



A SNAPSHOT 2026



Rohini Nilekani

CHAIRPERSON

Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation (RNPF)



PHILOSOPHY

SAMAAJ IS
FOUNDATIONAL

ROHINI'S LEGACY

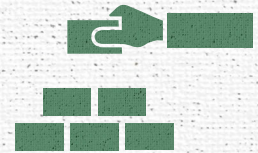
Giving since 1992



ORGANISATIONS FOUNDED/CO-FOUNDED

Nagarik • Pratham Books • Arghyam

EkStep Foundation • Center for Exponential Change



OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Author of 19 children's books & 3 published books

Most Generous Women in India since 2022 *Hurun India*



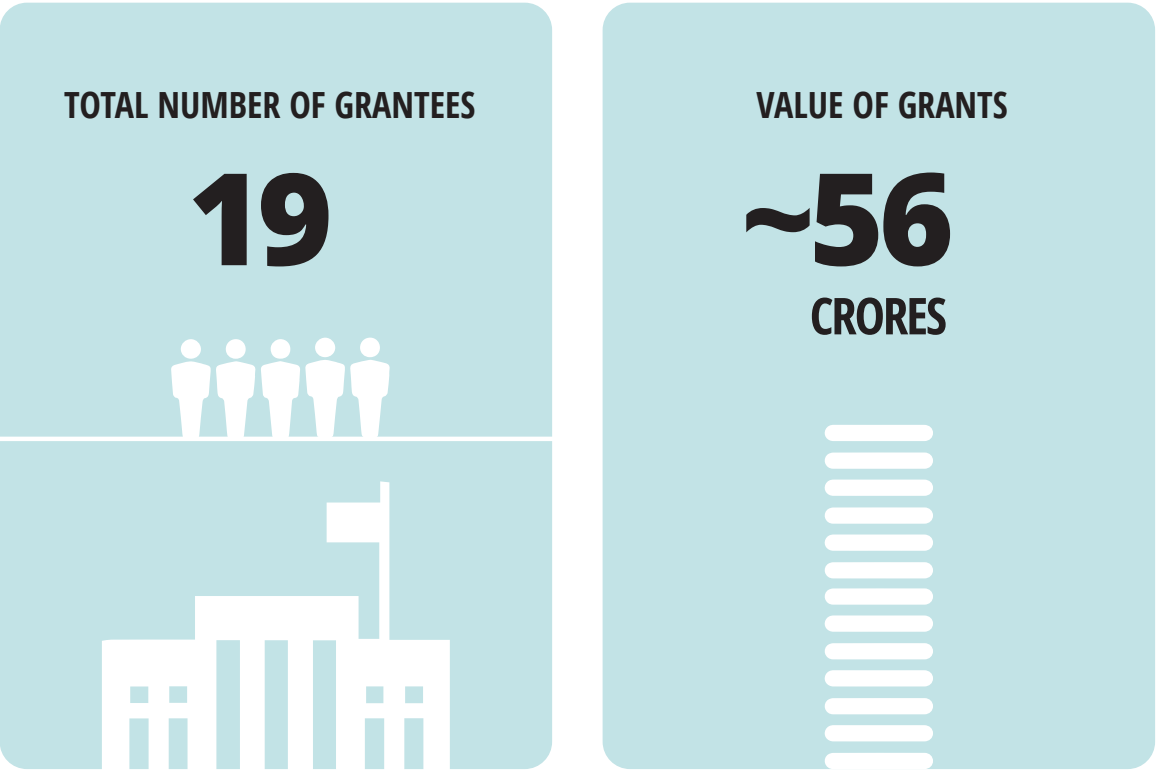
A Charitable Foundation registered under Sec 8 of the Companies Act 2023, RNPF is a grantmaking organisation seeking to create and strengthen communities for their own betterment.



RNPF does this by supporting ground-breaking work anchored in networks and movements and often sit at the intersection of Samaaj, Sarkaar, and Bazaar.

