropy (AIP)  
 Friends of Moral ReArmament India  
 Impact Foundation (India)  
 Lend A Hand India  
 National Foundation For India  
 Pratham Books  
 T4G Impact Tech Foundation  
 T4G Tech4Good Labs LLP  
 The AF Trust (Acumen)





As shared by a workshop facilitator at the National Mental Health Festival: "Manotsava felt like opening the pages of an inspiring book, with each event, workshop, and installation unfolding as a new chapter, bringing fresh perspectives to light. The festival told a story through themes of resilience, empathy, community, and self-discovery; each 'chapter' inviting us into a world where mental health is destigmatized, dignified, and deeply valued."

Manotsava, RNP's first public engagement platform on mental health, explored diverse themes - dementia, ADHD, ageing, sports, gender, art, addictions, climate change, parenting, cinema, and more. It celebrated lived experience and community while drawing on research and science. With continued support from researchers, mental health practitioners, creative professionals, the social sector, and the public, we hope Manotsava grows into a space that fuels more such festivals, dialogues & ideas around mental health and well-being.

Photo credits: Wilmarcs Motion Pictures



# Strategic Highlights

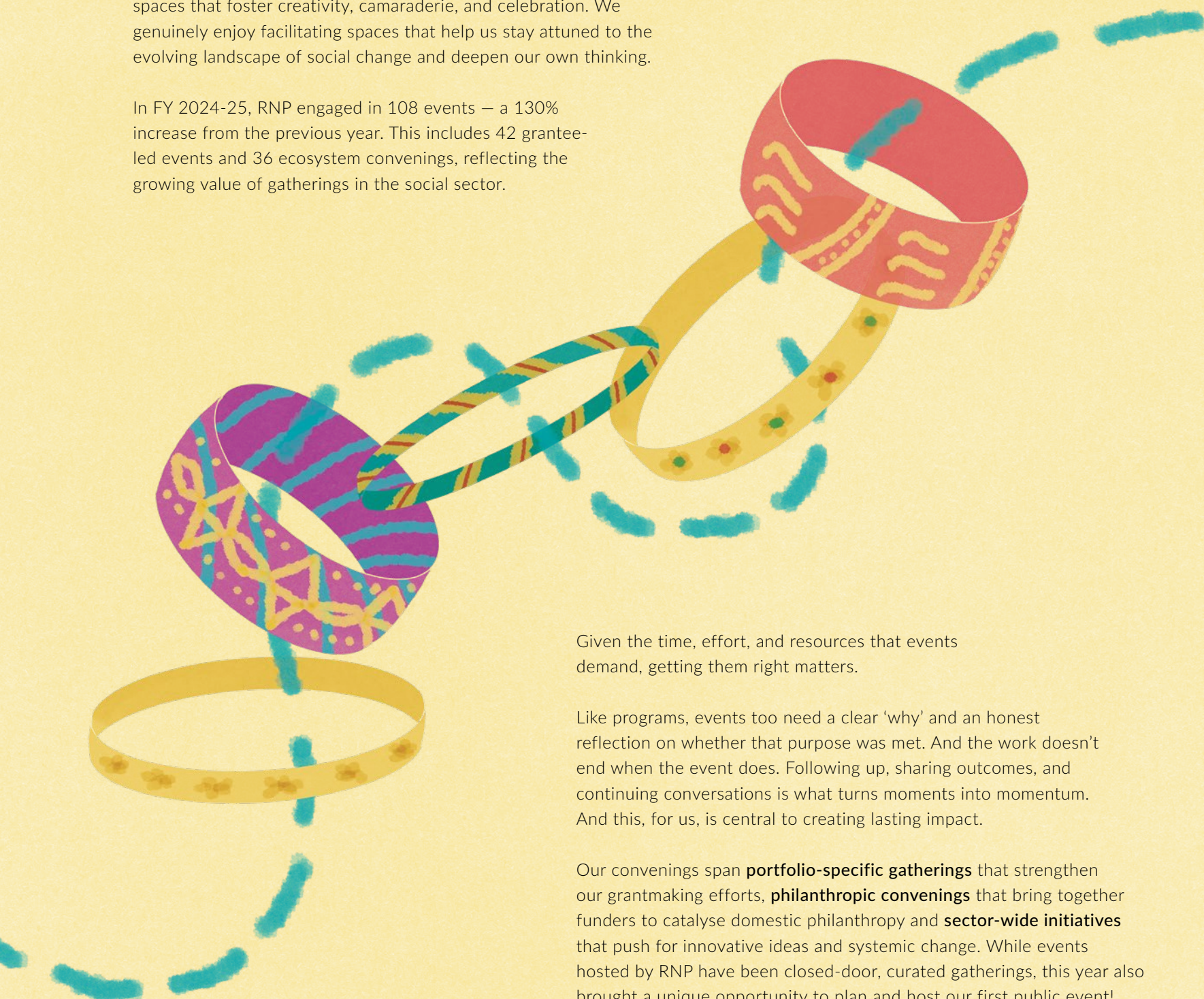




# Coming Together With Purpose

At RNP, we've always viewed convenings as thoughtfully designed spaces that foster creativity, camaraderie, and celebration. We genuinely enjoy facilitating spaces that help us stay attuned to the evolving landscape of social change and deepen our own thinking.

In FY 2024-25, RNP engaged in 108 events — a 130% increase from the previous year. This includes 42 grantee-led events and 36 ecosystem convenings, reflecting the growing value of gatherings in the social sector.



Given the time, effort, and resources that events demand, getting them right matters.

Like programs, events too need a clear 'why' and an honest reflection on whether that purpose was met. And the work doesn't end when the event does. Following up, sharing outcomes, and continuing conversations is what turns moments into momentum. And this, for us, is central to creating lasting impact.

Our convenings span **portfolio-specific gatherings** that strengthen our grantmaking efforts, **philanthropic convenings** that bring together funders to catalyse domestic philanthropy and **sector-wide initiatives** that push for innovative ideas and systemic change. While events hosted by RNP have been closed-door, curated gatherings, this year also brought a unique opportunity to plan and host our first public event!



