

TATA TRUSTS



Nurturing
Human
Potential

Annual Report
2023-24

An enduring legacy of trust...

Standing- Left to Right

• Sir Ratan Tata • Jamsetji Tata • Lady Navajbai Tata

Sitting- Left to Right

• Hirabai Tata • Lady Meherbai Tata • Sir Dorabji Tata



Corporate Information

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As on March 31, 2024

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Mr. Mehli Mistry
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Mr. D. Khambata

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Mr. Siddharth Sharma

Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Aparna Uppaluri

Group Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Mehrab Irani

Secretary & Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Ashish Deshpande

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Internal Auditors

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Group Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Mehrab Irani

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Mr. Ashish Deshpande

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Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Aparna Uppaluri

Group Chief Financial Officer

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Secretary & Chief Financial Officer

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Mr. Ashish Deshpande

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Chief Operating Officer

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Group Chief Financial Officer

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Secretary & Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Ashish Deshpande

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Chartered Accountants

Legal Advisors

Mulla & Mulla & Craigie Blunt & Caroe

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HDFC Bank Limited
Standard Chartered Bank
YES Bank Limited

Corporate Information

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As on March 31, 2024

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Mr. P. Jhaveri
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The Allied Trusts

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Mr. V. Singh

TATA EDUCATION TRUST

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Mr. V. Srinivasan
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Mr. V. Singh

R. D. TATA TRUST

Mr. R. N. Tata
Mr. V. Srinivasan
Mr. V. Singh

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Dr. P. B. Desai
Dr. M. Chandy

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Mr. N. N. Tata
Mr. J. N. Mistry

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Dr. (Mrs.) S. Chitnis
Dr. (Ms.) A. Desai
Mr. F. N. Petit
Mr. V. Singh

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Mr. V. Srinivasan
Mr. V. Singh

Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Siddharth Sharma

Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Aparna Uppaluri

Group Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Mehrab Irani

Secretary & Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. R. F. Savaksha

Registered Office:

Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody
Street, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Bankers:

Axis Bank Limited
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HDFC Bank Limited
Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation Limited
ICICI Bank Limited
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
Standard Chartered Bank
State Bank of India
YES Bank Limited

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Jayantilal Thakkar & Company,
Chartered Accountants

Internal Auditors:

PKF Sridhar & Santhanam



Planting hope for a greener tomorrow, one smile at a time

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#Nurturing

Human Potential



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Individual Grants Programme

Sir Ratan Tata Trust
& Allied Trusts
FY 2023-24



A Financial Overview

The Year That Was

The total disbursements made by the Trusts during the year were ₹5,754.69 million (US\$ 69.33 million). Disbursements of ₹5,177.25 million (US\$ 62.38 million) were made on all programme grants during the year. Endowment grants touched ₹52.24 million (US\$ 0.62 million) and small grants touched ₹0.43 million (US\$ 0.01 million). The total disbursements to individuals amounted to ₹524.77 million (US\$ 6.32 million).

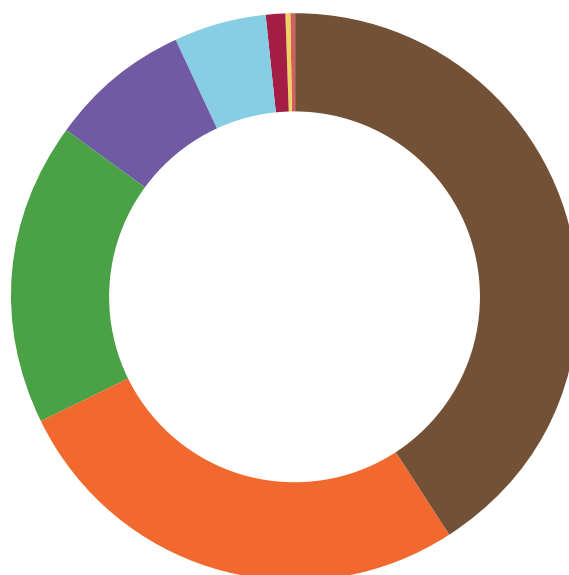
Details of Grant Disbursements: FY 2023-24

Type of grant	₹ in million	US\$ in million
Institutional grants	5,229.92	63.01
Individual grants	524.77	6.32
Total	5,754.69	69.33

Institutional Grant Disbursements / Direct Implementation Project Spends (Theme Wise): FY 2023-24*

Thematic Area	₹ in million	US\$ in million
Healthcare	2,138.12	25.76
Water	271.29	3.27
Energy	16.55	0.20
Rural Upliftment	906.76	10.92
Urban Poverty Alleviation	6.26	0.08
Education	1,406.37	16.94
Arts Craft and Culture	59.55	0.72
Institutions	421.64	5.08
Innovation	3.38	0.04
Total	5,229.92	63.01

Grant disbursements & Direct Implementation Projects: FY 2023-24



Healthcare	40.9%
Education	26.9%
Rural Upliftment	17.3%
Institutions	8.1%
Water	5.2%
Arts, Crafts and Culture	1.1%
Energy	0.3%
Urban Poverty Alleviation	0.1%
Innovation	0.1%

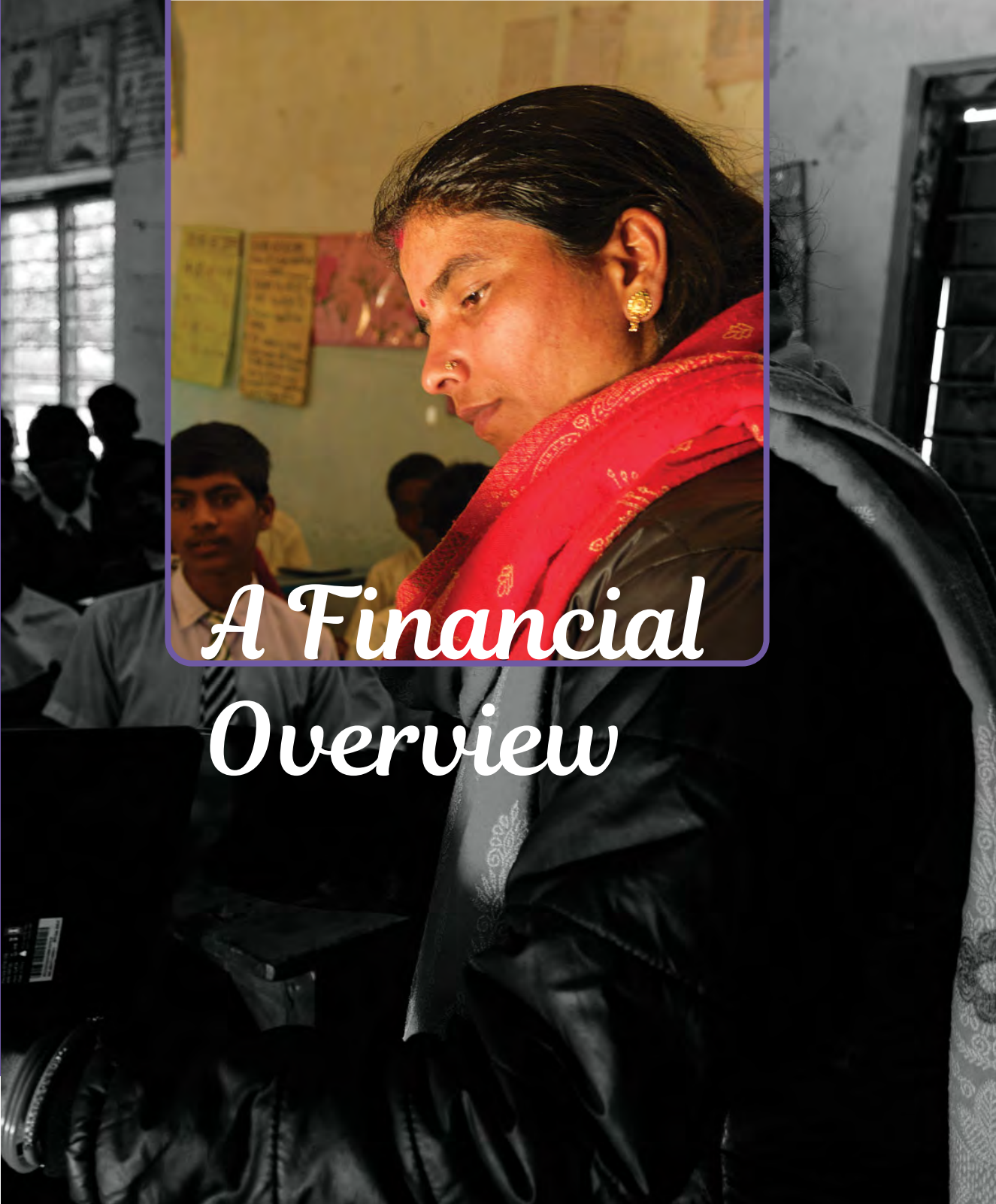
Individual Grant Disbursements: FY 2023-24

Type of grants	₹ in million	US\$ in million	%
Medical	407.09	4.91	78
Education	116.59	1.40	22
Relief of Poverty	1.09	0.01	-
Total	524.77	6.32	100

*The figures in the table reflect spend in the financial year.

₹10 million is ₹1 crore; 1 US\$ is approximately equal to ₹83

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
& Allied Trusts
FY 2023-24

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a red shawl with gold patterns and a black jacket. She is looking down and to the left. In the background, several young men in school uniforms are visible, some looking towards the camera. The setting appears to be an indoor space, possibly a school or a community center, with posters on the wall and a window in the background.

A Financial Overview

The Year That Was

The total disbursements made by the Trusts during the year were ₹1,238.45 million (US\$ 14.92 million). Disbursements of ₹917.29 million (US\$ 11.05 million) were made on all programme grants during the year. Small grants touched ₹5.29 million (US\$ 0.07 million). The total disbursements to individuals amounted to ₹315.87 million (US\$ 3.80 million).

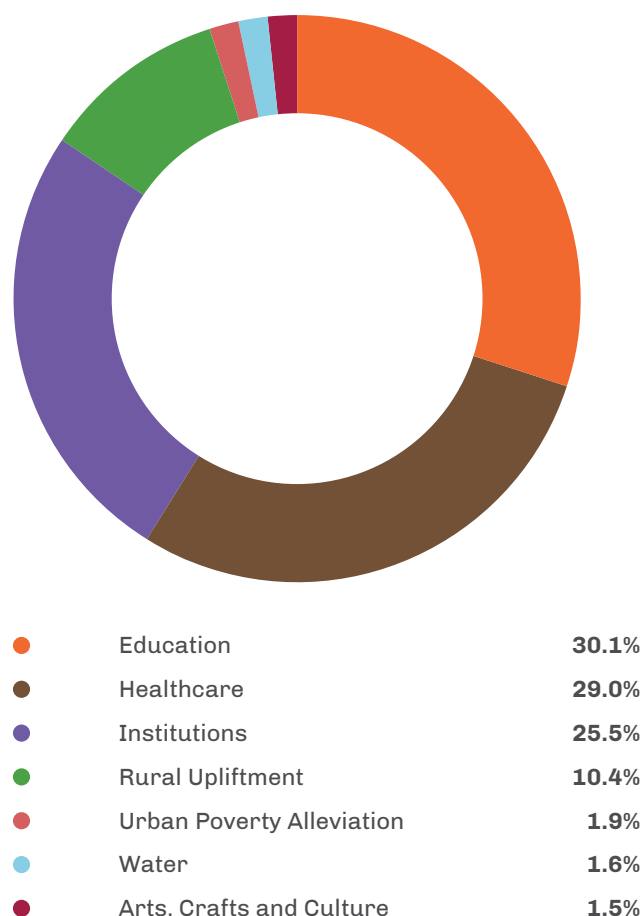
Details of Grant Disbursements: FY 2023-24

Type of grant	₹ in million	US\$ in million
Institutional grants	922.58	11.12
Individual grants	315.87	3.80
Total	1,238.45	14.92

Institutional Grant Disbursements / Direct Implementation Project Spends (Theme Wise): FY 2023-24*

Thematic Area	₹ in million	US\$ in million
Healthcare	267.39	3.22
Water	14.94	0.18
Rural Upliftment	96.32	1.16
Urban Poverty Alleviation	17.41	0.21
Education	277.47	3.35
Arts, Craft and Culture	13.50	0.16
Institutions	235.55	2.84
Total	922.58	11.12

Grant Disbursements & Direct Implementation Projects: FY 2023-24



Individual Grant Disbursements: FY 2023-24

Type of grants	₹ in million	US\$ in million	%
Medical	240.07	2.89	76
Education	75.68	0.91	24
Relief of Poverty	0.12	-	-
Total	315.87	3.80	100

*The figures in the table reflect spend in the financial year.

₹10 million is ₹1 crore; 1 US\$ is approximately equal to ₹83

As affordable healthcare is key to driving economic growth, this commitment is about ensuring that healthcare remains accessible for all.



Prioritising Quality Healthcare

Overview

India is undergoing an epidemiological shift in the disease profile, facing a triple burden of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases as well as accidents and injuries. Healthcare services in the country reveal a spectrum of greatly contrasting landscapes. On one end, there are high-tech institutions providing cutting-edge medical treatments to the wealthy in urban regions. On the other, there are rural regions with limited access to healthcare infrastructure or services. Additionally, there are major gaps in human resources and medical infrastructure, especially in terms of availability, distribution and capacity.

An effective Primary Health System is crucial to ensuring community well-being and equitable health outcomes.¹ A robust primary care system can yield long-term benefits. However, in the prevailing selective primary healthcare approach², fragmented and incomplete care can easily overlook underlying societal, cultural and political factors. The Trusts have continued to work extensively on primary healthcare and health systems in cities as well as in remote villages of the country.

While striving to enhance primary health care services, the Trusts aims to bring about a paradigm shift and address prevailing inequities in quality and access to healthcare services, along with key social determinants of health in targeted communities. In the past, the Trusts have partnered with governments and non-profit organisation to address the health issues. Going forward, integrated efforts will focus on key determinants of health, convergence with poverty alleviation and nutrition programmes, aiming for a healthier, more equitable India.

The Trusts' engagement seeks to improve access and quality of healthcare services, using various innovations, technology and capacity-building pathways. The key thematic areas of work are-

- Enhancing healthcare systems;
- Communicable and non-communicable diseases;
- Reproductive health and childcare with a lifecycle approach.

Facts and Figures on Coverage (FY 2023-24)

Organisation	Services Facilitated	Remark
Forum for Health Systems Design and Transformation, Mumbai – HSTP – NCD	6,63,48,967	Enrolled
	8,34,70,291	Screened
	1,72,80,004	Examined
	1,08,15,221	Diagnosed
	1,07,98,040	Undertreatment
	9,82,546	Followed up
	5,842	Staff trained
Society for Education Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH)	43,695	OPD
Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry	175	Volunteer
	8,664	Visits
Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI)	6,560	Staff trained
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	409	Individuals integrated
Forum for Health Systems Design and Transformation, Mumbai – HSTP – institutional support	60	Capacity building researchers

1 WHO, "Declaration of Astana," 2018, <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/primary-health/declaration/gcphc-declaration.pdf>.

2 Rene Loewenson et al., "Engaging Globally with How to Achieve Healthy Societies: Insights from India, Latin America and East and Southern Africa," BMJ Global Health 6, no. 4 (April 2021): e005257, <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005257>.

Steady Steps of Progress

Continued support to the Government of India (GoI) for addressing non-communicable diseases-

- Over 66.35 million individuals aged 30+ years enrolled;
- Nearly 17.28 million individuals examined;
- More than 10.81 million individuals diagnosed;
- A total of 10.80 million individuals treated using the Comprehensive Primary Healthcare software.

Work on communicable diseases through the India Health Fund³ -

- Supporting the development of eight solutions and technology for the diagnosis of infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and malaria. This included point-of-care technology for rapid testing of tuberculosis to enhance accuracy while keeping costs low; (Stellar Diagnostics);
- Development of a novel approach for the transfer and storage of samples for Tuberculosis testing (TB Send Card), along with a fever panel to detect dengue, chikungunya and malaria (Ameliorate).

Supporting the Government of Madhya Pradesh in improving the quality of care -

- Operationalising 626 Health and Wellness Centres to acquire certification under the National Quality Assurance Standards programme;
- Facilitating training and education for nearly 630 community health workers through a network of 13 medical colleges under CInI's⁴ flagship programme, 'Prathmik Swasthya Sampark Karyakram (PSSK)'.

Enhancing the quality of care at primary healthcare centres



³ India Health Fund is a not-for-profit organisation that was set up as a collaborative initiative of Tata Trusts and The Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

⁴ Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI) is an associate organisation of the Trusts working for overall development of disadvantaged communities across central India.

The Road Ahead

Some of the key changes the Trusts' health work will focus on in the coming years include-

- Enhancing community participation in evolving people-centric health services;
- Expanding access to primary healthcare through targeted interventions;
- Improving the quality of care, especially for underserved communities;
- Strengthening referral and access to critical care at secondary and tertiary hospitals.

Key design elements could be -

- Adopting and evolving understanding on social inequities and their impact on health;
- Deepening engagement with communities-
 - Developing community-centric solutions
 - Promotion and prevention focus
 - Community engagement and leadership
 - Identifying and addressing inherent barriers
- Adopting a systems approach to address health challenges, along with the promotion of policy reforms to address political, cultural, social and economic determinants of health;
- Facilitating partnerships with civil society, the private sector and government entities.

Excellence in Healthcare

The nationwide rollout of Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) is a significant policy decision taken by the Government of India and a crucial step towards universal health coverage. The success of this programme hinges on the capacity and skills of Community Health Officers. The Trusts have supported this programme through partner organisations to evolve the understanding of the cadre, facilitate rollout of HWCs and undertake quality improvement as well as holistic, sustainable capacity-building work. Following are some key best practices implemented through our portfolio-

- Collaborating with the Government of Odisha, the Trusts created a template for assessing competence and training healthcare workers;

- In Madhya Pradesh, the Trusts created a Knowledge Management System with elements such as the Milap application that facilitates learning for community health officers. Moreover, the Primary Care Contact Programme was launched, which is an immersive, in-person, interactive forum for medical faculties and primary healthcare workers.

Navigating Challenges

Addressing supply-side challenges and strengthening health systems are critical; however, it necessitates considerable effort to involve policymakers and programme managers from relevant health systems to adopt best practices. The Trusts have been able to attain a comfortable level of working relationships with respective state governments, fostering sustained change.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference

- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
- Confluence for Health Action and Transformation Foundation
- Forum for Health Systems Design and Transformation

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Society for Education Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH)
Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

Sri Aurobindo Society
Puducherry

Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI)
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Map is for representational purpose only. The physical map of India is as per that released by the Survey of India officially.

Impact Stories

Rewriting the Narrative in Ganesh's Story

Mr. Ganesh from Kothapurinatham, Puducherry, underwent a remarkable transformation at 28 after a life-altering accident four years ago that resulted in paraplegia and the need for a colostomy bag. Initially confined to his bed and struggling with overwhelming challenges, hope seemed elusive. However, with the support and care of his mother and the Sanjeevan Palliative Care Team, his condition began to improve over time. The Sanjeevan is a palliative care project implemented by Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) and supported by the Tata Trusts.

The Sanjeevan team provided not just medical supplies, but also vital emotional and psychological assistance. They trained his mother with essential nursing skills, including wound care and hygiene practices,

promoting a nurturing environment that improved his daily life.

With the team's guidance, he engaged in physiotherapy sessions and regular medical visits that gradually helped him regain his strength and sit up independently. In addition, the Sanjeevan team alleviated financial burdens by supplying food kits and colostomy supplies, allowing his family to focus on his recovery rather than worrying about the finances. Today, Mr. Ganesh approaches life more confidently, actively participating in his care and enjoying an improved quality of life. His journey is a powerful reminder of how the light of support can guide one through even the darkest of times.

Supporting Grassroot Healthcare Workers

Pratima Singh, a Community Health Officer (CHO) at the Health and Wellness Centre (HWC) in Amdi, Umari district, Madhya Pradesh has been instrumental in revitalising the healthcare services in her locality. In the early days, her team functioned without easy reference to protocols and documentation, hindering her ability to deliver proper care. Recognising the need for improvement, Pratima sought guidance from the district team and engaged with the Madhya Pradesh Health Systems Strengthening Project's Peer Facilitator initiative. Through this, she learned and implemented structured methods that enhanced the quality of care provided by her team and streamlined their operations.