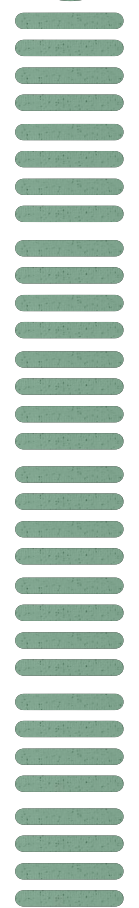
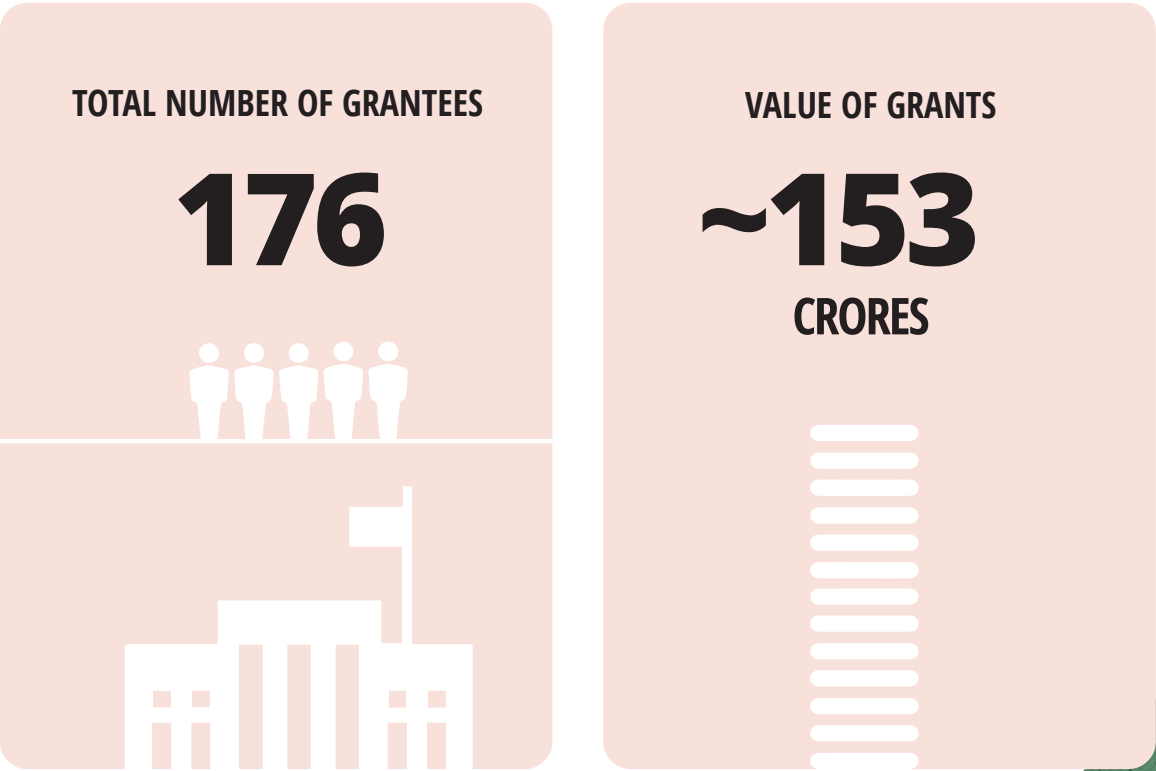
ROHINI NILEKANI

GRANTMAKING FIGURES | FY 2025 - 2026



ROHINI NILEKANI PHILANTHROPIES

GRANTMAKING FIGURES | FY 2025 - 2026



BOARD



Rohini Nilekani
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Dr. Nihar Nilekani
Board Member



Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Board Member

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Executive Assistant &
Operations Manager



Natasha Joshi
Chief Strategy Officer



Sahana Jose
Chief Community Officer



Srinidhi K
Finance Manager



Suresh Ponnappa
Chief Financial Officer



Tanya Kak
Associate Director,
Climate & Environment



Yashasvi Murali
Portfolio Manager,
Mental Health & Gender



Trust

Empathy

Openness

VALUES

Curiosity

Humble, not Modest

Embracing Failure



KEY PORTFOLIOS

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT



LAAYAK *Young Men & Boys/Gender*



MENTAL HEALTH





Justice Within Reach

Integrates enhancing System and Structure of Law, Citizen and Community Engagement and Data and Information as a Bridge to connect citizens with the justice system.