## RNP's Portfolio Events

### Ndeavour — RNP's Climate & Environment portfolio gathering

In October 2024, 35 partners from RNP's Climate & Environment portfolio convened for the very first time. Titled *Ndeavour*, this event consolidated insights from our partners' conservation and biodiversity efforts while integrating climate as a cross-cutting lens.

The agenda included narrative-building from lived and organisational experiences, problem-solving on complex climate issues, and sessions on climate tech, generative AI in storytelling, and sustainable food systems.

Centering diverse voices and varied expertise, *Ndeavour* brought to the surface shared challenges, helped refine RNP's grantmaking strategy within this portfolio, and identified emerging pathways for collective climate action.



*“The reason we do these portfolio gatherings is so we can learn from you, to learn if we’re on the right track, if we are doing what is needed in the larger Samaaj.”*

Rohini Nilekani (Chairperson, RNP)





## Manotsava — National Mental Health Festival

The 2023 launch of the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind underscored the need for a public platform to connect mental health research with society. Recognising this, RNP, NCBS, and NIMHANS joined hands to co-host Manotsava, a National Mental Health Festival designed to make mental health research more accessible and community-centric. The two-day public festival was preceded by a dedicated symposium for researchers to explore advancements in neuroscience.

Manotsava, held at NIMHANS in October 2024 brought together over 2,300 attendees for panel discussions, workshops, installations, stalls, and conversations with more than 120 speakers — a significant chapter in our story. The positive feedback and sustained interest from our partners and attendees affirmed that Manotsava sparked meaningful conversations with the potential to create lasting impact, and we are optimistic that its resonance will endure for years to come.

*“It was phenomenal to see the kind of interest that the festival garnered. It reflects the growing interest and need for further research and support in mental health. The sessions were curated well and had a good balance of theoretical and practical experiences.”*

— Festival Attendee



## Strengthening Domestic Philanthropy

### Building a collaborative philanthropy agenda for climate action

In July 2024, RNP, Rainmatter Foundation, and the India Climate Collaborative (ICC) co-hosted the India Climate Leaders Meeting, a closed-door gathering of Indian philanthropic leaders to shape a long-term domestic climate action agenda. Grounded in equity and local context, the meeting aligned with the national climate goals while contributing to a broader Global South narrative.

Over 35 leading philanthropies, along with their principals, CEOs and family offices, explored funding gaps, shared insights, and discussed strategies to mobilise funding for climate action.

### Women-Givers Meet-Up

Co-hosted by Rohini Nilekani and Vidya Shah, the Women-Givers Meet-Up held in Mumbai, brought together 21 women donors for a meaningful conversation on agency and growth in philanthropy.

Building on this momentum, the group reconvened virtually in January 2025 to discuss evolving approaches to impact measurement. This discussion emphasised the need for a balanced framework that integrates trust with accountability and the power of unrestricted funding.

Looking ahead, the group plans to explore thematic collaborations and organise its next in-person gathering in the coming year.

India Climate Leaders Meeting





## Catalysing the Ecosystem

### Building financial resilience in the social sector

While programme leads and senior leadership often find opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another, this level of interaction and cross-learning is rarely extended to finance teams. In August 2024, Dasra, with RNP's support, convened a Community of Practice (CoP) workshop in Guwahati, bringing together CFOs from philanthropic foundations and nonprofits. A key takeaway was reframing financial management as a strategic driver of organisational sustainability.

Insights from the CFOs gathering, coupled with tailored discussions with finance professionals in the sector, led to the creation of [PATTIC](#) (People's Alliance for Trust & Transparency in Civil Society Organisations). PATTIC, a collaborative, practitioner-driven platform anchored by Saathi Development Services and Aikyam Fellows, and supported by RNP, was launched and piloted in 2024.

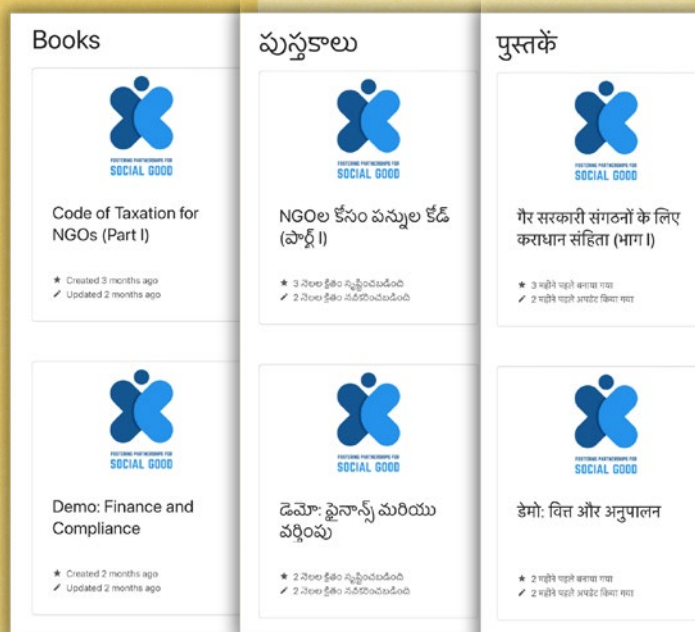
### Public Tech: Tragedy or opportunity of the commons?

*As public technology aligns with human agency and the energy of community-led change, one pressing question emerges: could public tech unlock a new path toward equity and social good?*

In September 2024, RNP supported a session at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), co-organised by some of our partners in the Active Citizenship portfolio (Indus Action, Haqdarshak, Reap Benefit, Youth Ki Awaaz) and the Centre for Exponential Change.

The discussion explored how the scaling of Digital Public Goods (DPGs) and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can drive meaningful citizen engagement and unlock social benefits for the Global South.

#### Our partners at UNGA



Multi-lingual screens from the PATTIC knowledge base







## Spirit of a Hearth — Advancing wellbeing for changemakers

Following the success of The Wellbeing Project's 2022 Global Summit in Bilbao, Spain, the [Bangalore Hearth Summit](#) became one of 15 regional gatherings in 2024.

Hosted by Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC) in November, it brought together over 200 changemakers working in climate, health, justice, equity and education. The event focused on the importance of wellbeing — starting with self-care, strengthening organisational health, and building resilient communities. Together, participants explored how these priorities can help tackle our most pressing global challenges.

