



Persistent Foundation
Service to Society

Reaching for deeper understanding to create
lasting impact.

17th Annual Report 2025-26



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Leadership

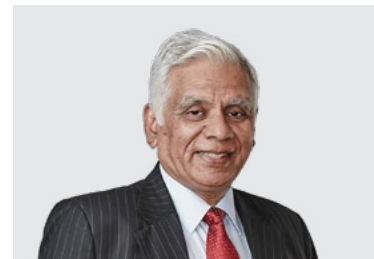
The Foundation Core Team



Dr. Anand Deshpande
Director



Mrs. Sonali Deshpande
Chairperson



Mr. Pradeep Bhargava
Mentor to the Board



Akshata Gawas



Akshay Sonawane



Anju Routiya



Asim Kumar Mandal



Mr. Sunil Sapre
Director



Mr. Sameer Bendre
Director



Cdr. Jayant Konde (IN Veteran)
Director



Pooja Kulkarni



Revika Stennett



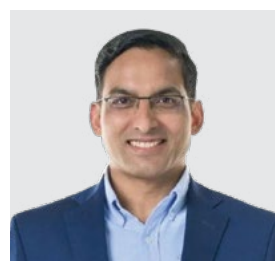
Rohit Gadekar



Rushikesh Barsawade



Ms. Chitra Byregowda
Additional Director



Mr. Rajiv Naithani
Additional Director



Ms. Nayana Bhandari
Director



Mr. Dilip Kale
Additional Director



Suparna Deshpande



Vaibhav Nikam



Yogita Apte

The Foundation Team



Vinit Teredesai



Rajesh Gharpure



Amit Atre



Abhijit Chothave



Aishwarya Dhayagude



Ali Khandwawala



Amar Thakur



Aneesh Gundu



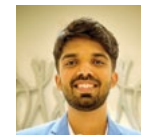
Anil Wadhwa



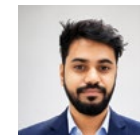
Auyon Acharya



Prathamesh Karkhanis



Pranav Naik



Prasad Petkar



Purushottam Sonawane



Purvi Lohana



Pratyush Panangipalli



Rachabattuni Swaraju



Aniket Vairagi



Anurag Raste



Ashish Kumar



Bablesh Sonawane



Bhagwan Bhosale



Chandrashekar Gawas



Devender Chhillar



Rahul Vibhandik



Rajiv Bapat



Rakeshbhai Chaudhari



Ranjit Naik



Ravindra Dighekar



Rupesh Pansare



Sanjay Chaudhari



Dilip Shinde



Dipak Naik



Gajanan Indalkar



Gunjan Chandratre



Harish Pujari



Ishani Dutta



Jitendra Thakar



Santosh Harer



Saket Rajurkar



Sameer Pandhare



Sandeep Tambe



Seema Dhanjani



Sachin Sable



Shrihari Kulkarni



Kartik Sharma



Ketki Salunke



Mahesh Kulkarni



Manish Joshi



Manoj Chavare



Mohankumar Khot



Nadia Isabel Fernandes



Shivali Singh



Siddhesh Naik Kurade



Suzie Ferrao



Swapnil Bali



Tanuj Joshi



Tejas Bhasme



Tukaram Bhosale



Nilesh Deshmukh



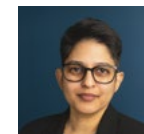
Padmashree Jedhe



Parash Raithatha



Poonam Naik



Pooja Cornelius



Prasad Peri



Prashant Sagar



Vidhi Sharma



Vinayak Khule



Vincent Paul Gracias Flor



Vikas Sawant



Yogesh Dighe



Yogesh Kadam



Yogesh Karmarkar

Foreword

This year has deepened a conviction shaped over 17+ years of the Persistent Foundation's work: Lasting impact is not created by reaching people once, but by staying close enough to understand what keeps them from moving forward.

Across the communities we serve, the challenges are rarely simple. A child may be in school, but still held back by hunger, weak learning foundations, poor infrastructure, or a lack of confidence. A patient may receive treatment, but

still require rehabilitation, follow-up care, nutrition, or continued device support to truly return to daily life. A farmer may have land, but not enough water, equipment, crop guidance, or income stability to remain rooted in the village. A cultural institution may preserve history but still need digital access and structural resilience to carry that legacy forward.

This complexity has shaped the Persistent Foundation's evolving, deepening commitment to

our initiatives. Over time, our work has moved from responding to needs to understanding systems. We endeavor to identify barriers earlier, intervene more thoughtfully, and build support around the full journey of an individual, family, institution, or community.

The year also reminded us that resilience is built through continuity. Long-standing partnerships helped us sharpen programmes, respond to feedback, and deepen

impact across our four pillars—Education, Health, Community Development, and the Preservation of Heritage & Wildlife. Whether it's supporting a girl through college, helping a child access a life-changing surgery, strengthening water security, enabling livelihoods, protecting wildlife, or preserving cultural spaces, each initiative seeks to help people and communities move forward with dignity, confidence, and greater possibility.

At the centre of this work are the people who make it real. Our partners bring local knowledge and implementation strength. Our employees offer generosity, time, skill, and heart through volunteering and giving. Communities bring trust, participation, and the courage to adopt change. Together, they turn programmes into living pathways of progress.

This year also marked the growing expression of our service spirit

through the Persistent Foundation's USA arm, extending care into more communities where our employees live and work.

As we look ahead, our responsibility is clear. We will continue to listen, learn, and act with purpose, building ecosystems of care that help more lives not only receive support, but rise through it.





Message from the Chairperson

As Joey Tribbiani of the famous show *Friends* says, "there's no unselfish good deed", because doing good makes you feel good. Psychologists and philosophers have believed that every action, however altruistic, is always motivated by the desire to feel happy. I endorse this theory through lived experience. The emotions of gratification, joy, contentment and humility that I feel at the beginning and end of each year add to my repertoire of life's memories of serving society.

The Persistent Foundation is 17 years old. We have been in the business of giving back to society and making a difference for close to two decades. The impact created in the neighbourhoods we work with has been tangible and perceptible. The different communities we have served, including school students, women, farmers, infants, girls in college, senior citizens, the specially abled, the mentally ill, rural communities, animals and birds, have benefitted from various interventions such as education scholarships, health screenings, cataract surgeries, cleft surgeries, cochlear implants, vaccinations, afforestation, building wells and dams, cattle breeding, fodder and vaccinations, conserving rare bird species, building an aviary, helping in tiger census exercises, monitoring elephant movement and several other initiatives.

In Health, we continue to help save and change lives through our cleft lip and palate surgeries, paediatric cardiac surgeries, adult cataract surgeries and cochlear implants. The defining moment of the year was when a cardiac surgery

was successfully performed on an 8-day-old baby, giving him the chance to grow up and live a healthy life. Our oldest beneficiaries tend to be 85 years old, and everyone in between. Our facial cleft and palate programme is the biggest health initiative, helping 1,000 children with corrective surgeries and more than 2,000 with speech and language improvement. To see the cochlear implant kids be able to hear and speak is an amazing sight to watch. We helped 67 kids regain their hearing. Two thousand senior citizens had their eyesight restored and were given a new lease of life. Fourteen hundred children were administered nutritional milk supplements, showing significant improvement in their physical milestones. This year, we ventured into the realm of mental health. It is a comprehensive programme that includes awareness, treatment, counselling and rehabilitation for 700 affected individuals.

In Education, our signature initiative is the Kiran programme. Identifying bright young minds in the technology domain and helping them realise their potential is a real-life game changer. To see these young women step out into the world after four years under our guidance and support, entering the corporate world with confidence and equal opportunity, is truly a moment of pride for me. We have helped 600 girls leave their humble beginnings and step into a prosperous and aspirational future. The Foundation was able to provide over 19,000 children with educational aids through support classes and after-school assistance. This has shown significant

improvement in academic performance and learning efficiency. Hygiene and cleanliness habits have been inculcated among schoolchildren through WASH interventions. Ninety young Florence Nightingales were able to complete their nursing training and are now employed in hospitals, serving the needy and saving lives. Twenty-five specially abled athletes and ten hearing-impaired sports coaches were provided sports equipment to help improve training. This resulted in many para-athletes winning medals at various international and domestic tournaments. Two hundred specially abled individuals were given skill-based training and assistance in finding employment. It is always enriching and rewarding to see people find their path and achieve success. To think that a little money and guidance can go such a long way in transforming talented lives is deeply fulfilling.

The Foundation executed several key projects for Community Development. Providing better farming techniques, better quality seeds and fertilisers, training in artificial intelligence and its uses in agricultural practices, efficient irrigation cycles, building dams and bunds to store water, and desilting of streams and canals are some of the initiatives undertaken in rural communities. We planted more than 40,000 trees this year across seven locations, enabling afforestation and helping restore forest cover. We helped install 350 domestic biogas plants in homes across more than 100 villages, providing a sustainable

alternative to cooking gas. This initiative was so well received that villagers contributed to the cost themselves. The construction of wells to provide easy access to drinking water has earned us countless blessings. Solar lifts and pumps help irrigate farms. Building reservoirs to store water helps farming communities harvest one additional crop, increasing both yield and income. All of these interventions have contributed to improving agricultural productivity and livelihoods.

The preservation of heritage and wildlife is a new and challenging focus area. We are excited to be able to help animals and birds retain their place in the ecosystem. We try to contribute, in our small way, to conserving nature and its inhabitants. This past year, we funded the operations of an aviary that treats almost 700 birds, of which 500 healthy birds were released back into the wild. We helped set up a drone-based communication system for tiger census operations in the Tadoba and Pench Reserves. Almost 40 AI-monitored camera traps were set up to track animal movement and locate injured or dead animals. Our efforts to preserve the nests of the white-bellied sea eagle continue to bear fruit. More eagles are being born and their numbers are steadily increasing. We also continue to support the local museum and help preserve ancient tribal languages by printing books for children to learn from in schools.

Our CSR initiatives in the USA have been gathering momentum during the past year. We have taken baby steps towards serving

local communities there. We were saddened to observe homelessness and hunger within affluent cities. The World Food Movement helped us provide hot meals to underprivileged students, homeless adults and homeless veterans in New York. Elijah's Promise did the same in New Jersey, as did Sai Ashraya in Santa Clara. The Shakti campaign was launched to help destitute women re-enter the job market and become financially independent. School kits and hygiene kits were assembled and distributed to local schools and veteran organisations. The wheels have been put in motion across seven locations in the USA, and positive energy flows in from all directions. Our enthusiastic employees in Dallas and Seattle have also engaged with local schools and veteran communities to provide support for their initiatives. The most thrilling moment for us was participating in the Veterans Day Parade in New York on November 11, commemorating 250 years of the US Military. Fifteen employees from the Bridgewater office in New Jersey walked in the parade, and it was a proud moment for us to be part of such a historic event.

The Persistent Foundation team has always believed that we are Agents of Change. The dedication and commitment that I see from both our teams fills me with great zest and enthusiasm to move ahead. The faith of our Board Members and Trustees has been rock solid. Their support and mentorship have been crucial to our success and growth over the years. Our colleagues have been extremely generous with their time and

donations towards volunteering opportunities. Our shareholders have always been supportive and appreciative of our efforts. All of this gives us encouragement and motivation for the accomplishments that lie ahead. Our NGO partners are the backbone of our service and the champions of our success. I express my sincere gratitude to every person associated with us over the years.

With all the gratitude and humility,

Sonali Deshpande

**Trustee & Chairperson at
the Persistent Foundation**

PILLARS OF THE PERSISTENT FOUNDATION

4 Thrust Areas | 12 Locations | 65 Projects
73 Partners | 68097 Lives Touched



Education

Stronger learning journeys built on scholarships, mentoring, life skills, nutrition, infrastructure, sports, science exposure, inclusion, teacher support, and employability pathways.

FY 2025-26

- Number of Initiatives: 29
- Beneficiaries:
Unique: 19,604
Total: 37,512
- Schools covered: 48
- Study centres: 18
- Partnerships: 31



Health

Dignity, recovery, and hope for vulnerable patients and families receiving timely care, continued support, and life-changing interventions.

FY 2025-26

- Number of Initiatives: 10
- Beneficiaries:
Total: 6,962
- Locations: 12
- Hospitals supported: 2
- Partnerships: 15



Community Development

Resilient communities shaped by environment, water, and livelihood initiatives that reduce hardship and support stable futures closer to home.

FY 2025-26

- Number of Initiatives: 18
- Beneficiaries:
Families: 600
Total: 23,623
- Locations: 5
- Villages: 179
- Partnerships: 21

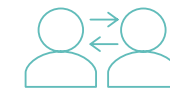


Preservation of Heritage and Wildlife

Living legacies protected by stronger cultural institutions, digital engagement, wildlife care, conservation, and field-based response.

FY 2025-26

- Number of Initiatives: 6
- Total Expenditure:
INR 83.45 lakhs
- Impact highlights
Wildlife monitoring: 18 villages
Birds treated: 673,
with 509 released
- Partnerships: 6



Employee Engagement

Purposeful participation across volunteering, giving, mentoring, field engagement, and hands-on community support.

FY 2025-26

- Unique Drives: 70
- Instances: 299
- Locations: 14
- Volunteers:
Total: 10,296
Hours: 11,683
- Donations
Employee Donation: INR 47.12 lakhs
Other Donation: INR 34.79 lakhs
Total Donation: INR 81.91 lakhs

EDUCATION

37,512 beneficiaries

With education, access alone is rarely enough. Over 17+ years, our understanding of the layered challenges students face has deepened: financial pressure, weak learning foundations, limited exposure, poor infrastructure, hunger, language barriers, lack of confidence, and fewer pathways into employment. With that understanding, our commitment has also evolved.

We have learned that students do not need a single intervention. They need an ecosystem that understands where they are, what holds them back, and what can help them move forward with dignity and confidence.

This understanding shaped our work across schools, colleges, communities, and skill-building spaces this year. Our flagship Kiran Girls' Scholarship and Mentoring Programme supported young women in technology with scholarships, mentoring, alumni guidance, placement readiness, and future-facing learning.

Recognising that learning is affected by health, confidence, safety, and belonging, we worked

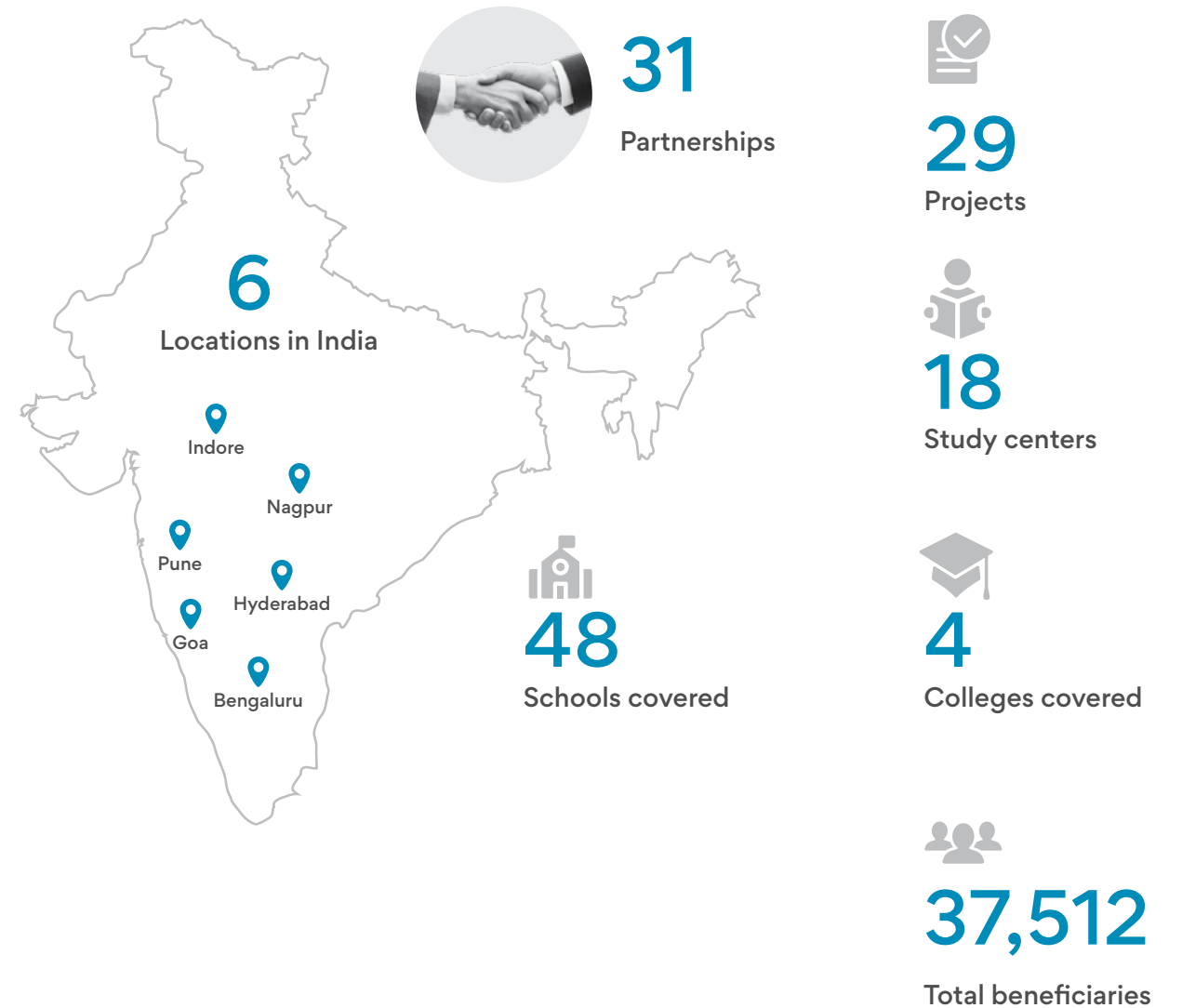
with students on hygiene, life skills, gender sensitivity, nutrition, sports, and self-belief through connected school-based initiatives.

In schools, our support responded to specific needs: stronger infrastructure, digital classrooms, science labs, after-school centres, academic support, teacher tools, and technology-enabled learning systems. For students who learn or communicate differently, the focus remained on inclusion, practical life skills, and the confidence to participate more fully.

Our skill development programmes connected training with employability, dignity, and long-term purpose, helping young people prepare not just for jobs, but for more self-reliant futures.

Across these efforts, Education is not treated as a one-time opportunity but as a sustained journey. Each intervention strengthens another. Together, they help learners build capability, confidence, independence, and the courage to keep moving forward.

Turning barriers to learning into bridges of opportunity



Flagship: Kiran Girls' Scholarship and Mentoring Programme

Supporting young women in technology with financial assistance, mentoring, employability guidance, and the confidence to move forward.

For many young women from humble backgrounds, the dream of becoming an engineer carries both promise and pressure. Admission into a technical course is only the beginning. Hostel fees, transport, daily expenses, exposure, and placement readiness can still determine whether that dream becomes a stable future.

The Kiran Girls' Scholarship and Mentoring Programme, implemented across five locations, continues to support this journey with care and intention. This year, the Programme supported 175 girls with scholarships. New scholars were onboarded with their parents present at each location, and senior women leaders joined the onboarding

to share guidance and encouragement.

While government support now covers tuition fees at some locations, many students still struggle with hostel and living expenses, especially those studying away from home. The scholarship support therefore remains focused on helping girls stay in college, participate fully, and continue their education with fewer financial worries.

Mentoring has also deepened in response to changing placement realities in the IT sector. This year, 48 students graduated and 22 girls were placed, with the highest package reaching ₹30 LPA with Goldman Sachs. Placement workshops, mock interviews, and sessions on placement

readiness helped scholars prepare for the next step with greater confidence.

Through two residential Programme, 125 students participated and completed 5,000 learning hours. Topics included Design Thinking, Gen AI, DSA, Orange and other AI applications, and placement readiness.

Kiran alumni also returned as mentors and role models. One alumna contributed ₹25,000 towards another Kiran Scholar's education, honouring the support she once received. Through such moments, Kiran continues to become more than a scholarship. It becomes a circle of confidence, guidance, possibility, and giving back.