This approach aims to catalyze comprehensive legal reform by simultaneously enhancing the legal framework, empowering communities, and deploying data for informed governance.

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED





ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Collective Co-creation

An active samaaj is the foundation of a resilient society, but civic participation needs to be cultivated.

RNP supports organisations that are invested in catalysing citizen participation through channels such as volunteering, claim making, co-creation and mobilisation.

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT



Conservation, Adaptation, & Co-creation

Prioritises ecological sustainability, climate change adaptation and community resilience.

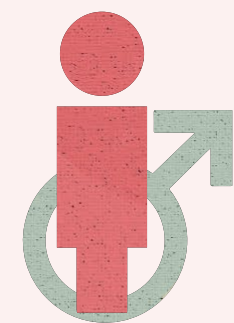
Supporting organisations working on climate and environment, the foundation focuses on conserving biodiversity, empowering communities to develop sustainable models for environmental challenges and adapt to increasing risks of the climate crisis to ensure the well-being of both the people and the planet.

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



ASHOKA TRUST FOR RESEARCH IN
ECOLOGY & THE ENVIRONMENT





LAAYAK

YOUNG MEN & BOYS/GENDER

Gender Equity

Boys and men constitute half the population. How they are socialised, and how they operate affects women and other genders, especially when it comes to gender equity.

We engage CSOs that build critical pathways to gender equity by investing in programs that accelerate meaningful engagements with men & boys.

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED





Transformative Change

Work in this area supports organisations facilitating research to advance the human understanding of severe mental health conditions.

Additionally, in order to expand the number of people receiving mental health care, small grants are made to organisations providing direct therapy and relief.

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



FROM OUR PARTNERS



The Rohini Nilekani Center for Brain and Mind is a collaborative, multi-institutional venture that uniquely combines expertise across neuroscience and psychiatry. A multi-dimensional approach to map the evolution of mental disorders in patients and healthy individuals is used, and includes behavioural, genetic assays, and finally the generation of stem cells for detailed molecular and cellular analyses. This is also a first-of-its-kind attempt to set up resources for the scientific community at large.

RNP's funding has enabled us to establish a rounded setup to tackle important questions relating to mental disorders across multiple scales, employing multidisciplinary expertise to generate invaluable scientific resources.



In 2026, Civis grew its impact from 33,000 citizens engaged to over 9,00,000 citizens engaged across India. Reaching the milestone of 1 million citizens was something we had planned to get to incrementally - bit by bit, all the way until 2030.

Looking back at this year of tremendous growth, one thing stands out: we were able to push harder, be bolder, and be more audacious because we had RNP's unrestricted and patient capital backing us.

With RNP's support, we were able to scale through innovations, invest in the people and processes that mattered, and build a strong proof point for active civic engagement in India.



In February 2026, the Supreme Court issued a detailed order to expand the open prison system. The Apex Court asked all High Courts to set up monitoring committees to oversee the establishment of open prisons across the country. Twenty-nine High Courts have swung into action, focusing on the expansion of open prisons. Two Supreme Court orders on Open Prisons were issued as a result of our efforts.

RNP supported us through a small grant of 10 lakhs in 2017 to study the open prison system and take our report to the Supreme Court of India. Ten years later, there are dozens of High Court orders, multiple Supreme Court orders, and over 100 open prisons in the country. We have come a long way!