Building on last year's learnings, we aim to deepen our understanding of portfolio thematic and enhance our approach to giving through more focused, small-group interactions. We also look forward to hosting the second edition of Manotsava later this year!

*“Let wellbeing be a cornerstone. Every time you discuss annual budgets, include your plan for wellbeing. Let’s make this a global movement — for changemakers to first be well, so they can nurture the wellbeing of the Samaaj.”*

—Rohini Nilekani  
(Advisory Board Member,  
The Wellbeing Project)

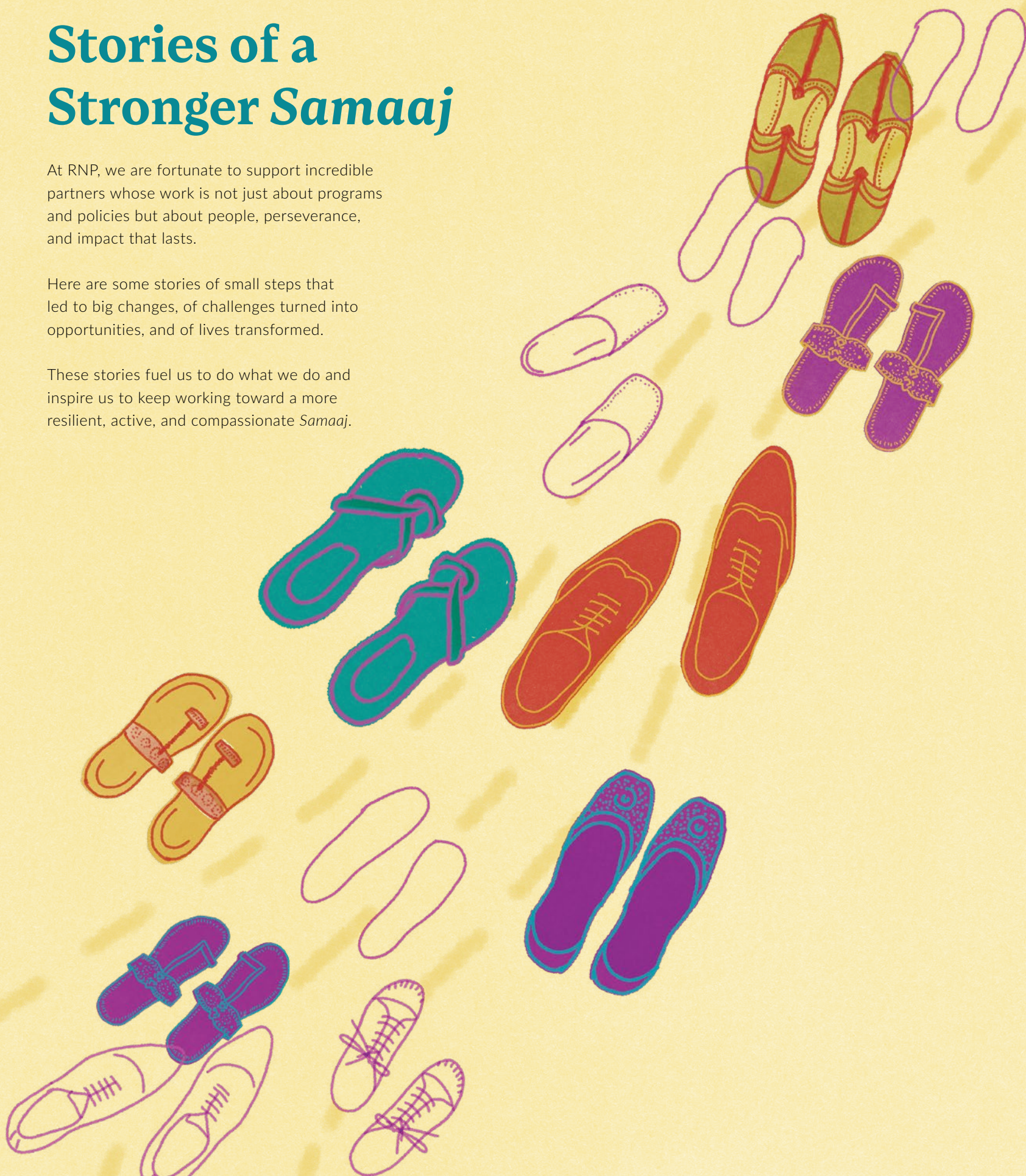


# Stories of a Stronger Samaaj

At RNP, we are fortunate to support incredible partners whose work is not just about programs and policies but about people, perseverance, and impact that lasts.

Here are some stories of small steps that led to big changes, of challenges turned into opportunities, and of lives transformed.

These stories fuel us to do what we do and inspire us to keep working toward a more resilient, active, and compassionate *Samaaj*.





## KRAPAVIS

# Communities at the Heart of Conservation

In December 2024, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment in response to a writ petition filed by *Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan* (KRAPAVIS), which addresses the rights of local communities and the conservation of Orans, Dev-vans, and Rundhs – Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Rajasthan.

KRAPAVIS also played a crucial role in data collection and mapping of Orans of Aravallis, published as the 'Oran Atlas of Aravallis of Rajasthan', which was used in the SC case.

**The judgment has created concrete guidelines for conserving 25,000 Orans, covering approximately 600,000 hectares of land. The Supreme Court also directed the urgent recognition of Sacred Groves in Rajasthan, which hold immense ecological value and are deeply revered in local cultures.** These Sacred Groves will now be protected under Section 36-C of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which allows for the declaration of 'community reserves'.

Additionally, the Supreme Court has suggested that Oran communities be recognised under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), which is a critical step toward empowering these communities as legitimate stakeholders in conservation efforts.

Beyond Rajasthan, the Court has also directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to create a national policy for the governance and management of sacred groves across the country.

The involvement of local communities as custodians of sacred sites and ecosystems has long been a central principle of community-driven conservation, and this ruling is a significant victory not only for India but for conservation efforts worldwide.





## PUCAR

### Taking Courts to the People

The High Court of Kerala took a bold step forward in making the judicial process open and people-centric by launching the ON Court – an open and networked court in Kollam, that will be literally on 24\*7.