Voices from Kiran girls: learning, growing, and giving back

Pooja Shah, Kiran Scholar Alumna, Batch of 2020, Currently working at Persistent Systems

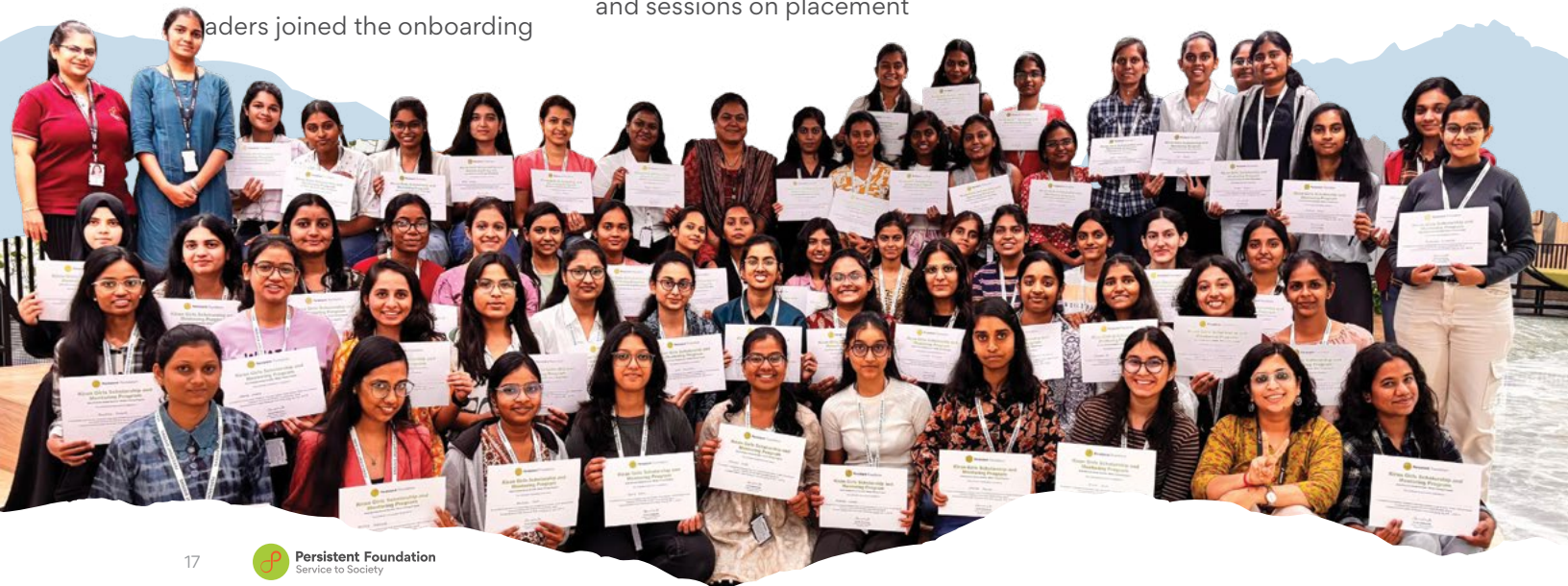
"The Kiran Programme gave me invaluable knowledge and exposure through the Summer and Winter Programmes conducted by the Persistent Foundation. The sessions strengthened my technical skills and helped me understand industry expectations, teamwork, problem-solving, and professional work culture. Today, I feel grateful to have reached a stage where I can give back by mentoring other Kirans."

Saloni Homdeo Shahare, FY 2025-26 Graduate, Cummins College of Engineering for Women, Nagpur

"All the small things needed for our self-development are arranged so well and at the right time by the team. The online sessions are very helpful, and the mentors are always supportive and understanding of our availability. Even though this is my final year and I am already placed, I would still love to join the sessions again. Proud to be a Kiran girl."

Anjali Chagedia, FY 2025-26 Graduate, Pune Institute of Computer Technology, Pune

"I am immensely grateful for all the support the Persistent Foundation has given for my education. The financial assistance, laptop, sessions, Summer School, Winter School, and hackathon helped me navigate my journey smoothly and shaped me into a better professional. The insights I gained have been valuable for placements. I am glad to be part of this cohort."



WASH and Life Skills Education Programme

Helping students grow with health, confidence, dignity, and care for the world around them.

A school can support children's development far beyond books. It can teach them how to care for their bodies, speak with confidence, understand one another, protect their surroundings, and make choices that shape their future. For many students, these deeply personal lessons affect attendance, self-esteem, friendships, safety, and the quiet confidence with which a child participates in school each day.

The WASH and Life Skills Education Programme, supported by the Persistent Foundation and implemented with CYDA and YFS, reached 7,608 students across Nagpur, Goa, and Hyderabad this year. Covering 22 schools and 4 colleges, the Programme brought together Water, Sanitation and Hygiene education, life skills, gender sensitivity, and environmental learning.

The sessions responded to real student needs identified through baseline surveys, focus group discussions, and school engagement. Students learned about hygiene, handwashing, menstrual health, communication, decision-making, deaddiction awareness, and gender sensitivity. World Toilet Day and Global Handwashing Day helped turn these lessons into shared school experiences, making health and dignity part of everyday school culture.

This year, the Programme grew further through kitchen garden initiatives and vocational exposure. Through Eco-Clubs, climate change awareness, Green Education, and hands-on gardening, students began seeing the connection between daily habits, health, food, water, and the environment. Vocational exposure

helped them imagine practical skills and possibilities beyond the classroom.

The impact is seen in small but meaningful shifts: a student speaking up in a group, a girl attending school with greater confidence during menstruation, a cleaner classroom, a safer school environment, a child learning that care for water and soil begins with everyday action.

By involving teachers, parents, facilitators, and employee volunteers, the Programme strengthened ownership within schools. Through this initiative, education becomes a foundation for healthier habits, self-belief, responsibility, and hope.

Clarity through safe conversations at Utkarsh Vidyamandir

At Utkarsh Vidyamandir, Grade 7 students carried many unanswered questions about adolescence, body changes, friendship, attraction, and sexuality. Through the TARANG workshop, facilitators created a safe, activity-based space using games, videos, stories, chart work, and open discussions. Students began asking questions freely, replacing misconceptions with scientific understanding. By the end, they showed greater respect, emotional awareness, and readiness to make healthier choices in friendships, relationships, and peer behaviour.

Choosing healthier habits with courage at Bhide High School

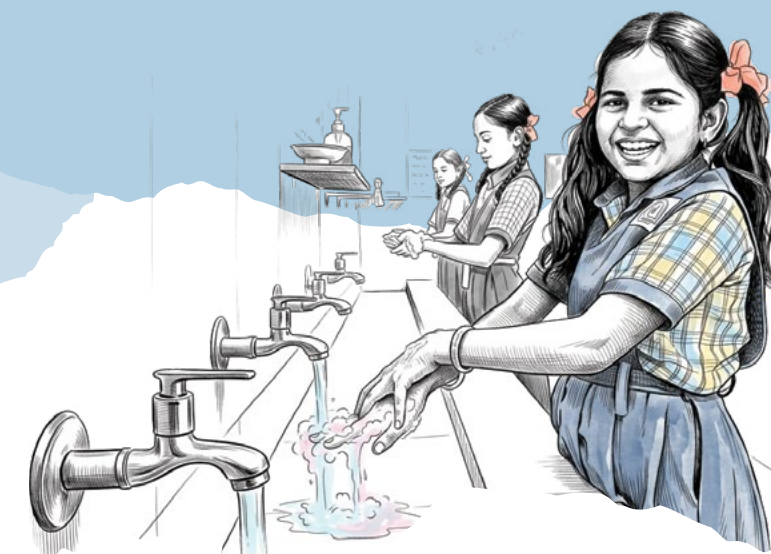
At Bhide High School, two Grade 8 boys openly shared struggles with tobacco chewing, unhealthy personal habits, abusive language, and restlessness. During the six-day TARANG training, facilitators supported them through awareness sessions, repeated discussions, and personal counselling. They learned how these behaviours affected health, sleep, emotions, and relationships. Their decision to make verbal and written commitments before peers showed courage, responsibility, and a meaningful first step toward healthier, more respectful behaviour.

Vinay Sham Kamthe: From bias to equal participation

Fifteen-year-old Vinay once believed leadership, sports, and science were mainly for boys. Through the TARANG plus WASH life skills workshop, he reflected on gender equality and inclusion. Soon after, he formed a science project group with boys and girls equally, encouraging a girl to lead with confidence.

"Earlier, I believed that some roles were only for girls, but now I understand that boys and girls are equal in every way. When we work together with equal respect, we achieve better results."

– Vinay Sham Kamthe



Infrastructure Support Programme

Creating safer, stronger, and more engaging school environments where children can learn with confidence.

A school's infrastructure quietly shapes how children experience learning every day. A repaired roof, a cooler classroom, a working science lab, a smart board, safe flooring, or a functional storage space may seem like a facility upgrade, but for students and teachers, it can change the rhythm of the school day.

The Infrastructure Support Programme, supported by the Persistent Foundation, reached 3,423 students across 9 schools in Pune, Nagpur, Bengaluru, and Goa this year. The work was implemented through need-based support, responding to what each school identified as most urgent for its students, teachers, and learning environment.

This need-based approach is what makes the Programme meaningful. Instead of offering one fixed solution across all schools, the support is adapted to different realities. In some schools, repair work was undertaken to address damage caused by heavy rain and strong winds. In others, flooring work, classroom creation, insulated sheets to reduce heat from the roof, cupboards for office and event use, and washing machines for residential students were provided.

A strong focus this year was also on digital and experiential learning. Digital boards and smart classrooms were supported to make teaching more interactive and engaging through audiovisual methods. Science labs and good-quality instruments were also provided, giving students the opportunity to

learn through hands-on experience rather than theory alone.

A lack of transport cuts many girls' education short. School bus support in Velhe helped 100 school and 25 college girls continue their studies, extending their marriage age.

One school in Kochi, affected by floods, was also supported as an exceptional case under the Programme, reflecting the Persistent Foundation's responsiveness to urgent need.

Through these interventions, infrastructure becomes more than construction or equipment. It becomes a way to create dignity, comfort, curiosity, and safety in school spaces, helping children learn in an atmosphere that supports their effort and potential.



Restoring learning environments to sustain student development

"Due to heavy rains, our school had suffered damage, and we had requested support for digital materials as well as office cupboards and tables. On 19 January 2026, we received 5 cupboards and 5 tables from Dchange Steel Industries, Solapur.

We sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude for this generous support. We believe it will help improve the educational environment of our school and contribute positively to the development of our students.

Once again, we extend our sincere thanks."

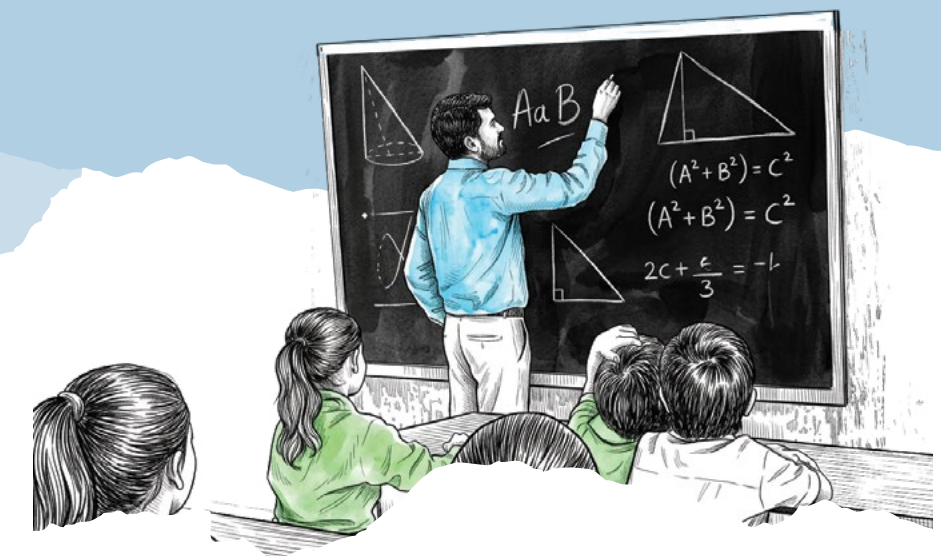
— Headmaster, Zilla Parishad Primary School, Shivni, Taluka North Solapur, District Solapur

Durable classrooms, completed with care

"The Kota flooring installation work in 10 classrooms at Ramrajya Secondary School has been successfully completed with excellent quality and within the stipulated time.

On behalf of Ramrajya Education Society and Ramrajya Secondary School, we sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to the Persistent Foundation and the entire team for their valuable support. We also extend our best wishes for your future educational and social initiatives."

— Headmaster, Ramrajya Secondary School, Rajiv Gandhinagar, Bibwewadi, Pune



Support Classes for 9th and 10th Grade

Helping students strengthen their basics, build confidence, and move forward one learning level at a time.

For many students in vernacular-medium schools, academic difficulty is not always a lack of ability. Often, the first barrier is language. When a student struggles to understand Marathi or English clearly, it affects how they learn history, geography, science, mathematics, and other subjects. Once language becomes easier to understand, other areas of learning open up.

The Support Class initiative, implemented in Pune and Nagpur, focuses on students in higher classes who are preparing for important academic milestones. The Programme supports learning in Marathi, English, Mathematics, and Science, with teachers conducting baseline assessments to understand each student's current level.

Based on these assessments, students are grouped according to learning ability, not just grade level. This allows teachers to provide inputs that meet students where they are. Progress is tracked through the year, with the aim of helping every student move upward — whether from lower score bands to stronger performance, or from good performance to greater confidence.

The Programme also uses activity-based and play-way methods to make concepts easier to understand. Through initiatives such as Khel Melava, students created stalls and explained mathematical concepts through games to peers, parents, and teachers. Such activities help students learn by doing, while building confidence, communication, and ownership of the subject.

For students in the 10th grade, preliminary test practice and focused academic support help them prepare with more discipline and clarity.

Through this initiative, support classes become more than remedial learning. They become spaces where students are understood, guided, and encouraged to believe that improvement is possible.



When teaching becomes more effective, learning grows

“We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Persistent Foundation and SMM Education Partners. This initiative has increased students’ interest in learning and shown positive improvement, especially in reading and mathematics skills. The guidance, training, and planned approach provided to teachers has made teaching more effective. Student participation and confidence have also increased. Such initiatives have definitely enhanced the overall academic quality of the school. We hope this cooperation will continue in the future as well.”

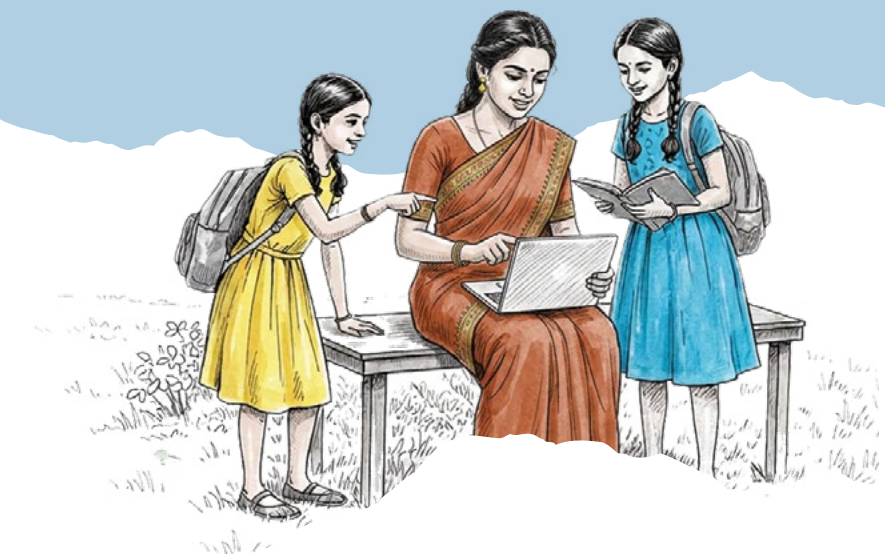
— Mr. Kamthe, Principal, Ramrajya School, Pune

Daily guidance nurtures confidence and participation for Raj

Raj Rajesh Khandate, a 14-year-old Grade 9 student at Gurukul Ashram School, Deolapar, comes from a farm labourer family and attended school with quiet determination. He needed stronger support in reading, writing, spelling, and sentence formation. Through daily guidance, flashcards, writing practice, and encouragement, Raj began engaging more actively. Today, he reads and writes simple sentences with greater accuracy, speed, and confidence.

Closing learning gaps builds self-belief and better results for Bhagyashree

Bhagyashree Santosh Kadam of Ramrajya Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Pune, comes from a family of five and always had the ability to learn well. But after COVID, gaps in English and Math, along with a fear of giving the wrong answer, kept her quiet in class. With steady academic support and encouragement, her reading, marks, and participation improved. Today, Bhagyashree answers with growing assurance and stronger self-belief.



Play for Progress

Turning play into confidence, teamwork, and opportunities beyond the classroom.

For many students, play is more than recreation. It is where they learn discipline, trust, teamwork, confidence, and the courage to participate. In schools where children may have limited access to structured sports training, the playground can become a space for growth, expression, and self-belief.

The Play for Progress initiative, implemented in Nagpur and Goa in partnership with Slum Soccer, reached 700 students across 7 schools this year.

Through structured sports sessions, the programme helped students understand not only how to play a game, but how to work with others, respect rules, handle competition, and build healthy relationships.

The initiative also encouraged students to understand the importance of physical activity and regular exercise. For children growing through important academic and personal years, sports offers an outlet for energy, focus, emotional balance, and confidence. It helps them experience achievement beyond marks and classroom performance.

This year, the programme created meaningful opportunities for students to participate in beyond school. In Goa, the Persistent Foundation Cup was organised for the first time, with around 200 students from four schools participating. In October 2025, another Persistent Cup brought together 184 students across Kho-Kho, kabaddi, volleyball, and athletics. Goan athlete Mohit Gangaram Desai won a bronze medal at the 35th Sub-Junior

National Kabaddi Championship 2025, while sub-junior boys also participated in the Kho-Kho selection held in Margao.

The programme also supported inclusion. An Inclusion Cup was organised with 100 students, 10 coaches were trained, and a youth leadership programme was conducted with 13 deaf youth, along with deaf awareness sessions for 36 families.

The impact of Play for Progress is visible in the way students carry themselves—with more confidence, cooperation, and willingness to try. A child who learns to stand on a field, play fairly, accept results, and continue improving also learns lessons that support life beyond sports.

From play to pride, confidence, and aspiration at Krida Vikas Sanstha

“The selected schools had limited exposure to structured sports programmes prior to this intervention, and participation in sports activities was minimal. Through the Play for Progress initiative, we witnessed a significant shift in the overall sports culture within these schools.”

Several students progressed from beginner-level participation to competitive performance, with some athletes qualifying to compete at the state level and many now aspiring to represent at the national level. These achievements stand as strong indicators of the programme's impact on both skill development and long-term aspiration building among children from underserved communities.”

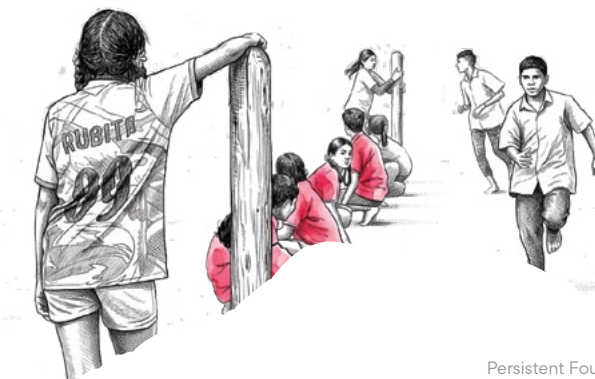
— Dr. Abhijeet Barse, CEO, Krida Vikas Sanstha – Slum Soccer

“If I work hard today, one day I can make my parents proud and serve my country.”

Santosh Saybi Majji left his village at age five when his parents sent him to Gurukul Ashram Shala, hoping he would find education, care, and opportunity. He was quiet and unaware of his own potential until structured coaching through Krida Vikas Sanstha, supported by the Persistent Foundation, opened a new path. Through Kho-Kho and athletics, Santosh found discipline, confidence, and purpose. Today, he represents his school with pride and dreams of joining the Indian Army.

“This competition helped me realise how far I’ve come and how much more I can achieve if I keep working hard.”

After the pandemic, Adarsh Ravindra Kantenavri’s family moved from Mumbai to Nagpur when his father lost stable work. Though finances were uncertain, Adarsh held on to his love for football. Through Slum Soccer’s Play for Progress programme, supported by the Persistent Foundation, he received structured coaching, learned safe training methods, and rebuilt confidence after knee pain. Today, he represents his school, scored 80% in exams, and dreams of serving the nation through sports.



Deaf Kidz Goal

Using sports as a language of inclusion for 161 deaf youth across 5 schools in Nagpur.

For deaf students, access to sports can carry a meaning far beyond play. It can become a space where communication barriers reduce, confidence grows, friendships form, and children begin to see themselves as capable participants in school and community life.

The Deaf Kidz Goal initiative in Nagpur uses football and sports-based learning to support the overall development of deaf students. The programme recognises that deaf children often face barriers in traditional learning environments, including limited access to coaches who can communicate effectively with them. Through structured sports sessions, students are supported not only in physical fitness, but also

in teamwork, discipline, leadership, self-expression, and social inclusion.

This year, the programme continued to use sports as a tool for both personality development and academic improvement. By engaging students through play, the initiative helps them build focus, confidence, communication, and a sense of achievement that can support their learning beyond the field. It also encourages students to experience competition, cooperation, and participation in ways that strengthen their self-belief.

A meaningful part of the programme is the way it opens future possibilities. Deaf students are introduced to the idea that

sports can also become a career pathway. They can grow not only as players, but also as trainers, coaches, and community leaders.

As part of this effort, 12 trainers were identified, trained, and certified by the Indian Football Academy. This builds a stronger support system for deaf students while also creating leadership and livelihood opportunities for deaf youth themselves.

Through Deaf Kidz Goal, sports becomes a language of confidence, inclusion, and possibility. It helps deaf children and youth move forward with pride, not only as participants in a game, but as young people with skills, strengths, and futures worth believing in.



Confidence sparked for Sambal

"Now, Sambal comes home smiling, shows us the football skills she learned, and even tries to teach us new signs. Slum Soccer's Deaf Kidz Goal programme has truly brought a new light into her life." —**Sambal's father**

Sambal Firdous, a 19-year-old deaf student, once was quiet and withdrawn because communication felt difficult. Through Deaf Kidz Goal sessions led in Indian Sign Language (ISL), football became a space of connection. She began participating, smiling, and expressing herself more freely, discovering confidence that reached both school and home.

Shrawani: Finding a role model and belonging on the field

"As we connected through ISL and football, a brilliant, spirited girl emerged. Her transformation from a lonely observer to a passionate, joyful participant is exactly why we do this work." —**Coach Tayyaba**

Shrawani Shambharkar, a 16-year-old deaf student, once stayed withdrawn, missing a role model who could understand her world. Through Deaf Kidz Goal, she found deaf coaches who taught in ISL. Football gave her confidence, friendship, and belonging. Today, Shrawani participates joyfully and dreams of shaping her own future.