OTHER AREAS OF WORK



Arts & Culture



Ecosystem Building



Research & Academia

STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY

GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

UNCOMMON GROUND

CAPACITY BUILDING

BEYOND GRANTS

**COLLABORATIVE
PHILANTHROPY**



RESEARCH



CONVENINGS



CONTENT



**STRENGTHENING
THE SECTOR**



COLLABORATIVE PHILANTHROPY

A Force
Multiplier

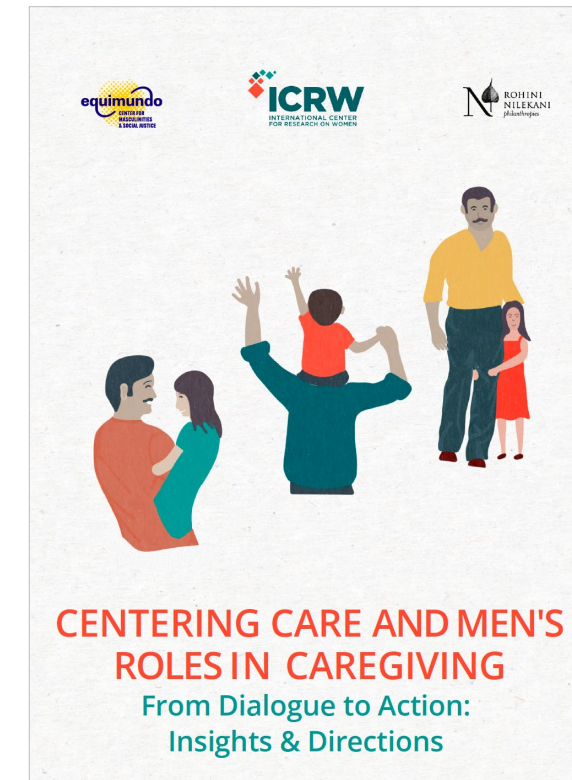
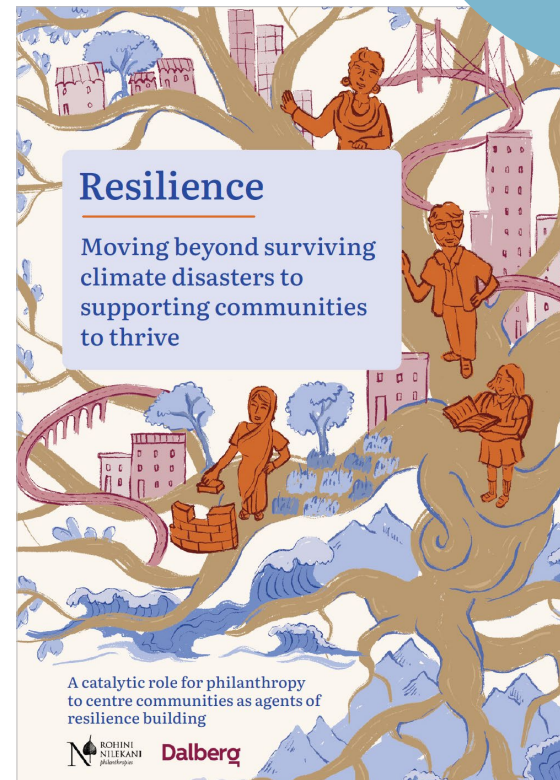
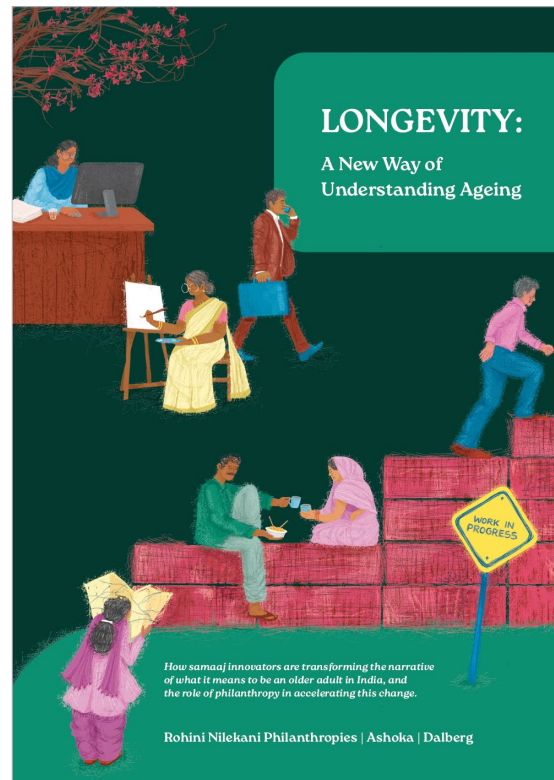