Litigants, lawyers, and judges can take asynchronous actions from anywhere at any time in this court, ensuring progress in a case without waiting for the next date of hearing. The ON court will be networked with the surrounding ecosystem to enable seamless movement of information between institutions. Citizens will not have to run from pillar to post, and litigants will get proactive alerts and guidance on the next steps from its system. Starting with cheque dishonour disputes, which consist of over 10% of pending cases, it will soon be scaled across the state to deal with other disputes.

**The spirit of openness is really at the heart of this court, even in the process of its creation. This process was led by Public Collective for Avoidance and Resolution of Disputes (PUCAR), an Agami-led collaborative of diverse changemakers that came together to address overburdened courts through an ecosystem approach.**

## CIVIS

### Engaged Citizenry for a Thriving Democracy

Public consultations are a cornerstone of a thriving democracy, ensuring that laws, policies, and regulations reflect the needs and aspirations of the people they impact. CIVIS has been instrumental in making this process accessible, transparent, and inclusive by simplifying legal documents, gathering public feedback, and presenting it to decision-makers in a structured manner.

**Through its platform, CIVIS has empowered citizens from diverse backgrounds to voice their opinions on issues ranging from environmental policies and urban development to data privacy and social welfare. CIVIS recently completed 1,000 public consultations, which is a testament to the growing culture of civic engagement in India.**

This achievement, unlocked in less than 7 years since its founding, underscores its vital role in bridging the gap between policymakers and citizens while fostering participatory governance in India. As CIVIS continues its mission, this milestone serves as a reminder of the collective power of engaged citizens in shaping a more accountable and responsive governance system.



## POPULATION FOUNDATION OF INDIA (PFI)

## Driving Digital Dialogue on Sexual & Reproductive Health

Field insights by Population Foundation of India (PFI) reveal that young people are increasingly turning to social media influencers and online platforms for sexual & reproductive health (SRH) information, albeit accurate and reliable content is often missing in these spaces. Adolescents in particular face barriers such as cultural taboos, limited family dialogue, and restricted access to trustworthy resources.

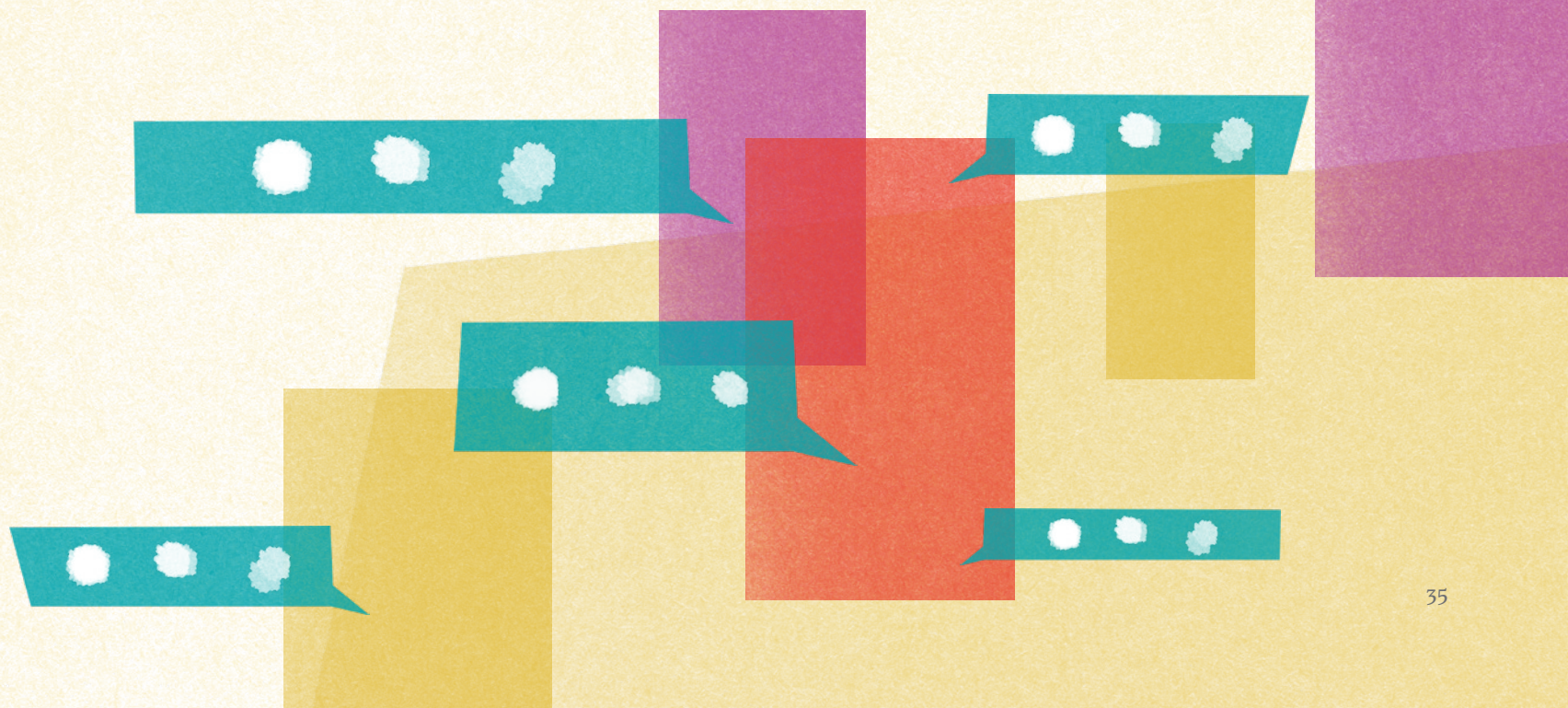
**Misinformation on topics like contraception, menstrual health, masculinity, and gender equality remains widespread, with contraception largely viewed as a woman's responsibility.**

Through its digital engagement initiative targeting young people and adolescents, particularly via its AI-powered chatbot, *SnehAI*, the foundation has reached over 300,000 active users across Facebook and WhatsApp.

With approximately 13 million messages exchanged and a 46% return rate, the chatbot continues to be regularly enhanced in consultation with experts. It addresses a range of critical topics, including contraception, puberty, violence, sexuality, consent, relationships, and sexual health.