How Dip went from watching football to leading a team

"When the deaf coaches came and taught us in sign language, everything changed. I want to become a football coach like them and teach other deaf children so they can believe in their dreams too."

—**Dip Jaujal**

Dip Jaujal once loved football from a distance, watching it on television and playing alone near home. Through Deaf Kidz Goal, deaf coaches taught him in ISL, making the game finally feel accessible. With encouragement and practice, Dip gained the confidence to captain his school team, and now dreams of coaching other deaf children.



Support for Intellectually Challenged Students

Building independence through individual learning plans and practical life skills.

Every child deserves to be seen for what they can do, not only for the challenges they face. For intellectually-challenged students, learning often needs patience, individual attention, creative methods, and a deep understanding of each child's abilities, pace, and potential.

In Pune, the Persistent Foundation supports 'AB'-Normal Home, reaching 40 students through focused academic and vocational intervention.

The school's purpose is to help children move towards mainstream life with dignity and confidence. Each child follows an individual learning plan based on their physical and intellectual capacities, strengths, and areas of need.

The Persistent Foundation's support helps manage the school's recurring expenditure, especially human resource costs and training materials.

This ensures that students continue to receive guided learning, structured activities, and the care required for their development. The school also maintains a student-teacher ratio that allows more personal attention and closer support for every child. For students with mild to moderate needs, the ratio is 3 students to 1 teacher. For students with severe or hyperactive needs, individualised 1:1 support is provided.

Beyond financial support, the relationship has grown through employee volunteering and encouragement of the students' vocational products, including their distinctive coffee paintings.

The school's work focuses on helping students become more independent in ways that are meaningful for them and their families. Some students have begun contributing to family

businesses, such as selling pooja materials. Others have learned jewellery-making, customisation, or pet care. These pathways give students the confidence that they too can contribute, participate, and be valued.

This year, the school's theme was the Galaxy, Nature and Climate Change. Through the Diwali Expo and classroom activities, students explored planets, climate, and the natural world, helping them gain knowledge beyond their immediate surroundings.

Through this initiative, education becomes a pathway to self-belief, expression, participation, and belonging.



Siddhant and Ganesh: Confidence through chess

Siddhant and Ganesh took their first steps into competitive chess, moving beyond comfort zones into a space that demanded focus, patience, and strategy. With each game, they learned to think ahead, make decisions calmly, and face new challenges. Their journey shows how play can build confidence and quiet strength.

Anushree: Creativity turned into skill

Anushree learned jewellery-making through creative training, developing skills in bead selection, color combinations, and design. Today, she prepares customised jewellery with care and confidence. What began as a learning activity has become a form of self-expression, helping her create something beautiful, purposeful, and uniquely her own.

Swastik: Learning through responsibility

Swastik's journey shows the power of real-life learning. As he supported work at Agarbatti Shop, he began applying basic transaction and money management skills in everyday situations. With family support, he learned to handle responsibilities, interact with customers, and participate meaningfully in the shop's daily functioning.

Shreyas: Compassion becoming livelihood

Shreyas turned his love for animals into a Pet Day Care Centre. His calm nature and empathy helped him build trust with pet parents, while his dedication made the work meaningful. What began as affection for animals has grown into responsibility, confidence, and the possibility of a livelihood.

"Earlier, we felt helpless and unsure about how to support our child. Through this programme, we learned simple techniques that made a big difference. We now feel confident and hopeful about our child's future."

— Kanchan Gadge, Parent

"We have seen significant improvement in children's engagement and skills. Parent involvement has increased, making interventions more effective and consistent."

— Avanti Ralegaonkar, Teacher

"This initiative is not only helping children but also empowering families through counselling. It is creating awareness, acceptance and a more inclusive environment."

— Chinmayee Nilakhe, on community impact



Morning Nutrition Programme

Helping young students begin the school day nourished, attentive, and ready to learn.

For many children in government primary schools, the school day can begin without breakfast. When a child enters the classroom hungry, it can affect far more than appetite. It can reduce concentration, energy, participation, and the ability to stay engaged through lessons. In the early years of learning, nutrition is closely connected to attention, confidence, and the ability to make the most of school.

The Morning Nutrition Programme, supported by the Persistent Foundation and implemented with Annapoorna, reached 2,450 students across 98 government primary schools in Goa this

year. Now in its third year, the Programme continued to support children from lower-income backgrounds with a nutritious morning drink: a glass of milk mixed with nutritional powder.

This daily support helps address a simple but important need at the start of the school day. Better nourishment can support focus, classroom participation, and overall health, giving children a stronger foundation for learning. For teachers, it also helps create a classroom where students are more settled and ready to engage.

This year, the Programme expanded with the addition of Ponda taluka,

bringing 36 more schools under its reach. The number of students supported also increased in view of the available budget, allowing the initiative to serve more children across Goa. Pre-assessment data was also submitted, helping strengthen tracking and understanding of student needs.

Through this Programme, nutrition becomes part of education itself. A morning glass of milk can carry comfort, care, and readiness into the classroom. It helps young students begin the day with more energy, more attention, and a better chance to learn, grow, and participate fully in school life.



Nourishment that helps students learn better

“Over the last three years, our students have benefited from SaiSure. It has helped improve their immunity, and they fall sick less often. Their concentration on their studies has also increased. I thank the Persistent Foundation and Annapoorna Trust for this noble cause.”

— Ms. Arati A, Headmistress, GPS

Increasing children’s strength, energy, and participation in activities

“The feedback from parents and teachers has been very positive. SaiSure is not only tasty, but also enjoyed by children. It has contributed to their growth, increased energy levels, and health benefits. Children are more active in curricular activities, and SaiSure is also helping address malnutrition.”

— Child Development Project Officer, Bagepalli

A small daily change, a healthier appetite for Jyothi’s daughter

“Earlier, my daughter would not drink milk. Now, she drinks it happily with SaiSure. It has helped her gain weight, and she is eating better too.”

— Jyothi, Parent



Support for After-School Study Centres

Creating safe learning spaces where students find guidance, consistency, and room to grow.

For many students from underserved communities, learning does not end when the school day closes. The challenge is often what happens after school: whether there is a quiet place to study, someone to explain difficult concepts, or encouragement to keep going when subjects feel overwhelming.

The Support for After-School Centres initiative, implemented in Pune and Hyderabad with Seva Sahayog and Youth for Seva, reached 554 students across 18 centres this year. These centres provide structured academic support, especially for students in the 8th, 9th, and 10th grade helping them strengthen core subjects, prepare for assessments, and build regular study habits.

In Pune, 225 students were supported through 5 centres run by the Seva Sahayog Foundation. Across grades 7, 8, 9, and 10, 426 sessions per grade were conducted in English, mathematics, and science. With an average attendance of 75–80%, the centres showed strong student retention and regular participation. The work included syllabus progression, assessments, exam guidance, community engagement, and parent-teacher interactions.

In Hyderabad, Youth for Seva supported 329 students across 13 centres. Regular sessions were conducted across all centres, with tutor training and end assessments completed in Q4. Monthly parent-teacher meetings strengthened family involvement, while summer class preparations,

the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS), health camps, and an educational trip added further support to the learning journey.

Beyond academics, these centres offer students a steady space within their communities. They help reduce hesitation, build confidence, encourage participation, and make learning feel more supported.

Through this initiative, after-school centers become more than tuition spaces. They become places where children are guided, encouraged, and reminded that steady effort can lead to real progress.

Growing Alekhya's confidence through activities and personal attention

"When I joined C.V. Raman Abhyasika in the 4th grade, I faced many difficulties in English, Telugu, and Hindi. I was also very shy and had stage fright. After joining, the tutors gave me personal attention and helped me understand my subjects better. Saturday activities, museum visits, and general knowledge practice helped me grow. Today, I can speak with confidence, express my ideas without fear, and see improvement in my studies and personality."

— Alekhya, C.V. Raman Abhyasika Tuition Centre

A tutor's joy in every student's progress

"As a tutor, I feel extremely proud and happy about the achievements of my tuition students. All the students have shown great interest in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. Their hard work and dedication have brought good recognition to our tuition support. Each student participated with confidence and achieved excellent results."

— Roja, tutor

Keshava's shift from hesitation to confident learning

"Before joining Abhyasika, Keshava was academically weak, hesitant in reading and writing, and had low interest in studies. After joining, we saw gradual but significant changes. He now reads from the board, corrects his mistakes, interacts with other children, and enjoys group activities and festival celebrations. His marks increased from 44 to 77."

— Keshava's parents

How Kiran's talent found its stage

At Jantha Nagar Tuition Centre, Kiran's interest in skits caught the attention of YFS volunteers, who encouraged him to audition for a film. Coming from a modest family, with his mother working as a school caretaker and father as a daily wage labourer, Kiran's selection for 'Rao Bahadur' brought immense pride to his family and inspired other students to participate with confidence.



Support for Vinoba App

Helping teachers save time, share learning, and strengthen education across Zilla Parishad schools.

A strong school system depends not only on students, but on the teachers who guide them every day. When teachers receive the right tools, recognition, and peer learning support, classrooms become more active, organised, and responsive to student needs.

The Vinoba App initiative, implemented in Nagpur with Open Links Foundation and supported by the Persistent Foundation, works across 1,518 schools, reaching 64,600 students. 551 teachers were awarded recognition. The programme uses technology and behaviour science to improve education quality in Zilla Parishad schools, making academic processes easier to manage while helping teachers stay motivated and connected.

Through the platform, teachers are supported across interventions such as scholarship exam practice, NMMSE preparation, 'Share & Learn' for peer learning, 'Mahavachan' reading activities, spoken English posts, and 'Spelling Bee' to learn new words steadily.

These initiatives help students practice better, read more, build language confidence, and participate in learning beyond routine classroom instruction.

The programme also helps reduce administrative effort. Digitised workflows, scanned assessments, shared resources, and online teacher participation save time for teachers and administrators, allowing more attention to return to teaching and student support. Teacher recognition events further strengthen motivation,

acknowledging the quiet work that often shapes a child's progress.

This year, as part of this project, the Sarthi volunteering programme was initiated on a pilot basis. Under this, 15 volunteers engaged with 16 students through 45 sessions and 20 volunteering hours. Students also visited the Persistent office, where they interacted with volunteers and experienced a wider world of learning, work, and aspiration.

Through the Vinoba App, technology becomes a support system for teachers, students, and schools. It helps make learning more visible, efficient, and encouraging, while strengthening the everyday effort behind quality education.

A partnership strengthening learning across Zilla Parishad schools

"We would like to thank the Persistent Foundation for supporting 1,518 schools in Nagpur and impacting more than 64,600 students.

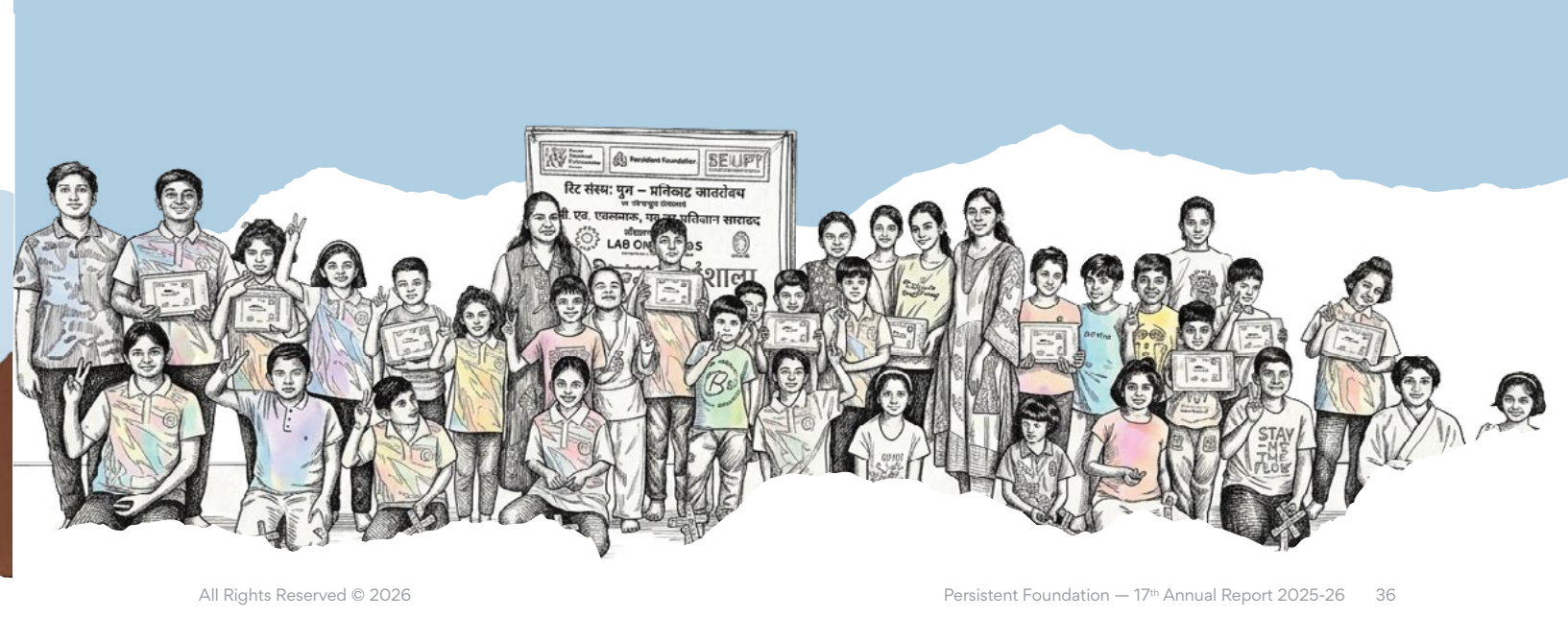
Over the past three years, this partnership has grown from supporting academic programmes such as Foundational Literacy and the National Means cum Merit Scholarship to life skills programmes including spoken English, financial literacy, poetry recitation, storytelling, the Young Innovator Club, and more.

In 2025–26, we launched the Sarthi programme, which engaged Persistent employees as mentors to enhance students' English communication skills and confidence. The Zilla Parishad students' visits to the Persistent offices in Nagpur and Pune were also deeply inspiring.

Recognition has been awarded to 551 teachers overall, motivating them to drive excellent learning outcomes in Zilla Parishad schools. This vibrant community has been made possible through close coordination and the thoughtful involvement of Persistent employees, managers, and the Open Links Foundation.

We are deeply grateful for this commitment to our shared vision and look forward to continuing this journey of transformation together."

— Sanjay Dalmia, Founder and CEO



Mobile Science Lab

Bringing hands-on science learning to students who may not have access to fully equipped laboratories

For many students in semi-urban and rural schools, science is often learned from textbooks long before it is experienced through experiments. By the time they reach the 10th grade board practical exam, some students may be seeing or handling laboratory equipment for the first time. This can create fear, hesitation, and an unfair disadvantage in a subject meant to be explored through observation, testing, and discovery.

The Mobile Science Lab, or Lab on Wheels, supported by the Persistent Foundation and implemented with Rural Education Advancement Trust (REAT) in Pune, brings science equipment and practical learning directly to schools. The project reached students across 24 schools, with an annual target of 3,480 students.

The programme focuses especially on students in the 8th, 9th, and 10th grade, giving them repeated exposure to experiments before their board exams. Each student gets the opportunity to perform experiments with their own hands, understand the equipment, and build familiarity over time. This helps ease practical exam pressure and supports stronger performance. This year, 31% of the students reached were in the 10th grade, and the intervention helped make their practical exams easier to approach.

Beyond syllabus-based experiments, the programme also expands scientific curiosity. Students participated in six exposure visits, aeromodelling workshops, a Science Day competition, an aeromodelling show, and an aviation gallery visit. These experiences help them connect science with the world beyond the classroom: the sky, machines, movement, design, and discovery.

Through this initiative, science becomes more than a subject to pass. It becomes something students can touch, test, question, and understand. For students who may not otherwise have access to laboratory resources, the mobile lab brings confidence, curiosity, and a fairer chance to learn by doing.



Encouraging practical scientific learning at Jai Hind English School

“We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the REAT and the Persistent Foundation for the valuable guidance and support provided to us during this academic year in conducting science laboratories, experiments, and examinations. Your continuous assistance and well-structured guidance have helped us successfully organise and implement practical science learning for our students. It has also helped teachers and students to understand and conduct practical sessions in a systematic and effective manner. Thank you once again for your constant encouragement and support.”

— **Seema Manohar Tiwari, Administrator, Jai Hind English School**

Joy in helping students discover science

“Working with students gives me great pleasure. I enjoy explaining experiments and solving their queries, and it motivates me to keep learning new things. Robotics training makes science fun for students. The science tour to the Aviation Gallery was also a very nice experience. Thank you, REAT and the Persistent Foundation for this opportunity.”

— **Miss Dnyaneshwari Tekawade, REAT Teacher, Saswad Cluster**

Confidence built through hands-on learning

“The REAT teacher explains experiments and the science behind each concept in a very interesting way. She also ensures that every student uses the equipment and conducts the experiment. Because of REAT and the Persistent Foundation, our students are getting hands-on science experience. It builds their confidence and really helps us.”

— **Mrs. Gaikwad, Principal, Ajinkya Dedge School**



Skill Development Programme

Preparing youth, especially young women, for dignified employment through vocational training, confidence-building, and career readiness.

For many young people from underserved backgrounds, completing school does not automatically lead to stable employment. The gap often lies in access to practical skills, professional exposure, confidence, and guidance on how to build a long-term career rather than only find a first job.

The Skill Development Programme, supported by the Persistent Foundation, was implemented across Pune, Nagpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Goa with seven partner organisations. This year, 290 students completed training across courses such as IT/ITES, food and beverage, telemarketing, and nursing. Of these, 200 students were trained through Sarthak at Hyderabad. The Programme is designed to support skilling and employment for persons with disabilities,

helping them move towards income and independence. With a placement ratio of 70%, students secured roles with monthly incomes ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹20,000.

This year, the Programme placed a strong focus on nursing, recognising the growing demand and high employability in healthcare. Across multiple locations, young women were supported through one-year, two-year, and four-year nursing courses, depending on the institution and pathway. Some students are in their first year, while others are continuing into their second year or preparing to complete their courses in 2026. Helen Rose College of Nursing was also onboarded as a new partner in Nagpur.

The nursing support goes beyond technical or paramedical training. Students also receive sessions on communication, mental well-being, professional behaviour, and personality development, helping them enter hospital environments with greater confidence.

An experiential training Programme was conducted for 100 girl nursing students in Nagpur, helping them see nursing as a career with growth, dignity, and long-term purpose.

Through vocational training, exposure visits, employability support, and personal development, the Programme helps youth move from uncertainty toward confidence, income, and self-reliance.

Fatima Lopes Lobo, Holy Cross Institute, Goa—Teacher feedback

“I sincerely thank the Persistent Foundation for organising the three-day online Self-Awareness Programme for our students and educators. The sessions, Career View, I’m Professional, and This Day Next Year, were well structured and highly impactful. They helped students build self-awareness, professionalism, and clarity about their future goals. The Programme was truly beneficial for students’ personal and professional development.”

Mekala Rishwanth Kumar, Sarthak Educational Trust, Hyderabad—Student feedback

Mekala Rishwanth Kumar, from Karimnagar, was born with a locomotor disability and faced physical, social, and emotional challenges. After finishing the 12th grade, unemployment and repeated rejections affected his confidence. Through the three-month Skill Development Training at Sarthak Educational Trust, supported by the Persistent Foundation, he gained communication, soft skills, and hospitality training. Today, Rishwanth works as a Transport Representative at Sairajobs, earning ₹20,000 per month, marking a step toward independence and dignity.

Prashanthi Balamandira Trust, Bengaluru—Partner feedback

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Persistent Foundation for supporting the education of six girl students from underprivileged backgrounds pursuing Nursing and Allied Health Sciences. This continued commitment has played a significant role in empowering these young women to pursue their academic and professional aspirations in healthcare. The support eases their financial burden and motivates them to strive for excellence and serve society with dedication.”



ACM Early Career Research Award

Recognising research that turns technology into dignified work, shared value, and large-scale social impact.

Research can create lasting change when it moves beyond the laboratory and begins to solve real human problems. The ACM Early Career Research Award, supported by the Persistent Foundation, recognises this kind of work: rigorous, future-facing, and deeply connected to social good.

This year, the award recognised Vivek Seshadri for multidisciplinary research that led to the co-founding of Karya, a data cooperative designed to create dignified digital work and supplementary income for underserved communities. Karya has employed more than 130,000 workers across three countries, including 28 states and

18 languages in India, showing how technology can be designed around inclusion, fairness, and real economic opportunity.

What makes this work especially meaningful is the “Karya Promise,” a revenue-sharing model that allows workers to benefit whenever the datasets they create generate future revenue. This shifts the idea of digital labour from one-time task completion to a more equitable model where contributors can continue to share in the value they help create.

Vivek and his team have also developed widely cited research across conferences such as CHI, FaaCT, LREC, and COMPASS, addressing the social, cultural,

usability, economic, and technological challenges of crowdsourced work. This body of research has helped strengthen both Karya’s viability and its engineering foundation.

The recognition also honours Vivek’s role as a mentor, especially his commitment to diversity and inclusive participation in research and technology.

Through this award, the Persistent Foundation supports the belief that technology-led research can be most powerful when it expands dignity, access, and opportunity for those too often left outside digital economies.

ACM India recognises support for young research excellence

“On behalf of the ACM India Council, it is my pleasure and privilege to extend our immense gratitude to the Board members and team of the Persistent Foundation for your wholehearted support to ACM India initiatives over the years.”

The ACM India Early Career Researcher Award, supported by the Persistent Foundation, stands as a premier benchmark of academic and research excellence for the computing community in India. This recognition is made possible through your visionary and generous sponsorship.