The
Giving
Pledge



RESEARCH

Knowledge as a Powerful Tool



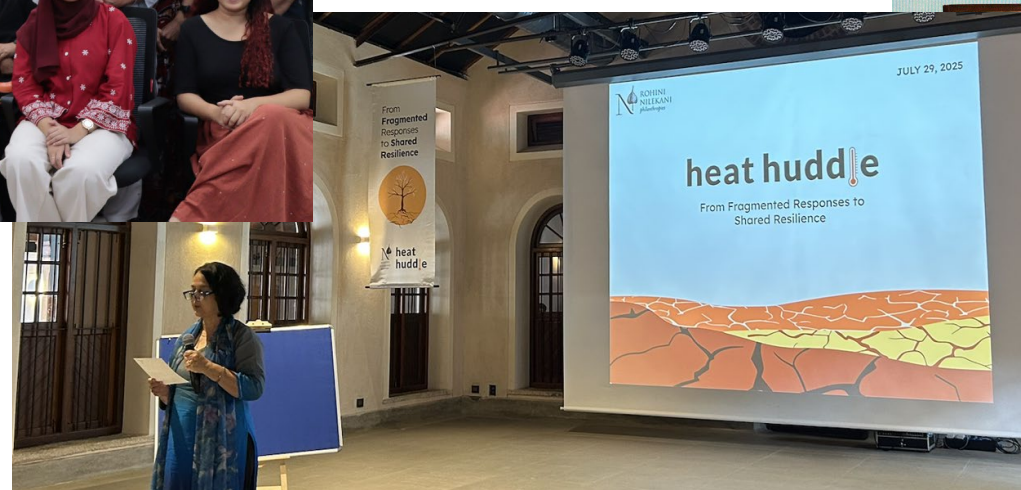
CONVENINGS

The Power
of Coming
Together



Gender Policy Huddle 2026

Heat Huddle 2025



All Partners Gathering 2023

MANOTSAVA

The Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind was launched in 2023 through a landmark INR 100 Crore grant to NCBS and NIMHANS to advance research and capacity-building in mental health.

Building on this, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, NCBS, and NIMHANS created Manotsava—a national festival that brings mental health research, dialogue, and community together.

The first edition of the festival was held in 2024 in Bangalore.

The second edition witnessed 6000+ attendees and 141 speakers across 81 events.



Keynote ft Rahul Dravid in conversation with Rohini Nilekani in Manotsava 2024



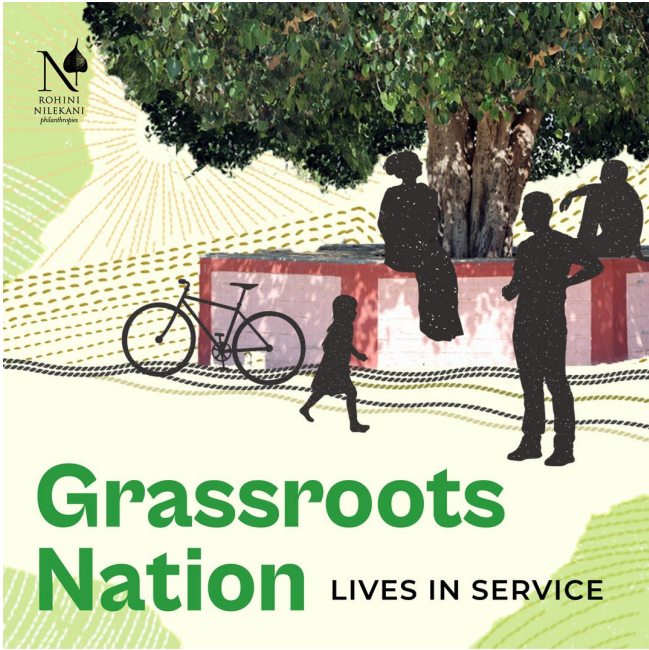
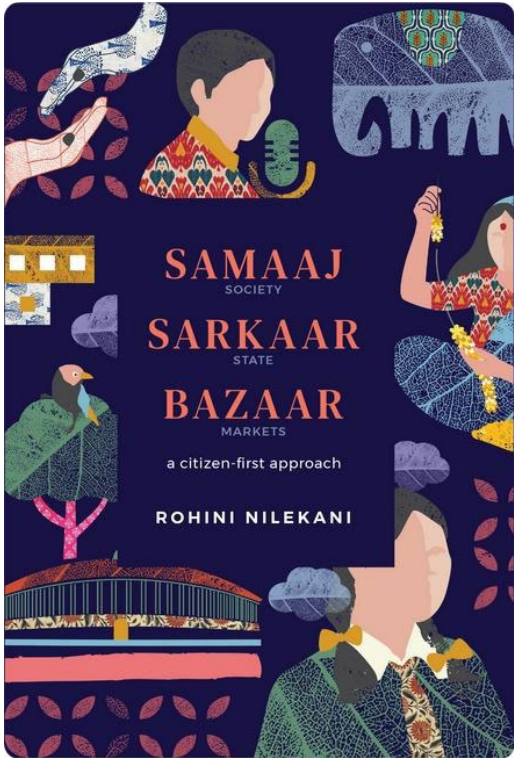
Launch of The Rohini Nilekani Center for Brain & Mind at NCBS, Bengaluru