Digital campaigns have focused on fostering inclusive, stigma-free conversations on SRH, reaching over 2 million accounts through collaborations with 21 content creators (from Sep '23 to Mar '25), and over 37 million accounts through digital campaigns (June '23 to Dec '24), generating 45 million video views and over 730,000 engagements.

Campaigns such as *#IshqWithoutRisk*, *#SustainableTogether*, *#DeshBadlegaJabMardBadlega*, and *#MainKuchBhiKarSaktiHoon* have seen strong traction, with repurposed Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) content helping ensure lasting impact.



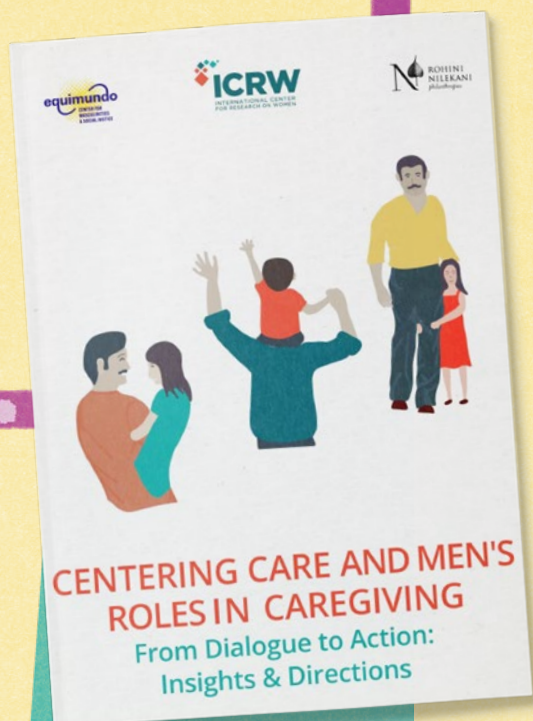


# Research That Informs

## Fatherhood & Caregiving Dynamics

Last year, the [International Centre for Research on Women \(ICRW\)](#) and [Equimundo](#), supported by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, conducted a qualitative study to explore caregiving dynamics in India. The study combined a survey of 830 participants (men & women) across five states, with 13 in-person focus groups and 12 interviews across four states.

*Findings reveal that caregiving remains deeply influenced by gender norms, with men primarily associating their role with financial provision while women continue to bear the majority of household responsibilities. However, shifting attitudes suggest increasing acceptance of men's involvement in caregiving, presenting an opportunity to challenge traditional norms.*



In November, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies launched the findings of this study at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The launch was accompanied by an expert consultation during which participants emphasised the importance of prioritising practical, collective action over perfection. The discussion highlighted the many valuable resources and networks already in place and stressed the importance of connecting these resources more cohesively.

Equitable caregiving is essential to achieving gender equality and creating compassionate communities. Reframing care, building contextual evidence, crafting impactful narratives, designing inclusive programs, and advocating for systemic change can pave the way for a society where caregiving is valued as a shared responsibility. This consultation serves as a starting point for conversations and actions to integrate gender and masculinity in the discourse on care, caregiving and the care economy.



Scan the QR code  
to read the report



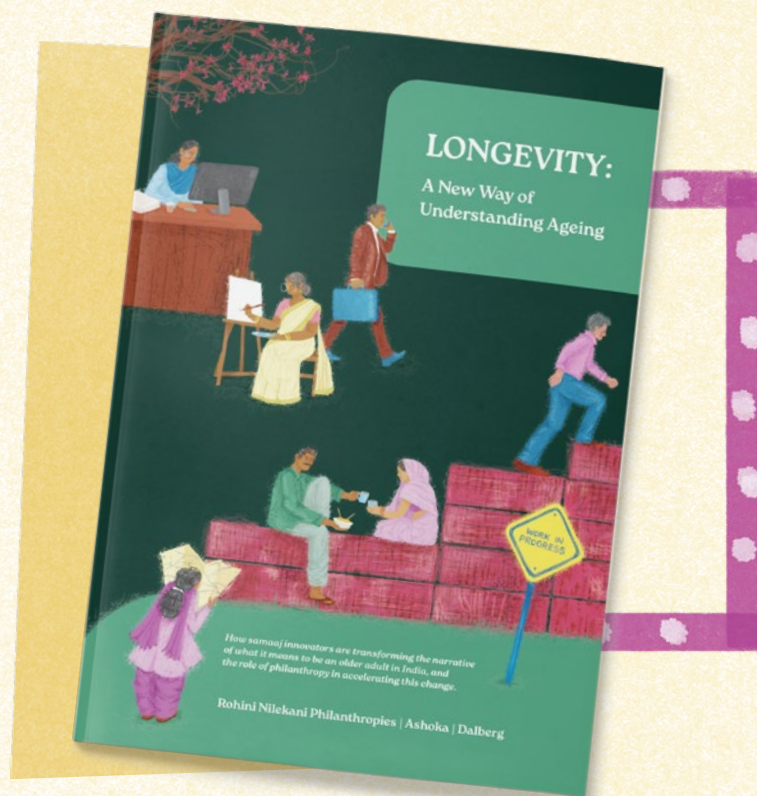
## Ageing & Longevity in India

Last year, RNP, in collaboration with [Dalberg Advisors](#) and [Ashoka Changemakers](#), commissioned a study on ageing and longevity in India. The research culminated in a report “**Longevity: A New Way of Understanding Ageing**”, which seeks to reshape the narrative around ageing through a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach – focusing not just on longer lives, but better ones.

The report draws on ten months of conversations with leading organisations in the ageing space, offering diverse insights on longevity, ecosystem gaps, and areas for intervention. Contributors include Carers Worldwide, WisdomCircle, Vayah Vikas, Silver Talkies, HelpAge India, Nightingale Medical Trust, AARP, and others, supplemented by interviews with over 15 additional experts in the field.

*This research aims to spotlight ageing in India, a critical issue often overshadowed by the dominant focus on the country’s demographic dividend. Despite having over 100 million people aged 60 and above, this population remains underserved, and their needs remain underexplored.*

*With the elderly population set to double in the next decade and the dependency ratio rising, the socio-economic pressure could slow growth if not addressed thoughtfully.*



The study also seeks to reframe ageing as a phase of joyful and purposeful living. Traditionally viewed through the lens of healthcare and longevity, ageing now calls for a more holistic approach, one that draws from global examples (like Japan and Singapore) to focus on meaning, purpose, and wellbeing in later life.