By funding the substantial cash prize and supporting the logistics for the awardee to receive the award, the Persistent Foundation does more than honour exceptional work. It actively empowers our nation’s brightest young minds to pursue groundbreaking, high-impact research in computing, right here in India.

We are deeply grateful for your enduring commitment to fostering scientific innovation and nurturing the next generation of leaders.”

— Ranga Rajagopal, Chief Operating Officer, ACM India



Sports for Specially-Abled Athletes with the Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ)

Supporting 468 para-athletes with crucial equipment, training, and health support, including 25 on the road to LA 2028.

The journey to elite sports is built long before the medal moment. It is built in training halls, recovery rooms, travel schedules, coaching sessions, equipment access, and the quiet discipline of athletes who return to practice over and over again. For para-athletes, this journey often requires specialised support, because performance depends not only on talent, but on the right ecosystem around it.

At the Persistent Foundation, we believe that access should never stand between an athlete and their potential. This year, through our support to OGQ, we contributed towards the preparation of 25 para-athletes for the LA 2028 Paralympics. The support focused on providing equipment and sports kits, including athletics equipment, gym equipment, and

sports kits, helping athletes train with greater consistency, safety, and confidence.

Through OGQ's larger ecosystem, 468 athletes and para-athletes are currently supported, including 135 para-athletes across junior and senior categories. This ecosystem brings together training, coaching, customised wheelchairs, domestic and international travel, physiotherapy, recovery, strength and conditioning, nutrition, wellness, sports psychology, injury management, medical intervention, and equipment.

The year's performances reflect what long-term, structured support can make possible. Across Paralympic sports in FY 2025-26, OGQ-supported para-athletes participated in

70 tournaments and won 383 medals. At the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, India recorded its best-ever medal tally, with OGQ-supported para-athletes winning 13 of India's 19 medals in Paralympic events. 5 of India's 6 gold medalists were supported by OGQ.

At the World Para Badminton Championships in Bahrain, OGQ-supported para-shuttlers won all 10 of India's medals in Paralympic events.

Through this partnership, we are proud to help remove barriers that stand between preparation and performance, supporting para-athletes with the tools, recovery support, and confidence to compete with dignity on the world stage.

Equipping specially-abled champions for the world stage

"The support extended by the Persistent Foundation has been instrumental in empowering India's para-athletes to pursue excellence with dignity and confidence. By providing access to high-quality equipment and sports kits, the Persistent Foundation has helped remove critical barriers, allowing athletes to focus fully on their training and performance on the global stage."

The impact of this support is not just measurable, but deeply meaningful. At the World Para Athletics Championships held in New Delhi, 5 out of 6 gold medalists from India were supported by the Persistent Foundation—marking a crucial step in strengthening India's preparation for the LA 2028 Paralympics."

— OGQ



Testimonials from Partners

Ab Normal Home

"We are grateful to Persistent Foundation for their unwavering support in this project. Their contribution has enabled a holistic approach that combines therapy, parent empowerment and community engagement. The visible improvements in children and increased confidence among parents highlight the success of this collaboration."

— **Anagha Adoni, President**



Support class, Suprabhat

"We are grateful to the Persistent Foundation for their continuous support as an education partner. Their guidance, trust, and collaborative approach have enabled us to effectively implement support class initiatives. The structured planning, regular follow-ups, and outcome-focused approach have improved Programme quality and led to visible learning improvements among children. This partnership has also strengthened our team's capacity, and we look forward to continuing this meaningful collaboration in the future."

— **Vandana Dhotre, Project Head**

Centre for Youth Development and Activities (CYDA)

"Initiatives such as Eco Clubs, WASH Hackathons, soap-making, kitchen gardens, and exposure visits are fostering leadership, responsibility, and practical skills among students, enabling them to become active change-makers. We sincerely extend our gratitude to the Persistent Foundation for their continued support. Their strong partnership, along with the dedicated involvement of their entire CSR team, has been instrumental in ensuring the effective implementation and success of this initiative."

— **Amol Shewale, Assistant Director**



Rural Education Advancement Trust (REAT)

"Lab on Wheels is a nice project running across Pune and Saswad clusters, helping 3,000+ students from 24 schools. These students are getting science practical and hands-on experience, which helps them clarify concepts and understand science in a better way. The Persistent Foundation always supports REAT and schools through financial assistance, the right guidance, and motivation."

— **Vivek Tatke, Chairman, REAT**

"Beyond knowledge, this project is driving sustainable behaviour change by instilling values of hygiene, equality, and responsibility among adolescents, making it highly impactful in shaping a healthier and more aware generation. We sincerely acknowledge and thank the Persistent Foundation for their continued support over the past 10 years. Their strong collaboration and the consistent involvement of their entire CSR team have been instrumental in successfully implementing and strengthening this initiative."

— **Vasim Shaikh, Programme Manager**

HEALTH

6,962 beneficiaries

Health challenges are rarely isolated. A child who cannot hear may also struggle to speak, learn, and belong. A child with a heart condition may lose the strength to play or attend school regularly. A child with poor nutrition may carry its effects into growth, immunity, and early learning. For families with limited access to care, one medical concern can affect the rhythm, confidence, and stability of the entire household.

The Persistent Foundation's health initiatives are shaped by this understanding. The focus is not only on supporting treatment, but on enabling more comprehensive pathways of care that can make a real difference in the lives of beneficiaries. Across 12 locations, with 10 projects, 15 partners, and 2 hospitals, we reached 6,962 beneficiaries this year.

The work continued across critical areas of paediatric and community health, including facial cleft and palate surgeries, cochlear implant surgeries, and paediatric cardiac surgeries, Bal Shalyakriya, general paediatric surgeries, and nutrition support for Anganwadi children. Each initiative responds to a different need. Together,

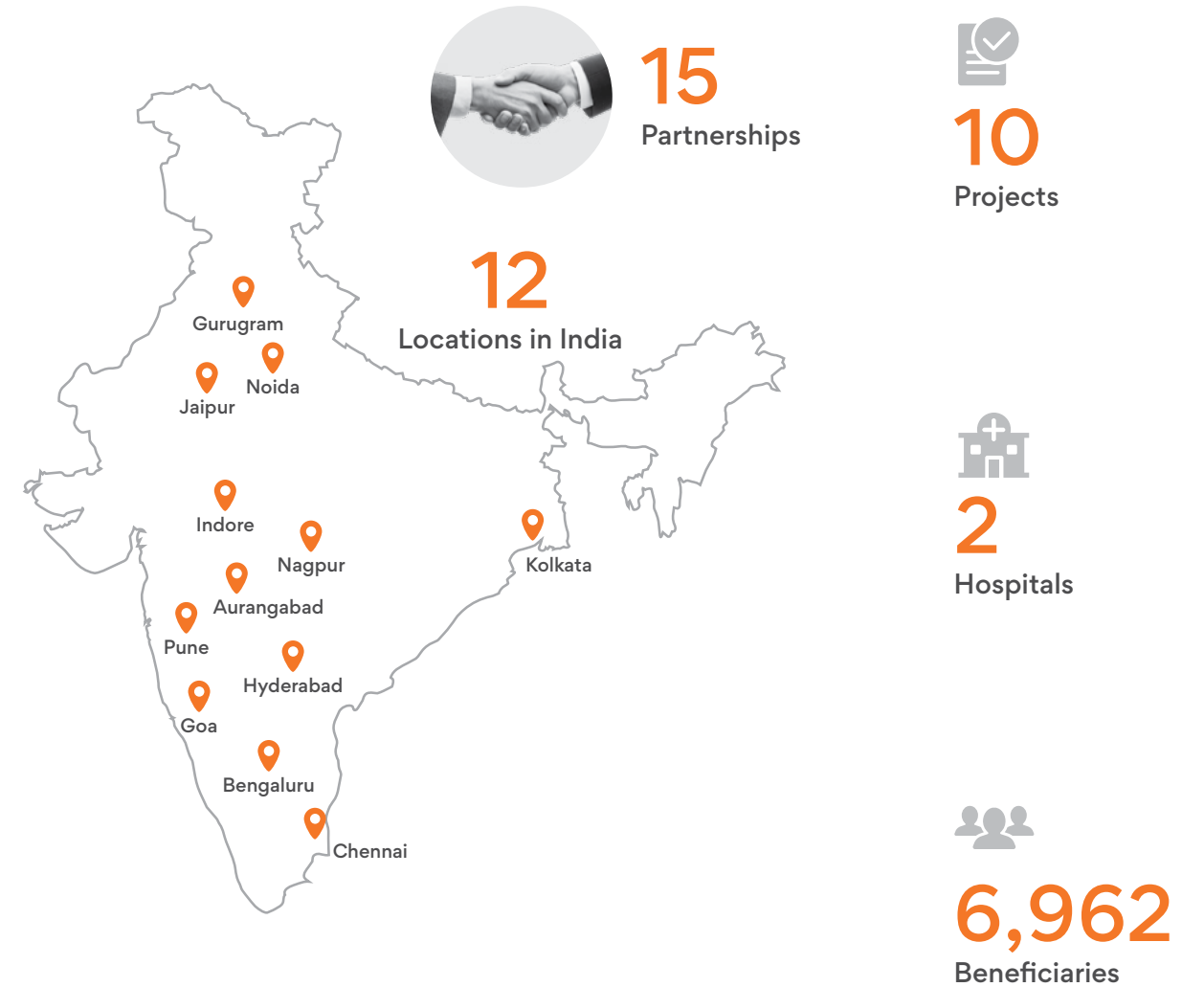
they reflect a shared commitment to timely care, thoughtful implementation, and long-term impact.

As our involvement deepens, so does our conviction that meaningful healthcare often extends beyond the first intervention. Surgery may be the beginning, but recovery may require additional therapies, caregiver guidance, post-operative follow-up, and medical device repair. These layers of support help ensure care carries forward.

The year also included eye screening programmes across five schools, reaching 2,630 students and providing 154 pairs of spectacles. Other initiatives have covered support for cataract surgeries, eye check-up units, individual medical cases, and the health and well-being of persons with mental illness.

Behind every intervention is a person moving closer to comfort, confidence, and possibility. Here, healthcare becomes a way to restore dignity, participation, and hope.

Standing with brave young patients through their hardest moments.



Flagship: Support for Facial Cleft and Palate Surgeries

Helping 1,007 children engage more confidently with the world, transforming their experience of childhood.

A child's smile carries so much of who they are. It is how they respond to love, reach out to the world, make friends, and begin to feel seen. For children born with a facial cleft or cleft palate, that simple expression can come with many hidden struggles.

Facial clefts affect far more than appearance. They can make feeding difficult, delay speech, affect nutrition, and make breathing harder. Children may also face teasing, hesitation, and exclusion from everyday moments that should belong freely to every child, including school, play, friendships, and family celebrations.

For many families, the journey is filled with worry. Quality medical care may

feel distant, expensive, or difficult to understand. In some communities, harmful beliefs and stigma can delay treatment further, leaving children to carry a condition that can be treated with timely care.

In partnership with Akhila Bharatha Mahila Seva Samaja (ABMSS), this flagship initiative supported 1,007 facial cleft and palate surgeries across Chennai, Goa, Noida, Nagpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore, Gurugram, Jaipur, and Kolkata this year.

The programme also recognises that, to be effective, treatment must extend beyond the operating room. Post-surgical care, speech therapy, orthodontic support, and nutritional guidance help

children continue their recovery with strength and confidence.

In the 10+ years that the Persistent Foundation has supported surgeries and comprehensive care for these young patients, the need for this intervention has grown clearer. Since the causes of these conditions are yet to be fully identified and addressed, cases continue to arise, and our commitment to this initiative remains firm.

Behind the number 1,007 are children who can now be held, heard, fed, understood, and welcomed with fewer barriers. There are parents who can look ahead with less fear, and futures that feel more open than before.

Before



After



Ruhi's hope restored

"When our baby was born with a cleft lip, we were scared and unsure of what the future would hold.

Then we found the ABMSS Cleft Centre at Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital, and everything changed.

Dr. Sagar Jangam treated our child as if he were his own. His gentle approach and incredible surgical skill gave our baby a beautiful, natural smile.

Today, we see confidence where there was once fear. The centre didn't just treat our child; it gave our family happiness again. It was a transformation. It was hope restored. A big thank you to ABMSS and the Aditya Birla Hospital team."

— Ruhi Pote's parents

Yash's gift of confidence

"We never thought we could afford such treatment, but ABMSS made it possible for our child to receive completely free care. From the moment we arrived, we were treated with warmth and dignity.

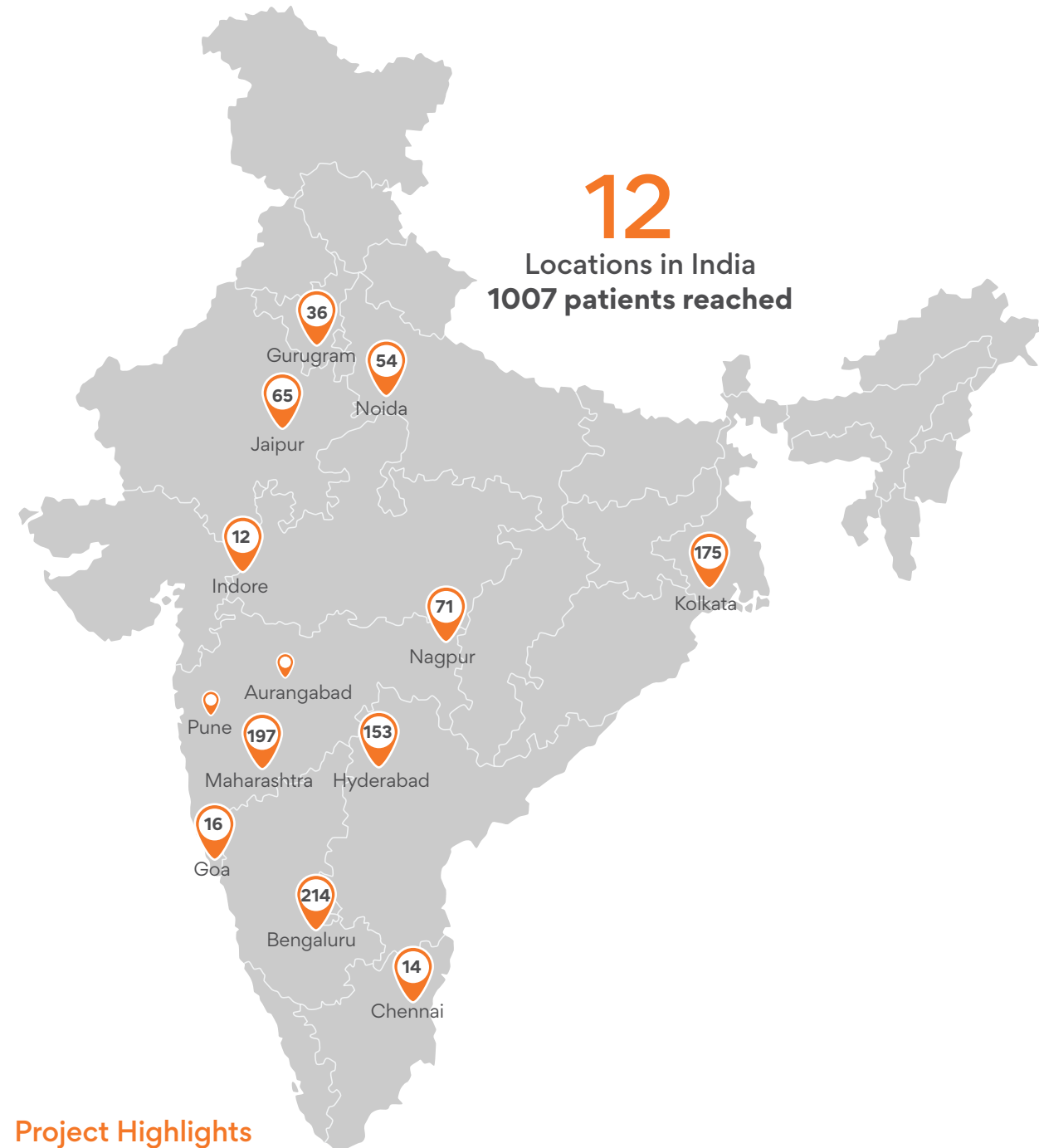
Dr. Sagar Jangam gave our child more than a surgery—he gave us a future full of smiles. Seeing our child laugh without hesitation is something we will cherish forever. We are endlessly thankful to ABMSS and the Aditya Birla Hospital team."

— Yash's parents



Flagship: Support for Facial Cleft and Palate Surgeries

Implemented at 12 locations | Partner Organisation: Akhila Bharatha Mahila Seva Samaja (ABMSS) | Annual patients reached: 1007



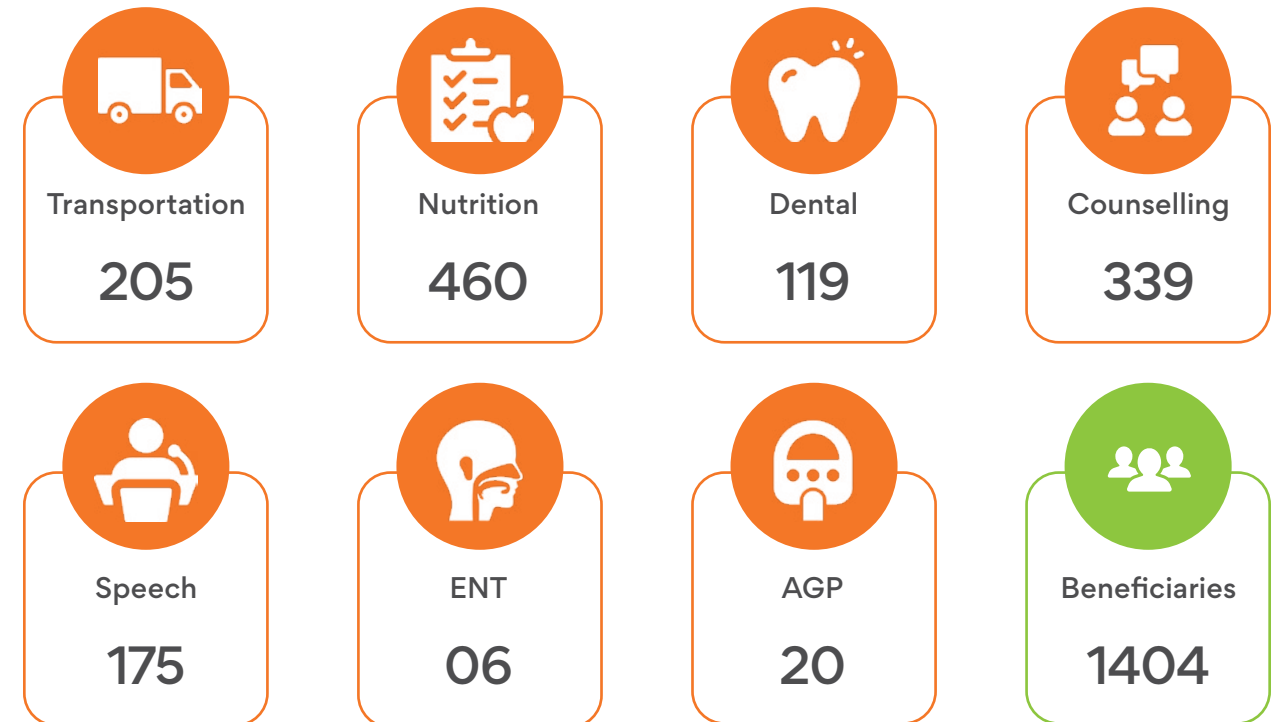
Project Highlights

Third-party impact assessment findings:

Expanding access to quality cleft care nationwide

- 44% treated before age two, supporting stronger long-term outcomes.
- Reduced stigma, helping children participate confidently in school and society.
- Aligned with SDGs 3, 4, 5, and 10.
- Near 100% survival, with improved feeding, speech, and appearance.
- Free surgeries and associated care reached low-income, single-earner households.

Service-wise update



Support for Cochlear Implant Surgeries

Building hearing, speech, and confidence in 67 children for mainstream learning alongside their peers.

For a child born with hearing impairment, silence affects how they learn language, respond to their family, build friendships, participate in school, and understand the world around them.

In the first few years of life, this is especially important. This is when the brain learns to process sound, recognise voices, and build the foundations of speech. Without timely diagnosis and intervention, children may face speech delays, slower cognitive development, and difficulty connecting with those around them. What begins as a medical condition can slowly become a barrier to learning, expression, confidence, and belonging.

For 3+ years, this initiative has supported children with

careful screening and medical guidance to identify the most suitable intervention for their needs—from cochlear implants to other forms of therapeutic support—with the goal of helping them access mainstream education.

This year, in partnership with Ashwin Medical Foundation, Bharati Hospital, and Ashray Akruiti, the programme reached 67 children across Pune and Hyderabad. The youngest patient was 1.7 years old. The Persistent Foundation covers the cost of the implant, while the cost of surgery is partially borne by the family and funds raised by the hospital.

The journey does not end with surgery. What began with implant support has expanded

to include post-surgical rehabilitation, speech therapy, caregiver guidance, and follow-up. Speech therapists also train mothers to guide their children as they adapt to sound.

The programme also supports repairs and servicing, which can otherwise cost lakhs. This is particularly important for children because they are prone to damaging the implants during play. Without this support, financial constraint can cause a child to lose hard-won progress.

Each child reached carries a future strengthened by communication, confidence, and the possibility of being fully heard.



Brave families speak on their journey to sound and expression

Mukarram Ali | First words and family connection

“Today, Mukarram is no longer living in silence. He is responding to sounds, turning when his name is called, and has begun speaking his first meaningful words like ‘Ammi’ and ‘Abba.’”