Pratima's efforts came to fruition when her HWC achieved certification under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS). This accomplishment represented countless hours of hard work and dedication. The success sparked a wave of enthusiasm in the region, motivating Pratima to reach out to other HWCs, sharing her knowledge and guiding her peers through the transformative process. Thanks to Pratima's passion, healthcare in her region has become more accessible and reliable, ensuring that local families receive the quality care they need and deserve.

Enhancing Patient Care through Digital Solutions

In Chhattisgarh, Mrs. Gomtee Sinha, an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) at Shivaji Nagar, Durg, felt overwhelmed when the National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) portal was introduced by the Government of India to address conditions like diabetes and hypertension. Mrs. Sinha was hesitant at first due to her limited familiarity with technology.

However, with constant training and encouragement from the Tata Trusts Healthcare team, under a Non-communicable disease project, Mrs. Sinha began to find her footing. Over time, she not only learned how to use the portal, but also discovered how it could enhance her daily work. Today, the NCD portal has become an invaluable tool in her practice, simplifying the tracking and management of patient records. This digital tool allows more efficient screenings process, streamlined follow-ups and timely interventions. Mrs. Sinha's newfound confidence in using technology has greatly enriched the health services she provides, ultimately benefitting her patients.



India's cancer burden highlights the issues of accessibility and affordability, which continue to adversely impact the fight against this formidable disease.



Making Cancer Care Accessible

Overview

India has a significant cancer burden, with an estimated 1.4 million new cancer cases reported annually in the country*. Unfortunately, most of these cases are diagnosed in the later stages, leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. The problem of high incidence and late detection is exacerbated by various factors, such as inadequate infrastructure, a lack of skilled manpower to treat the disease and the concentration of cancer care facilities in urban areas. As a result, patients often travel long distances to seek treatment and care, incurring higher costs and leading to high drop-out rates.

One of the most startling disparities for a commoner in India is access to cancer diagnosis, care and treatment. Consequently, the mortality rate is about 70%. Cancer has become the leading cause of catastrophic health spending and distress financing, increasing expenditure before death in India^{1-2,3}.

Under the Cancer Care Programme of the Trusts, the Distributed Cancer Care Model (DCCM) works to reduce cancer-related mortality and morbidity through increased awareness, prevention and early detection, bringing care closer to home. This approach is particularly crucial in the north-eastern states of India, where cancer incidence and mortality are among the highest in the country. In Assam, for instance, the cancer incidence rate is 90.2 per 100,000 people, significantly higher than the national average of 81.2 per 100,000.

The Trusts have extended their cancer care infrastructure to other regions, with hospitals established in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh and Ranchi, Jharkhand. The Tata Cancer Care Foundation (formerly Alamelu Charitable Foundation) has played a pivotal role in constructing and operationalising two L2

hospitals. A 140-bed hospital is also under construction in Chandrapur, Maharashtra. This growing network aims to enhance early detection through community outreach and provide world-class care within the states, ultimately reducing cancer mortality rates and catastrophic health expenditures.

The Tata Cancer Care Foundation (TCCF) collaborates with a broad range of partners, including government and non-government stakeholders, who have been making a tremendous contribution to the fight against cancer. They prioritise early detection and accessible, high-quality care. Partners have played a crucial role in this fight, supporting the hiring of skilled staff, purchasing necessary equipment as well as spreading cancer awareness, screening and training programmes in the public health space.

Camp being held to provide quality cancer care to the masses



* Globocon 2022 – The Global Cancer Observatory February 2024

- 1 **Kastor A, Mohanty SK.** Disease-specific out-of-pocket and catastrophic health expenditure on hospitalization in India: Do Indian households face distress health financing? PLoS One. 2018;13:e0196106. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
- 2 **Rajpal S, Kumar A, Joe W.** Economic burden of cancer in India: Evidence from cross-sectional nationally representative household survey, 2014. PLoS One. 2018;13:e0193320. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
- 3 **Das SK, Ladusingh L.** Why is the inpatient cost of dying increasing in India? PLoS One. 2018;13:e0203454. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Results that Resonate (During FY 2023-24)



363,144

beneficiaries
covered under public
health awareness
campaigns



22,562

individuals covered
under training and
capacity-building
programmes



987,456

individuals
screened for non-
communicable
diseases



47,382

new patients provided
services in cancer
care hospitals under
the cancer care
programme



147,091

patients treated in
the OPD



3,484

patients administered
radiotherapy



33,968

chemotherapy
sessions
administered



1,477

surgeries
conducted

Steady Steps of Progress

Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC)

Inaugurated in May 2023, the RCHRC is a crucial addition to the healthcare landscape, serving not only Jharkhand but also neighbouring states, such as Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. The hospital is empanelled under the Government of India's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), providing financial assistance to patients with limited annual incomes. As of March 2024, 1,148 patients have benefited from this scheme.

Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care and Advanced Research (SVICCAR), Tirupati

This 92-bed hospital, empanelled under the State Government's YSR Aarogyasri health scheme, has provided care to over 9,134 beneficiaries as of March, 2024.

An upgraded State Cancer Institute (SCI) in Guwahati

A 350-bed apex cancer care centre, equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology was inaugurated in March, 2024. The L2-level Silchar Cancer Centre was also inaugurated during the same month.

The 'Gaanth Pe Dhyan' campaign

Launched in October 2023, as part of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, this initiative aims to inspire and empower women to take proactive steps towards early detection of breast cancer, potentially saving countless lives.



Gaanth Pe Dhyan campaign

The Road Ahead

- While the Diphu Cancer Centre is expected to become operational during FY 2024-25, seven additional hospitals are planned for FY 2025-26 and 2026-27, thereby establishing a comprehensive network of 17 centres across the Assam;
- Construction is underway for another cancer care centre in Chandrapur, Maharashtra, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, through the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) and the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). This facility will be housed within the premises of the Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandrapur.



Ishwar Prasad with his son and Dr Sachender. Ishwar overcame stage 1 squamous cell carcinoma with successful surgery at RCHRC, Ranchi

Excellence in Cancer Care

- Prevention, early detection and palliative care efforts focus on reducing the cancer burden in the country. One of the challenges of late detection and diagnoses is a lack of awareness at the grass-roots. To address this, the Trusts are organising periodic awareness camps, along with the National Health Mission (NHM), on cancer causes, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care in Sub-Centres (SCs) as well as Health and Wellness Centres (HWC). Healthcare professionals and frontline workers are being trained to conduct screenings and raise awareness. The geographies of the catchment programme include Assam, Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Ranchi, Khunti and Sarai Kela (Jharkhand);
- The programme is being supplemented with 'Health Screening and Awareness Centres' called 'Swasth Kiosks' which have been set up in collaboration with Government Medical College Hospitals / District Hospitals to provide free-of-cost screening and awareness services to patients and their family members. Kiosks are currently operational in Tirupati, Ranchi, Chandrapur and Bhubaneswar.

- The outreach programme is well complemented by the comprehensive cancer care hospitals set up in Assam, Tirupati and Ranchi. Since establishment, these hospitals have catered to thousands of patients and provided dedicated diagnostic and treatment services.

Navigating Challenges

- The scarcity of trained and specialised workforce in cancer care in India, including oncologists, onco-surgeons and oncology-trained nurses, makes it difficult to provide adequate cancer care services in hospitals;
- Limited awareness in remote areas often result in delayed diagnosis, leading to postponed treatment and poor prognoses.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference

ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Bengaluru, Karnataka

- Pfizer
- Universal MEPP Projects & Engineering Services Limited (UMPESL)
- DMart Foundation
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)

Ranchi, Jharkhand

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

Kolkata, West Bengal

Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation

Aluva, Kerala

Dakshina India Arya Vysva (DIAV) Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Dharma Paripalana Samstha

Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

*** Besides the above, the Trusts would like to acknowledge Tata Group companies, as well as benevolent individual donors and Apex learning institutes, such as the Tata Memorial Centre, Tata Medical Centre and more, that have lent their support either towards infrastructure, equipment or public health initiatives for the Tata Trusts Cancer Care Centres across the country.

Map is for representational purpose only. The physical map of India is as per that released by the Survey of India officially.

From Diagnosis to Determination

Mr. E Venkatesh, a 65-year-old resident of Kamalapuram, YSR Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, was battling persistent abdominal pain and after a few days visited Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care & Advanced Research (SVICCAR), Tirupati. Clinical assessments revealed symptoms of pallor and icterus, raising concerns about underlying health conditions. Following thorough investigations, the Oncology team at SVICCAR, which is supported by Tata Trusts confirmed the suspicion of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) located in the right lobe of the liver.

This diagnosis was followed with a comprehensive treatment plan outlined for Mr. Venkatesh, which included a surgical procedure and pre-operative assessments.

The aim of the intervention was to address the suspected cancerous lesion and prepare Mr. Venkatesh for surgery.

Patient involvement has been a central focus at SVICCAR. Detailed examinations and discussions were conducted to understand Mr. Venkatesh's medical history, family background and current symptoms. The multidisciplinary team at SVICCAR committed to provide comprehensive care and support throughout Venkatesh's treatment journey. The well-planned intervention offered Mr. Venkatesh a structured approach towards managing his condition, with the ultimate goal of improving his quality of life and prognosis. SVICCAR remains dedicated to ensuring the well-being and facilitating positive outcomes for patients.

Grateful for the care provided, Mr. Venkatesh expressed, "I am grateful for the prompt and comprehensive care provided by the doctors and team at SVICCAR. The medical expertise and dedication have instilled confidence in me as I undergo treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma. I trust their abilities to guide me towards a positive outcome."

Priti Devi's Journey of Hope and Healing

In July 2022, 30-year-old Priti Devi from Rajrappa, Ramgarh district, embarked on a new chapter in life. She married Manoj, who ran a small general store and they were blissfully happy. Their joy multiplied when Priti became pregnant soon after their marriage. However, amid the excitement, Priti discovered a suspicious lump in her right breast during the fourth month of her pregnancy.

Given her condition, Priti was unable to undergo immediate treatment. The doctors advised her to wait until after childbirth. With mixed feelings of anticipation and concern, Priti and Manoj welcomed their baby girl into the world. It was during this period that they sought medical guidance from a renowned oncology facility outside Ranchi. However, they soon realised that the wait time would be long and they could not afford any further delays.

Fortunately, they learned about the Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC), supported by Tata Trusts. They soon began consultations with the Oncology team at RCHRC, in early January 2024.

On learning of their weak financial status, the hospital staff at RCHRC informed them that they were eligible to receive funds for diagnosis through the Beneficiary Support Fund supported by the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited earmarked for needy families. This offered them some relief, at least temporarily. Unfortunately, the diagnosis confirmed metastatic breast cancer (bone) and the disease had progressed significantly, rendering her unable to walk. Priti suffered from immense pain and was unable to perform the simplest of daily activities. The strain of her

illness weighed heavily on her marriage, which had only just begun. However, her six-month-old daughter found solace in the loving care of her grandmother and maternal aunt.

The Oncology team wasted no time in initiating Priti's treatment plan, which was completed under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. However, Priti confronted additional challenges and battled cytopenia, a condition characterised by dangerously low haemoglobin and platelet levels. Despite completing palliative radiotherapy, Priti's suffering persisted and the pain remained a relentless companion.

Determined not to lose hope, Priti underwent chemotherapy, despite her disease-related cytopenia. Her platelet count started improving gradually. Throughout her treatment, she required multiple packed cell transfusions to address her low platelet and haemoglobin counts. After 12 cycles of chemotherapy, a response CT scan showed a partial response, bringing newfound hope into Priti's life.

Today, not only has Priti regained her ability to walk without support, but her condition of cytopenia has also resolved. Priti's spirits are lifted as she envisions a future where she can watch her daughter grow and thrive alongside her loving family.

The expert and the compassionate care provided by the team at RCHRC played a vital role in transforming Priti's outlook on life. Her journey underpins the necessity of access to quality healthcare and the unwavering support of loved ones. Priti's story is a testament to the power of resilience and reaffirms the transformative impact that medical professionals and institutions can have on countless lives.



Although India has emerged as a global economic powerhouse, malnutrition levels in the country remain alarmingly high, threatening the nation's overall development.



Ensuring Access to Nutrition

Overview

Despite India's healthy economic growth, the country continues to bear the burden of malnutrition. The National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) revealed: 35.5% of children under five years are stunted (low height-for-age), 19.3% are wasted (low weight-for-height) and 32.1% are underweight (low weight-for-age). These statistics highlight the urgent need for prolonged interventions. Malnutrition is a reflection of socio-economic deprivation at the family level and often, concentrated geographies are inflicted by it. The cause and effect are both integral to understanding the problem and the strategies needed to tackle the problem entail addressing the causes, underlying factors and consequences. It is well known that malnutrition not only affects individuals or families but impedes the country's overall development.



Assessing needs, identifying solutions and taking the required action

Mitigating the gaps to address existing needs requires collective ownership from all sections of society. As a philanthropy, leading, supporting, entrusting and investing in the problem of malnutrition in India has been incumbent on the Trusts, with the Late Chairman, Mr. R. N. Tata, prioritising it as a key focus area.

Over the years, the Trusts sharpened its focus on vulnerable sections of the community, especially children and women. Meanwhile, strengthening systems and foraying into food fortification remained key strategies to make an appreciable impact on public health outcomes. The Trusts have historically worked extensively to improve the quality of foods for young children through the fortification of staple foods with micronutrients. It engaged with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for advocacy on fortification, engaged with partners on salt and rice fortification and conducted trials of vitamin D fortification of milk. Additionally, the Trusts have worked to improve the quality of Anganwadis to provide better care to children under the age group of six years while providing nutritious, high-quality lentil-based snacks to schoolchildren.

During the year under review, the Trusts focused on improving the nutritional status of women and children, emphasising the needy and the underserved. Efforts included promoting the adoption of essential nutrition services, such as the Integrated Child Development System (ICDS). Simultaneously, the Trusts focused on enhancing surveillance and adoption of Community-based Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) approaches, capacity building of frontline and other functionaries, testing innovations and convergence across platforms. These initiatives strengthened awareness and change-oriented action at community level while also evaluating the double and triple burden of malnutrition and revitalising dietary diversification in communities.

The Indian Government launched the ICDS POSHAN Abhiyaan 2.0 in FY 2021, which includes schemes such as POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls. The beneficiaries under the Anganwadi Services scheme are children in the age group of 0 to 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, who are provided supplementary nutrition in the form of hot cooked meals at Anganwadi Centres and take-home ration (THR). The Trusts are committed to supporting, supplementing and complementing these state-driven programmes, with a clear focus on communities in underserved geographies.



Developing strategies that focus on catering to the vulnerable sections of the community

Results that Resonate (As on March 2024)



2

States covered
(Rajasthan and
Andhra Pradesh)



8

Districts



35

Villages



12,568

Women



53,683

Children



925

Anganwadi
Centres

Steady Steps of Progress

- In December 2023, the Trusts approved large-scale CMAM and THR initiatives to be facilitated through the Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation in Andhra Pradesh and the Centre for microFinance in Rajasthan. Additionally, a scoping study was initiated in Sirohi district, Rajasthan, to assess the condition of Anganwadis and schools for implementing CMAM and THR as part of the Mid Day Meal (MDM) programme, respectively;
- Launched in FY 2021, the Yes! To Poshan programme continued in NTR and Anapalli districts of Andhra Pradesh, aiming to drive behavioural change through communication on food and health awareness. This programme witnessed the active participation of local communities and frontline workers, achieving its objectives in terms of coverage planned;
- The Nutrition Foundation of India, supported by the Trusts, published its findings in peer-reviewed international journals of repute. The studies confirmed that consumption of Double Fortified Salt (DFS) for the second year led to further improvements in Haemoglobin levels in those who had used DFS earlier. This corroborates the long-term benefits of using DFS.

Educating communities about the importance of healthy eating and nutrition



¹ Coverage across 3 programmes; namely: (a) Community Based Management of Malnutrition; (b) Take Home Ration Initiative; and (c) Yes! To Poshan.

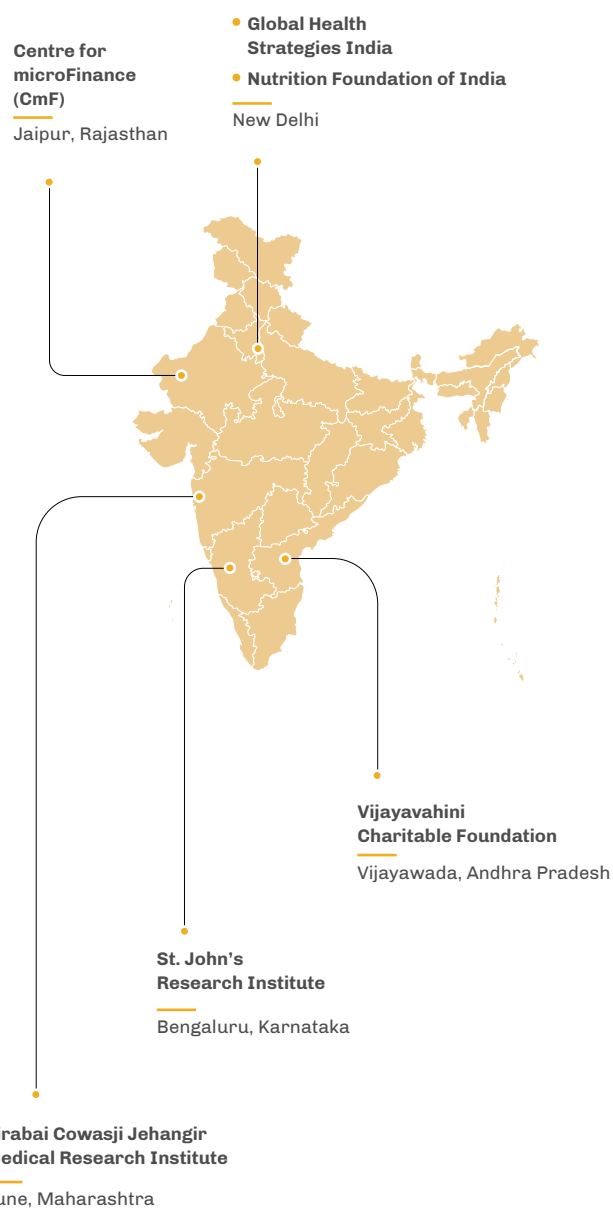
The Road Ahead

- Initiating an exercise to design a five-year strategy that would guide the way forward for the Nutrition portfolio. The exercise will entail landscaping, analysing situations as well as gathering lessons from past experiences and will be ready for adoption by the end of FY 2024-25;
- India is grappling with undernutrition and emerging risks associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes and more. These NCDs contribute to 63% of all deaths and loss in productive years of life. This will be an area of enquiry, guiding a strategic shift in the Trusts' funding and determining programmatic practices to be adopted over the coming years;
- Scaling up grant-making across the country in underserved areas and geographies with poor indicators;
- Undertaking a three-pronged approach in supporting service delivery in underserved areas, conducting research to generate evidence for strengthening programmes and policies, as well as engaging with the public system to support, supplement and complement state-implemented efforts through capacity building and innovations.

Navigating Challenges

- The operationalisation of two key programmes was affected as the Lok Sabha General Elections were scheduled towards the second half of FY 2023-24;
- The recruitment and onboarding of the project team were delayed due to a lack of potential candidates with relevant experience and skills.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference



Map is for representational purpose only. The physical map of India is as per that released by the Survey of India officially.

A Mother's Journey to Better Nutrition

Nookaratnam, a mother of two from Pedapadu village, Andhra Pradesh grappled with the challenges of ensuring her family received adequate nutrition despite their limited income. Their meals often lacked essential nutrients, leaving them vulnerable to health issues. The youngest child, in particular, frequently battled illnesses due to poor immunity.

The hidden strength of What We Eat

Participating in the Poshan Sakhi programme opened Nookaratnam's eyes to many misconceptions surrounding nutrition, such as the myth that children should avoid egg yolks. She discovered the value of a balanced diet and the necessity of tracking her children's growth regularly.

With her newfound knowledge, Nookaratnam began to implement practical changes in her family's diet. She added a variety of green vegetables, pulses and eggs to their meals, creating nourishing and appealing dishes. In place of processed snacks, she made wholesome homemade treats like finger-millet laddus and chikki balls, much to her children's delight.