This report seeks to catalyze action across multiple stakeholders, especially philanthropies and the private sector. Traditionally, care for the elderly has been led by government programs or families, but with a growing ageing population and shifts such as nuclear families and technology, ageing is also a significant market. The study highlights opportunities for all stakeholders to reimagine their role in supporting India’s elderly.



Scan the QR code  
to read the report



# Emergent Thinking: Navigating Complexity Through Collaborative Learning

At RNP, we are interested not only in confronting the present challenges that plague society, but also in sharpening our gaze to see what's emerging to inform our future. Unlike linear or rigid models of thought, emergent thinking recognises that solutions often arise from the interplay of diverse perspectives, unpredictable influences, and evolving systems.

This mindset is particularly critical in navigating modern challenges, where traditional methods may fall short. By supporting organisations and initiatives that foster localised innovation and knowledge-sharing, we are focusing on the following:

## Heat Preparedness and Resilience

Heatwaves in India are increasing in both frequency and intensity, significantly impacting public health, livelihoods, and infrastructure. The number of heatwave days from March to September has risen 15-fold between 1993 and 2022. Urban areas experience exacerbated temperatures due to the urban heat island effect, with cities like Delhi recording temperatures exceeding 50°C. Approximately 49% of Indian workers are employed outdoors, making them particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.

This brings us to a critical question: how can we co-design and unpack challenges from a community-centric lens, yet make space for policy advocacy, influence, and private engagement?



Our partner, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), as part of the Climate Resilience Atlas, is advancing climate data access, automating heat action plans, and addressing heat stress in India's dairy and livestock sector. Sustainable Futures Collaborative (SFC) is building critical evidence on Indian cities' preparedness for

long-term heat-related issues. Prayas Energy Group is improving heat adaptation in Pune through research and community engagement, and exploring how vulnerable groups such as street vendors and construction workers experience and cope with heat stress at work and home.

### *Key Learning Questions*

- How do different groups experience heat stress, and how can we centre the most vulnerable communities in addressing its impacts?
- What role can communities play in identifying and implementing heat resilience measures, and how can institutional and policy gaps be addressed collaboratively?
- What innovations—technological or social—can enhance localised heat forecasting, response, and support for affected populations, including mental health impacts on the labour force?

Through focused group discussions and learning grants, we hope to synthesise our insights at a thematic level in the coming months.



## Disaster Preparedness, Relief, and Resilience

In 2024, India saw extreme weather for 322 days, leading to 3,472 fatalities – 15% more than the previous three years. Climate change threatens to reduce India's GDP by up to 25% by 2070.

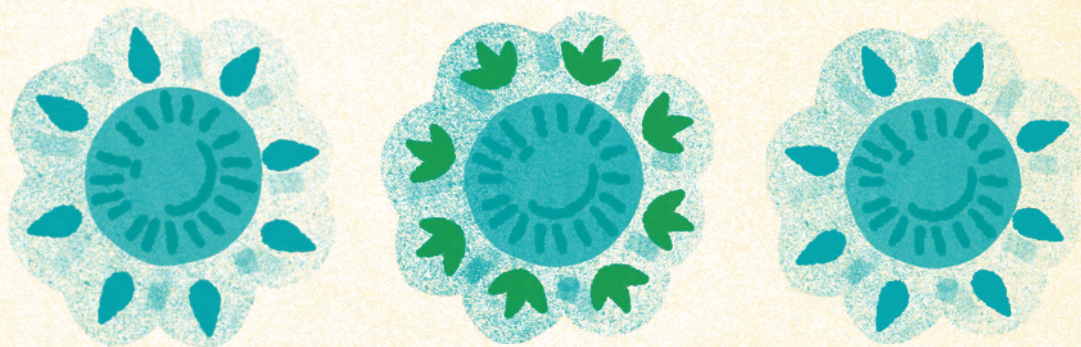
Philanthropy has a crucial role to play in shifting this paradigm to address disaster preparedness and resilience in the wake of climate change. At RNP, supporting organisations like Goonj and SEEDS have highlighted the importance of community-centred disaster response and recovery. For e.g., SEEDS, through a disaster wallet, Akshvi, demonstrates how technology can empower local communities to better prepare for and respond to disasters. Akshvi enables real-time data collection and community-driven decision-making, allowing local populations to take proactive steps towards disaster resilience.

### *Key Learning Questions*

- > How can disaster relief be reimagined to strengthen resilience, prevention, and local leadership, and what role does philanthropy play in supporting these efforts?
- > How can philanthropic capital accelerate climate and disaster resilience, and where can it have the most impact in anticipatory action models to minimise loss and damage?

Reimagining disaster response means investing in anticipatory action, enhancing early warning systems, and supporting knowledge-sharing networks. In the months to come, we are embarking on a learning and field-building journey to see where philanthropy's role is most additive to address disaster preparedness and resilience.





## Sustainable Agriculture & Agroecology

Agriculture in India is vulnerable to erratic weather, soil degradation, and water scarcity, affecting smallholder farmers the most. Agroecology offers a holistic solution to the climate crisis by blending ecological sustainability with food sovereignty and social equity. We believe that philanthropy can accelerate transitions away from environmentally harmful practices

while supporting farmers' incomes and well-being. By investing in agroecology, we aim to build climate resilience, restore ecosystems, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Through partnerships with organisations promoting agroecological practices such as the Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) and the Consortium for Agroecological Transformations (CAT),

we see how knowledge exchange networks empower farmers to adopt sustainable practices. These solutions are dynamic, adapting to local contexts and evolving through collective problem-solving. By embracing emergent thinking, we prioritise investments that cultivate regenerative landscapes and resilient livelihoods.

### *Key Learning Questions*

- > How can farmer-to-farmer learning networks be strengthened for wider agroecological transitions?
- > What innovative financing models can support farmers through ecological shifts?
- > How can localised data and indigenous knowledge inform adaptive agricultural practices?




# Digital Samaaj

The Digital is Social.