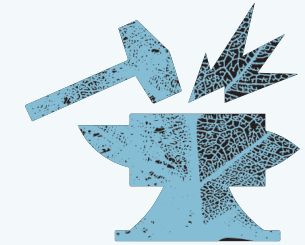
Music Performance by Swarathma at Manotsava 2025

CONTENT

Building Bridges



STRENGTHENING THE SECTOR



**Unrestricted
Grants**



**Collaboration
Grants**



**Research
Grants**



**Capacity
Building
Grants**



**Expert-led
Learning
Sessions**





IMPACT STORIES



1,070 fathers across 74 Anganwadi Centers in Telangana actively engaged via in-person sessions through the Daddy Cool programme, shifting perspectives on roles of fathers in early childhood development.



Initiated **32 Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs)** from Primary Health Centres in the jurisdiction of the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC). This is the first time that AFHCs will include a mental health counselling component.



MAHILA HOUSING TRUST
Towards Responsible Urban Development

MHT partnered with women leaders from informal settlements and the Jodhpur Municipal Corporation to develop Jodhpur's Heat Action Plan, translating community-led demand into city-wide action.

The initiative retrofitted over 7,000 homes with cool roofs and ventilation, reducing indoor temperatures by 2–5°C, established India's first Net Zero Cooling Station, and created two cooling shelters that have benefited over 12,000 outdoor workers. MHT also restored three urban parks, improving access to cooler public spaces for nearly 200,000 residents.

Building on this success, the Rajasthan Government has allocated funding to establish cooling stations across 41 districts, demonstrating the programme's influence on state-wide heat resilience policy.



IMPACT STORIES



After a 13-year legal and personal struggle, the Supreme Court permitted the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Harish Rana, affirming his right to die with dignity and bringing closure to his family.

Building on the landmark Aruna Shanbaug (2011) and Common Cause (2018) judgments, Vidhi has worked for over a decade to strengthen India's legal framework on end-of-life care—from shaping advance medical directives to simplifying procedures and representing Harish's family before the Court.

The judgment reflects years of collaboration between legal experts, doctors, palliative care practitioners, civil society organisations and policymakers. It also paves the way for legislative reform, helping ensure that compassionate end-of-life decisions become more accessible and humane for countless families in the future.



In FY 25-26, a key achievement has been the **1,400x expansion in reach and nearly 700x growth in welfare unlocked through our labour work**, growing from 680 citizens and ₹81.6 lakh in 2020 to 9,85,234 citizens and over ₹570.8 crore in 2025. This demonstrates both scale and depth of impact.





IMPACT STORIES



In March 2025, the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind (RNCBM) launched the CBM-ADBS Longitudinal Multimodal Brain Resource (CALM-Brain), a dedicated data resource and web portal designed to facilitate data sharing with national and international collaborators.