One of Nookaratnam's most impactful steps was creating a vegetable garden in her backyard. With support from the programme, she cultivated a variety of fresh produce, ensuring her family had access to vital nutrients right at home. This garden blossomed into a symbol of empowerment for her, symbolising improved health and also a deeper connection to sustainable living.

Igniting transformation in the neighbourhood

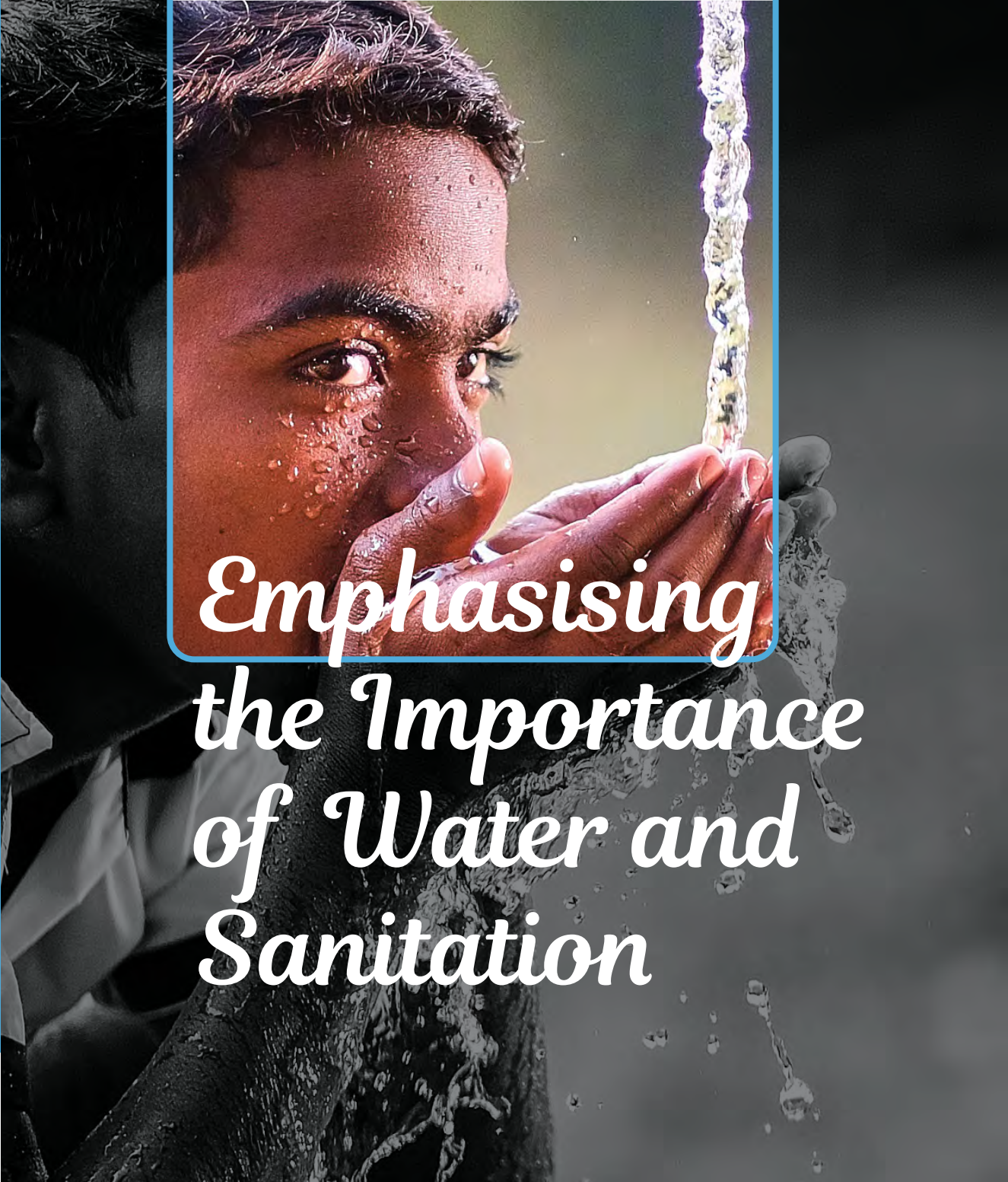
Nookaratnam's journey extended beyond her own family's nutrition. Her commitment to healthier eating and sustainable practices began to resonate with her community, inspiring neighbours to adopt similar changes. Nookaratnam became a beacon of inspiration, showing how individual efforts can influence a stronger, healthier community.





Extending the benefits of state-driven programmes

With access to clean water and sanitation affecting many in India, these initiatives help ensure community health and well-being.

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark skin and hair, looking intently at a stream of water falling from his hands. His face is wet with water droplets, and his hands are cupped together to catch the water. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The image is framed by a blue border on the left and right sides.

Emphasising the Importance of Water and Sanitation

Overview

Despite housing 16% of the world's population, India possesses a mere 4% of the planet's freshwater resources. Over the past few decades, the country has become heavily dependent on groundwater, which accounts for 40% of its water supply. However, this over-reliance has triggered a severe and unprecedented water crisis. Unless significant changes are implemented, India is projected to face critical water scarcity in the near future. Currently, over 600 million people in India experience high to extreme water stress, with a 30% of rural households lacking access to drinking water within their homes.

The comprehensive 'One Water' concept recognises that all water resources are interconnected and should be managed in a holistic manner. It emphasises the importance of treating water as a single resource, rather than as separate entities for different uses. To ensure sustainable and equitable water management, this approach integrates strategies such as integrated water resources management, water security, sustainable water use, environmental flow management and community participation. By addressing the needs of all sectors—life, livelihoods and ecology—the 'One Water' approach promotes efficient water allocation, reduces water wastage, protects ecosystems and ensures a sustainable water future for all.

Under the WaSH initiative, the Trusts are deeply committed to improving access to essential services for underserved rural communities in India. With a focus on a strategic, integrated framework, the initiative aims to provide sustainable, safe and reliable access to drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene services. Central to this is the active involvement of communities in the design and implementation of interventions, ensuring that all efforts are not only demand-driven but also grounded in the unique needs, strengths and aspirations of each community. Through a design-thinking lens, the Trusts strive to create sustainable solutions that deliver health and environmental outcomes that go beyond immediate needs, enhancing the quality and service levels across water sanitation and hygiene facilities and thereby significantly improving public health in rural areas.

Innovation is at the core of the Trusts' forward-thinking strategy in WaSH, which prioritises technology-driven solutions, Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) and institution-building to ensure programmes are adaptable and impactful. Technological innovations improve water quality

monitoring, optimise distribution systems and facilitate real-time data tracking. Additionally, SBCC initiatives focus on shifting attitudes and behaviours related to hygiene practices, thereby embedding healthy habits within communities. Furthermore, institution-building empowers local leadership to sustain and expand these improvements, creating a resilient foundation for WaSH services.

As climate change continues to affect water resources and sanitation infrastructure, the approach emphasises building resilience at the community level. By raising awareness and strengthening preparedness, communities are equipped to adapt to climate impacts, ensuring self-reliance and a sustainable future. This focus on resilience enables communities to protect their water and sanitation resources, preparing them to withstand future environmental challenges.

A pivotal aspect of the Trusts' approach involves close collaboration with government agencies to amplify impact. By complementing and enhancing existing government efforts, the Trusts' WaSH initiatives serve as a catalyst for widespread change, driving innovative solutions and extending their reach. This public-private synergy allows for the scaling up of successful interventions, creating a multiplier effect that benefits a larger segment of rural populations.

Using art to create awareness in the community



Results that Resonate (As on March 2024)

Water Access and Quality



13
States



29
Districts



211,653
Households

1,963

Village and
Water Sanitation
Committees formed

1,078

Drinking water
schemes
completed

Water Security



4
States



8
Districts



11,181
Households

283

Water
security
plans
prepared

1,042

Individuals
trained on
O&M related
interventions

20

Trainings
organised

Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management



7
States



944
Districts



88,157
women/
adolescent girls
(of these, 64,749
adopted improved
menstrual hygiene
practices)

Steady Steps of Progress

Social Behavioural Change Communication

To ensure the effective adoption of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Trusts undertook a comprehensive process to understand the attitudes, mindsets, beliefs and practices of communities that influence ownership, maintenance and efficacious water usage and the infrastructure developed under JJM. These factors were studied in-depth at three levels: individual, household and societal. Through this analysis, key behavioural barriers and consequent hurdles hindering the effective impact of JJM were identified and addressed through a structured SBCC campaign. This campaign was implemented in over 1,200 villages with the help of implementation partners and in collaboration with six state governments, who also used the campaign through their own systems.

Addressing Water Quality Through Affordable Technology Solutions

While working to improve intra-village water supply systems, the Trusts identified a critical need for a low-cost, easy-to-manage and locally available technology to disinfect water supplied through piped connectivity. In response, the Trusts developed the In Line Chlorination (ILC) system, which uses locally sourced materials and is highly affordable. The unique advantage of this system is its operation on gravity flow, requiring no external energy, making it particularly well-suited for rural and resource-constrained areas. After successful pilot demonstrations in several villages, the ILC system was scaled up to over 250 rural drinking water schemes, benefitting more than 2,500 households with safe, disinfected water. The system has also been introduced to various state governments and discussions are ongoing to scale its adoption across other regions.

Policy Support for the Development of Operation and Maintenance Systems for Drinking Water Systems

The Trusts have played a pivotal role in developing comprehensive Training of Trainers (TOT) modules to strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders, ensuring the systemic, institutional and financial sustainability of drinking water systems. These modules have been successfully implemented across 10 states, training over 500 individuals, including civil society organisations, government officials and community

¹Implemented by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, the Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

representatives. By adopting a standardised training approach, the Trusts have supported the scaling of water interventions while also ensuring the long-term sustainability and effective management of drinking water systems through active community participation.

The Road Ahead

The Trusts envision a future shaped by collaboration, where complex challenges will be addressed through a consortium of diverse stakeholders. This approach will bring together civil society organisations, supported by research and academic institutions, to tackle issues with a comprehensive, evidence-driven strategy. By leveraging the expertise of these varied partners, the Trusts aim to develop and implement solutions informed by scientific rigour and rooted in real-world data and community insights. This collaborative approach will ensure interventions are both innovative and sustainable, drawing on the strengths of each partner to address problems with a high level of impact and evidence-backed solutions. The Trusts will focus on the following areas going forward-

- **Prioritising Himalayan Ecosystems for Water Security**

The Himalayan ecosystem is exceptionally fragile, vulnerable to climate change, deforestation and water scarcity. The Trusts will implement a landscape-based approach in the Indian Himalayan Region to protect and restore natural resources, while tackling pressing issues such as diminishing water sources. This will include strategies to manage spring sheds effectively, ensure responsible water usage and biodiversity conservation, ultimately safeguarding the health of both local communities and the environment.

- **Addressing Water Quality Challenges**

The Trusts will focus on improving water quality, addressing critical concerns such as microbiological contamination, arsenic and fluoride in drinking water, which pose serious health risks. Through the deployment of affordable, scalable technologies including filtration systems and water purifiers, the Trusts aim to provide clean and safe potable water. Additionally, the initiative will link water quality with broader health efforts, ensuring a holistic approach to public health that enhances community well-being.

- **Promoting Women's and Adolescents' Health and Hygiene**

To address the frequently-overlooked needs of women and girls in underserved communities, the Trusts aim to improve menstrual health and hygiene. This includes creating safe, hygienic spaces in schools for adolescent girls, equipped with better bathing facilities and private areas to manage menstruation. By providing these essential resources, the Trusts strive to remove the stigma surrounding menstrual health, enabling girls to attend school with dignity and improving their overall health and well-being.

- **Strengthening Water Security in Water-Stressed Regions**

In regions facing severe water stress, such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the Trusts will implement participatory groundwater management approaches. Additionally, the Trusts will promote climate-resilient, water-efficient practices, such as micro irrigation, to reduce water consumption in farming and enhance resilience to climate fluctuations.

- **Promoting Sustainable Waste Management**

The Trusts will focus on solid and liquid waste management in larger villages and peri-urban areas. Initiatives will also include the promotion of recycling waste into resources to reduce environmental hazards and the implementation of community-driven waste management solutions, including waste segregation and composting programmes. By leveraging technology and innovation, the Trusts aim to address issues rampant in manual scavenging to create safer, healthier working conditions for sanitation workers. This will involve exploring and implementing advanced technologies such as mechanised cleaning equipment and robotic solutions to reduce human intervention in hazardous tasks.

Excellence in Fostering Water Security

- The Trusts have actively championed gender equality in its water programmes across geographies by ensuring women's representation in the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) or Water User Groups (WUGs). By empowering women to constitute over 50% of VWSC/ WUG members, the programme has enabled inclusive decision-making processes, while also fostering transparency and accountability in water management. This approach has strengthened community ownership, ensured equitable distribution of water resources and improved sanitation practices. Women's engagement has been pivotal in building stronger community institutions that deeply engage in planning, implementation and maintenance of water systems, ultimately leading to sustainable water management;
- As part of its commitment to sustainable water management, the Trusts adopted the 'One Water' approach, working closely with communities to conduct water budgeting exercises. This holistic approach encourages communities to assess both the availability and usage of water for various purposes, helping them understand the true value of water and take actionable steps to become water-positive. The Trusts' strategy combines supply-side and demand-side water management. On the supply side, the focus is on water conservation through initiatives like aquifer management systems, which aim to replenish and sustainably manage groundwater resources. On the demand side, the Trusts promote water-use efficiency techniques to reduce consumption, encouraging practices that curb wastage and optimise water usage in agriculture, industry and households. This integrated approach empowers communities to manage their water resources effectively and sustainably, ensuring a balanced and resilient water future.

Creating a successful synergy to ensure long-term sustainability



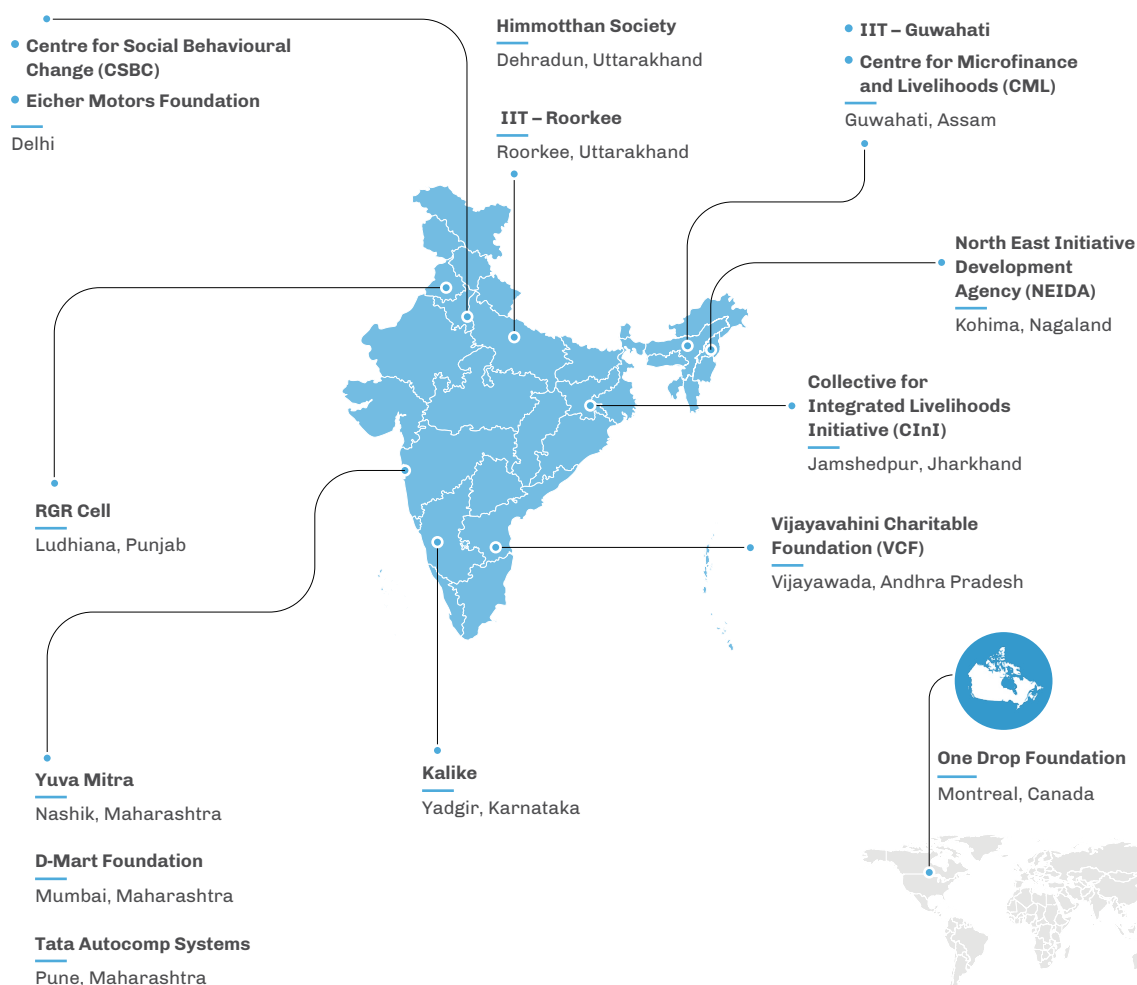
Navigating Challenges

Climate change presents significant challenges to water resources, exacerbating the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and unpredictable rainfall patterns. These shifts disrupt water availability, quality and ecosystems, placing added pressure on already stressed water systems, particularly in vulnerable regions. The impact of climate change is becoming increasingly severe, with water sources depleting rapidly. To address this, there is an urgent need to adopt a climate-resilient approach. This includes integrating climate adaptation strategies into water management systems and building resilient communities that can adapt their practices to changing conditions.



Sharing the importance of hygienic WaSH practices

Partners Who Help Make a Difference



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Transcending the Norms

Renu Devi, a 35-year old resident of Nakora Gram Panchayat in Kaiserganj, Bahraich, lives with her husband and three children. Formerly the household depended solely on her husband's income, but her life took a significant turn when she became involved in the Jal Jeevan Mission.

A series of workshops and meetings organised by Tata Trusts helped Renu gain valuable insights into the importance of water quality and hygiene. These sessions helped her understand the risks of consuming unclean water. She, then, took on the role of a water quality monitor, using a field-testing kit (FTK) to ensure that the village's water supply was safe for consumption. Despite receiving only a small payment for her initial contributions, she has continued to dedicate herself to the role wholeheartedly.

By regularly inspecting water sources, Renu played a vital role in preventing health risks associated with unsafe water in her village. When water quality tests indicate problems, she advises families on effective steps to ensure safe water. From recommending reliable water filtration systems to suggesting community initiatives for better piped water connections, her knowledge and guidance have become invaluable to her village. By sharing her insights,

she empowers others to take preventive measures and prioritise their health.

Her journey has not been easy, facing societal resistance in a role traditionally deemed unsuitable for women. Even her family expresses concern about her involvement in a community-engaging job. Nevertheless, she remains committed to her mission of spreading awareness about the importance of clean water, determined to overcome barriers and inspire others in her community.

Renu's relentless efforts have created a lasting impact on her community. Soon, others got encouraged to attend meetings and gain knowledge on water quality monitoring. She played an important role in making people understand the importance of water safety and need to consume potable water. Her unwavering dedication improved health and hygiene practices across the village and challenged traditional gender roles.



Advancing Menstrual Health in Rural Sasna

Gopal and Sheela's story unfolds in the small village in Sasna, Farakhpur Block, Uttar Pradesh where Gopal earned a living as a mason. For years, Gopal, like many men, was largely oblivious to the difficulties his wife endured each month during her menstruation. As a mother of five, Sheela silently dealt with the difficulties of menstruation, relying on rags as absorbents that compromised her health.

One day, Sheela had the opportunity to attend a workshop on Menstrual Hygiene and Health Management (MHM) conducted by MHM Sakhis and local community workers. Unfortunately, a bout of ill health prevented her from participating further in the sessions. Understanding the importance of the subject, Sheela urged Gopal to step in for her and attend the men's module. Although he was initially reluctant and unsure of what he could learn, Gopal eventually agreed and participated in the session.