Digital technologies are no longer just a tool. They are mediums and environments that are interacting with society in ways that are emergent, changing, and unpredictable. Society and technology are evolving together—and doing so at an increasingly rapid pace.

Alongside using technology for innovation, it is important to understand the various impacts that technology is having on social understandings and processes. As a philanthropy, we believe that a deeper examination of the unintended consequences of technology is unavoidable. It is important to state that these unintended consequences are not necessarily harmful. Many unintended effects of technology have, in the past, delivered unexpected positive outcomes.

*We are not limiting ourselves to the immediate applications and instrumentality of new technology, which is why we choose to call this Digital Samaaj and not responsible/ethical AI or digital literacy.*



## Key Learning Questions

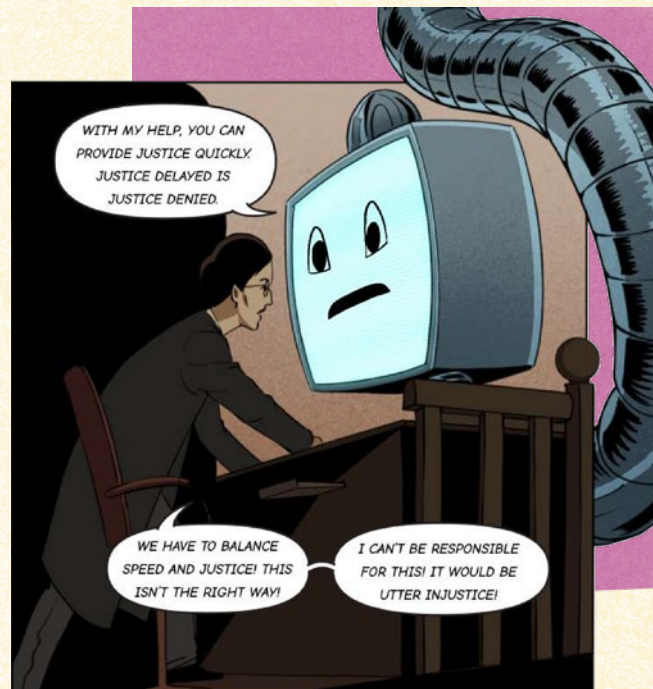
- > How can new digital technologies contribute to greater equity and resilience in society, or where might they fall short?
- > In what ways is the digital environment reshaping fundamental social structures such as work, education, and community life?
- > How does being immersed in a digital world influence the way individuals engage with and relate to the broader social fabric?



To understand these phenomena in a systematic way, we partnered with Digital Futures Lab on a project titled [Human in the Loop](#). We have started by exploring the fields of agriculture, justice, governance, and healthcare. In a day-long workshop, we came together with an interdisciplinary group, comprising AI tool developers, grassroots NGOs, media professionals, academic researchers, and artists, to collectively brainstorm, question, and imagine new possibilities.

We also used tools of forecasting that allowed us to imagine second, third, and fourth-order consequences of any AI intervention with frontline social workers. Based on their inputs, both positive as well as cautious, we are developing illustrated stories that reveal the layered and surprising ways in which humans might drive, and be driven by, technology.

In times of rapid change, stories and the arts become vital tools for expressing collective excitement and unease. They illuminate the emotions and values that shape how we think and make decisions. We hope that *Human in the Loop* will add an important dimension to the current discourse on artificial intelligence.

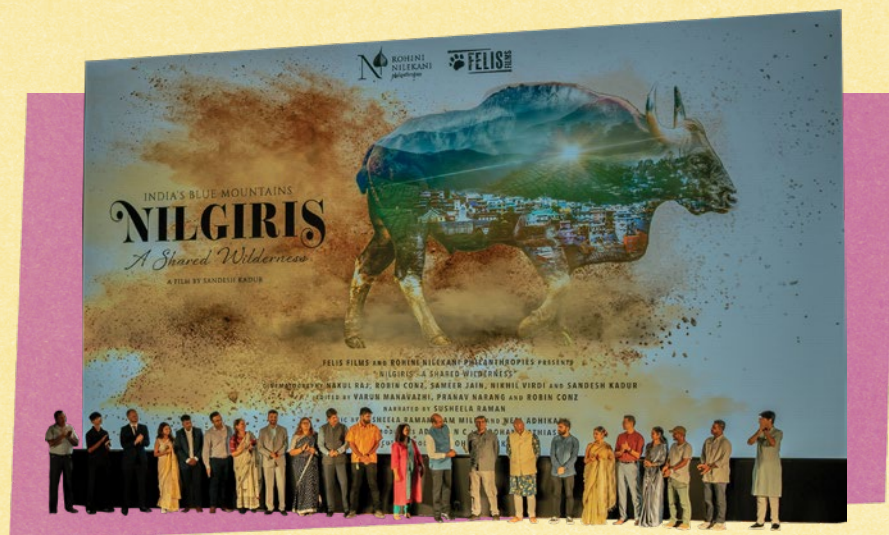




# Chairperson's Engagement

Over the past year, Rohini Nilekani championed two exciting projects, the film *Nilgiris – A Shared Wilderness* and the SCI560 exhibition at Science Gallery Bengaluru, both reflecting her passion for bringing people together around science & storytelling.

*Screenings held in Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Wellington, and New Delhi were followed by conversations with the filmmakers, offering insights into the creative process and challenges of shooting in natural environments.*



As Executive Producer of *Nilgiris – A Shared Wilderness*, Rohini collaborated with acclaimed filmmaker Sandesh Kadur to produce a documentary exploring the delicate yet resilient relationship between wildlife and human communities in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The film captures extraordinary stories of wildlife gracefully adapting to life amidst tea plantations and close to human settlements.

Released on November 3rd, the International Day for Biosphere Reserves, the documentary highlights the importance of preserving biodiversity and honours the invaluable contributions of local communities and forest officials.

In parallel, Rohini Nilekani supported SCI560 at Science Gallery Bengaluru, a dynamic exhibition celebrating Bengaluru's rich history and modern achievements in science and technology. Visitors experienced the city's scientific legacy through interactive exhibits like the iconic Hindustan Trainer 2 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, pioneering research on neutrinos in the Kolar Gold Fields, and the historic Bangalore Torpedo developed by the Madras Engineer Group.