The programme has also supported substantial capacity building, with 14 students currently at various stages of their PhD training using CBM data, and three career development fellowships awarded following rigorous review. These efforts have fostered 29 national and international collaborations to date.

CBM has also undertaken several public engagement initiatives, including Manotsava, public talks, and panel discussions. In the last year, the programme has produced 33 publications, with 6 currently under review and 19 manuscripts in preparation.



SEEDS expanded its urban heat programme from municipal schools to vulnerable neighbourhoods, **piloting 18 affordable cool-roof solutions and installing cool roofs in over 600 homes, alongside ventilation systems in 430 households** to improve thermal comfort and sleep.

The initiative engaged over 1,000 community members, trained 55 frontline health workers (33 Anganwadi and 22 ASHA workers), and built a grassroots network of 60 community leaders and 80+ heat ambassadors to strengthen local resilience.

The programme has expanded to more than seven cities nationwide, integrating schools, neighbourhoods, workplaces, and public health.





IMPACT STORIES



Responsive support systems for adolescent well-being enabled in 121 schools in Uttarakhand.

Structured sessions delivered through the School Health and Wellness Program (SHWP) and school-based screenings supported nearly 7,000 students, with 1,325 referred for specialized care.



Major impact was achieved by effectively communicating the importance of implementation of the landmark Supreme Court judgement dated 18 December 2024, which arose from a writ petition filed by KRAPAVIS Founder Aman Singh. This judgment mandated the identification of Orans and declaring them as “Community Reserves” or “Deemed Forest” lands.

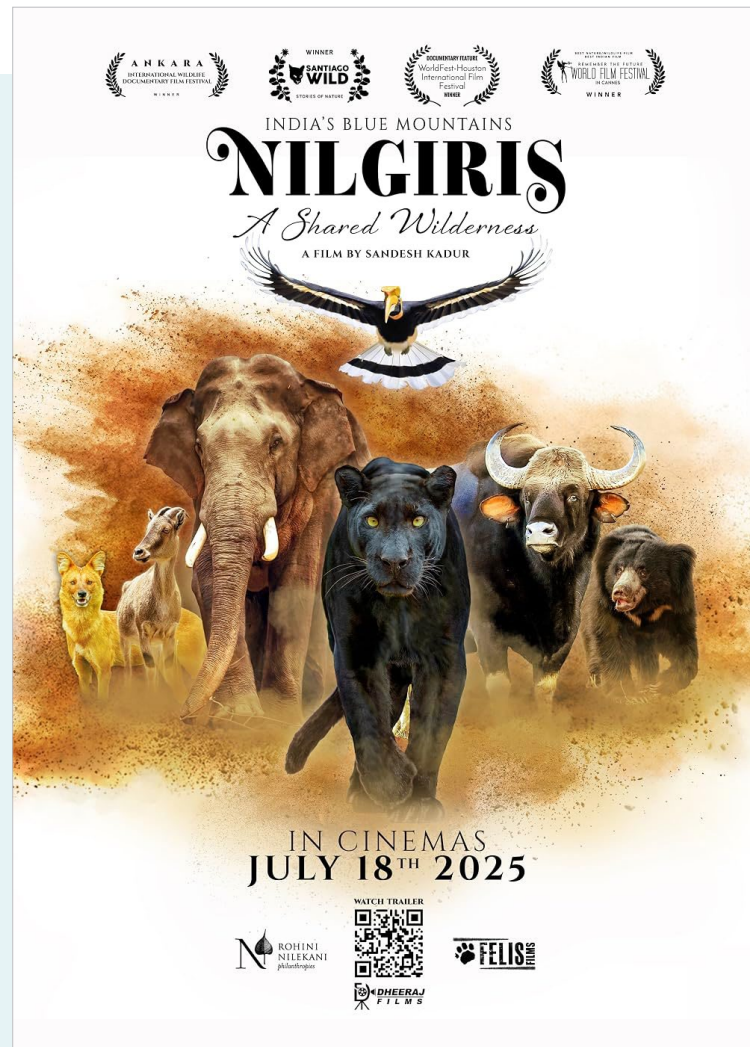
Building on this momentum, KRAPAVIS significantly accelerated its advocacy efforts, helping secure legal protection for over 25,000 Orans spanning more than 600,000 hectares across the Thar Desert and the Aravalli ranges. In compliance with the said judgement, a State Oran Committee has been constituted in April 2025 to monitor legal declaration of Orans, as these Orans are vital ecological and cultural landscapes.