Neha Nandhana | Path to regular schooling

“With continued therapy and consistent family support, doctors and therapists are confident that Neha will soon be mainstreamed into a regular school, where she can learn and grow competitively alongside her hearing peers.”

Baby Sheeza | A mother’s resolve rewarded

“Despite the long and exhausting journey from Nizamabad to Hyderabad, Sheeza’s mother brought her for regular speech therapy every alternate day. Today, Sheeza has begun her journey into the world of sound, with early signs of progress pointing to a future where she can learn, communicate, and grow like other children.”

Dhanush Teja | Hearing loved ones

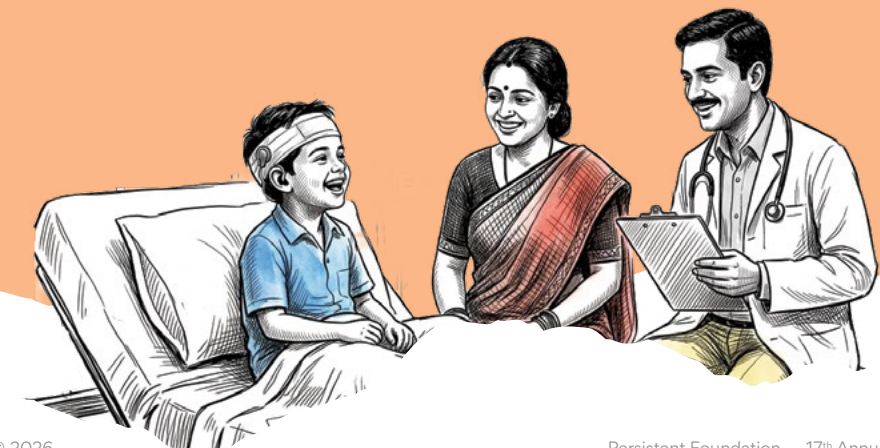
Your support has not only enabled a surgery, it has given Dhanush the opportunity to hear his loved ones, to speak his first words, and to step confidently into a world full of opportunities.”

Hari Riyansh | Tuning into hope

“Because of the timely support and intervention, our fears have turned into hope, and our child’s future feels bright and possible.”

K. Haanshith | Protecting progress after surgery

“With the new accessories, Haanshith’s Cochlear implant processor is now functioning well again, and he has been able to continue his therapy without interruption.”



Support for Paediatric Cardiac Surgeries

Supporting 81 children with timely cardiac surgeries, giving fragile hearts a stronger chance at life.

For a child with a heart condition, every day carries a quiet struggle. Breathing is harder. Feeding takes longer. Play comes with exhaustion. Growth and development can be restricted. What should be a time of movement, learning, laughter, and discovery becomes a childhood shaped by fatigue, hospital visits, and uncertainty.

Many congenital and paediatric heart conditions require timely surgery. Without it, children may face developmental delays, repeated illness, reduced stamina, and serious long-term health risks.

For families, along with fear, the diagnosis brings financial worry. Even when government schemes provide support, the available assistance may not

cover the full cost of treatment, leaving parents unable to secure life-saving care.

This year, the Persistent Foundation supported 81 paediatric cardiac surgeries across Nagpur, Pune, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, with 39 male and 42 female patients. These surgeries were conducted in partnership with Swami Vivekanand Mission, Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Prashanti Balmandira Trust, and Sri Sathya Sai Health and Education Trust. Hyderabad was added as a new centre, widening the reach of the programme and helping more families access specialised cardiac care.

The children supported ranged from 8 days old to 16 years of age. The youngest patient

reflects how urgent and delicate this care can be. At such an early stage of life, timely intervention can protect not only survival, but also growth, development, and future participation in everyday life.

The programme is implemented through a flexible gap-funding model. Depending on the type of surgery and the family's need, support may bridge the shortfall left after other government schemes, or cover the entire cost where required.

Each surgery is more than a medical milestone. It is a chance for a child's heart to beat stronger, and for a family to imagine a future with less fear.



Stories of healing, strength, and return

Charanya's heart, her studies, and her future restored

In Thornala, a quiet village in Telangana, ten-year-old Charanya's parents, Ramesh and Lakshmi, worked hard on their farm while she pursued her studies at a Gurukul Hostel. When frequent cold and cough led to medical tests, the family learned that Charanya had a congenital heart defect that needed immediate surgery.

For her parents, the diagnosis brought fear, especially because the cost of surgery felt far beyond reach. A timely referral to Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital changed the course of her treatment. The hospital, with support from the Persistent Foundation, provided Charanya with surgery, medical care, food, and accommodation free of cost.

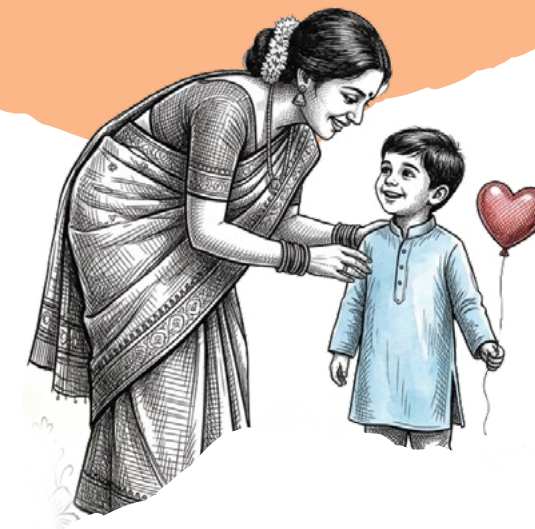
Today, Charanya is healthy and ready to return to her studies and dreams, with a heart as strong as her spirit.

Alisha's journey from worry to healing

For Sultan and Perween Begum from Nizamabad, their daughter Alisha's heart condition became a worry they carried for years. Private hospitals estimated surgery costs of ₹5-6 lakhs, an impossible amount for Sultan, a driver and sole provider for the family.

Hope came through an unexpected referral at Niloufer Government Hospital. A security guard, seeing their distress, told them about the free cardiac care available at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital. There, with the Persistent Foundation's support, Alisha received her life-saving surgery without financial burden. The family was also supported with food and accommodation during their ten-day stay.

Beyond treatment, they found care, dignity, and the comfort of being supported through a difficult journey. Today, Alisha's heart is healed, and her family can look ahead with relief and hope.



Support for the Bal Shalyakriya Mission

Providing 15 children with critical, high-risk surgeries through a long-standing collaborative healthcare initiative.

For children with complex surgical conditions, timely care can be difficult to access. The need may be urgent, but the path to treatment is often shaped by distance, cost, specialist availability, and the family's ability to navigate the healthcare system.

This is especially true for children from rural areas, where high-value paediatric surgeries may be beyond the reach of many families. These are not routine procedures; they often require specialised doctors, operating theatre access, advanced equipment, and specific consumables that may need to be sourced from outside India.

Through the long-standing Bal Shalyakriya initiative, implemented in Nagpur in

partnership with Gowda Saraswat Sabha, 15 children were supported this year for critical, high-risk surgeries. The children are identified through Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), a government programme that helps screen and refer children from rural and underserved backgrounds who require medical intervention.

The strength of this initiative lies in the collaboration it brings together. The government, through RBSK, identifies children in need and supports access to hospitals and operating theatres. Partner organisations coordinate with hospitals, doctors, and surgical teams. Equipment and consumables required for these complex procedures are

arranged with care, making surgeries possible for children whose families may not have been able to access them independently.

For the family, this support can mean the difference between waiting in uncertainty and seeing a clear path towards treatment. For the child, it can mean relief from a serious condition, a safer childhood, and the possibility of growing with fewer medical limitations.

The Bal Shalyakriya Mission reflects the importance of deep, sustained partnerships in paediatric healthcare. When systems, specialists, partners, and community-focused organisations come together, even highly complex care can reach children who need it most.



Sakshi Manik Pal: Standing stronger after spine surgery

At 15, Sakshi Manik Pal was diagnosed with kyphoscoliosis, affecting her spinal alignment, posture, and daily comfort. Corrective spine surgery gave her timely care and a stronger path to recovery. She showed significant post-operative improvement and was discharged within five days, moving toward better mobility and quality of life.

Rishabh Nitnaware: Bringing better mobility into a young life

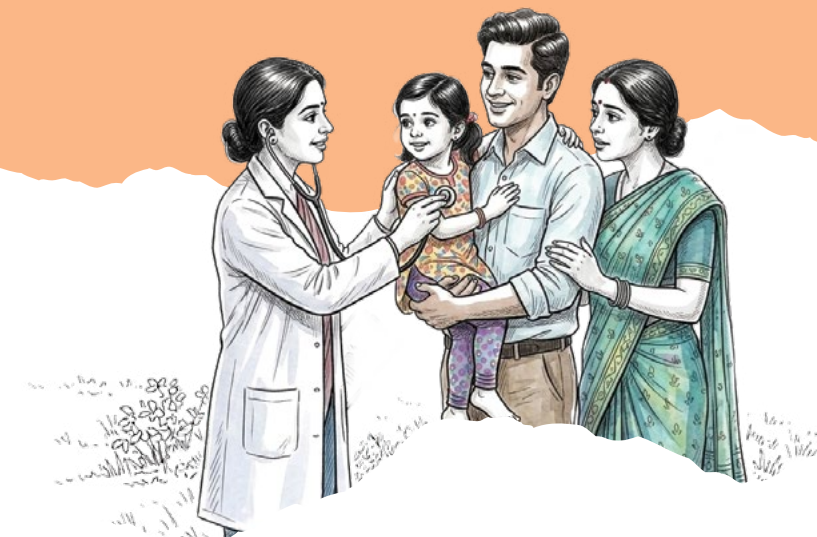
At 11, Rishabh Nitnaware underwent corrective spine surgery for kyphoscoliosis, a condition affecting his posture, movement, and long-term well-being. After surgery, he showed significant post-operative improvement and was discharged within six days. The intervention improved his spinal alignment, supporting better mobility, growth, and everyday childhood.

Reflections on strengthening paediatric surgical care with international expertise

"The camp was strengthened by the participation of experienced international surgeons who brought global expertise and advanced surgical practices to the programme."

"Visiting international surgeons collaborated closely with the local medical team, ensuring knowledge exchange, skill enhancement, and adherence to international clinical standards."

"Their voluntary contribution played a crucial role in managing complex paediatric surgical cases and improving overall clinical outcomes."



Support for General Paediatric Surgeries

Enabling timely paediatric surgeries for 174 children to prevent treatable conditions from becoming larger barriers to health, comfort, and childhood.

For many children, the need for surgery may begin with a condition that appears small but affects daily life in quiet and persistent ways. A tongue-tie interferes with speech and feeding. A hernia causes discomfort and worry. Contractures, fractures, and other such paediatric conditions require timely medical attention before they lead to further complications.

These surgeries may not always be high-risk, but they are still deeply important. When delayed, they can affect a child's movement, confidence, hygiene, communication, school attendance, and overall well-being.

This year, the initiative supported 174 children from economically-challenged backgrounds across Nagpur and Pune, in partnership with

Swami Vivekanand Memorial and Bharati Hospital. Bharati Hospital was added as a new Pune location this year, helping extend access to paediatric surgical care for more families.

Many of the children are identified through Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), where government systems refer patients from socially and economically challenged backgrounds. This referral pathway helps ensure that support reaches children with genuine medical need, especially those who may otherwise remain untreated.

The project is implemented through gap-funding, allowing care to reach more patients by bridging the financial shortfall that families may face.

The children supported ranged from 1 to 16 years of age, reflecting the importance of timely surgical care through different stages of childhood.

The surgeries covered phimosis, herniotomy, urethrotomy, undescended testicle, excisional biopsy, hydrocele, contracture release, orchiopexy, and tongue-tie. At Bharati Hospital, additional cases included cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, maxillofacial surgery, neurosurgery, and orthopedic surgery support, as well as interventional radiology.

For a child, a small surgery can bring a large sense of relief: easier movement, clearer speech, reduced pain, better participation in school, and a return to everyday childhood with greater comfort, dignity, and hope.

A partnership that brings timely care within reach

Bharati Hospital and Research Centre, Pune, and the Persistent Foundation are working together to address the healthcare needs of paediatric and adult patients requiring paediatric cardiac surgery, paediatric general surgery, paediatric cochlear implant repair and maintenance, and adult cataract surgery.

We sincerely thank the Persistent Foundation for its valuable CSR support towards these healthcare initiatives. Your generous contribution has created a meaningful impact in the lives of underprivileged patients and their families.

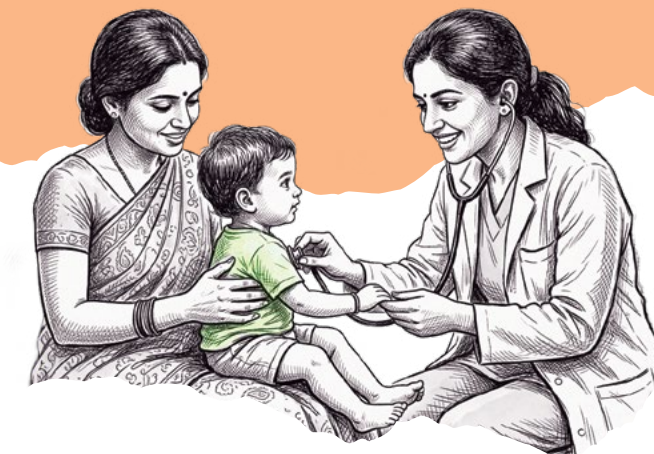
Through this support, many patients have received timely surgical treatment and regained their health, vision, confidence, and improved quality of life. We have witnessed happiness and hope on their faces. Your contribution has also helped us enhance access to quality healthcare services for vulnerable communities.

This partnership has enabled us to continue our mission of providing affordable and advanced healthcare services to patients in need. Bharati Hospital and Research Centre is deeply grateful for your trust and continued support.

We would especially like to thank Ms. Yogita Apte and Mr. Rushikesh Barsawade for their constant availability, motivation, and guidance whenever urgent CSR intervention was required.

Thank you once again for making a positive difference in the lives of many patients and families.

— Dr. Jitendra Oswal, Deputy Medical Director, Bharati Hospital and Research Centre, Pune



Support for Irradicating Malnutrition

Providing 1,440 Anganwadi children with nutritional care during the early years of growth and development.

The early years of childhood shape health, learning, immunity, and physical development. For children facing Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), inadequate nutrition can affect far more than weight or height. It can influence energy levels, attention, growth, resistance to illness, and readiness for school.

Many children in Anganwadi centres come from families where nutrition is closely linked to household income, food access, awareness, and local support systems. In such contexts, a consistent nutritional supplement can become an important layer of care, helping children receive added nourishment during a period when their bodies and minds are growing rapidly.

This Persistent Foundation initiative aligns with government efforts to address malnutrition among young children. By strengthening nutrition during the early years, the programme contributes to better childhood outcomes, helping children grow stronger and more energetic, and move towards school readiness with improved health.

This year, the nutrition programme reached 1,440 children between the ages of 6 months and 2 years across six talukas in Bengaluru/Karnataka, in partnership with the Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust. The initiative provides children with SaiSure Malt, a multi-nutrient health mix developed to improve nutritional well-being among Anganwadi children.

This marks the fourth year of association with Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust, reflecting a continued commitment to early childhood nutrition. Around 99 Anganwadi centres and their children benefited from the project over a 3–6 month period.

Government officials in the Chikkaballapura Taluka noted improvements in children's nutritional well-being, health, physical growth, and overall development.

For each child, a daily nutritional supplement may seem simple, but its effect can be deeply meaningful. Through sustained partnership and careful implementation, the programme continues to nourish children at an age when timely support can make a lifelong difference.

CDPO's appreciation of the Persistent Foundation and Annapoorna Trust.

"The feedback from parents and teachers has been very positive— SaiSure is not only tasty but also enjoyed by children. It has contributed to children's growth, increased energy levels, and health benefits. Children are more active in curricular activities. The SaiSure is also helping address malnutrition."

**Child Development Project Officer,
— Bagepalli.**

"SaiSure has Vitamins, Zinc and Magnesium. All these nutrients support children's growth. It helps increase their height and weight. Heartful thanks to the Persistent Foundation. I request you to kindly continue this programme."

**Child Development Project Officer,
— Chintamani**

Headmistress expresses gratitude to Persistent Foundation and Annapoorna Trust.

"For the last 3 years, our students are benefitting from SaiSure. SaiSure increases immunity in students. Also they fall less sick as a result of this. Their concentration on studies has increased. I thank the Persistent Foundation for this noble cause."

**Headmistress, GPS
— Ms. Arati A**



Testimonials from partners

LVPEI screenings: Bringing clearer sight closer to home



With LVPEI, support from the Persistent Foundation helped bring eye care closer to underserved communities in Hyderabad through 25 sets of screening equipment for 25 secondary centres. In April 2026, 409 community screening programmes reached 14,624 people.

Of these, 5,336 received refraction and spectacle prescriptions, 872 received treatment, and 9,365 were diagnosed with cataract or other eye ailments and referred for further care, helping restore the possibility of clearer sight and daily independence.

Cataract surgery story: Restoring sight, restoring independence

Our partnership with the Persistent Foundation helps reach rural senior citizens with timely, accessible eye care, restoring not only sight, but independence, dignity, and everyday confidence.

Through LVPEI's community outreach in Kothur, field assistant Ms. Kavitha identified Ms. Udthavath Janakamma, a senior citizen from a rural, economically weaker background living with progressive vision loss. Poor eyesight had made daily activities difficult, while financial constraints, limited awareness, and lack of nearby care delayed treatment.

She was referred to LVPEI's NATCO Eye Centre, where her cataract was diagnosed. With the Persistent Foundation's support, her surgery was fully covered and successfully completed.

LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH®

Mental health care that brings hope closer to rural families

"Through the support of the Persistent Foundation, we have been able to provide access to free mental health care and other benefits for individuals, their families, and communities in rural areas of Mysore, Karnataka. Partnering with Sonali Deshpande and the team has also been a great experience for us. Thanks to the Persistent Foundation, more families are finding hope and leading better lives. We look forward to continuing our association and creating long-lasting impact together."

Regards,

— **Anisha Padukone | CEO**

Live, Love, Laugh



Bharati Vidyapeeth: Helping children stay confident and included

"Since 2024, your CSR initiative has ensured that financial barriers do not silence the world for these children. Between June 2025 and February 2026, your support directly empowered 31 beneficiaries through new sound processors, hearing aids, accessories, and maintenance services. 100% of the supported children are now active implant users and participating more confidently in classrooms."

— **Dr. Aarti Waknis, Principal, Bharati Vidyapeeth**



सभा नागपूर

GSB Sabha, Nagpur: A decade of committed support

"The Persistent Foundation has consistently supported BSM for more than 10 years through major financial sponsorship. We deeply value this long-standing commitment, which funds nearly half of our requirements and helps us continue supporting children who need critical care. On behalf of the child beneficiaries, we express our heartfelt gratitude."

— **GSB Sabha, Nagpur**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

23,623 beneficiaries

Community development is strongest when it helps people build more secure lives where they already belong. In many rural regions, the challenges of water, livelihoods, environment, and migration are closely connected. When water is scarce, farming becomes uncertain. When income is limited, youth migrate for work. When natural resources weaken, communities lose both ecological and economic strength.

The Persistent Foundation's community development work is shaped by this understanding. This year, the vertical reached 179 villages across 5 locations, through 18 projects and 21 partners, covering 23,623 total beneficiaries.

The work is shaped around three connected areas: Environment, Water, and Livelihood.

Under the first area, Environment, projects respond both to the need for more greenery and to the responsibility of managing waste created by communities and cities.

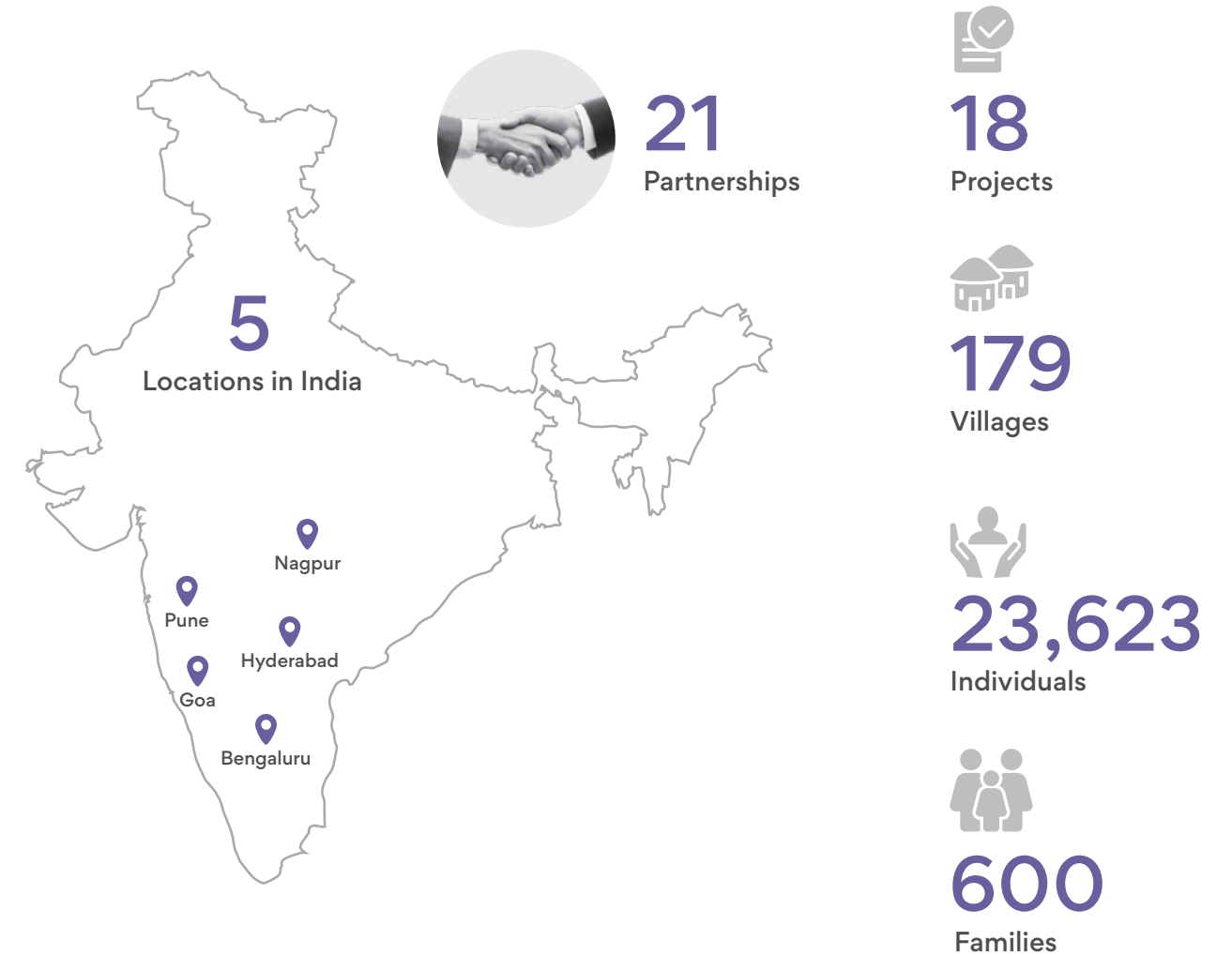
They include tree plantation and maintenance, waste management, biogas installation, solar power projects, and green infrastructure that supports cleaner, healthier surroundings.