Through these sessions, Gopal learned about the reproductive system, menstrual cycle and the importance of hygiene during menstruation. The discussions dispelled long-held myths and equipped him and other participants with the knowledge to provide better support to their partners. For Gopal, this was a transformative experience. He started taking an active role in household chores during Sheela's periods, making sure that she could rest and recuperate. He also encouraged their children to contribute.

Gopal learned about the unhygienic materials Sheela had been using, which putting her at risk of infections. This revelation left him feeling anxious and determined to make a difference. He purchased reusable cloth pads, which were safer and more comfortable for Sheela and his daughter. Recognising the importance of sanitation in their overall health, Gopal also took the initiative to build a proper toilet in his house for his wife and daughter. When a community worker returned for a follow-up visit months later, Sheela shared her positive experience with the new pads, describing how they had turned a once-challenging experience into a liberating journey and allowed her to embrace each month with renewed confidence. These simple yet meaningful actions not only eased Sheela's burden but also strengthened her bond with her husband, opening up a new line of communication and mutual respect between them.



Climate change threatens ecosystems and endangers the planet's health. Unfortunately, the most vulnerable communities bear the brunt of this crisis.

*Driving
Climate Action
Forward,
Together*

Overview

India's response to the climate crisis will determine its development narrative. As the country ascends as an economic powerhouse and a leader across the Global South, it must grapple with the challenges posed by climate change. India has the fifth largest GDP, is the third largest emitter in the world and is simultaneously among the most climate-vulnerable countries given its long coastline and monsoon-dependent agrarian economy. For instance, rising heat levels alone can put 4.5% of India's GDP at risk by the end of this decade. Estimates suggest that India requires US\$ 7.2 trillion of green investments by 2050—equivalent to 3.5% of its GDP—to decarbonise. However, the current estimated flow stands at just US\$ 44 billion per year.

The India Climate Collaborative (ICC), incubated under the aegis of Tata Trusts, is a first-of-its-kind entity that aims to identify critical sectors that need investment and mobilise funding towards climate solutions in India. By establishing a cohort of domestic climate donors, building a network and platform for collaboration and connecting India at global forums, ICC has worked on identifying and co-creating programmes in land use, air quality, sustainable energy, agriculture, climate data and risk assessment.

While philanthropy alone may not be able to bridge the huge gap in climate financing, it can act as a catalyst by proving the viability of unconventional or novel ideas and enabling them to attract follow-on funding from other, more traditional sources downstream. Thanks to its patient, risk-tolerant nature, philanthropic capital can be strategically deployed to benefit those most adversely affected by climate change or help build an understanding of India's diverse ecological, social and developmental needs—all necessary for ensuring India's pathways to net zero are just and equitable. With domestic philanthropy in India expected to expand by 11% annually over the next five years, the ICC aims to leverage and contribute to this growth, judiciously channelling it towards climate action.

Steady Steps of Progress

Unlocking Corporate Philanthropy

In July 2023, the ICC launched its climate solutions platform, Earth Exponential, with the objective of unlocking corporate philanthropy by connecting Corporate Social Responsibility teams to high-impact climate projects. The platform has already helped secure funding for six projects and unlocked approximately ₹120 million. Currently, 15 projects have been onboarded onto the platform and five more are on the anvil. The platform showcases solutions across five priority thematic areas, namely, Farms, Cities, Jobs, Nature and Resilience.

Platforming Global South Perspectives at International Climate Forums

In November 2023, the ICC team supported a contingent of six eminent leaders, which included Mr. Siddharth Sharma, CEO – Tata Trusts, at COP28 in Dubai. At this event, Indian principals engaged in a key platform, the COP28UAE Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum (BPCF). Mr Sharma represented the Global South voice at the opening forum of the BPCF and brought crucial perspectives on equity to global conversations around energy transition in a panel discussion titled 'Unlocking Sustainable Climate Transition Finance'. While highlighting the pioneering efforts of Tata Trusts in developing collaborative models such as the India Climate Collaborative and the work being done to ensure universal energy access, protect livelihoods and serve underprivileged and marginalised communities, he brought to the fore the development of cold storage facilities that run on decentralised renewable energy, potentially meeting the needs of India's large agrarian economy, by increasing earning potential and "making communities resilient to the impact of weather and the vagaries of climate change."

Mr. Sharma spoke of the need for country- and sector-specific modalities in achieving Net-Zero, exemplifying India's challenges in balancing climate goals and the developmental ambitions of a large population. He concluded by stating how imperative it is for developing countries to take into account the needs of vulnerable communities when addressing greenhouse gas emissions.



Mr. Siddharth Sharma, CEO-Tata Trusts, speaking at the 'Unlocking Sustainable Climate Transition Finance' event

(Photo credit: ICC)

Pooling Funds to Achieve Systemic Climate Action

The ICC-advised Harit Bharat Fund was launched in September 2023 as a first-of-its-kind ambitious and collaborative effort to scale restoration efforts in India. It aims to support local restoration champions, including CSO-led initiatives and not-for-profit enterprises, while engaging with policy stakeholders. The first cohort of 18 organisations was recently announced, which comprises a mixture of for-profit organisations and NGOs. The ICC contributes capital and enables customised one-to-one mentorship and capacity-building opportunities for local restoration champions while digitally tracking, monitoring and measuring shared progress. At present, six partners, including WRI India, Pune Knowledge Cluster, Sangam Ventures, Spectrum Impact, Transforming Rural India Foundation and the ICC, support the fund.

Assisting the Government of Maharashtra (GoM) in Climate Planning

The ICC, in partnership with the Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), is closely collaborating with the GoM in four key areas: promoting nature-friendly farming, digital advisory services, integration of ecosystem-based adaptation across sectoral policies and plans, encouraging water stewardship and governance. Four MoUs have been signed so far to undertake village-level risk assessment, share data and information as well as drive water governance approaches.



Building a new cadre of sustainability professionals
(Photo credit: Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC))

The Road Ahead

- **Hosting an Indian Climate Principals Convening:** In FY 2024-25, the ICC will host a convention of philanthropists in Mumbai, in partnership with Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and Rainmatter Foundation. This event is a half-day, targeted, closed-door, Indian Principals-driven convening and aims to create a first-movers cohort that articulates and co-engages on, over the long term, a domestic philanthropic agenda for climate action in India that is aligned with national climate goals;
- **Mapping out India's Climate Philanthropy Ecosystem:** The ICC is building a first-of-its-kind assessment of climate philanthropy in India. This report will cover all kinds of donor capital coming to India for climate action (CSR, other domestic donors, including institutional philanthropies or UHNIs and international donors). Through this study, an assessment of the current state of climate philanthropy in India will be made and the data will be used to build a roadmap to achieve India's climate goals;
- **Building a Water Diagnostics Toolkit:** Jaltol, a water diagnostic toolkit, will have its robust, scientifically developed data layers become readily available on the web app in the coming period. This can be used by various water and landscape actors for impact assessments and monitoring. The programme will also strengthen existing partnerships, such as the one with HUF. Moreover, it can develop new partnerships and collaborations, such as the one with Tech4good for socialising the tool and with IHE Delft for sharpening remote sensing technology for water;
- **Creating a Disaster E-Wallet:** Pilot cases for a disaster e-wallet called Akshvi will be shaped up over the next few months. This will be done through an MVP and demonstrating partnerships for responding to disasters. The work has also garnered the interest of three state governments to explore the integration of data with the overall macro data of the state, which will be a key priority in upcoming work.

Excellence in Climate Change Mitigation

Fostering Global South Cooperation

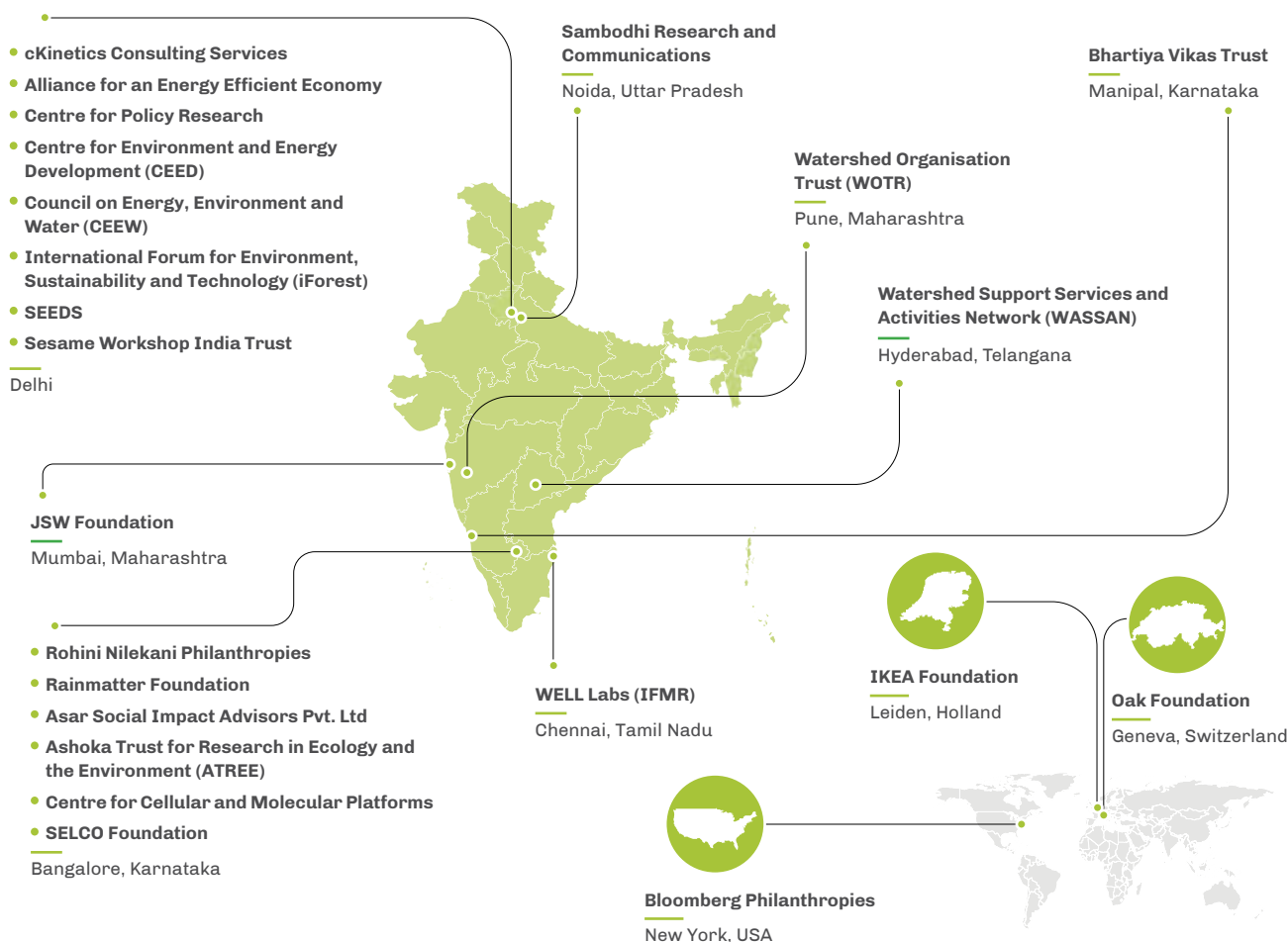
Fostering Global South Cooperation: ICC's work has contributed to advancing Global South-led climate action and underpinned the importance of promoting cooperation between key actors and economies in the region. The ICC observes that ongoing global climate platforms and dialogues are still plagued by geopolitical inequities and pressures, which continue to hinder the participation and representation of Global South actors and voices. Working with other Global South countries provides an opportunity to share learnings and best practices to construct a development pathway that is conducive to both growth and environmental sustainability. The ICC aims to encourage cooperation between Global South actors while building narratives and knowledge-sharing to ensure representation in climate dialogue and action.

Navigating Challenges

Technological and Capacity Building Challenges

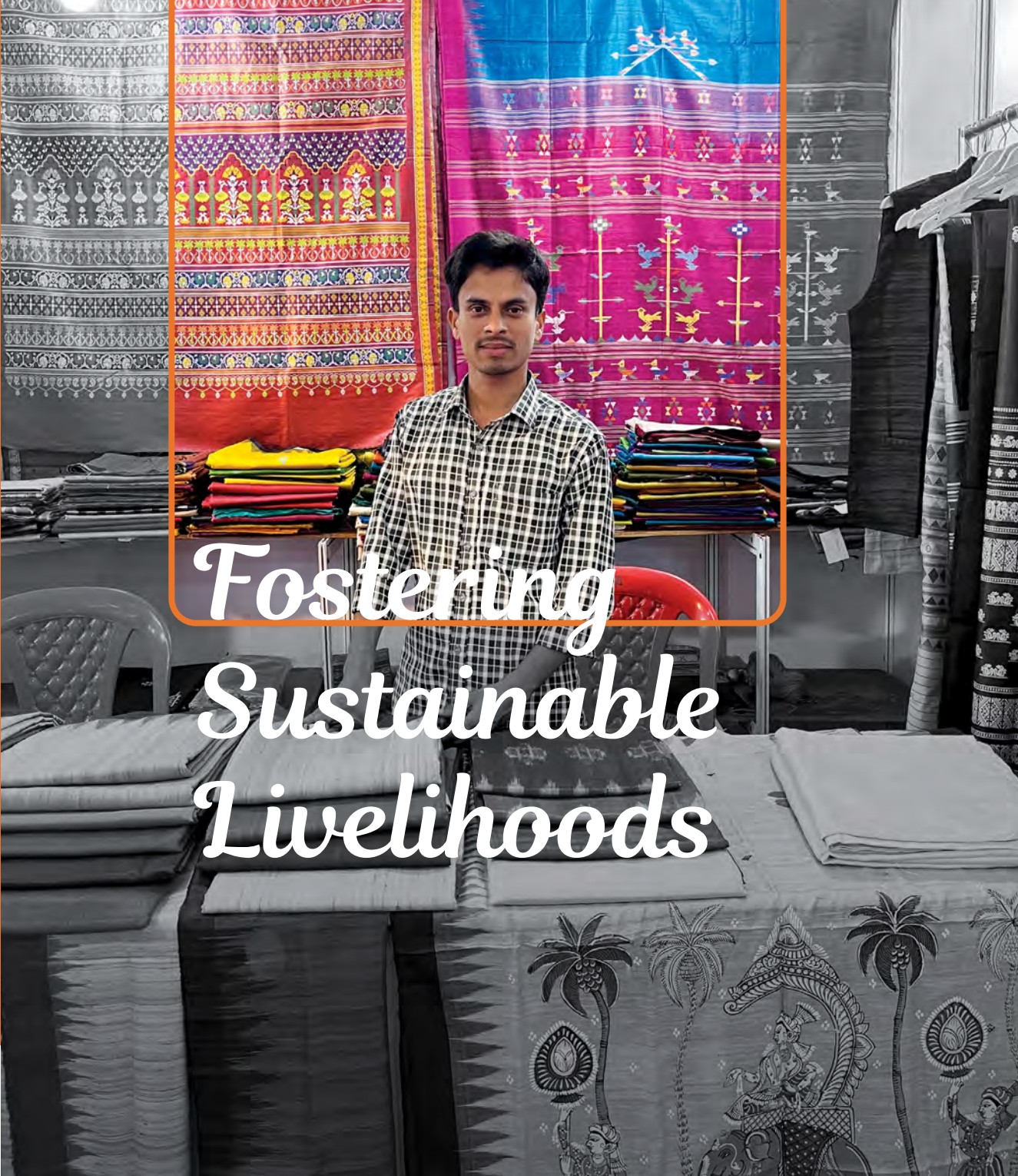
The ICC invests at the intersection of technology and climate as technological difficulties remain a sizable operational challenge. Working with government DPIs and frameworks often leads to delays and iterations. Furthermore, even after the tools are created, widespread implementation and socialising of these tools without extensive testing is difficult to achieve. This entails additional work to create use cases, socialise the digital tool with a wider community and build capacity.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference



Map is for representational purpose only. The physical map of India is as per that released by the Survey of India officially.

Empowering communities through sustainable livelihoods breaks the cycle of poverty and helps nurture self-sustaining communities for generations.



Fostering Sustainable Livelihoods

Overview

In January 2024, the NITI Aayog released a Discussion Paper titled 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06' based on data obtained from National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) conducted in 2005-06, 2015-16 and 2019-21 to understand long-term poverty trends. The National Multidimensional Poverty measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions —health, education and standard of living—represented by 12 Sustainable Development Goals-aligned indicators. These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank accounts.

The provided data reveals a substantial decrease in multidimensional poverty in India over the decade from 2013-14 to 2022-23. The poverty rate declined from 29.17% to 11.28% leading to over 248 million people escaping poverty. Despite overall progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, considerable regional disparities persist across India. States with a large number of multidimensionally poor population, like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, have made notable strides. Yet, other states, particularly in the northeastern and some southern regions, lag

behind. These disparities are often due to differences in economic development, infrastructure and the effectiveness of government policies. For instance, states with better healthcare, education systems and social welfare programmes tend to perform better on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). To effectively address regional disparities in poverty, it is crucial to implement tailored strategies that account for the specific challenges and strengths of each state. This will ensure that no region is overlooked in the ongoing efforts to eradicate poverty. The urban-rural divide also remains a significant challenge in India's poverty reduction efforts. While rural areas have seen a faster decline in the poverty rate, there are areas that still struggle with issues like poor education quality, a lack of healthcare facilities and limited economic opportunities.

Among the persistent issues, the 2023 MPI report highlights the ongoing water crisis as a critical factor affecting multidimensional poverty in India. Many regions, particularly in the arid and semi-arid zones, face severe water scarcity, impacting agriculture, health and overall living standards. The lack of access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities exacerbates health issues and has a negative impact on incomes. Additionally, water scarcity affects agricultural productivity, which is the primary livelihood for a significant portion of the rural population. Comprehensive water management strategies, including rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation practices and the restoration of traditional water bodies are required to combat the situation.

Agrarian distress remains a pressing issue, as highlighted in the 2023 MPI report. Despite various government initiatives, farmers continue to face challenges, such as debt, low crop prices and inadequate support systems. The report underscores high rates of farmer suicides, often linked to financial instability and the inability to cope with crop failures due to unpredictable weather patterns. Limited access to modern agricultural techniques and markets further compounds these problems. To alleviate agrarian distress, there is a need for robust policies that ensure fair pricing, provide financial support and promote sustainable farming practices. Additionally, improving rural infrastructure as well as access to education and healthcare can build resilience among farming communities.

This vicious cycle of poverty leads to subsistent income, food insecurity and the absence of a social security net, which disproportionately impacts women and marginalised communities. With increasing male



Empowering rural farmers to transform their lives through sustainable agriculture practices

migration to urban areas, women's roles in the rural economy have become even more crucial. There is a need to reduce their drudgery and address their hardships and distress, which lead to cycles of malnutrition, poverty and ill-health in households. Community Collectives have proven effective in creating agencies among women and disadvantaged sections. However, the major challenges facing these collectives stem from the inefficacy of traditional cooperatives, which have struggled due to mismanagement, corruption and over-reliance on government subsidies. In response, in the past two decades, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) were introduced as market-oriented entities but they too face significant hurdles. Lack of robust business plans, unclear operational processes, insufficient financial management and challenges in securing working capital are realities for most of the FPOs. Additionally, leadership and member engagement issues undermine governance, while poor financial viability and inadequate record-keeping further hinder the long-term sustainability of these FPOs. Difficulty accessing credit makes it hard for these groups to weather tough periods or invest in productive assets. The constant struggle to find buyers for their produce or get a fair price for their crops further discourages them from investing in new methods and technologies to transform their practices and improve incomes.

The Trusts have been working to address these challenges through programmes under the RUP portfolio. Major initiatives in livelihood generation and entrepreneurship support have been undertaken, particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam and North Eastern states. Creating a circular local economy with technology-enabled entrepreneur models that integrate the latest farming practices, high-value crops and energy or resource use efficiencies linked to market demand and value chain approaches have been the key focus areas of the Climate-Smart-Agriculture (CSA) projects in FY 2023-24. CSA aims to achieve three interlinked outcomes- increased productivity, enhanced resilience and reduced emissions, along with increasing the income of farmers, reducing the drudgery of women and attracting youth to the farming value chain. A growing trend across the nation is the shift of farmers from the traditional wheat-paddy cycles toward horticulture, high-value vegetables and pulses, as well as millets.