As of March 2026, about 17,561 bighas of Orans area were brought under community reservation (registered as Oran) due to the Supreme Court decision. This achievement represents a transformative step in conservation and environmental justice.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025-26

- **Nilgiris Documentary**



- **Samvardhan Fellowship**



Samvardhan Biodiversity & Conservation Fellowship

Empowering India's next generation of conservationists



For early-career
conservation
researchers &
practitioners
under 35



₹3 Lakh
seed grant for
practice-led
conservation work



Mentorship,
peer learning &
community of
conservation
leaders



12-month
fellowship with
learning &
skill-building

Applications Open Now! | Apply at: samvardhan.dasra.org



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025-26

- **ALT EFF Film Fund**



ALT EFF

FILM FUND

ALT EFF

2026

₹1.2 CRORES

Available across 3 projects

India's largest environmental film fund, supporting filmmakers with mentorship, impact strategy, and distribution guidance.

Enabled by

N

ROHINI NILEKANI philanthropies

In partnership with

greenstudies

and

Docedge

- **Bannerghatta Biological Park Tower**

Uncut

BENGALURU

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK BENGALURU

PUBLIC OBSERVATION TOWER

Sustainable features such as solar energy systems and rainwater harvesting are incorporated.

Enhances visitor experience through immersive, nature-based learning.

step in strengthening our commitment to conservation, education, Observation Tower will not only enhance visitor experience through will also stand as a symbol of our dedication to environmentally port, we are further empowered to inspire millions of visitors towards g our natural heritage.*

- Surya Sen
Executive Director, BBP

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is set to enhance its visitor experience with a new 25-metre-high public observation tower.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



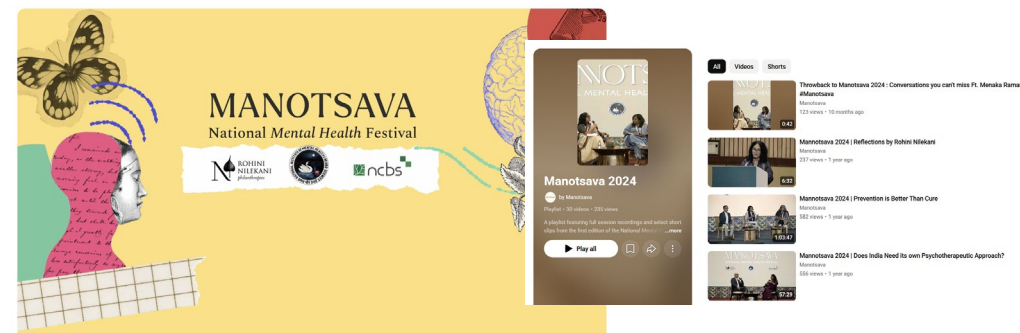
ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

Centered around the visual theme "Jaatre" (a community fair), featuring leadership letters, partner impact stories, and detailed financials.

MANOTSAVA PLAYLIST

Access full session archives and event clips on the Manotsava 2024 YouTube Playlist.



Simplifying Compliance for 21,000+ Members from India's Non Profits

PATTIC (People's Alliance for Trust & Transparency in Civil Society Organisations) is a collaborative, practitioner-driven initiative in India. Launched in 2024, it supports non-profits and CSOs with free tools, compliance calendars, and multi-language resources to navigate legal and financial regulations.





This decade, 2030, is one of the most critical decades I can think of in human history.

*We must think much bigger,
much bolder, and do much more.
That space is just waiting to be
taken up by bold philanthropy.*



**But first, you have to open the
doors of your heart and then
open the doors of your pockets.**

Rohini Nilekani