The second focus area is Water. Through lake desiltation, integrated watershed work, open wells, borewells, and borewell recharge, the focus is on strengthening existing water resources. This year, the integrated watershed projects covered 29 villages and created 257 lakh litres of water storage capacity. Open well and borewell recharge projects covered 9 villages and created 3.88 crore litres of water availability.

The third focus area is Livelihood, with the objective of improving income, creating additional earning opportunities, reducing drudgery, and bringing practical technology support closer to rural communities. This includes off-farm initiatives such as Bhakari Kendra, as well as on-farm support through projects like the Agri Service Centre, where access to equipment and guidance helps people strengthen their livelihoods closer to home. This invites more government support as migration durations reduce.

Years of consistent presence have built trust with communities and partners. As feedback deepens, the work adapts, creating practical opportunities that help people stay, earn, participate, and strengthen their own villages with greater confidence.

Solving local challenges by building lasting community strength



Integrated Watershed Development Programme

Strengthening rural livelihoods through water conservation, improved agriculture, dairy support, and community-led resilience.

Watershed development is most effective when it addresses all aspects of life within a village. Water availability affects crops, livestock, soil health, income, migration, and the confidence with which families plan each season. When rainfall is uncertain or water does not stay in the land long enough, farming becomes fragile and livelihoods remain at risk.

Our Programme responds to this by combining water conservation with improved agriculture, dairy development, and livelihood support. Implemented in 29 villages across Maharashtra and Goa, covering 495 acres of land, the Programme created 257 lakh litres of water storage capacity, helping strengthen groundwater recharge and improve water availability.

The interventions are practical and locally rooted. Recharge farm ponds, recharge pits, desiltation, check dam repair, farm ponds, and core wall gabions help water remain available for longer. In Thugaon and Bhavadi, for example, a check dam created 15.12 lakh litres of storage capacity, directly benefitting farmers during critical cropping seasons and improving recharge in nearby wells.

The Programme also supports farmers in using available resources more productively. Soil testing, crop guidance, vegetable plots, paddy, bush pepper, farm equipment, and agricultural inputs help improve productivity while responding to local conditions. Dairy support for cows and buffaloes adds another layer of livelihood security through sorted semen, mineral mixtures,

deworming, animal health camps, and improved breeding practices. This year, 124 female calves were born, strengthening the long-term dairy potential of farming households.

The strength of this Programme lies in its comprehensive design. It does not treat water, agriculture, livestock, and livelihood as separate issues. It works with the connections between them.

Through sustained partnership and community participation, watershed development becomes a long-term investment in rural resilience, helping families protect their land, strengthen income, and remain rooted in their villages with greater hope.



Water that stayed, crops that grew

In Thugaon and Bhavadi, water scarcity during the Rabi season once left farmers uncertain during the most critical crop months. The check dam built in March 2025 changed that rhythm. With 15.12 lakh litres of storage capacity, it now supports 18 farmers across 10 hectares. Seven nearby wells have recharged, with water levels rising by 0.80 to 1.0 meters. With water available until March, crop yields improved by 10–15%, strengthening income and resilience.

Mechanisation that became a livelihood

For Dipika Dinesh Mandrekar in Mayem, Goa, arecanut dehusking was once slow, labour-intensive, and costly. A supported Arecanut Dehusker Machine changed her role from farmer to service provider. The unit has processed 6.5 tonnes of arecanut, generating ₹78,000 in gross income at ₹12 per kg, with annual operating costs of about ₹12,000. Beyond improving her livelihood, the machine gives local farmers affordable, timely access to post-harvest processing and reduces dependence on manual labour.

Sumit's story: Better dairy practices, stronger household income

Sumit Pawar's dairy farm in Vinzar (Velhe, Pune) shows how scientific livestock management can strengthen rural livelihoods. With BAIF's support, he adopted sorted semen technology, mineral mixtures, deworming, and infertility camp services. Today, he manages 11 cows, including 5 milking animals, and produces around 70 litres of milk daily. He has also sold 4 quality heifers for ₹70,000–₹85,000 each, with market potential reaching ₹80,000–₹1,00,000. The intervention reduced external livestock costs, improved herd quality, and turned traditional dairy farming into a steadier source of income.



Comprehensive Livelihood & Watershed Development Programme

Implemented at Pune and Goa | 29 villages covered

Support for Water Conservation Activities						Output/Remark
Unit	Annual Target	H1	Q3	Q4	Total	
Farmers	55	--	05	190	195	Recharge Farm Ponds, Recharge pits, Desiltation, Corewall Gabion, Repair of Check Dam, Farm Ponds

Support for Improved Agriculture						Output/Remark
Unit	Annual Target	H1	Q3	Q4	Total	
Farmers	3,227	2,457	1,196	696	4,349	Soil Testing, Paddy, Bush Pepper, Vegetable Plot

Support for Water Conservation Activities						Output/Remark
Unit	Annual Target	H1	Q3	Q4	Total	
Farmers	1,577	691	462	928	2,081	Sorted Semen, Conventional Semen, Mineral Mixture, Deworming, Animal Health Camps.
Animals	2,550	2,485	1,153	2,393	3,545	

Support for Improved Agriculture						Output/Remark
Unit	Annual Target	H1	Q3	Q4	Total	
Farmers	70	--	86	15	101	Sewing Machine, Tiller Attachment (Cage Wheel), 10 Beetle Trap

Unit	Annual Target	H1	Q3	Q4	Total
Farmers	5,029	3,148	1,733	1,829	6,726
Animals	2,550	2,485	1,153	2,393	6,031

Cattle breeding projects: Increasing female calf numbers for stronger herds, steadier livelihoods

In Velhe Taluka, dairy farming is more than an occupation. For many rural families, it is a daily source of income, security, and resilience. Yet traditional breeding often leaves farmers uncertain. With only about a 50% chance of a female calf, herd growth and future milk production remain unpredictable.

The Sorted Semen Project responds to this challenge with a focused, science-backed solution. Implemented across 16 villages, the initiative uses sorted semen technology, which can increase the probability of female calves to nearly 90%. Female calves are central to long-term dairy productivity, helping families strengthen their herds without depending on expensive livestock purchases from outside.

During FY 2025-26, 660 artificial inseminations were conducted, up from 575 in FY 2024-25. Cumulatively, 2,076 sorted inseminations have been carried out, improving herd quality and increasing the potential for future milk production across the region.

The economic impact is equally meaningful. While non-pregnant animals are valued at ₹18,000-₹22,000, pregnant animals can fetch ₹60,000-₹65,000, nearly three times the value.

Through improved breeding, healthier herds, and stronger dairy potential, the project is helping farmers build more stable livelihoods rooted in their own villages.



Tree Plantation and Maintenance

Planting 42,360 indigenous trees across seven locations, supporting environmental conservation, farmer stewardship, and sustainable livelihoods.

Tree plantation becomes meaningful when it is treated not as a one-day activity, but as a long-term responsibility. Each sapling needs the right species selection, soil preparation, watering, protection, monitoring, and community ownership to grow into a living part of the landscape.

In regions such as the Western Ghats, where ecological richness and economic pressure often exist side by side, farmers may face difficult choices between immediate income and long-term environmental health. Deforestation can weaken soil quality, reduce water retention, affect biodiversity, and make farming more vulnerable over time.

The Persistent Foundation's tree plantation and maintenance initiative responds to this challenge by connecting conservation with livelihoods in partnership with WRCS, BAIF, Satpuda Foundation,

Agro Rangers, Vrikshit, Swades, and Sparsha.

This year, 42,360 trees were planted across Pune-Koyna, Goa, Nagpur, Noida, Gurugram, Nashik, and Bengaluru, with a focus on native species that support local ecology, strengthen biodiversity, and create income possibilities for the farmers and community members who care for them.

The model encourages long-term stewardship. Farmers commit to caring for the trees over a 20-year period, while Persistent Foundation supports maintenance for the first 3 years, helping saplings survive their most vulnerable stage.

At the Pune-Koyna location, where 30,000 trees have been planted with the Wildlife Research and Conservation Society, regular

maintenance is ongoing. An impact assessment has deepened our understanding of stronger plantation care, including digital monitoring through QR-coded saplings and GIS mapping, survival tracking, biodiversity monitoring, improved pit quality, fire-line strengthening, and soil and moisture conservation.

It also highlighted worker support, equal wage practices, skill training, and nature-based livelihoods such as amla processing, kokum value-addition, and honey collection where feasible.

Through this initiative, tree plantation becomes a patient act of restoration, helping communities protect land, strengthen livelihoods, and nurture a future rooted in responsibility.

Suresh's WRCS-Persistent Foundation Plantation Initiative story

Green jobs that help people return, stay, and lead

In the Sahyadri region, the WRCS-Persistent Foundation initiative combines ecological restoration with rural livelihoods. Mr. Suresh Vithal Mandavkar of Tamkade village had migrated to Mumbai for work, but unstable jobs and the COVID-19 pandemic brought him back home without employment. In 2021-22, he joined the plantation initiative as a daily wage labourer. Through dedication and hands-on learning, he developed skills in plantation management, team coordination, fire safety, and plant monitoring.

Today, he is Site In-Charge, managing nearly 60 acres at Wazhole, while mobilising community participation in forest conservation. His story shows how green jobs can reduce migration, strengthen livelihoods, and turn ecological restoration into shared community responsibility.

How our Orchard-Based Farming Initiative helped the Bhoys family

Diversifying crops, strengthening rural resilience

Mr. Chandar Dhakalu Bhoys, a farmer with 3.5 acres of land, once depended mainly on seasonal paddy cultivation to support his wife, two sons, and daughter-in-law. The income was limited and made year-round household needs difficult to manage. Through the Persistent Foundation initiative, he adopted an orchard-based farming model, planting mango, bamboo, guava, sisav, and amla. This shift reduced dependence on a single crop and opened both short-term and long-term income possibilities. Fruit trees can support seasonal earnings, while bamboo and timber plantations create future security, helping the family farm with greater confidence.

Installation of Biogas Plants for Sustainable Livelihoods

Setting up 350 biogas units across 123 villages, helping farming families reduce fuel costs, improve soil health, and strengthen rural livelihoods.

For many rural households, daily energy needs are closely tied to household income, farm productivity, and the health of the land. Dependence on LPG or firewood can place a recurring financial burden on families, while chemical inputs in agriculture can gradually affect soil quality and crop health.

The installation of biogas plants offers a practical, long-term alternative. By converting cattle dung and organic waste into clean cooking fuel and nutrient-rich slurry, the system supports both the household and the farm. Families save on fuel expenses,

while farmers receive organic manure that can improve soil health and support residue-free crop production.

This year, 350 biogas units were installed across 123 villages in partnership with Baramati Eco Systems and Technology Pvt. Ltd. Although the project target was revised mid-year due to lower farmer contribution, the Persistent Foundation maintained its budget commitment, ensuring that support continued for families who could benefit from the intervention.

Each family is expected to save almost ₹10,000 annually on

LPG, while the organic manure generated through the biogas plant can create an additional value of approximately ₹1 lakh per family. Together, the project has enabled an estimated total cost saving of ₹3.85 crore.

The impact extends beyond direct savings. Biogas plants reduce dependence on external fuel, make productive use of farm waste, and return valuable nutrients to the soil. For farmers, the slurry becomes a resource that can strengthen cultivation practices and reduce reliance on chemical inputs.

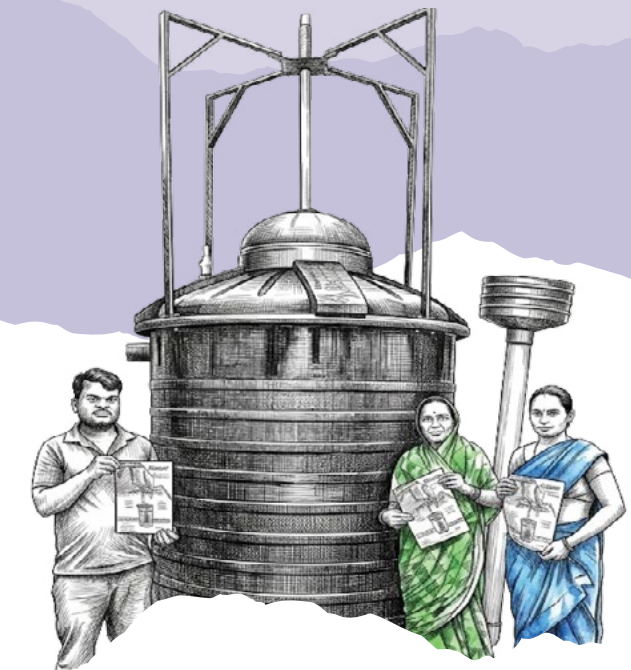
Savita's experience with our biogas plant initiative

Turning cattle waste into savings, soil health, and sustainability

Mrs. Savita Gorakh Jagtap of Kalathan No. 2, Indapur, Pune, has seen meaningful household and farm-level benefits through a 2 cubic meter biogas plant installed under The Persistent Foundation's initiative. Earlier, her family of 10 used two LPG cylinders every month, creating a recurring financial burden. For the past two years, the biogas plant has met the family's daily cooking needs through cattle dung, eliminating LPG dependence and saving about ₹2,000 per month. The slurry is used as organic fertilizer, improving soil fertility, reducing chemical input costs, and supporting healthier food cultivation.

Cleaner fuel, healthier farms, and significant savings for Vijay and other farmers

Mr. Vijay Shivaji Memane, a farmer from Pargaon Memane in Purandar, Pune, has benefited from a 2 cubic meter biogas plant installed under The Persistent Foundation's initiative. Earlier, his family depended on LPG, firewood, and conventional fuels, creating recurring expenses and smoke-related health concerns. For the past two years, the plant has met household cooking needs using gas generated from cattle dung, enabling meaningful savings. In the village, nearly 20-25 farmers have adopted similar systems and have collectively saved thousands of rupees monthly. The slurry has improved soil fertility, reduced chemical fertilizer use, and supported better crop yields.



Livelihood Projects

Supporting rural and tribal livelihoods through skill-based training that helps youth earn closer to home.

Livelihood support becomes meaningful when rooted in the realities of the community. In many rural and tribal areas, income is seasonal, linked to agriculture, and uncertain after the farming cycle ends. When local work is limited, young people may temporarily migrate for jobs, leaving behind families, farms, and familiar community systems.

Creating local livelihood opportunities helps reduce this migration. As more youth stay in their villages through the year, village populations become more consistent, giving government systems stronger reason to support these regions with resources, services, and infrastructure more regularly.

This year, the livelihood projects reached 13 villages through 3

partners and 10 trades, including Bhakari Kendra, Seva Kaichi Driver Training, Fabric Upcycling Centre, and Agri Service Centre. With a 60:40 male-female gender ratio, the focus remained on practical skills that create supplementary income and strengthen self-employment.

Seva Kaichi

Conducted in the tribal belt of Yavatmal, the Seva Kaichi barber training project responds to a simple but important local need. Many villages do not have easy access to barber services, requiring people to travel to taluka or town areas.

Through this initiative, 20 youth were trained over three months and provided with barber kits. Some have started village-level salons, while others have found placements in local, taluka, and

semi-urban salons. Residential schools in nearby villages also need these services, creating possible service contracts for trained youth.

Driver training

The driver training programme trained 20 youth over three months, helping them access local and commercial driving work. Beneficiaries are now earning approximately ₹5,000–₹8,000 per month.

With a sanctuary near the villages, trained youth may also receive tour guide support from forest rangers during visitor seasons, while returning to farming during the monsoon.

Aniket's journey from uncertainty to a steady livelihood

Driving Force Training Programme

Aniket Gajanan Bhoyar, a 12th-pass youth from a below-poverty line (BPL) family, comes from a rural village where limited employment opportunities left his future uncertain. A dedicated Kabaddi player, he had discipline and resilience, but no stable source of income. Through the Driving Force Training Programme, Aniket received hands-on training in commercial vehicle driving, road safety, traffic regulations, and professional conduct. Today, he works as a commercial driver, earning ₹10,000–₹15,000 per month. This income has improved his family's financial stability and strengthened his confidence to build a more secure future.

A local skill that became Gaurav's local income

Seva Kaichi Vocational Salon Training

Gaurav Hanumant Todase belongs to a family of five that depends mainly on agricultural labour, with an annual household income of ₹29,000. Economic instability and limited skills had restricted his employment options. Through the Seva Kaichi vocational salon training, Gaurav learned professional grooming skills and began practicing immediately after the course. He now provides haircutting services to Ashram Schools, private schools, and villagers, earning income while building experience. The intervention helped him become a self-employed service provider within his own community, strengthening his family's livelihood and supporting local service access.



Lake Desiltation

Restoring water storage capacity in two lakes to improve groundwater recharge, water availability, farm productivity, and ecological resilience.

Water bodies quietly sustain the life of a village. When lakes fill with silt over time, their ability to hold water reduces, groundwater recharge weakens, and nearby communities face greater pressure during dry periods. Desiltation helps restore this capacity, allowing rainwater to stay longer, seep deeper, and support farms, families, and local ecosystems more effectively.

At Bhugaon Lake in Pune, desiltation of 18,300 cubic meters was undertaken, benefitting 1,365 individuals. The work created a water storage capacity of 1.53 crore litres, improving groundwater recharge and water availability. The silt removed from the lake was also

used productively by 17 farmers, helping make 30 hectares of farmland more fertile. In this way, the intervention supported both water security and agricultural resilience, turning accumulated silt into a resource for the surrounding land.

At Yerangaon Lake in Nagpur, excavation of 12,600 cubic meters was completed, benefitting 1,669 individuals. The desiltation improved groundwater recharge and water availability, while creating a 1.26 crore litres water storage capacity after excavation. Since one side of the lake falls under forest area, the restored water body also supports wildlife, ensuring that water remains

available not only for people, but for the surrounding natural habitat.

Together, these two lake desiltation projects show how water conservation can create layered impact. A deeper lake can hold more rain water. Recharged groundwater can support wells and farms. Fertile silt can strengthen soil. A restored water body can serve villages, farmers, and wildlife through the seasons.

Through such interventions, the Persistent Foundation continues to support practical, long-term solutions that help communities live with greater security, resilience, and hope.

Water restored, hardship reduced, confidence renewed for Vijaya

Mrs. Vijaya Bai Masram, a 66-year-old farmer from Yerangaon village, depended on agriculture and livestock for her livelihood. Severe siltation in the village lake had caused acute water scarcity, especially during summer, forcing her to travel long distances for water for her animals. With support from the Persistent Foundation and NIWCYD, the lake was desilted to improve storage capacity and water availability. Today, Vijaya Bai has easier access to water for livestock, reduced daily hardship, and better support for farming. The intervention has strengthened irrigation, groundwater recharge, dignity, and stability for her community. This intervention has restored not only water resources but also confidence, dignity, and stability for Vijaya Bai and her community.

Reliable water, stronger farming, renewed hope for Narendra

Mr. Narendra Pandurang Chavhan, a 41-year-old farmer from Yerangaon village, depends on agriculture and livestock for his livelihood. Severe siltation and poor lake maintenance had made water availability unpredictable: overflowing during monsoons and drying up in summer. This created stress around irrigation and livestock care. With support from the Persistent Foundation and NIWCYD, a community-driven lake restoration initiative was undertaken in coordination with local authorities. Desiltation improved the lake's water retention capacity. Today, Narendra has more reliable water access for farming and livestock, strengthening crop productivity, reducing hardship, and restoring farmer confidence.

Waste Management Programme

Promoting cleaner communities through composting, e-waste collection, and responsible waste management practices.

Waste management begins with everyday habits, but its impact reaches far beyond the household. When wet waste is processed responsibly, it can return to the soil instead of adding pressure to landfills. When e-waste is collected through safe channels, hazardous materials are kept away from homes, informal handling, and the environment.

The Persistent Foundation's waste management Programme supports this shift by strengthening both awareness and access. Implemented in Pune with Poornam Ecovision Foundation and Prakruti Waste Management, the initiative targeted 10,520 individuals and 250 families, helping communities participate more actively in responsible waste disposal and processing.