Changes in landholding patterns, coupled with the high proportion of small and marginal farmers, have had important implications on gender and income diversification strategies of the RUP theme. To meet the needs of food security and living income requirements of families with less than two hectares of land holding,

diversified livestock rearing has been promoted, especially among women beneficiaries. Livestock, including sheep, goats, dairy animals, poultry and pigs, is reared based on geographic and cultural factors as a means to generate income and mitigate agricultural risks. As climate change renders rain-dependent agriculture increasingly unpredictable, livestock rearing has emerged as a more reliable livelihood strategy.

Results that Resonate (During FY 2023-24)



21

states
covered under
interventions



~100

districts

Approximately



107,300

households covered
under various
livelihood prototypes

Over



1.45 million

households secured
ownership of forest
lands that have been
cultivated by them for
generations



Equipping women with knowledge
to combat agricultural challenges

Steady Steps of Progress

Maximising Himalayan Agriculture Initiative (MHAI)

Phase 1 of the 'Mission Pulses Uttarakhand (MPU)' and the 'Leh Livelihood Initiative' (LLI) run by the Himmotthan Society brought about a change in income through agriculture, institutional development and marketing interventions. Under Phase 2, titled 'Maximising Himalayan Agriculture Initiative (MHAI)' that commenced in October 2023, 34,000 households are targeted to develop seven value chains with advancements in production techniques. Activities include the establishment of bee breeding centres and the formation of an agri-post-harvest training centre under the Honey and Pulses value chains. The promotion of millets and traditional crops in Kangra Valley was another project undertaken in the hilly regions of Himachal Pradesh; however, that presented unique agro-climatic challenges, including steep terrains and limited arable land. Promoting the cultivation of resilient crops such as finger millet, naked barley, red rice and linseed offers significant advantages in terms of agronomic sustainability, nutritional quality and economic viability, while also enhancing regional food security and combating malnutrition. These crops are also adaptable to low-input farming systems and have resistance to abiotic stresses such as drought and poor soil fertility. In Ladakh, integrated water resource development was promoted to overcome the effects of depleting natural glaciers and climate change. Eight artificial glaciers and 12 water reservoirs were created.

Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock (CSAL) in North East India

Phase 1 of this integrated livelihood project in Nagaland covered 10,766 households across 89 villages in three districts, promoting the cultivation of maize, potato, ginger, kholar (Rajmah) and vegetables. In Phase 2, 10,280 households were covered and over 140 hectares brought under irrigation. Six diversion-based irrigation structures, along with 25 jalkunds, were established. A total of 178 farmer trainings on improved cultivation practices were conducted and 1,824 hectares were covered through improved cultivation practices. Compared to a baseline survey undertaken in FY 2021, a 25% increase in productivity of lead crops was recorded. Besides, 44 agriculture entrepreneurs were promoted, seven polyhouses were constructed for the production of vegetable seedlings and saplings and four agri custom hiring centres were established.

Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock in Rajasthan

The Centre for microFinance (CmF), the Trusts' Associated Organisation based in Jaipur, is implementing a project on Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock, under which over 48,173 farmers were trained in climate-smart practices for agriculture and livestock. Roughly 17,415 households were supported through market linkages via a well-established network of aggregators, collection centres, entrepreneurs and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO), primarily focusing on commodities including castor, vegetables, pulses and mustard.

SAMVAD Project in Gujarat

During the year under review, the Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC) facilitated the creation of 160 water harvesting structures, storing around 21 million cubic feet of water in one filling. Improved irrigation management practices (drip/sprinkler/laser irrigation) were adopted by 5,726 households. Additionally, 130 demonstration units were set up to promote improved sustainable agricultural practices for farmers. While 6,758 farmers adopted sustainable agricultural practices and technologies, 5,384 farmers adopted sustainable livestock management practices in the reporting period. Three Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are now operational in the area, with a cumulative turnover of around ₹9.3 million of turnover in FY 2023-24.

Antaran - Crafts Initiative

Designed to bring about transformative changes in the development of the crafts sector, this all-encompassing six-year programme was aimed at revitalising struggling handloom clusters through an end-to-end approach. Spanning four states, the programme fostered over 300 entrepreneur-led microenterprises, benefitting over 3,700 artisans, of which two-thirds were women. According to the impact assessment, entrepreneurs recorded average growth of 72% in their businesses during the programme. Almost 78% of the entrepreneurs confirmed an influx of new weavers into their clusters. This is a positive development considering the alarming decline in the number of weavers nationwide.

Sujalam Sufalam Initiative for Smallholder Farmers in Uttar Pradesh's Aspirational Districts

Over 100,000 small and marginal farmers have been supported in these flood-prone Aspirational Districts. A key innovation of this initiative has been the introduction of early potato varieties during the Rabi season, followed by the transplantation of onions or sowing of groundnuts in the same fields during the February to March period. This approach enables farmers to harvest two high-value crops in one season with minimal input costs. Consequently, clusters of potato and groundnut farmers have been established in these districts. These strategies have been widely adopted, with 13,752 farmers growing potatoes, 13,677 cultivating onions and 6,650 cultivating groundnuts. Additionally, 26,599 farmers have adopted intercropping. The area under pulses (lentil and black gram) has significantly increased. The initiative also resulted in farmers trying out various regenerative agricultural practices, including the use of organic inputs and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methodologies. The initiative has also fostered the development of 290 agricultural entrepreneurs, each supporting over 200 farmers, by providing agricultural knowledge and ensuring the availability of quality inputs and outputs. As a result, the income levels of 81,123 farmers have doubled.

Lakhpati Kisan Programme

This flagship programme focuses on creating irreversible changes and improving the quality of life of disadvantaged rural communities through economic empowerment. Approximately 25,500 households have become Lakhpati families during the reporting period.

Community-based Tourism Project in Uttarakhand

A pilot project was initiated in November 2021 by the Himmatthan Society with the financial support of the Make My Trip Foundation and the Trusts. During the year under review, a total of 16 homestays were developed, 11 experience programmes were curated and 17 tourism trainers and experience anchors were trained. Besides, an architectural design guide based on traditional heritage was developed, two community institutions were incorporated for the tourism business models and 71 beneficiary households started to earn significant incomes through tourism and associated activities. The project is now shifting its focus towards promoting business and commercial activities.

Livestock Initiatives

Under Phase 2 of the Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative, the year under review saw strengthening of the micro dairy programme in Uttarakhand. Over 60,000 households are covered through the promotion of improved production techniques and marketing linkages. In the western, semi-arid areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat, the Climate Change Mitigation initiative, managed and led by women farmers, aimed at bringing about climate resilience by improving breed quality of regional goats, thereby contributing to women empowerment in terms of asset ownership, decision-making (about the asset) and the reduction of drudgery. Nearly 600 households in Gujarat adopted improved animal husbandry practices.

In the northeast, farmers have been reeling under the impact of African Swine Fever, which has disrupted livelihoods and led to food insecurity in the community. The Trusts are supporting local teams to help control and contain the disease through strengthening existing piggery programmes with the introduction of biosecurity principles. In Nagaland, nearly 5,600 households were covered under piggery enterprises, 79 mini breeding units were established for piglet production, 4,656 piglets were farrowed, 100 trainings were completed on piggery management and 79 animal health camps were conducted. Owing to the continuing prevalence of African Swine Fever, piglet mortality decreased marginally from 8% to 7%.

The Road Ahead

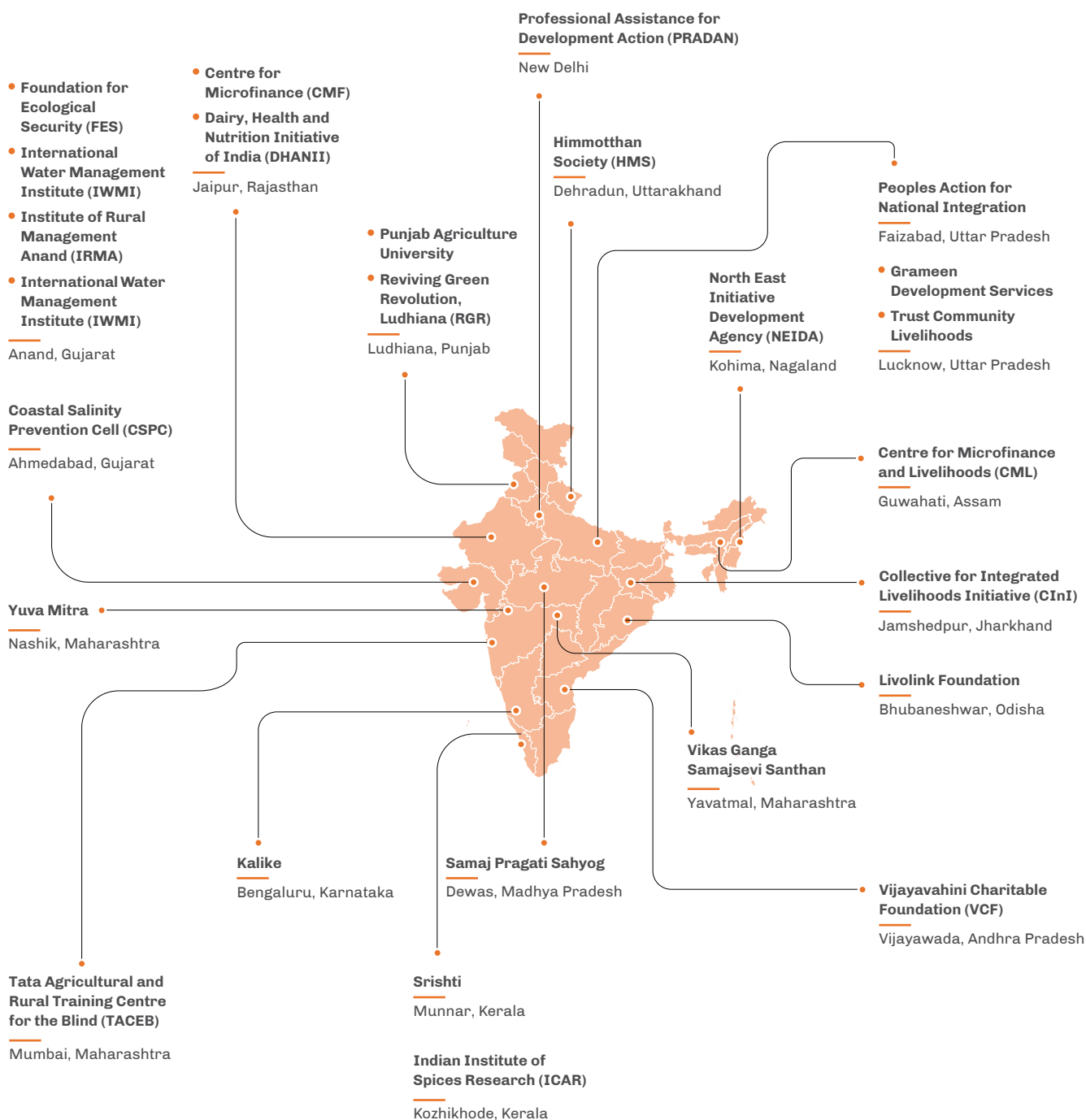
- Ongoing efforts to strengthen institutions through knowledge management and process excellence will be scaled up. Additionally, collaborations and partnerships for adopting value chain-based market systems approaches, financial inclusion and infrastructure development will be undertaken;
- Efforts will focus on strengthening around 100 apex institutions, including Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), with the objective of transforming them and their member groups into self-managed, financially sustainable entities;
- Eco-tourism will be promoted in national parks and heritage sites to attract more tourists, both domestic and international, thereby generating income for local communities. Handicrafts and traditional arts will be marketed globally through technology, collectives and e-commerce platforms, connecting artisans with high-paying markets.

Navigating Challenges

Over the years, the Trusts have made substantial efforts to promote member-centric community institutions across various interventions. However, the quality of these institutions, formed and supported by the Trusts, varies across geographies and themes. At times, a focus on physical outcomes—such as increased production, the

adoption of improved practices, behavioural change at the individual level, among others—has taken precedence over institution building. Increased sharing of best practices across teams and investments in training and capacity building for community leaders will ensure that all institutions reach the desired levels of excellence.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference



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Zosangzuala's Story of Growth and Transformation

In the remote village of Ruantlang Farlui Zau, nestled in the rugged landscapes of Mizoram and approximately 38 kilometers from Champhai, the everyday life of farmers is defined by perseverance against significant odds. The mountainous terrain and limited access to essential infrastructure make agricultural work arduous and unpredictable. In such an environment, Zosangzuala's journey epitomises the resolve and determination shared by many rural farmers who labour under challenging conditions.

For years, Zosangzuala tended to over five acres of land, employing age-old, traditional farming techniques. The lack of modern tools and reliable transportation for his produce often compounded the difficulties he faced, presenting hurdles that seemed insurmountable at times. Yet, his commitment to the land remained steadfast. A turning point arrived when Tata Trusts, through the North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA), extended support. This assistance brought high-quality seeds and essential training in contemporary agricultural practices, transforming his approach to farming and offering new hope for sustainable progress.

With 12 kilograms of Arkel Garden Pea seeds and additional tomato seeds, coupled with training provided by NEIDA under the project on proper plant spacing and efficient water management, Zosangzuala witnessed a remarkable change in his farming practices. During the 2023-24 season, his tomato harvest generated an impressive amount of ₹ 180,000. The financial uplift allowed him to reinvest in his farm by purchasing better tools and expanding his crop variety.

Zosangzuala's story illustrates the transformative power of resources and the right guidance. Grateful for Tata Trusts and NEIDA's support, he looks forward to improving his farming practices further through innovative methods. Zosangzuala is a hope and inspiration to others in his village who are adopting similar farming practices. His journey is a reminder of the benefits that arise from targeted support and knowledge sharing, helping rural farmers to not only survive but thrive, even in challenging circumstances.



Weaving the Tapestry of Transformation

For Pratibha Kalita, a 45-year-old artisan from Rampur, Kamrup, weaving has always been an integral part of her life but has never been a vocation or a source of income. However, her life took a turn when she joined the Antaran initiative of Tata Trusts in 2019.

While previously she wove and spun traditional garments such as gamosas and mekhala chadors, primarily for local use, the Antaran programme opened new doors for Pratibha. She not only received hands-on training but also refined her craft, learnt new skills and designs and expanded her product portfolio. She could now design sarees, stoles, dupattas and even home decor items, delivering exquisite craft that delighted her consumers. The training also introduced her to the importance of adapting her designs to customer preferences, such as crafting lighter cotton garments for summer or using eri silk for winter collections, all of which quickly gained popularity among consumers. Moreover, her use of bright colours and innovative patterns, like her popular palm leaf-inspired stoles, helped her stand out at exhibitions nationwide.

Beyond technical skills, the programme equipped her with essential business knowledge. Pratibha now runs her own business, Chandrodoy Weaves, where she employs eight other women from her village.

Her unwavering dedication and perseverance enabled her to secure a steady income of over ₹200,000 annually and also create income opportunities for others in her community.

As her financial situation improved, Pratibha opened bank accounts for her daughters and planned ahead to secure for her family's future. She also bought household items without the fear of financial strain. This shift in mindset—from simply making ends meet to planning for the future—has been transformative for her.

The Antaran initiative gave Pratibha the opportunity to build a sustainable livelihood. Her weaving, once a tradition passed down through generations, has evolved into a thriving business that brings her pride and stability.



The need to address disparities in education has never been more urgent, especially as accessibility to quality education continues to hold back progress for many.



Strengthening the Foundation Through Quality Education

Overview

The universalisation of elementary education in India, strengthened through legal backing under the Right to Education, has led to a surge in enrolments and retention of children in schools. However, the country still faces numerous challenges in ensuring equitable access to quality education for all children. The COVID-19 pandemic widened learning gaps, weakening the foundation due to the extended closure of schools and Anganwadi centres. This resulted in a long-term impact on children's education and development.

The National Education Policy 2020 has brought much-needed policy focus on the foundational years of learning (ages three to eight years), leading to the launch of the NIPUN Bharat Mission. This initiative aims to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy for children up to Grade 3 by 2026-27. This mission has directed state resources for the professional development of teachers through teaching learning materials and assessments in the early years. In alignment with this national initiative, the Trusts have made significant efforts throughout the year to strengthen educational outcomes in the foundational years. This has been achieved through collaborative work with state governments and schools, non-government organisations and communities, with an emphasis on remote and rural parts of India.

The Trusts are engaged in various strategic interventions, aimed at enhancing Early Childhood Education (ECE) and improving foundational learning in primary schools. These efforts include improving the quality of ECE offered by Anganwadis for children in the age group of three to six years by establishing model Anganwadis that demonstrate age-appropriate, play-based teaching and learning practices. Additionally, hands-on training and onsite support are provided to Anganwadi workers and helpers. A cadre of trainers, among supervisors and Anganwadi workers, is developed to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in states such as Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

In elementary schools, the Trusts focus on enhancing foundational learning in language and mathematics in early primary grades across multiple states. In middle schools, remedial teaching and subject-specific interventions (science and english), life-skills and digital literacy are key focus areas. Through partners, the Trusts strengthen trainings offered to teachers and master trainers. Activating school libraries through curated collections of books, library periods and meaningful activities around books engages students with reading.

Bridging the gap in access to quality education



Strengthening school management committees to foster parent involvement and activating block-level resource centres by working with the education administration are other important elements for system strengthening. School-level interventions have been undertaken in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam, Jharkhand and Odisha, with a focus on disadvantaged communities, across aspirational and rural districts.

Results that Resonate (As on March 2024)



10

States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab)



31,000

Total Schools/
AWCs reached



72,000

Total Teachers
reached



1,000,000

Total Students

Steady Steps of Progress

- The Centre for Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE, seeded by the Trusts) authored the second edition of the Status of Teacher and Teacher Education Report 2023, titled 'The Right Teacher for Every Child, Status of Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education for India.' The report was released by the School Education Secretary;
- Under the Parag Publications Initiative, the Trusts partnered with the Indian chapter of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) as part of the latter's global mission to promote reading through quality children's literature. This partnership promises avenues for the initiative to globally highlight important strides made in children's literature and promotion of reading in India, while also learning about international best practices;
- The Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI), an associate organisation of the Trusts, was invited to be a part of the state training module development team based on their expertise in strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs);
- The Centre for microFinance (CmF), also an associate organisation of the Trusts, contributed to the development of the Rajasthan State Curriculum Frameworks (SCF) in alignment with the National Education Policy 2020. CmF also supported the rollout and development of various training modules for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as well as Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in multiple districts. These contributions include toy-based pedagogy material, workbooks for pre-primary classes/Balavatika, a training module for Anganwadi workers, training modules for FLN teachers and State Resource Groups (SRGs) and a library manual;
- The Trusts partnered with the Language Learning Foundation (LLF), which offers technical inputs on language and literacy to multiple state governments. This enabled LLF to create a pool of master trainers in Shravasti district, Uttar Pradesh, through a year-long professional development course for teachers and academic resource persons;
- The Trusts refined its five-year strategy for the education portfolio. Efforts will be made on improving the developmental and educational outcomes of children, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged communities. This overarching goal would be pursued by strengthening the public education system and enhancing equitable access to education. Key focus areas would be:
 - (a) Addressing sectoral gaps, namely teacher education, critical literacy and constitutional values;
 - (b) Field demonstration of models to strengthen the public education system by working with teachers, schools, the community and the government, with a special thrust on early learning.