Additionally, intriguing installations like “Bheja Fry,” a microscope revealing how memories form in the brain, and “Wingbeats and Warbles,” an immersive birdsong map showcasing Bengaluru’s rich biodiversity, sparked curiosity and engagement among visitors.

*The exhibition attracted over 2,00,000 attendees, both online and in person.*



*What made SCI560 impactful is its collaborative and interactive nature, blending scientific exploration with artistic storytelling. By gathering scientists, artists, storytellers, historians, and local residents in one shared space, the exhibition encouraged active participation and exchange of ideas, making science accessible and engaging for all ages.*

Rohini participated in several international forums last year where she continued her advocacy for a deeper Samaaj-centric approach to philanthropic giving. At the Skoll World Forum, held in April 2024 at Oxford, she joined Don Gips (CEO, Skoll Foundation) to discuss [Philanthropy’s Role in Change at Scale](#) — highlighting power imbalances in philanthropy, the need for greater trust and risk-taking, and the use of philanthropic capital as risk capital to back bold, imperfect ideas. They also launched the Centre for Exponential Change, a global network helping systems leaders and changemakers bridge critical gaps and scale impact through cross-sector collaboration.



At Mastercard’s Global Inclusive Growth Summit in Washington D.C., Rohini spoke on a panel at the forefront of climate action, advocating for equity, trust-building, and locally grounded solutions as essential for climate resilience. At the Global DPI Summit 2024 in Cairo, she underscored why Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) must be built with inclusion and safeguards at its core, as a foundational principle for a just and equitable digital future.

Through her leadership, Rohini continues to create spaces for meaningful interaction and community building. Her dedication to collective learning and action reinforces the belief that when people come together with curiosity and openness, powerful stories and transformative ideas naturally emerge.





The NilgiriScapes initiative served as a platform to convene over 250+ participants to address the complex socio-ecological realities of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR). The 2023 conference and 2024 conclave brought together diverse stakeholders to reflect on pressing themes such as habitat restoration, invasive species management, human-wildlife conflict, land use change, and the intersections of environmental, development, and community concerns.

The events included over 25 expert-led sessions featuring keynote addresses by scholars, legal insights, and ground-up narratives from Nilgiri residents, communities, and local schools. As a platform, NilgiriScapes has not only revitalised interest in the Nilgiris' unique ecological and cultural heritage but has also catalysed collective ownership of its future.

Photo credits: Nilgirisclapes Team/Vinayakan





# Financials





## Balance Sheet

Particulars (All amounts in 'lakhs' unless otherwise stated)	Note	As at March 31, 2025	As at March 31, 2024
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Shareholders' funds</b>			
Share capital	3	1.00	1.00
Reserves and surplus	4	82.84	208.20
		<b>83.84</b>	<b>209.20</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade payables	5		
Total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises		-	5.23
Total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro and small enterprises		0.90	7.30
Other current liabilities	6	39.78	22.00
		40.68	34.53
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>124.51</b>	<b>243.73</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant, equipment and intangible assets			
Property, plant, equipment	7	3.73	7.08
Other non-current assets	8	18.98	6.25
		<b>22.72</b>	<b>13.33</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	9	95.70	224.68
Other current assets	10	6.10	5.73
		<b>101.80</b>	<b>230.41</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>124.51</b>	<b>243.73</b>



## Statement of Income and Expenditure

Particulars (All amounts in 'lakhs' unless otherwise stated)	Note	As at March 31, 2025	As at March 31, 2024
<b>Income</b>			
Donation	11	13400.00	8900.00
Other income	12	40.42	29.25
<b>Total income</b>		<b>13440.42</b>	<b>8929.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Programme expenses	13	12862.45	8333.14
Employee benefits expense	14	443.42	372.88
Depreciation and amortisation expense	15	5.88	5.48
Other expenses	16	254.03	173.05
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>13565.78</b>	<b>8884.55</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>(125.36)</b>	<b>44.69</b>
<b>Tax expense</b>			
Current tax		-	-
Deferred tax		-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>(125.36)</b>	<b>44.69</b>
<b>Earnings per equity share:</b>			
[Nominal value per share: Rs. 10]			
Basic/Diluted (in Rs.)	25	<b>(1254.93)</b>	<b>446.89</b>



## Cash Flow Statement

Particulars (All amounts in 'lakhs' unless otherwise stated)	As at March 31, 2025	As at March 31, 2024
<b>A. Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Surplus over expenses	(125.36)	44.69
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortization	5.88	5.49
Interest received	(40.39)	(29.25)
<b>Operating profit before working capital changes</b>	<b>(159.87)</b>	<b>20.93</b>
<b>Adjustments for changes in working capital</b>		
<b>Adjustments for (increase) / decrease in operating assets</b>		
Other current assets	(12.77)	(8.04)
<b>Adjustments for increase / (decrease) in operating liabilities</b>		
Short term provisions excluding provision for taxes	-	-
Trade payables	(11.63)	(3.84)
Other current liabilities	17.77	(3.09)
<b>Operating surplus after working capital changes</b>	<b>(166.50)</b>	<b>5.97</b>
Direct taxes paid	(0.33)	(2.93)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>(166.83)</b>	<b>3.04</b>
<b>B. Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(2.54)	(7.88)
Interest received	40.39	29.25
<b>Net cash generated used in investing activities</b>	<b>37.86</b>	<b>21.37</b>
<b>C. Cash flow from financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



Particulars (All amounts in 'lakhs' unless otherwise stated)	As at March 31, 2025	As at March 31, 2024
D. Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)	(128.98)	24.41
E. Cash and cash equivalents – Opening balance	224.67	200.26
F. Cash and cash equivalents – Closing balance (D+E)	95.69	224.67
<b>Notes</b>		
1. The above cash flow statement has been prepared under the "Indirect Method" as set out in Accounting Standard - 3 Cash flow statements prescribed in the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014.		
2. The above cash flow statement has been compiled from and is based on the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2024 and the related Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ended on that date.		
3. <b>Components of cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand	-	-
Balances with banks:		
In current accounts	2.36	2.02
In deposit accounts	93.29	222.65
Other receivables	0.05	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95.70</b>	<b>224.67</b>