This year, 820 E-Yantran kits and 250 compost kits were prepared through 6 volunteering activities across Pune, Nagpur, Goa, and Bengaluru. These activities also created opportunities for employees to volunteer hands-on for a cause that affects urban health, environmental safety, and community well-being.

With the Poornam Ecovision Foundation, support was extended for an e-waste collection drive across 29 cities in Maharashtra, Goa, and Bengaluru. A total of 1,052 e-waste collection centres were set up, creating accessible points where individuals could bring discarded electronics for responsible collection. An average of 10 individuals visited each centre for responsible waste disposal.

The Programme also supported wet waste processing through the distribution of 250 compost kits to low-income and middle-income households across Pune City. For these families, composting offers a simple way to reduce waste at source and turn kitchen waste into something useful.

With Prakruti Waste Management, support was provided for machine procurement. The installation was completed on March 31. The plant now processes approximately 2 tons of waste daily, helping manage city council waste for a population of nearly 1 lakh people and strengthening the programme's ongoing contribution to cleaner urban environments.

Waste-to-energy that makes cleaner communities possible

"The contribution of the Persistent Foundation has been instrumental in establishing this facility, demonstrating exemplary corporate commitment towards environmental sustainability and community well-being. Their support enables a replicable, environmentally responsible model for waste-to-energy, advancing our shared goal of cleaner, greener, and more livable surroundings."

— **Vineeta Date, Chairperson, ECA**

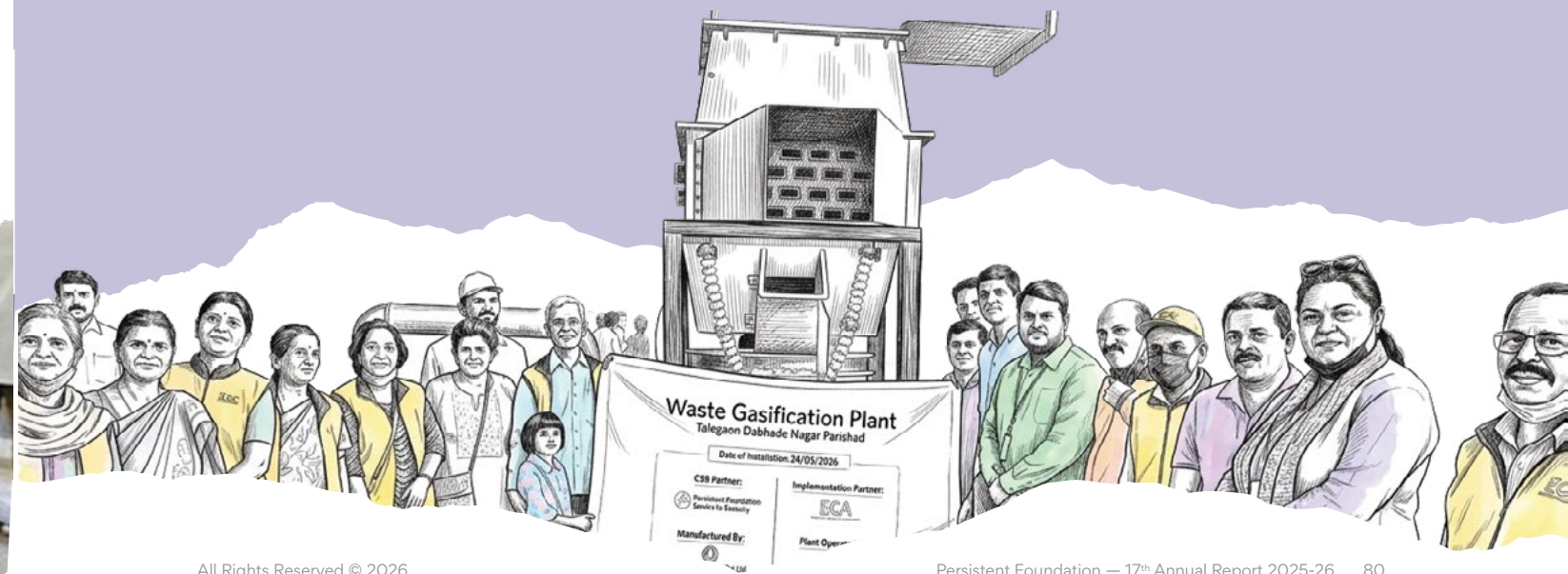
Composting at home, caring for the environment

"Through the joint initiative of Poornam Ecovision Foundation and the Persistent Foundation, I received a home composting kit and have been using it regularly. Every day, I put my household wet waste into this kit. Now, zero wet waste leaves my home. The compost is used for my plants, and this gives me great happiness and satisfaction. I will also try to encourage my neighbors and acquaintances to compost at home."

— **Rajendra Rajhans, Eisha Erica Society, Dhayari**

When responsible e-waste management also opens doors to learning

The Mega E-Waste Collection Drive, held from January 26 to February 1 across 160+ collection centres in Bengaluru, brought communities together for responsible e-waste disposal. More than 60 centres were supported through the participation of Persistent employees and management, with around 50 collection kits prepared by employees. The drive became a strong example of collective environmental action. Its impact went further when five laptops collected through the drive were refurbished and donated to organisations supporting underprivileged students, turning e-waste management into both environmental responsibility and access to digital learning.



Agri Service Centre

Improving rural livelihoods through shared agricultural equipment, crop guidance, and practical support for small farmers.

For small farmers, productivity is often limited not by effort, but by access. When landholdings are less than an acre, owning agricultural equipment is rarely affordable. Even simple tools may not be enough for timely farm work, while larger machinery such as tractors can remain out of reach. As a result, farmers may spend more time, labour, and money on tasks that could be made easier with the right support.

The Agri Service Centre in the Velhe region responds to this need by making agricultural equipment available at a minimal rental cost. The centre has been supported for the procurement of tools ranging from sickles to

larger machinery, including a tractor with useful attachments. These resources help reduce physical drudgery, improve efficiency, and allow farmers to complete farm activities in a timely way.

The rental model also supports continuity. Farmers can access equipment without bearing the full cost of ownership, while the implementing organisation uses the rental income to maintain the equipment and keep the service available for the community.

Beyond equipment access, the centre provides practical agricultural guidance. Farmers receive inputs on what crops to grow, based on local conditions, income potential, and risk. This

year, turmeric was introduced as a promising option. With 50 kg of seeds, farmers were able to grow 500 kg of turmeric, creating a meaningful income opportunity.

The choice of crop also addressed an important local challenge. Since turmeric is not typically damaged by wildlife, it reduces wastage and helps farmers protect their effort and investment.

Through such support, the Agri Service Centre enables smarter agriculture. This helps small farmers work with greater ease, reduce risk, strengthen income, and build livelihoods more suited to their environment.

A first harvest that opened new possibilities

Vegetable cultivation support for Anil

Mr. Anil Manu Jorkar of Mauje Khopadewadi, Rajgad, Pune, owns 3 acres of rain-dependent land. With training, quality saplings, and organic fertilizers, he cultivated tomato, chilli, and brinjal crops for the first time on 2 gunthas. This small step earned him ₹5,000, with a net profit of ₹4,325. More than income, the harvest gave him the confidence to keep growing vegetables and imagine steadier returns from his own land.

Less drudgery, more strength for farming

Weeder machine support for Ganesh

Mr. Ganesh Bambu Dhebe, a farmer from Jadhavwadi in Rajgad-Velhe, Pune District, cultivates 4 acres of land. Access to a weeder machine helped reduce the time, labour, and cost involved in paddy farming. For a small farmer, this support means more than efficiency; it eases physical strain, improves farm readiness, and helps him continue cultivating his land with greater confidence.



Open Well, Borewell, and Borewell Recharge

Strengthening water availability across 9 villages through open wells, borewell support, and recharge interventions that help communities use existing resources more sustainably.

Water security often depends not only on creating new sources, but on protecting the sources communities already depend on. In many villages, open wells and borewells remain central to daily life, farming, livestock care, and household stability. When these sources weaken, families may face longer waits, greater uncertainty, and reduced confidence in the seasons ahead.

The open well, borewell, and borewell recharge initiative responds to this need by improving access to water, while supporting long-term groundwater recharge. This year, the project was implemented across 9 villages with 2 partners, covering 1,465 individuals and creating 3.88 crore litres of water availability.

The work focuses on making water sources more dependable. Open wells help communities access stored groundwater, while borewell recharge interventions allow rainwater to percolate back into the earth instead of being lost as surface runoff. Over time, this helps improve groundwater levels and supports more reliable water access during dry periods.

For families, the impact is practical and deeply felt. Better water availability can reduce stress around daily use, support kitchen gardens and agriculture, help sustain livestock, and improve the ability of communities to plan for the months when water is usually scarce.

The initiative also reflects the importance of maintaining and reviving local water systems rather than relying only on new infrastructure. When existing resources are strengthened, the benefits can reach more households, last across seasons, and support both livelihood and domestic needs.

Water is the foundation for health, farming, stability, and hope. By investing in recharge and access together, the project helps communities move towards a more secure and resilient relationship with the land they live on.

BoreCharger recharge interventions

Bringing longer life back to Ravindra's borewell

Mr. Ravindra Shivram Bandal of Shivapur village, Bhor, depended on his borewell for irrigation, but water availability was limited to about one hour a day. Through the Persistent Foundation, a BoreCharger-based recharge intervention was implemented in the region's hard-rock basalt terrain, where groundwater is stored in fractures and weathered zones. After the intervention, borewell performance improved significantly, helping increase water availability, support irrigation, and strengthen farming resilience in drought-prone rural Maharashtra.

From seasonal scarcity to summer security for Rajaram

Mr. Rajaram Nathu Pangare from Malegaon village in Bhor Taluka depended on one borewell for both household use and farming. In the drought-prone basaltic region, erratic rainfall and limited groundwater recharge had reduced the borewell's flow to about 1.5 hours in winter, while it nearly dried up in summer. Through the Persistent Foundation's initiative, a BoreCharger-based recharge system was installed to guide rainwater into deeper aquifers. Today, the borewell functions even in summer, improving drinking water security, irrigation support, and resilience for the family.



Testimonials from partners



Jatin Dhall, Executive Director, Third Planet Foundation

"Groundwater scarcity represents a critical challenge confronting rural India. The CSR programme, supported by the Persistent Foundation in villages across Pune district, Maharashtra, exemplifies how technology-driven solutions can strengthen community resilience. Third Planet Foundation sincerely appreciates the Persistent Foundation for their substantive support and valuable insights throughout the project, which have been instrumental in achieving positive impacts among the served communities. Initiatives such as this one affirm our conviction that sustainable development is attainable."

Abhimanyu Nagawade, Founder-Director, Baramati Eco Systems & Technology Pvt. Ltd.

"The Persistent Foundation's vision and commitment towards sustainable energy, environmental conservation, and farmer welfare are truly inspiring. Over 15+ years, we have worked with several organisations; however, the work culture, discipline, transparency, and selfless dedication toward society demonstrated by the Persistent Foundation are truly remarkable. I sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team."



Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Division: New paths for tribal girls

"I sincerely appreciate the support of the Persistent Foundation for partnering with NEED to initiate a driving training programme for five tribal girls from Sunna Village near Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. Through this initiative, they have gained confidence, skills, and a new vision for their future, with opportunities to work as Gypsy driver-guides for tourists."

— Shri Uttam Mahadev Phad, Divisional Forest Officer, Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Division Office, Pandharkawada

Building women's livelihoods through advanced upcycling and crafting skills

"From FY 2024-25, with support from the Persistent Foundation, we expanded our footprint through the Hadapsar unit, a hub for fabric upcycling and women's empowerment. In 2025-26, we equipped 135 women with multiple advanced skills across quilting, embroidery, painting, jewellery, and bag making. Exposure visits, exhibitions, financial literacy sessions, and community activities have helped participants move towards confidence and financial independence. We thank the Persistent Foundation for this opportunity and look forward to continuing this meaningful work together."

— Poornam Ecovision Foundation



Ganesh Thorat, CEO, NAAM Foundation: Restoring water security through shared action

Under the joint initiative of the Persistent Foundation and the Naam Foundation, Bhugaon Lake in Mulshi, Pune, was deepened to improve water security. Around 18,300 cubic meters of silt was removed, with 17 farmers carrying it to fallow lands to improve soil fertility. The work created 15.3 million litres of additional storage, benefitting an estimated 1,365 people through better drinking water and irrigation access.



Nurturing dignity and confidence in underserved communities

"On behalf of the NEED Foundation, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Persistent Foundation for standing with us in our journey of community development. Their compassionate support has strengthened our work in education, women's empowerment, livelihood promotion, and youth development. Women who once lacked confidence are now earning with dignity, and many young people have started believing in a better future."

— NEED Foundation

PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE AND WILDLIFE

Preservation begins with recognising that the natural world and cultural inheritance are living responsibilities. Languages, landscapes, species, and shared histories are not separate from human progress; they shape how communities remember, adapt, and belong.

The Persistent Foundation's Preservation of Heritage and Wildlife vertical is rooted in this understanding. The work brings together conservation, rehabilitation, education, technology, and community participation to protect what is vulnerable, meaningful, and irreplaceable.

This year, the focus continued across wildlife monitoring, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, bird rehabilitation, and species conservation. Through the AI Camera and Drone Technology project with Satpuda Foundation, real-time surveillance, camera traps, drone sorties, field surveys, and community education strengthened conservation efforts in the Vidarbha landscape. These interventions help forest teams respond faster, track wildlife

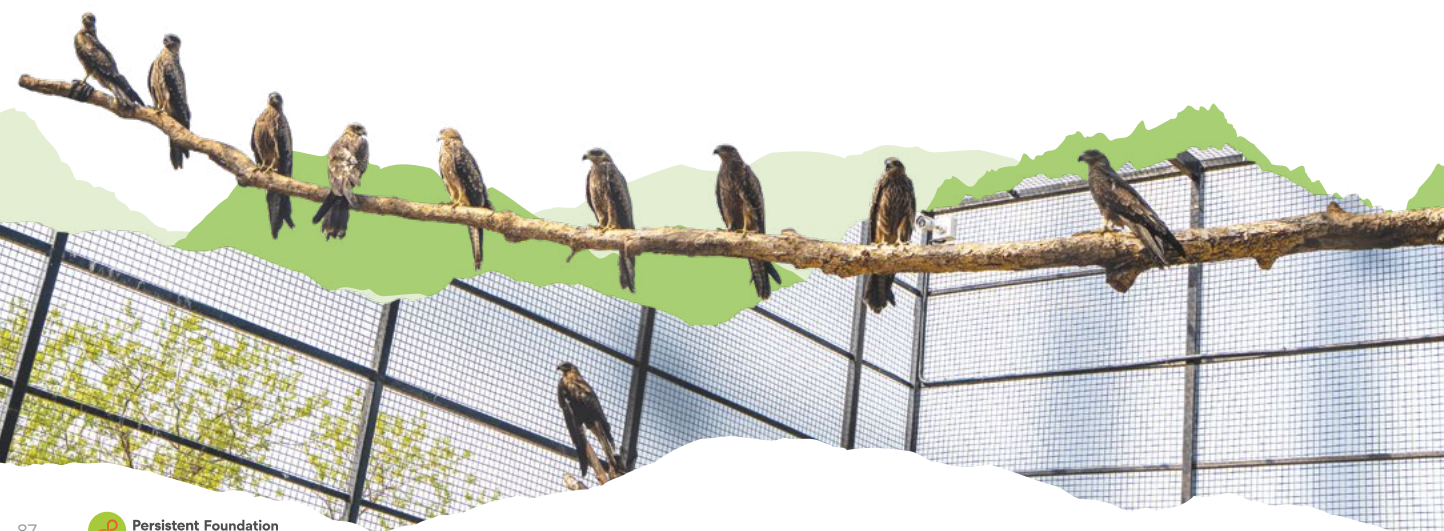
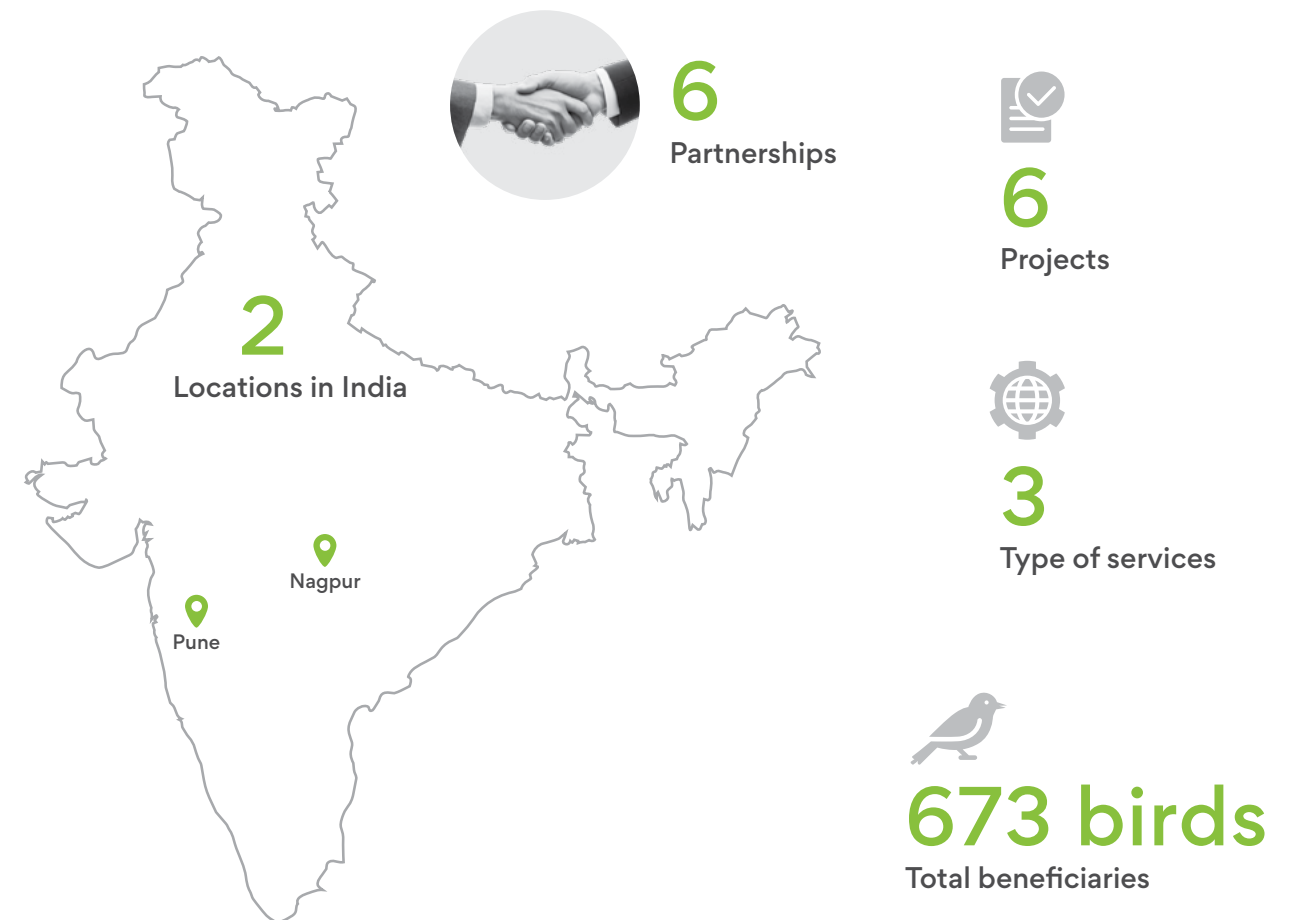
movement more accurately, and support safer coexistence between communities and animals.

At Karvi, the bird rehabilitation aviary in Pune, rescued birds received specialised care, and recovery support, making it possible for them to return to the wild. Each release reflects the deeper purpose of rehabilitation, not only to save a life, but to help restore its place in the ecosystem.

Whether it is using technology to track tigers, administering medical care for injured birds, providing training for conflict mitigation, or offering focused protection for a threatened species, each initiative demonstrates that successful preservation efforts require both sensitivity and systems.

The Persistent Foundation continues to support a future where communities, wildlife, and heritage can coexist with greater awareness, care, and hope.

Carrying culture and conservation forward with care



Support for AI Camera and Drone Technology for Wildlife Monitoring

Using real-time surveillance and drone technology to strengthen wildlife monitoring, conflict mitigation, and safer coexistence in the Vidarbha landscape.

Preserving wildlife today requires both field wisdom and timely information. In forest landscapes where human settlements and wildlife habitats exist close together, even small delay in identifying animal movement can place communities, forest staff, and wildlife at risk. Technology, when used with care, can help make conservation more responsive, precise, and protective.

Implemented together with the Satpuda Foundation, this project uses GSM-capable trail cameras and drone technology for wildlife monitoring and conflict mitigation in the Pench Tiger Reserve and surrounding landscapes of Maharashtra.

This year, 38 camera traps were deployed in the Paoni Unified Control Range, covering 100 sq.

km. and 18 villages. Together, these cameras captured around 37,000 images of tigers, wolves, deer, leopard, wild dogs, blue bulls, monkeys, various bird species, and more. This supports the systematic monitoring of wildlife movement and helps field teams respond with greater accuracy.

Drone technology added another layer of support. Using one DJI Mini 3 drone, the team completed 127 sorties, covering an average total flight distance of 558 km. The drone was used to support foot patrol staff, verify movement reports, and provide mapping and photogrammetry support across both Pench Tiger Reserve and the Nagpur Territorial Division.

The project also contributed to conservation research and field

readiness, including support for the All India Tiger Estimation 2026, training for forest officials and frontline staff, field surveys, line transects, habitat plots, and biodiversity documentation.