Ensuring equal opportunities in education for all



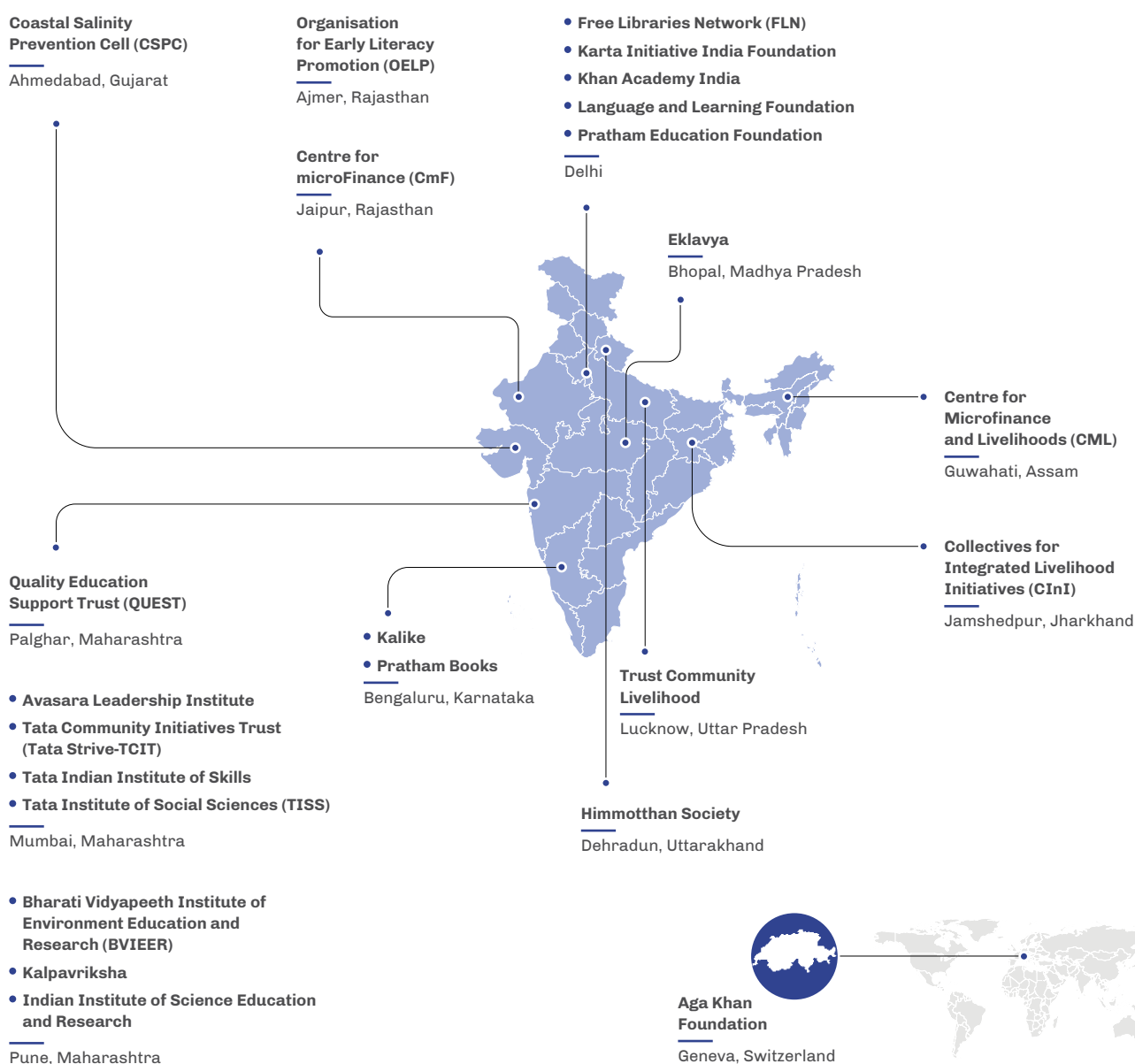
A book reading session to inspire young minds



The Road Ahead

- Setting up an Early Learning Network India for organisations and experts working in the field of early learning to collaborate and address sectoral gaps. A first-of-its-kind 'Teaching Learning Survey of Indian Classrooms', which will unpack classroom practices in Grades 1 and 2, will be undertaken across multiple states by the Trusts' partners. The findings and recommendations would suggest ways to strengthen classroom practices for stronger foundational learning;
- Releasing a white paper on innovative financing models and its emerging learnings. This will entail drawing insights from work supported by the Trusts through institutional support to the British Asian India Foundation, along with other outcome-based financial instruments introduced by others;
- Designing and undertaking focused interventions targeting marginalised at-risk children and youth (such as out-of-school girls) and minority communities in existing and new geographies.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference



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Awakening Critical Thinking in Young Minds

In Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, school libraries were once underutilised. Books were frequently left untouched and reading was primarily seen as a tool for exam preparation. The idea of lively, inviting libraries that develop a genuine love for reading and contribute to holistic development was largely overlooked.

In May 2023, the Education Department of Union Territory approached the Tata Trusts team to transform school libraries into active learning spaces. Through the Parag initiative, the Children's Library Course (CLC) was introduced, offering teachers hands-on training via workshops and practical exercises. After orientation, 60 educators were selected; 30 underwent rigorous three-month training with contact classes, assignments, group discussions, mentor support and mock sessions.

District officials from all three districts actively supported this initiative, providing necessary administrative and logistical assistance to ensure smooth implementation. Block Resource Coordinators (BRCs) and District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) faculties participated in the contact classes, a unique feature of this state-supported initiative.

One teacher from the cohort reflected, "I feel a deep connect to books now and a sense of

ownership towards my school library. This intervention has brought in a much-needed change to look beyond one publisher and explore more books from new publishers, which are attractive, age-appropriate and good quality." Another teacher observed, "We had libraries, but books were locked inside cupboards; but with the intervention by the state and Parag support, libraries have become a big priority and books are now being given to children."

Following this intervention, libraries began to take on a new role within schools. Separate time slots were dedicated to library activities and classrooms carved out space for designated 'Reading Corners'. Teachers became enthusiastic advocates for reading and started incorporating book discussions, storytelling sessions and reading activities into their lesson plans. A government teacher from Silvassa shared a touching story about a Grade 3 girl who was initially shy and irregular to school. After the introduction of a reading corner in the classroom, the child started borrowing storybooks and became a regular attendee.

The changes brought a noticeable shift in the perception and utilisation of libraries among both educators and students. Following the completion of the first two batches, continuous training for more educators is being offered to expand the initiative's reach. This expansion empowers students to explore their interests, engage with diverse literature and develop critical thinking abilities, shaping their academic journeys and personal growth.

Sowing The Seeds of Learning in Rural Karnataka

In Hirehadagali, a village located in Ballari district, Karnataka, local Anganwadi centres, which traditionally focused on nutrition, started taking steps towards a more structured approach to Early Childhood Education (ECE). Previously, educational activities were sporadic, leading to inconsistent learning experiences for children. This situation highlighted a need to integrate early learning into the daily routines at these centres.

In 2018, the Kalike (an organisation supported by Tata trusts), in partnership with the Kalyana Karnataka Development Board (KKRDB), introduced an ECE initiative to help Anganwadi workers develop their skills in child education. The initiative faced initial challenges, as some workers were unfamiliar with structured activities and resources were limited. A supervisor, trained through the programme, began visiting select centres regularly to demonstrate simple learning activities and provide practical support to the staff.

As the programme progressed, parents and members of the local Gram Panchayat began contributing materials such as teaching aids and storage racks, which helped create a more engaging environment for children. Parents soon noticed positive changes in their children's behaviour, as they became more interested and involved in learning activities. This encouraged them to send their children to the centres more regularly.

The introduction of a consistent schedule and curriculum brought greater structure to the centres. Parent-teacher meetings also became a part of the programme, where parents could learn about the value of early education and receive guidance on ways to support learning at home.

The results of these efforts have encouraged other villages to consider similar approaches. Through consistent learning activities, local involvement and ongoing support, the programme has laid a foundation for a stronger early education framework in rural Karnataka, creating a positive impact on children's learning and community participation.



In recent years, the country has emerged as a multifaceted sporting powerhouse.



Investing in India's Sporting Ambitions

Overview

Sports are crucial for shaping aspirations, improving physical and mental health and aiding the overall growth of children. The United Nations recognises sports as a valuable development tool, offering benefits, such as better health, reduced strain on healthcare systems and new livelihood opportunities.

In India, sports are often relegated to extracurricular activities, seen as recreational or competitive rather than integral to education. This exclusion contributes to lifestyle diseases among children and youth. With the increasing prevalence of digital devices, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, even in remote villages, children today need to be incentivised and encouraged to go outside and play, a challenge already prevalent in cities. Therefore, it is essential to integrate fun-based physical activities and experiential learning into education to foster physical and emotional well-being, as already emphasised in the New Education Policy.

The Trusts support sports as a powerful tool for holistic development, focusing on underprivileged young children and youth in rural and tribal areas, regions known for producing athletes succeeding at the national and international levels. The strategy, based on the 'Sports Development Pyramid', continues to promote sustained participation in physical activities and sports at the grassroots level to foster life skills and positive experiences. The goal is to nurture talent in marginalised communities by raising awareness and expanding access to training, bringing them to a level where they can be identified by residential sports training academies and further groomed for sporting excellence.

Over the last six years, the Trusts have established state-wide sports development programmes at grassroots levels in Jharkhand, Mizoram, Manipur and Odisha. Tailored to the culture and availability of basic infrastructure in these regions, programmes were designed to develop hockey in Jharkhand and Odisha, badminton in Mizoram, football in Mizoram and Manipur and athletics in Uttarakhand. Understanding the strong need to promote sports for the visually impaired, the Trusts also supported the National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities to encourage sports as a tool for building confidence and resilience in children in these institutes. Additionally, organisations such as the Mary Kom Boxing Foundation received gap funding to support the training, education and accommodation of 15 boxers in the academy.

Grooming talent at the early stages



In the past year, only the hockey and badminton programmes continued to thrive, bolstered by the introduction of the Physical Literacy (PL) and blended learning programmes in Uttarakhand. These programmes were integrated with education and delivered through a teacher training model. All other programmes were brought to a logical conclusion.

Results that Resonate
(As on March 2024)



9

states covered (Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra and Karnataka)



28

districts covered



202

schools covered



5,688

coaches trained



39,000

children benefitted

Steady Steps of Progress

Hockey Programme in Jharkhand and Odisha

- Having established and stabilised the 'Grassroots to Excellence Hockey Development' programme in Jharkhand and Odisha over the past four to five years, the year under review focused on expansion and layering the programme with additional components to deepen its impact;
- The Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), Jharkhand formed another team comprising seniors, taking the tally to 76 boys. Meanwhile, the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre (ONTHHPC) added 10 more girls and boys each to its residential academy, thereby supporting 50 boys and girls each over the subsequent three years;
- A total of 26 new hockey grassroot centres were established in Gumla district, Jharkhand, with strong community ownership, which provided hockey sticks to the players from their villages, thus contributing to community funds;
- Three boys, each from NTHA Jharkhand and ONTHHPC, were selected in the Sub-Junior India team, which represented the country in its tour of the Netherlands in October 2023;
- The Junior boys team from NTHA Jharkhand secured the third place in the Jawaharlal Nehru U-17 Hockey tournament, while the boys from ONTHHPC bagged gold;
- Two girls from OTHHPC were part of the Women's Junior Indian team, which defeated Korea to win the Junior Asia Cup title, held in Japan in June 2023.

Mizoram Badminton Initiative

- A beneficiary under the initiative became the first player from Mizoram to win the Yonex-Sunrise 35th Sub Junior (U-17) National Badminton Championships held in September 2023;
- At the All-India Sub Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament 2023 organised in Lucknow in June 2023, two boys won the gold medal in the doubles category.

Physical Literacy and Blended Learning Programme in Uttarakhand

- For the first time, primary school teachers in government schools were trained in physical literacy, learning how to integrate physical activities in the classroom for better experiential learning. Over 20% of these teachers are already conducting sessions in their schools independently, whereas others are being assisted by the Trusts' facilitators.

A proud moment for the girls' team as they accept their award



The Road Ahead

- The Trusts will continue to support grassroots sports development programmes in various regions, aligning with sports strategies, either through their associate organisations or other capable grantees. Simultaneously, partnerships will be fostered with other organisations within the ecosystem to achieve a stronger and more scalable impact;
- By leveraging cross-programme learnings, sports programmes will be enhanced with life skills and sports science interventions to develop healthy and resilient youth;
- Based on the success of the Uttarakhand Athletics programme, the Trusts will evaluate proposals for gap-funding existing academies or sports programmes to enhance them, build resource or institutional capacity or support interventions aimed at nurturing athletes.

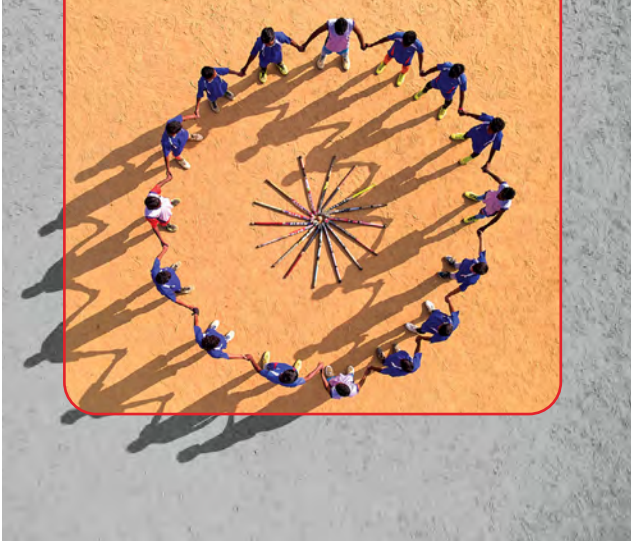
Excellence in Promoting Sports for Holistic Development

- To encourage and increase participation among girls, the menstrual hygiene programme was introduced to all adolescent girls in grassroots hockey centres in Jharkhand;
- Under the Mizoram Badminton Initiative, the operational ownership was handed over to the Mizoram Badminton Association by sub-granting funds, with the objective of building its capacity to independently manage at least basic programme operations, thereby taking baby steps towards sustainability.

Navigating Challenges

- Securing necessary and timely support from the government continues to be a challenge;
- Raising funds for grassroots training programmes from other donors or collecting fees from the parents for long-term sustainability has also been a major challenge.

A hockey team coming together before their practice session



Partners Who Help Make a Difference

Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy
Hyderabad, Telangana

Tata Steel
Mumbai, Maharashtra

Himmatthan Society
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI)
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Kochi Biennale Foundation
Fort Kochi, Kerala

Mizoram Badminton Association
North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA)
Aizawl, Mizoram

Bovelander Foundation
The Netherlands

Map is for representational purpose only. The physical map of India is as per that released by the Survey of India officially.

How Sunil Bhengra Overcame Barriers with Perseverance

Sunil Bhengra, a young boy from the remote tribal village of Khunti, Jharkhand, grew up in a humble farming family. His parents, Pradeep and Ranthi Bhengra, worked tirelessly as daily wage labourers. Despite their modest means, Sunil always dreamed of a world beyond the fields and familiar village life. His passion for hockey emerged early and he played it with whatever he could find—even with bamboo sticks on uneven village grounds.

When Sunil joined DAV Public School, his aspirations began to take shape. He got a chance to play, real hockey through the Tata Trusts supported 'Grassroots Hockey Programme', being implemented by Collectives for Integrated Livelihoods(CInI). This enabled him to experience the game differently. For the first time, he held a proper hockey stick, trained with skilled coaches and played on a real field. These small yet impactful changes ignited a stronger and deeper drive in him to excel in the sport.

As a part of the grassroots programme, Sunil trained rigorously, even while balancing his studies. His coaches recognised his potential early on, noting his quick learning and strong decision-making skills on the field. In July 2022, he was selected for Regional Development Centre,

Khunti. He went on to compete in major tournaments, such as the SNBP All India Tournament in Pune and Jharkhand's Sub-Junior Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament.

With every match, his abilities grew and passion deepened. In addition to his athletic achievements, Sunil has shown significant improvement in his academic pursuits. This holistic growth has enhanced not only his athletic performance but also cultivated a strong sense of discipline and confidence, preparing him for all his future challenges. Sunil's story bears a strong testament to how hard work and passion can help realise dreams when nurtured by the right support.





Building a stronger, happier community

Building a talent pool that can adapt to emerging technologies is becoming increasingly crucial for enhancing national and global competitiveness.



Enabling Progress Through Skill Development

Overview

A report by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), published in June 2023, highlights that India needs to upskill 70 million people by 2027 to meet the demands of its rapidly evolving job market. Sectors like healthcare and advanced manufacturing are projected to witness significant growth. The report underscores the need for targeted skilling initiatives in these areas to achieve the goal. Despite various government programmes to enhance skill development, the nation still lacks a substantial, formally trained workforce for advanced trades.

In the backdrop of the above, Tata STRIVE, a skill development initiative of Tata Community Initiatives Trust (TCIT) and supported by the Trusts, provides youth from underprivileged communities with access to quality skill training, enabling livelihood linkages. As an outcome focused organisation, Tata STRIVE aims for employment, entrepreneurship or enhanced employability through its domain and soft skills training. The delivery model incorporates the right mix of pedagogy, methodology and technology suited to the target audience, enabling a seamless transition for the youth into the digital economy of tomorrow. Tata STRIVE's Dual Vocational & Educational Training (VET) Programme, in partnership with Siemens and Tata Indian Institute of Skills (TIIS), has played an important role in improving employability. Launched in 2017, the Dual VET initiative has trained thousands of youth and scaled up to include 250 Government ITIs across nine states, bridging gaps between government stakeholders and industry to enhance job readiness and foster industry-academia collaboration.

Steady Steps of Progress

- Optimising operations by strengthening the team for the upcoming two campuses of the Tata Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Chunabhatti, Mumbai and Ahmedabad;
- In FY 2023-24, 340 trainees were trained through the addition of short-term courses to existing offerings, such as a certificate course in core housekeeping and another in professional cooking skills. These courses were designed to deliver impactful and high-quality training

within a condensed timeframe. The courses were conducted at temporary campuses in collaboration with prominent industry leaders, such as Taj Skyline Ahmedabad, SMC India, Festo India and Fanuc India;

- Successfully placing the trained students in renowned companies, including Bharat Forge, CARRARO Transmission, Bajaj Auto, Taj, Marriot and Tata Motors, among others;
- Completing pre-construction activities for both the campuses and initiating construction in the last quarter of FY 2023-24. The construction of the campuses is planned in two phases. Phase-1 involves the construction of one academic building of approximately 22,500 sq. ft. in TIIS Mumbai and two academic buildings of equal size, measuring approximately 40,900 sq. ft. in TIIS Ahmedabad. Both campuses are expected to be operational in FY 2024-25, with multiple courses in high-end skilling for youth.

Facilitating access to quality skill training programmes for the youth



Tata Indian Institute of Skills

The Tata Indian Institute of Skills (TIIS), established in March 2020 by the Tata Education and Development Trust under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, represents a pivotal advancement in India's skilling industry. Selected by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in June 2019, TIIS is entrusted with the mission to set up, operate and maintain two world-class Indian Institutes of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. This initiative is crucial for creating an industry-ready workforce tailored to the dynamic demands of national and global markets. TIIS is at the forefront of designing and delivering a cutting-edge, adaptive curriculum that addresses emerging skill needs in a digital world. This effort, in collaboration with the Government of India, MSDE, state governments and leading industry partners, is instrumental in ensuring that India's workforce remains competitive and proficient in advanced trades and technologies.

IIS aspires to enhance the skilling ecosystem and seeks to create model institutes in India. One of the key strengths that Tata Group brings to the creation of IIS is the vast array of industrial skills and know-how that reside within its group companies (operating in 10+ sectors and conducting dozens of businesses). A demand mapping was conducted to understand the market scenarios and identify key sectors with significant job creation possibilities in India. The four shortlisted sectors include Electronics, Electric Vehicles, Advanced Manufacturing and Hospitality and Tourism.

The programmes develop industry-ready workforces to meet dynamic industry needs



BAD



Recognising achievement with programme completion certificates

A complex interplay of opportunity and struggle is prevalent in India's urban habitat. As cities expand, so does the need for targeted poverty alleviation strategies to uplift those living in poor conditions.



Urban Poverty Alleviation

Overview

By 2050, more than half of India's population is expected to live in cities. The expansion of cities and the consistent influx of people seeking livelihoods and opportunities have led to rapid, unplanned urbanisation, resulting in overcrowding and poor living conditions, especially for the urban poor and seasonal migrants residing in slums under unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Under the Urban Poverty Alleviation portfolio, the Trusts aim to invest in solutions and develop pathways for sustainable urbanisation to make cities more inclusive and equitable, responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Through extensive work in Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, the Trusts have built a network of key partners—state governments, technical groups, innovators, academia and civil society organisations (CSOs). With award-winning projects like the Jaga Mission in Odisha, the Trusts have demonstrated how the urban poor can be supported with tenure and integrated habitats, empowering them to create an environment conducive to a life of dignity and well-being.