Beyond monitoring, the initiative reached 1,433 students and community members through Wildlife Week activities, awareness rallies, drawing competitions, film screenings, nature trails, and thematic education programmes.

Through this initiative, technology becomes a bridge between conservation and coexistence. It helps protect wildlife, supports forest teams with timely information, and gives nearby communities greater safety, awareness, and trust in shared landscapes.

Preserving heritage, transforming futures

"True conservation isn't just about collecting data in the depths of the forest; it's about converting that data into instant, life-saving actions for both wildlife and the communities living on the front line. We are immensely grateful to the Persistent Foundation for graciously supporting this initiative. By backing this critical technology, they have helped us combine real-time AI and aerial monitoring with deep community trust. We aren't just watching over a landscape—we are actively building a smarter, safer ecosystem where tigers can roam and people can prosper side by side."

— Mandar Pingle, Deputy Director, Satpuda Foundation

Tracking a tigress in real-time to protect lives and ensure her safe relocation

In January 2026, fear spread through the Paoni buffer area as a tigress began attacking people, placing both villagers and the animal at risk. GSM-enabled real-time camera traps helped change the course of response. Placed along her known transit routes, they sent instant image alerts when she crossed a sensor. With timely information, the Satpuda Foundation team and Forest Department could locate her quickly, coordinate her safe capture, and prevent further loss while ensuring she was handled with care.



Support for the Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum

Strengthening the digital and physical infrastructure that protects heritage

Preserving heritage requires continuity. Collections are not protected by display alone, but by the quiet systems that keep them safe, accessible, and meaningful for future generations. At the Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum in Pune, this responsibility carries special importance. Its collection of 22,000+ artifacts reflects the six-decade journey of Dr. D. G. Kelkar, who preserved everyday art, craft, and cultural memory from across India.

The Persistent Foundation's support builds on last year's digital audio guide initiative, which helped visitors engage with the museum's stories at their own pace and without dependence on physical guides. This year, the focus deepened from digital interpretation to the infrastructure that allows such experiences, and the collections themselves, to remain protected.

Strengthening Wi-Fi connectivity across the three-story premises enabled smoother operation of the multilingual smart audio guide system, improving access to historical context, cultural significance, and the stories behind the artifacts. This helped

technology serve the museum's purpose without reducing the authenticity of the experience.

At the same time, preventive conservation was strengthened through anti-termite treatment across interior and exterior areas. This is especially important for organic and fragile materials such as wood, textiles, paper, leather, and ivory, which are vulnerable to environmental stress and pest-related damage.

Structural repair and conservation works—including plastering, waterproofing, monsoon leakage treatment, exterior carved-arch refixing, and minor interior repairs—further helped protect sensitive galleries and artifacts.

Together, these interventions reflect heritage care as a long-term commitment. By supporting both digital access and structural resilience, the initiative helps the museum preserve its collections, improve visitor experience, and remain a living cultural institution for the years ahead.



“Collaborating with the Persistent Foundation for these activities at Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum has been a truly enriching experience. From the first discussions around the project’s potential and necessity, the journey was marked by professionalism, clarity, and shared cultural vision. The Persistent Foundation’s team ensured every step was thoughtfully planned through collaborative meetings to define the scope, implementation stages, and desired outcomes. Their regular site visits, continuous monitoring, and valuable guidance helped us stay on track and reach critical milestones smoothly and just in time.”

Thanks to the steadfast support of Mrs. Yogita Apte and Mr. Rishikesh Barsawade under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. Sonali Deshpande, Hon'ble Chairperson of the Persistent Foundation, we are proud to have achieved these milestones.”

— Sudhanva Ranade, Director, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Pune

Shivrushti: Another initiative to bring history closer to people

At Shivrushti, Ambegaon, the Persistent Foundation supported the installation of digital display screens to enhance how visitors engage with history and cultural narratives. This initiative reflects the Persistent Foundation's continued effort to make heritage spaces more accessible, immersive, and relevant for diverse audiences. The screens help present curated multimedia content, historical context, visual narratives, and thematic insights in a format that is easier to understand and remember. By complementing physical exhibits with digital engagement, the project helps visitors connect more deeply with cultural memory, while supporting a more dynamic and future-ready approach to public learning.



Upkeep of Karvi: A Bird Rehabilitation Aviary

Supporting 673 rescued birds with specialised care, helping 509 return to the wild with strength and instinct intact.

Every injured bird carries a delicate possibility: the chance to heal, regain flight, and return to the ecosystem where it belongs. Yet for birds affected by collisions, habitat loss, environmental hazards, pollution, or human-wildlife conflict, survival often depends on timely rescue and the right rehabilitation environment.

At Karvi, a bird rehabilitation aviary in Pune, support is provided for the upkeep and maintenance of a safe recovery space for injured and rescued birds. The initiative is advanced in collaboration with the RESQ Charitable Trust and the Maharashtra Forest Department, combining veterinary

care, species-specific recovery practices, and a deep respect for wild behaviour.

This year, 673 birds were treated, and 509 birds were released back into the wild. Species supported included the Black Kite, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Indian Eagle Owl, Crested Serpent Eagle, and Short-toed Snake Eagle, among others.

The aviary gives injured birds more than shelter. It provides medical intervention, careful nourishment, hydration, rest, and controlled recovery conditions suited to each species. Some birds may need support after wing injuries. Others may require treatment for

exhaustion, dehydration, trauma, or weakness before they can fly again.

The larger goal is not only survival, but successful reintegration. Rehabilitation must protect the bird's natural instincts, minimise unnecessary human interaction, and help each bird regain the strength, alertness, and independence needed in the wild.

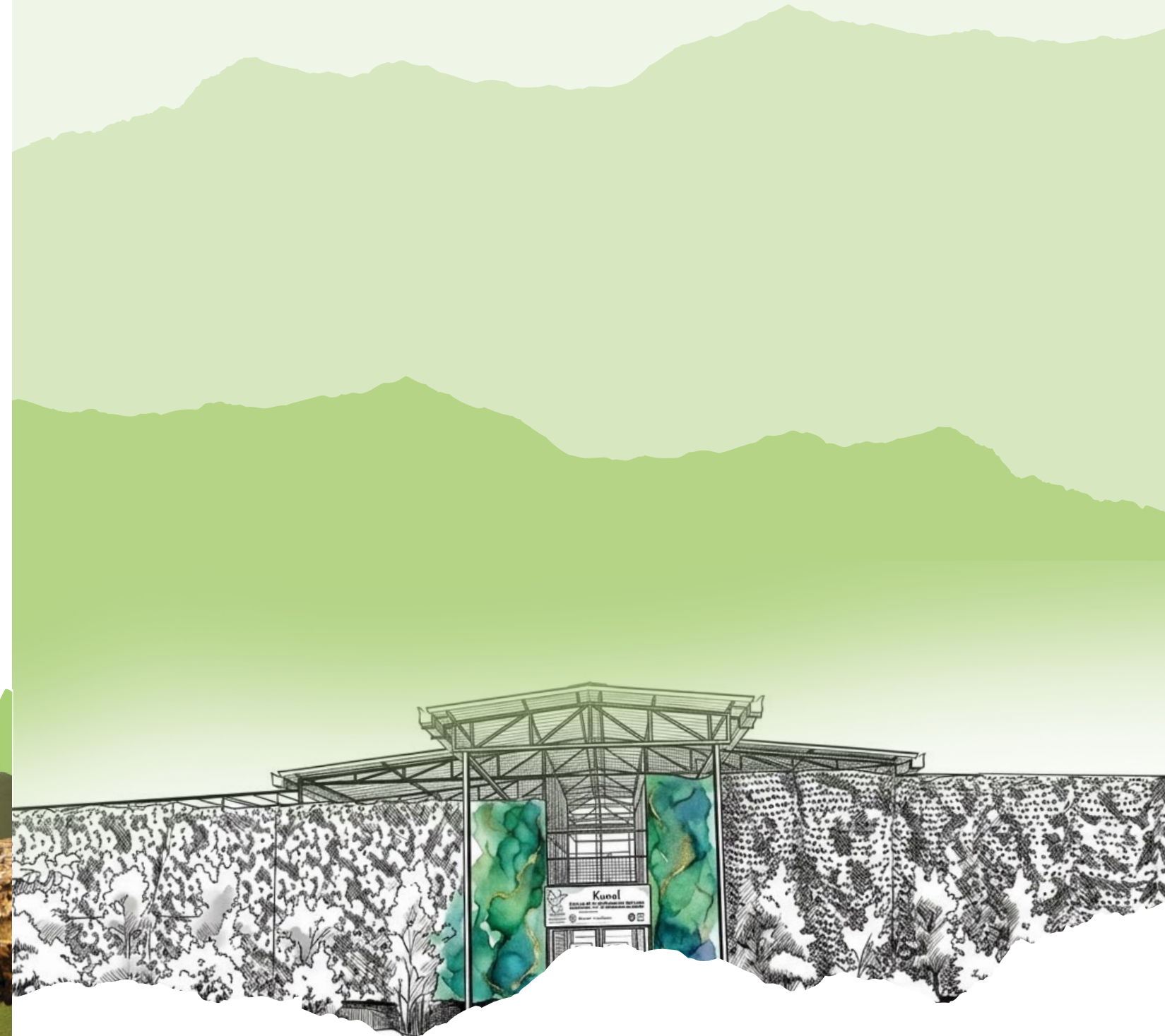
Through this work, science-backed care becomes a second chance. Each release is a quiet restoration; a life saved, a flight resumed, and a small but meaningful part of ecological balance returned to its place.



Sustaining the care that helps rescued birds return to the wild

"The KVV enclosure is a large bird aviary that became possible through the support of the Persistent Foundation. We are deeply grateful, not only for the support that helped build this facility, but also for the continued operational support that keeps it running. Creating an asset is important, but sustaining it is what allows real impact to continue. Over the past year alone, this enclosure has supported more than 650 birds, giving them the care, space, and time they need to recover. We truly value the Persistent Foundation's continued commitment."

— Nachiket Utpat, Director, RESQ Charitable Trust



Employee Engagement

Where employee commitment becomes community impact

Year after year, Persistent employees continue to show how collective action can turn care into meaningful impact. This year, their commitment was reflected across 14 locations, 70 unique drives, and 299 instances of engagement, strengthening the Persistent Foundation's work across Education, Health, Community Development, and Preservation of Heritage and Wildlife.

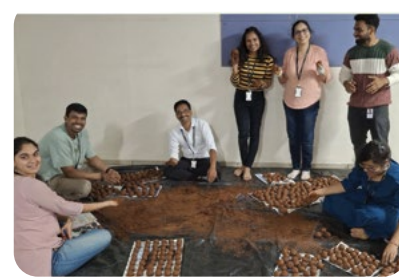
Generous donations from current and former employees strengthened

the Persistent Foundation's work this year. Each contribution supported critical initiatives, from school infrastructure and student sponsorship to cataract surgeries, flood relief, tree plantation, wildlife care, and support for families in remote villages.

Beyond donations, 10,296 volunteers gave 11,683 hours of service through activities that brought employees closer to the communities they supported. They assembled school

kits, contributed to education and nutrition drives, supported environmental action, extended help during relief efforts, and participated in causes that responded to urgent and long-term needs.

Their participation continues to bring strength to the Persistent Foundation's work, reminding us that service grows deeper when many hands, hearts, and intentions come together.



THE PERSISTENT FOUNDATION, USA

Board Members



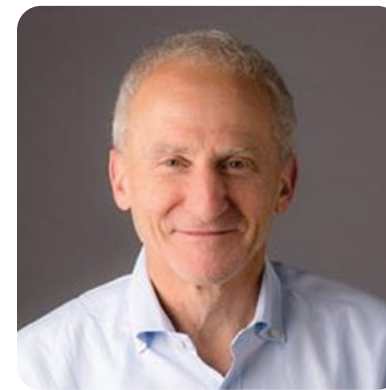
Sonali Deshpande



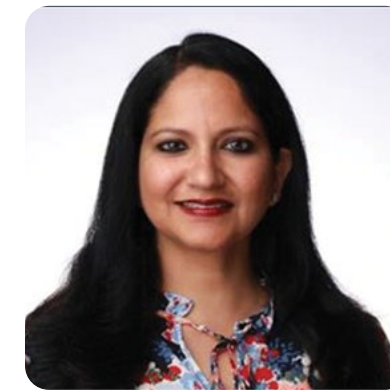
Shimona Chadha



Ajay Bharadwaj



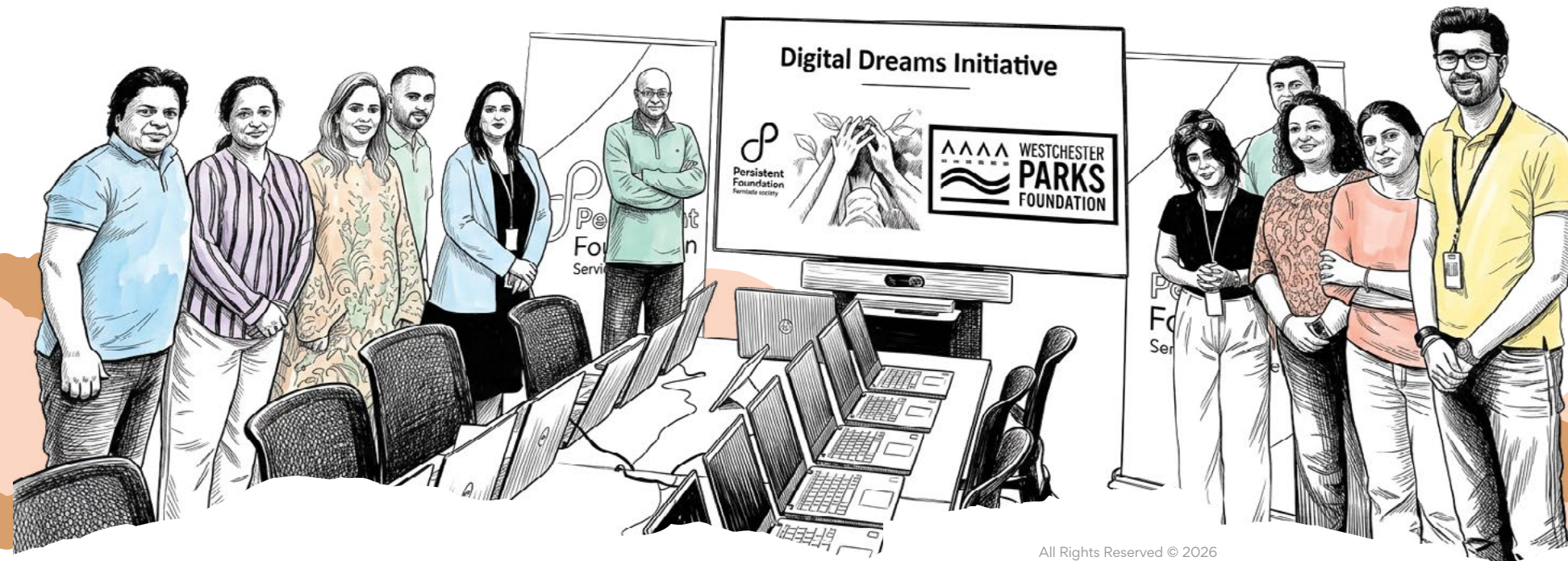
Thomas Klein



Nandini Lal



Sandeep Walimbe





THE PERSISTENT FOUNDATION, USA

A new chapter of local impact

With Persistent Systems' long-standing presence in the United States, the launch of the Persistent Foundation's USA initiatives reflects a deepening commitment to the communities where our employees live, work, and build connections. Rooted in the same spirit of service that has guided our work in India for 17+ years, this chapter brings together local partners, employee volunteers, and focused projects across **Education, Community, and Environment**.

Persistent Foundation USA at a glance



Focus Areas

Focused on making a meaningful difference in education, our communities, and the environment.

The Persistent Foundation USA is committed to serving the communities in which we live and work, supporting local needs across classrooms, shelters, public spaces, food programmes, veteran communities, and neighborhoods.

The work spans three connected areas: Education, Community, and Environment. Each area responds to a different need, yet all three are held together by the same purpose, which is to help people access opportunity, feel supported in moments of need, and participate in communities that are healthier, more inclusive, and better cared for.

In FY26, Persistent Foundation USA supported 26 projects across seven

U.S. states, touching more than 1,700 lives. 450+ employee volunteers contributed to these efforts, making the work not only a matter of funding, but of presence, participation, and shared responsibility.

In education, our projects addressed the needs of students from underrepresented communities, encouraged girls in STEM, created mentoring opportunities, and helped young people engage with responsible AI. These efforts help students imagine futures that feel more open and within reach.

Through our 'Community' initiatives, food security, wellness, care kits, women's empowerment, and veterans' welfare were prioritised.

These efforts focus on meeting immediate needs with dignity, while reminding people that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

The Persistent Foundation encourages sustainability, greenery, public space care, natural resource conservation, and animal welfare. Actions taken under our 'Environment' vertical strengthen the everyday places communities share and serve a brighter future.

Together, these initiatives mark a grounded and hopeful beginning for Persistent Foundation USA; one built through local action, employee commitment, and steady care.




Education

- Open STEM pathways for girls
- Support students from underserved communities
- Create mentoring opportunities
- Build awareness on responsible AI



Community

- Support health and well-being
- Strengthen food security
- Stand with underserved communities
- Honour and support welfare for veterans

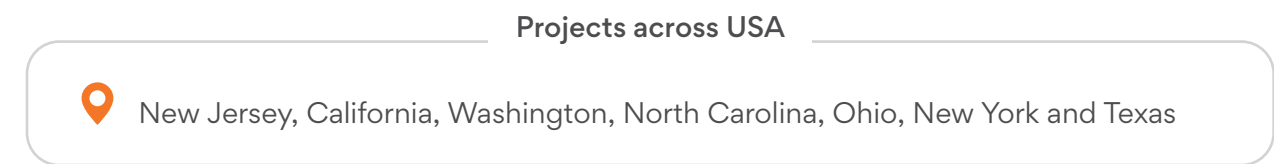
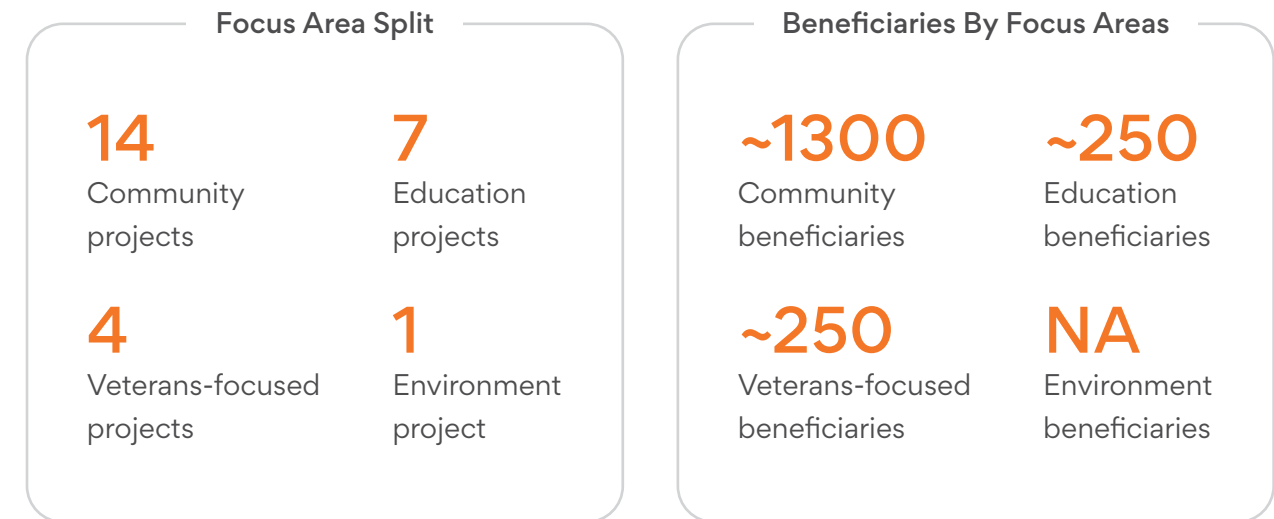


Environment

- Encourage everyday sustainability
- Support greener shared spaces
- Care for public environments
- Protect natural resources
- Support animal welfare

Summary of Completed Projects

Our projects supported food security, education access, digital inclusion, community well-being, women's empowerment, environmental care, and veteran welfare across the U.S. Through these initiatives, the Persistent Foundation USA responded to local needs with practical support, employee participation, and trusted community partnerships.



Notable Partners



FY27 Goals for Persistent Foundation in USA

Environment

- o Support **5 environment-focused** initiatives across the U.S. in FY2027
- o Use **Persistent Run locations** as anchor points for environmental action and employee volunteering



Education

- o Work with **educational institutions** to help students understand **responsible and ethical AI**
- o Grow partnerships that advance **STEM education for girls and students** from underrepresented communities



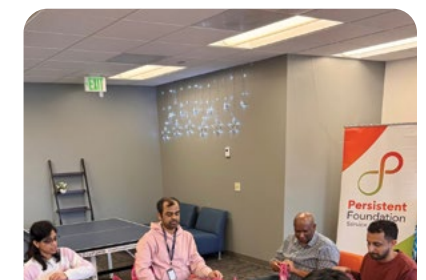
Community

- o Deepen initiatives that address food insecurity, **wellness, care kits, and essential community support**
- o Create more **in-person volunteering opportunities** with soup kitchens, shelters, and local service partners



Veterans

- o **Recognise, celebrate, and draw inspiration** from veterans within **Persistent USA**
- o Partner with organisations focused on **transitioning military talent to civilian careers**, strengthening inclusive hiring and workforce readiness





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Service to Society

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