The urban poor are an integral part of a city's social fabric and sustainable urban planning should therefore prioritise their needs and address their vulnerabilities. For the thousands of poor migrants who leave their homes in search of livelihoods, it is imperative to provide them with a safe shelter, basic services and a voice in governance. The Trusts' efforts in this realm focus on:

Partnering with other organisations to raise awareness



- **Provision of Safe and Secure Housing and Tenure** - Supporting affordable, climate-appropriate housing prototypes using a participatory, gender-inclusive approach while facilitating policies and processes to provide varied types of tenure to informal settlements;
- **Access to Basic Services through an Integrated Habitat** - Working with models of community-led habitats for informal settlements, leveraging technical collaborations and converging schemes;
- **Strengthening Urban Local Bodies Functionally and Financially** - Facilitating systems and processes to ensure last-mile implementation of schemes and entitlement linkages to the urban poor in general and migrants in particular;
- **Citizen Engagement in City Governance and Planning** - Strengthening urban governance mechanisms, empowering platforms for the participation and engagement of the urban poor as well as giving women a voice in city governance and planning.

Steady Steps of Progress

- Completion of a study to assess gaps in vulnerable communities' access to government schemes and entitlements in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The study was executed by the Policy & Development Advisory Group (PDAG), New Delhi, with funding support from the Centre for microFinance (CmF);
- Conclusion of a scoping study on climate-resilient communities in small cities of Bihar. Conducted by SEWA Bharat, this study provided a comprehensive examination of climate risk and vulnerability in India, specifically incorporating a gender perspective. The focus was on analysing the drivers of climate vulnerability in Bihar, exploring district-level framings on vulnerability and investigating factors affecting climate vulnerability in Bihar's small towns;
- Facilitating a study titled 'Women at Centre Stage: Tenure, Housing and Basic Services from a Gender Lens' conducted by the India Resource Trust. The initial phase of the study involved reviewing secondary data, documenting case studies and compiling existing national laws, legislation, policies and programmes from a gender perspective. The Inception Report with detailed study methodology was finalised and a dissemination workshop will be conducted to share the research findings.

The Road Ahead

- Implementing initiatives to enhance access to healthcare, sanitation, clean water and education in urban areas, focusing on marginalised communities;
- Collaborating with experts and local communities to design and pilot affordable housing models that are resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- Partnering with technical experts and government agencies to develop sustainable habitats for informal settlements;
- Facilitating the convergence of government schemes and community participation to improve living conditions and infrastructure in informal settlements;
- Building the capacity of urban local bodies to improve their planning and governance capabilities;
- Facilitating linkages between urban residents and entitlement schemes to ensure inclusive access to benefits and services;
- Empowering women's groups to actively contribute to urban and community-level planning processes, promoting gender equity and inclusive development.

Promoting inclusive development through community participation



Understanding individual needs to build a better tomorrow



Partners Who Help Make a Difference

Gujarat Mahila Housing Sewa Trust
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

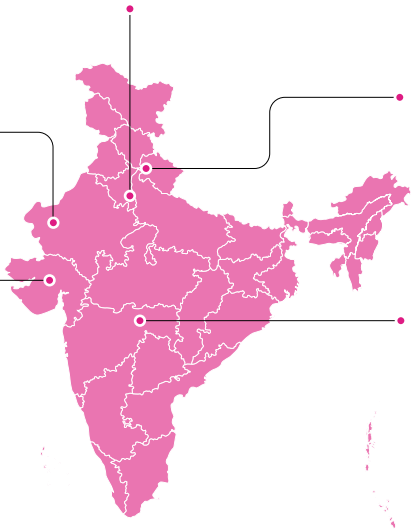
Hunnar shaala Foundation for Building Technology and Innovations
Bhuj, Gujarat

Centre for Micro Finance
Jaipur, Rajasthan

India Resources Trust
Sewa Bharat
School of Planning and Architecture
New Delhi

People Science Institute
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Janseva Gramin Vikas va Shikshan Pratishthan
Yavatmal, Maharashtra



Map is for representational purpose only. The physical map of India is as per that released by the Survey of India officially.

India's rich tapestry of arts and culture offers a deep insight into a civilisation that cherishes its plurality and upholds a continuity of traditions.

A person wearing white gloves is carefully handling a large stack of vinyl records. The records are stacked on a turntable, and the person's hands are positioned to support the stack from the sides. The background is a solid orange color.

Enriching Arts and Culture

Overview

The Arts and Culture portfolio aims to work with multiplicity, excellence and marginalised communities, focusing on three core areas: Conservation (built heritage, film preservation and art conservation); Art Education at the tertiary levels; and Performing Arts (music, dance and theatre).

To preserve and nurture the country's heritage, both past and present and to establish a solid foundation for the future, it is imperative to support arts and culture in all their myriad forms. However, securing sustained support for the arts is challenging in the backdrop of high-intensity developmental problems affecting the country, further exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. The portfolio, therefore, focuses on offering incremental, layered support to help organisations and programmes achieve long-term sustainability.

Faculty demonstrating how to use a light box to view photographic slides



Results that Resonate (During FY 2023-24)



15

Field surveys conducted under the Museum of Art and Photography grant



1

Training programme conducted on conservation



10

Fellowships awarded under the Films Preservation Workshops



7

Tata Trusts Students' Biennale Awards presented

Steady Steps of Progress

Tata Trusts Art Conservation Initiative

A five-year partnership with five organisations across India, where art conservation centres were established and strengthened. Nine intensive training programmes were conducted over a two-year period, where 45 conservators were trained and 95 field surveys were undertaken for mapping smaller collections across the country.

Students' Biennale 2022

A total of 50 artworks were exhibited on a national platform in Fort Kochi from December 2022 to April 2023, engaging Indian art students from 50+ colleges in India. Seven deserving students were conferred with the Tata Trusts Students' Biennale International and National awards.

Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru

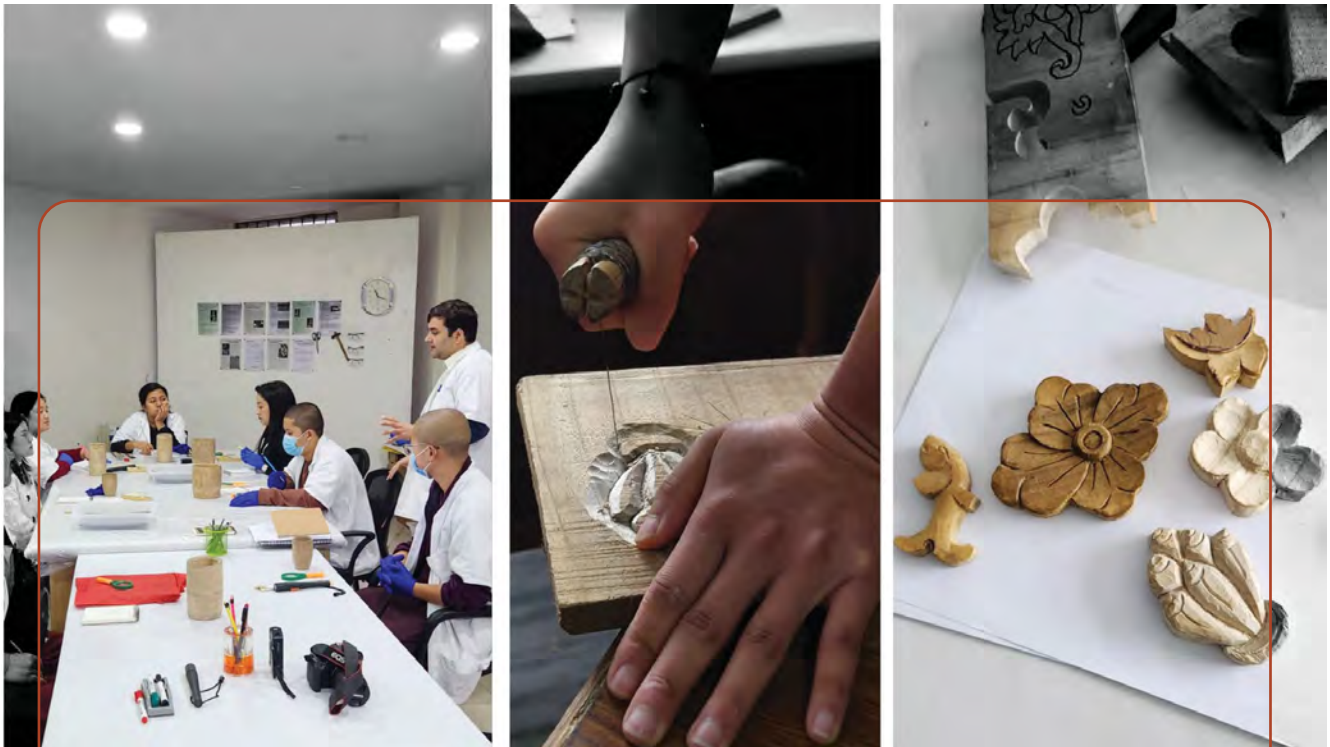
A Phase II grant was initiated to further strengthen the museum's conservation centre and make it proficient in conserving photographs.

Heritage Conservation

Two grants to the Himalayan Society for Heritage and Art Conservation (HIMSHACO), Nainital and Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata. These grants were used to conduct two, three-month training courses on the conservation of the material heritage of Sikkim in partnership with the Sikkim State Archives and Museum, Government of Sikkim. Its aim was to build capacity and train archives staff and custodian monks in preserving their collection.

Collaborating with the Film Heritage Foundation

A three-year partnership with the Film Heritage Foundation was launched to establish a film preservation lab and training centre in Mumbai.



Participants applying skills learnt on wood conservation

The Road Ahead

- Completion of the three-month training course on the conservation of wood and metals at the Sikkim State Archives in FY 2024-25; post which, the team will also plan the commencement of the second three-month training course on conservation;
- Commencement of the set-up of the film preservation lab and workshop on film preservation in partnership with the Film Heritage Foundation;
- Designing and implementing a training course on the conservation of photographs at the Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru;
- Planning programmes and collaborating with new partner organisations.

Excellence in Arts Conservation

- Creating training opportunities for in-service art conservators, where limited options are available for in-depth training courses;
- Developing a national platform for Indian art students to exhibit their work, receive mentorship from curators, hone their artistic language as well as interact with the larger contemporary art community in India.

Partners Who Help Make a Difference

Museum of Art and Photography

Bengaluru, Karnataka

Himalayan Society for Heritage and Art Conservation

Ranibagh, Uttarakhand

Film Heritage Foundation

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Kochi Biennale Foundation

Fort Kochi, Kerala

Anamika Kala Sangam Trust

Kolkata, West Bengal

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Film Preservation for Revitalising India's Cinematic Legacy

India, home to one of the world's largest film industries, faces a critical challenge in preserving its rich cinematic heritage. With an estimated 70% of its film history already lost, much of this legacy remains at risk. Despite the prominence of Indian cinema, the film's fragile nature, coupled with rapid advancements in digital technology, has left countless works at the risk of deterioration or erasure. For years, minimal awareness about the intricacies of film preservation and a dearth of trained professionals in the field left India without a structured approach to safeguarding its cinematic past.

In 2014, the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) emerged as the nation's first dedicated organisation devoted to film preservation. Recognising the gaps in knowledge and resources, FHF launched intensive training workshops across India and neighbouring countries in 2015, in collaboration with the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). However, these efforts required significant support to scale up and address the growing needs of preservation.

Tata Trusts recognised the cultural and historical significance of this work and stepped in as the principal supporter. From 2017 to 2019, Tata Trusts supported three consecutive annual film preservation workshops held in Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. In 2022 and 2023, Tata Trusts supported 10 fellowships for the workshops held in Delhi and Mumbai. Consequently, from 2017 to 2023, Tata Trusts has awarded 101 fellowships across five workshops, laying the foundation for developing a skilled workforce. This support enabled hands-on training and technical expertise, equipping participants to contribute to the preservation of India's film heritage. Many fellowship recipients have since, found

roles at institutions such as the National Film Archive of India and have been instrumental in safeguarding regional and national cinematic history.

For some, the experience became transformative. Aparna Subramaniam, one such fellow, received a Fulbright scholarship to study at the prestigious NYU Tisch School of Arts. Her journey underscored the gaps in India's approach, noting how traditional education largely viewed archives from an access perspective without generating the resources required for actual preservation. Another fellow, Johnson Rajkumar, took his learnings to Manipur, where he helped set up a government film archive with the Manipur State Film Development Society. His efforts led to a collaboration with the Manipur State Government and FHF, resulting in the restoration of the culturally significant film "Ishanou." This 1990 classic by Aribam Syam Sharma gained international acclaim when it premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2023. Johnson's work highlighted the essential role regional archives can play in preserving unique cultural narratives that might otherwise be overlooked.

The success of these workshops and the growing pool of skilled archivists revealed an even greater need—a permanent centre for training future professionals. In 2024, coinciding with FHF's 10th anniversary, the Trusts renewed their commitment by supporting the establishment of FHF's film preservation lab and training centre that will upgrade film preservation facilities, conduct focussed training programs in different aspects of film preservation and develop local faculty, creating a sustainable and accessible resource for safeguarding India's cinematic history.



Towards new beginnings

Establishing institutions with domain expertise helps nurture the human potential, ignites innovation and lays the foundation for long-term progress.



Nurturing Potential through Institutions of Excellence

Pune International Centre

Overview

Pune International Centre (PIC) is an independent think tank that deliberates on issues of national importance and contributes to policy-making in India. Led by renowned scientist Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar as the President and eminent economist Dr. Vijay Kelkar as the Vice President, PIC, through its various initiatives, encourages public dialogue on societal concerns. Among its noteworthy efforts are five key conferences that add substantially to national discourse and policy-making.

Major Conferences Hosted by the Pune International Centre in FY 2023-24

The Pune International Centre (PIC) hosted five major conferences in FY 2023-24, addressing critical themes and fostering intellectual discussions across various sectors.

- **National Conference on Social Innovation (NCSI)**

Organised by PIC's Social Innovation Lab vertical, the National Conference on Social Innovation provided a platform for social entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative solutions for addressing societal challenges. The entrepreneurs—categorised as Rural, Tribal and Urban—presented their initiatives to a diverse audience comprising industry stakeholders, government officials, heads of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), investors, academia and media. This conference served as a valuable opportunity for social innovators to share their work before a distinguished gathering.

- **Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS)**

The National Security vertical of PIC hosted the Pune Dialogue on National Security (PDNS), a platform for strategic discussions on India's security landscape. This conference brought together experts from the military, academia and policy-making circles to deliberate on pressing national security concerns. The theme for the conference, 'Securing India's Economic Growth,' delved into matters of national economic security, striving to foster a deeper understanding of India's security dynamics and propose actionable strategies to enhance national security in a rapidly changing global environment.

- **Bipin Rawat Memorial Lecture**

In honour of General Bipin Rawat, the first Chief of Defence Staff of India, PIC's National Security vertical organised the Bipin Rawat Memorial Lecture themed 'Regional Security: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities'. This annual lecture, part of the Vishwa Mitrata series, featured eminent speakers who discussed strategic defence issues and the evolving role of India's immediate neighbours in South Asia.

- **Conference on Urbanisation**

The Economic Reforms and Urbanisation Centre at PIC held the Conference on Urbanisation, addressing the challenges and opportunities in urban development. The conference, themed 'Securing Demographic Dividend: Agenda for Change 2024-2029', featured urban planners, economists and government officials who discussed on topics such as sustainable urban growth, smart cities and affordable housing. The sessions highlighted innovative urban planning techniques and policies that can drive sustainable development in Indian cities. The objective was to provide insights into creating resilient and inclusive urban spaces that cater to the needs of diverse populations.

- **Asia Economic Dialogue**

Organised by PIC's International Relations vertical, the Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) is a premier event that focuses on geo-economic issues in Asia. AED 2024, themed 'Geo-economics in an Era of Flux', brought together economists, diplomats and business leaders to discuss economic cooperation, trade policies and regional integration in Asia and the world. Key sessions covered topics such as the impact of geopolitical shifts on trade, the role of technology in economic development and sustainable economic practices. The dialogue aimed to foster greater economic collaboration among Asian countries while also exploring strategies for regional economic resilience.

The Road Ahead

- PIC has instituted a research fellowship programme, which pays young scholars to work with senior fellows and gain research experience as well as publish policy papers. The second phase of this programme will begin in FY 2024-25;
- PIC's campus is under construction. Once the auditorium and convention hall are completed, PIC will be able to organise more events at its own venue, thereby saving the cost of renting venues;
- After relocating to the new campus, PIC plans to hire more research personnel and undertake more research projects;
- The Social Innovation Lab will launch its next playbook, focused on social innovation in the education sector;
- The Social Innovation Lab will also hold roundtable discussions with CSR heads and social entrepreneurs to help them connect and build a network that enables all stakeholders to collectively achieve their targets;
- A new initiative, the 'Centre for Sustainable Energy and Mobility' will be launched during FY 2024-25.

Excellence in Catalysing Social Progress and Clean Energy Solutions

Shared Service Centre for Social Enterprises (SSC-SE)

This digital marketplace connects social innovators and service providers and enables them to access services remotely. The platform offers a suite of services, such as digital marketing, website

development, export-import documentation, intellectual property rights, legal compliance, pitch decks and 2D/3D animation videos, all at no cost. Since January 2021, the programme has assisted 141 social innovators with 178 services. In FY 2023-24, 80 social enterprises were supported with 100 services.

EECC Microgrid Project

Under the guidance of Prof. Amitav Mallik, PIC's Energy, Environment and Climate Change (EECC) research programme embarked on building pilot projects in the Pune Metropolitan Region (PMR) with a sustainable business model to drive rapid decarbonisation. One such project involved creating a Renewable Energy (RE)-powered Smart Microgrid at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE). The pilot study, along with an energy audit and a Detailed Project Report (DPR), demonstrated the social and environmental benefits of establishing RE Smart Microgrids to meet the power needs of local areas.

Navigating Challenges

Infrastructure Limitations

At present, PIC faces space constraints due to the absence of its own campus, which limits its capacity to hire skilled resource persons to further the organisation's goals.

Resource Constraints

A lack of resources hampers the ability of research scholars to conduct primary research. The absence of a library with the latest journals and archival data makes it difficult for researchers to conduct literature reviews for their policy papers.

Centre for Brain Research - Tata Longitudinal Study of Aging

Overview

The CBR-TLSA (Tata Longitudinal Study of Aging) is a flagship initiative that addresses the critical gap in large-scale dementia research in India. Launched in 2015 with the support of Tata Trusts, the project focuses on urban aging populations, recruiting 1,000 cognitively healthy individuals aged 45 and above from Bengaluru. By tracking this cohort over time, CBR-TLSA aims to uncover the complex risk factors and protective mechanisms that influence the onset and

progression of dementia. This ambitious study deepens the understanding of brain aging and establishes the foundation for targeted interventions that could reduce the prevalence of dementia in India, shaping future healthcare policies and practices.

In parallel, CBR-SANSCOG, funded by the Pratiksha Trust, serves as a rural counterpart, with a projected sample size of 10,000 participants, making it one of the world's largest longitudinal studies on rural aging populations. Both studies employ multi-modal assessments, integrating clinical, genetic, neurocognitive and neuroimaging data. This comprehensive approach, led by an interdisciplinary team, is designed to generate actionable insights to inform the development of large-scale, community-level interventions. The ultimate objective is to delay dementia onset, slow its progression and provide evidence-based strategies to alleviate the socio-economic burden of dementia, driving impactful public health outcomes for India's aging population.

Key findings of the study

- The prevalence of diabetes mellitus, hypertension and obesity (BMI > 30) was significantly higher in the urban cohort than in the rural cohort. In contrast, depression was more common in the rural cohort, especially among individuals aged 55 to 74. These findings are based on baseline data, with ongoing recruitment and longitudinal collection providing further insights;
- Cognitive assessments revealed notable differences in the executive functioning domain, with urban participants outperforming their rural counterparts. The diminished cognitive functioning in rural populations may be linked to occupations with lower cognitive demands and reduced cognitive reserve. Multilingual participants in the urban cohort performed better in the categorical fluency task, while multilingual rural participants excelled across all tasks;
- Visual acuity and refractive error tests, along with Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) and fundus imaging, indicated that participants with mild cognitive impairment showed reduced retinal blood supply compared to cognitively healthy individuals. OCT can also detect retinal changes that may correlate with early dementia, serving as a biomarker for disease progression;
- Hearing evaluations revealed that around 41% of participants in CBR-TLSA experienced hearing loss. Individuals with hearing loss were found to be 65% more likely to experience cognitive impairment compared to those without. Addressing hearing loss could improve communication, mental health and the overall quality of life;
- Gait analysis identified a link between gait abnormalities and early stages of dementia, even when cognitive tests were normal. Gait assessments, combined with cognitive evaluations, could offer a non-invasive method for early detection of cognitive decline and fall risk among elderly populations;
- Brain imaging of Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) participants revealed altered volumes in specific hippocampal subfields compared to healthy controls. Changes in these regions correlated with memory performance, suggesting that hippocampal subfield analysis could enhance the early detection of cognitive decline;
- Current research is focused on identifying blood-based biomarkers, including A β 40, A β 42, pTau-181 and others, using ultra-sensitive technology. These biomarkers could provide cost-effective, early diagnostic tools for dementia, improving disease management strategies across healthcare centres in India;
- Ongoing research in vascular dementia models is exploring how vascular insults, such as micro-infarcts and micro-bleeds, contribute to cognitive decline. Early results suggest that even transient vascular insults can lead to temporary cognitive deficits, offering insights into potential repair mechanisms in aging populations.

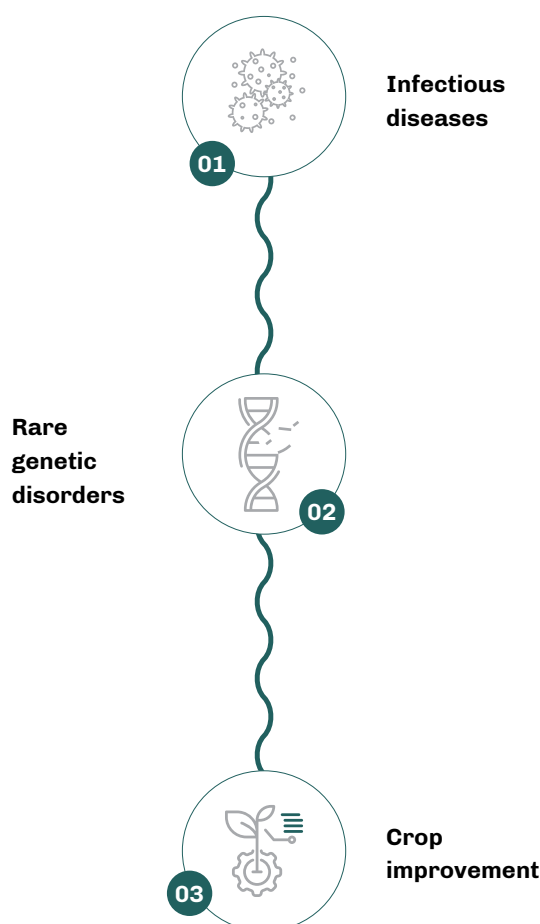
Intervention Study

The CBR-TLSA has initiated a comprehensive intervention study aimed at preventing dementia among the aging Indian population. Drawing inspiration from the Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study (FINGERS), this study focuses on lifestyle factors such as diet, physical activity, cognitive training and mindfulness practices. The one-year pilot phase will involve 120 participants both healthy and those with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), to evaluate the impact of these multimodal interventions on cognitive health, physical well-being and psychological outcomes.

The long-term goal of the study is to develop a culturally tailored intervention protocol that addresses the unique needs of the elderly population in India. By incorporating vascular risk factor control and lifestyle modifications, the study aims to establish a preventive strategy for reducing the risk of dementia while also assessing the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of these interventions in diverse socio-economic and geographical contexts.

Overview

The Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) is a non-profit research institute set up by Tata Trusts to address challenges in human health and agriculture. Established in 2017, TIGS has leveraged cutting-edge science and technology in genetics and genomics to tackle some of India's most pressing challenges. As a programme-driven organisation, with stakeholders involved from the outset, all its initiatives aim to create a direct social impact. The research activities of TIGS are organised under three key programmes-



Steady Steps of Progress

Developing an Innovative Platform

TIGS has developed several innovative platforms to facilitate the direct implementation of its research programmes. These include-

- **Technology platforms:** TIGS has created platforms focused on nucleic acid-based diagnostics, advanced mRNA technologies, cell-based biotherapeutics and genome editing. This technology pipeline supports the development of disease-agnostic solutions;
- **Technology Implementation:** TIGS optimises developed technologies for cost-effective product development and commercialisation, ensuring solutions reach end-users;
- **Community Engagement and Policy Stewardship:** TIGS integrates scientific progress with community engagement and policy guidance, empowering society through knowledge.

TIGS launched a community engagement project in collaboration with the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) to raise awareness of Rare Genetic Diseases through interactive tools, educational content and multi-stakeholder events, including panel discussions and public interactions.

National and International Partnerships

TIGS has been a key collaborator in competitive research grants from GoI agencies such as ICMR, SERB-DST and DBT, focusing on translational science in diagnostics and therapeutics. Additionally, TIGS continued its three-year partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation through the Alliance for Pathogen Surveillance Innovations (APSI-India) programme. To expedite technological implementation, TIGS deployed a strategic partnership model, collaborating with approximately 40 organisations, including industries, hospitals, NGOs and patient groups, forming 20 new partnerships in the past year alone.

Wastewater-based Epidemiology for Pathogen Surveillance and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Wastewater surveillance is a critical tool for assessing community health by monitoring disease-causing pathogens. TIGS has developed an innovative model for environmental surveillance of infectious diseases through wastewater analysis, which enabled the cost-effective tracking of COVID-19 in Bengaluru. This model offers early warnings of disease outbreaks and is now being adapted to monitor other pathogens, including respiratory diseases, such as influenza. TIGS has also created an Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) map for Hyderabad, supporting the detection of pathogens and resistance markers from the environment (water, air and soil) and is aligned with the One Health approach to addressing AMR.

Crop Improvement

TIGS is advancing the development of food crop varieties with enhanced traits, such as disease and pest resistance, climate resilience and improved nutritional content, tailored to local conditions. Through genome editing and mutation breeding, the institute has created rice lines resistant to bacterial and fungal diseases, which are now ready for field evaluation. Moreover, nutritionally enhanced rice lines with higher iron, zinc and protein content are undergoing testing. These innovations will soon extend to other crops, such as pulses and millets, to address broader nutritional challenges.

Outreach Events and Societal Engagement

Over the past year, TIGS has hosted distinguished scientists, including Dr. Soumya Swaminathan and Dr. Gagandeep Kang, at the BLiSC campus, conducting invaluable discussions and insightful engagements. Additionally, TIGS welcomed Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog, for discussions on prospective collaborations. TIGS staff participated in diverse outreach activities, engaging students, municipal stakeholders and the public while delivering over 30 scientific presentations and curating summits on pressing national issues.

• Building a Better Surveillance System

Surveillance is vital for public health as it serves as an essential epidemiological tool. A workshop, co-hosted by GLC4HSR and TIGS on August 31, 2023, focused on enhancing post-pandemic surveillance systems through expert presentations, panel discussions and the integration of technological advancements.

• REDRESS-2023

The Rare Genetic Diseases Research Summit (REDRESS) convened a diverse group of stakeholders, comprising researchers, clinicians, policymakers and patient advocacy groups, to address the landscape of rare genetic disorders in India. Organised by TIGS and the Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI), with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) National Consortium for Research and Development as a knowledge partner, the event highlighted critical issues and explored potential solutions.

• Mosquitoes Up Close

The Insectary at TIGS, a cutting-edge facility for novel vector control research, organised a three-day workshop in November 2023. This annual event consisted of expert lectures and practical sessions, offering participants comprehensive training in mosquito biology, taxonomy, collection and rearing, highlighting both past and current developments in vector research on mosquitoes.

• India Science Festival 2024

TIGS conducted workshops and set up a booth to improve genetic literacy at the latest India Science Festival (January 20 to 21, 2024), engaging with 1,754 people. The activities included making DNA bracelets, extracting DNA from fruits, screening an in-house film on public perceptions of genetics and discussions on ethical questions in genetics.

• Science Fair at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)

TIGS set up a booth at the NCBS@25 Science Fair on February 14, 2024, where over 200 school students from a wide variety of government and private schools engaged in solving science-based crosswords.

Overview

Carnegie India (CI) is an independent, wholly Indian-funded think tank with a proven track record of shifting the policy needle, creating interrelated ecosystems across its programmes and adapting intellectually and pragmatically to research and initiatives that build resilience in an increasingly unpredictable world. Since 2016, CI has developed policy-relevant work across its three programmes – security studies, political economy as well as technology and society. It has done to:

- (a) Develop deep research-driven public policy solutions;
- (b) Directly support government capacity;
- (c) Build a set of bridges between key stakeholders and policymakers;
- (d) Analyse policies and initiatives to bridge the gap between policy adoption and execution.

To continue making policy-focused strides, building bridges and most importantly, strengthening and supporting the policy ecosystem across its three areas of work, CI required long-term support. With the Trusts' support, the CI team has advanced its existing lines of work and explored new questions across its three programmes. CI has been able to expand the set of initiatives that were developed to reach diverse audiences across India and the world.

Steady Steps of Progress

• Work on Digital Public Infrastructure

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is a key workstream at Carnegie India. During the G20 Summit under India's presidency, CI helped facilitate discussions around the common understanding, syntax and a suggested framework for DPI. CI has also undertaken research and convened several meetings and conferences in India and abroad on:

- (i) DPI-as-a-packaged-service (DaaS), a model to facilitate the adoption of DPI globally;
- (ii) The economic case for DPIs, exploring the potential for private sector participation in the sector; and
- (iii) The potential of the Quad to pilot DPIs in countries in the Indo-Pacific.

• Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology

Under the iCET, concerns arose about U.S. export controls potentially hindering technology transfer to India. CI then convened a roundtable discussion with the Ministry of External Affairs in October 2023 to take stock of the difficulties. In December 2023, CI organised a half-day workshop in partnership with the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum, Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) (under the Ministry of Defence), in which senior officials from the US Government participated to demystify the regulatory architecture of U.S. export control laws.

• Work on Semiconductors

CI has been working on the Semiconductor Policy. During FY 2023-24, a long-form essay from CI assessing the readiness of India to manufacture semiconductors was cited in a report commissioned by the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) and India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA). The report noted CI's suggestion that "learning by doing" is critical when looking at second-order effects of setting up a semiconductor manufacturing base in India. Furthermore, CI's proposal to create a pilot iCET visa programme to facilitate the circulation of STEM talent between India and the U.S. was highlighted in the report.

• Political Economy Dialogue

On March 11–12, 2024, the Political Economy Programme held its inaugural Political Economy Dialogue at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The dialogue convened a diverse group of about a hundred practitioners and researchers engaged in various facets of India's economic development. Over the two days and eight major sessions, attendees delved into pivotal themes, including the state of professions in India, the changing form and substance of political parties in the country, fiscal and economic aspects of union-state relations, the challenges and opportunities in India's climate transition, the past and future of public sector enterprises, the role of state governments in enabling urbanisation, breaking the logjam in key factor market reforms and contemplating the future of agriculture markets.

- **Interpreting India**

'Interpreting India' is CI's podcast that brings forth voices from India and around the globe to unpack how technology, the economy and foreign policy impact India's relationship with the world. With over 100 episodes since its inception in 2019, the podcast has consistently ranked among Apple's top shows in India in the "government" category and in the "technology" category on Google Podcasts.

The Road Ahead

- **Expanding GTS to Bengaluru – Innovation Workshop**

The initial four iterations of CI's Global Technology Summit (GTS) took place in Bengaluru, while the most recent four were held in Delhi. Despite the stronger policy impact of discussions in Delhi, there is a recognised need to engage with the technology-focused ecosystems in other parts of the country. Therefore, starting FY 2024-25, CI will introduce a GTS Innovation Workshop. This initiative will shift the focus to more technical aspects of technology-policy issues. The inaugural GTS Innovation Workshop will be held in Bengaluru in FY 2024-25 over a two-day period and co-hosted with the Ministry of External Affairs.

- **Augmenting CI's Work on AI**

AI regulation will continue to prioritise balancing AI's risks and potential, while focusing on understanding and enabling AI systems. CI will also continue to emphasise computing capabilities and other AI resources, essential components of sovereign AI. On the potential of U.S.-India collaboration on AI, the focus areas include export controls on open-source large language models, collaboration on AI safety institutes and sharing of key AI resources synergistically. Moreover, CI is exploring areas of convergence and divergence within the Global South countries on their AI strategies.

- **Scaling CI's Work on DPI**

In the Global South, CI is exploring implementation and adoption strategies. CI is inspecting the potential of a UK-India collaboration on DPI to unlock shared benefits for the African continent

and Latin America. CI is also closely collaborating with stakeholders in Europe, aiming to reboot Europe-India cooperation and investigate new areas of possible cooperation in the technological domain, particularly on DPI.

- **More Longform Output**

CI has adopted a strategy of conducting focused, long-term research on specific thematic areas while being agile to respond to the emerging issues of CI times. This reflects in the form of research outputs CI scholars share through newsletters, opinion pieces, medium-length essays, compendiums, longform papers and books. Between July 2023 and March 2024, CI's scholars have already delivered more than 70 pieces of different lengths. During FY 2024-25, the scholars will increase their long-form outputs across the three domain areas.

- **Prioritising the Practitioners' Programme**

India has a lot of untapped policy-relevant knowledge with practitioners—politicians, civil servants, business leaders and innovators. Such knowledge is often inaccessible to external researchers. The lack of strong connections between government, industry and academia hinders CI's ability to address important issues. Therefore, the practitioners paper series was launched to bridge this gap. CI plans to prioritise this initiative in the next few years.

As India forges ahead in the digital age, panelists delve into the nation's digital transformation



Excellence in Policy Innovation

- **Conducting Closed-Door Stakeholder Discussions**

Over the years, CI has refined its approach to conducting closed-door sessions (at GTS and through the year) with policymakers, industry experts, researchers and other stakeholders. These sessions combine analytical insights with diverse viewpoints, facilitating discussions on key issues and highlighting areas of debate.

- **Bringing Together Individuals with Different Research Capabilities**

CI's research capabilities comprise experienced practitioners, senior scholars and young researchers. Each of these collaborations a different capability to CI's research efforts. The experienced practitioners offer a deep understanding of the systems. The senior scholars have a good grasp over the research methods and the relevant literature. The young researchers bring a fresh perspective on the issues and bolster CI's ability to take on issues that require in-depth research. This diverse team has worked well for CI, as it has navigated complex issues across the three core domain areas.

Navigating Challenges

- **Recruitment**

In certain areas of work, it has been challenging to find people with the right expertise to work on contemporary issues. For instance, in the political economy team, it has been difficult to find researchers who work on the broader political economy and institutional issues on which CI focuses.

- **Striking a Balance Between Research and Convening**

As a think tank, CI must balance research efforts with convening activities. To maximise its impact, CI must ensure both receive adequate attention.



Connecting minds through thought-provoking sessions to drive change



Helping in providing a different perspective

With countless individuals confronting unforeseen challenges, access to timely support can be the difference between survival and success.

*Fulfilling
Dreams Through
Individual
Grants*

In keeping with the benevolent spirit of their founders, the Trusts have prioritised the Individual Grants Programme (IGP) since inception, focusing on aiding those in need. This Programme includes the continuous efforts expended by the Trusts to hone systems that ensure a comprehensive, systematic and most importantly, fair and humane approach to identifying individuals belonging to the underserved communities. The Programme comprises medical and educational grants.

Medical Grants

Medical emergencies place immense emotional and financial strain on families. Even middle-income households in the country find it difficult to afford quality medical care due to rising hospital bills and medication expenditure. Although medical insurance is becoming increasingly popular in India, it still falls short, especially in covering the entire cost of critical treatments for conditions such as cancer, heart ailments, cochlear implants and kidney diseases. For individuals and families facing medical emergency and are unable to cover the cost of treatment, charitable organisations and compassionate individuals become a crucial lifeline.

In order to aid such cases, the Trusts leverage their extensive network of medical specialists and social workers across numerous prestigious government, municipal, commercial and non profit hospitals, nationwide. The linkages with these hospitals help assess the family's socio-economic situation, ensure proper submission of the form and the complete set of supporting papers to the Trusts, as well as track the utilisation of grants disbursed for the patient's treatment. All linkages created by the Trusts are valid for a fixed period, after which a review is conducted to determine the best course of action. As of March 2024, the Trusts are actively working with 32 hospitals.

Details of Medical Grants sanctioned/disbursed under Sir Ratan Tata Trusts (SRTT) and Allied Trusts from April 2023 to March 2024

Ailments	Number of Applications Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ million)*	Number of Disbursals Made	Amount Disbursed (in ₹ million)#
Cancer	609	331.68	883	256.22
Cochlear Implant	54	26.31	21	21.58
Heart	194	45.69	274	42.47
Liver Disease	31	22.72	23	15.42
Others	165	80.32	217	69.91
Total	1,053	506.72	1,418	405.59

(*) Sanctions may also relate to applications received during the previous year, in addition to those received during the year in review.

(#) Disbursals include grants sanctioned during the previous year, as well as the year in review. Further, ₹ 1.08 million disbursed by the Allied Trusts of SRTT towards relief of poverty and ₹ 1.50 million towards distress grants have not been included in the table above.

Details of Medical Grants sanctioned/disbursed under Sir Dorabji Tata Trusts (SDTT) and Allied Trusts from April 2023 to March 2024

Ailments	Number of Applications Sanctioned*	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ million)	Number of Disbursals Made	Amount Disbursed (in ₹ million)#
Cancer	431	247.46	411	119.95
Cochlear Implant	7	3.54	6	2.80
Heart	114	30.58	164	27.92
Liver Disease	25	23.48	18	12.80
Others	137	65.89	117	36.41
Total	714	370.95	716	199.88

(*) Sanctions may also relate to applications received during the previous year, in addition to those received during the year in review.

(#) Disbursals include grants sanctioned during the previous year, as well as the year in review. Further, a sum of ₹ 0.12 million disbursed by the Allied Trusts of SDTT towards relief of poverty has not been included in the table above.

Education Grants

The Individual Grants Programme for Education encompassed financial assistance for studies in India as well as abroad, under the following categories:

- Means Grants**

Under the Means Grants programme, financially weak students from low socioeconomic backgrounds received assistance to support their school and college education. Additionally, financial aid was provided to children with special needs to aid essential therapies that facilitate their integration into mainstream education. In-service educators, practising counsellors, caregivers and others also received funding for training programmes to equip them to support children with special needs from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Merit-based Scholarships**

The Merit-based scholarships programme invited online applications for Bachelors and Masters studies in fields such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Homeopathy, Special Education, D.Ed and B.Ed, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Speech Therapy and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering.

- Aviation Scholarships**

Grants were awarded to individuals pursuing training for obtaining a Commercial Pilots' License (CPL) and type rating.

- Professional Enhancement Grants**

These were offered to mid-career medical professionals who were interested in developing their professional skills and abilities through relevant workshops, observerships or international training programmes.

- Studies Abroad**

JN Tata Endowment scholars received additional financial assistance for overseas studies based on their academic performance. In addition, the scholars selected during the year were supported with travel grants. Other Indian students were also provided with grant support according to a broad-based criterion.

Details of Education Grants sanctioned/disbursed under Sir Ratan Tata Trusts and Allied Trusts from April 2023 to March 2024

Ailments	Number of Sanctions	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ million)	Number of Disbursals [#]	Amount Disbursed (in ₹ million)
Studies in India	298	22.90	343 [#]	25.40
Studies abroad	256	90.60	260	91.20
Total	554	113.50	603	116.60

(#) Includes disbursements against grants sanctioned during the previous year.

Details of Education Grants sanctioned/disbursed under Sir Dorabji Tata Trusts and Allied Trusts from April 2023 to March 2024

Ailments	Number of Sanctions	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ million)	Number of Disbursals	Amount Disbursed (in ₹ million)
Studies in India, including research scholarships	37	155.18	289	90.80
Studies abroad, including loan scholarships and research scholarships	101	82.30	109 [#]	86.99
Total	138	237.48	398	177.79

(#) Includes disbursements against grants sanctioned during the previous year.

JN Tata Endowment

Jamsetji N. Tata, the founder of the Tata Group, believed in supporting the nation's brightest minds to enable them to serve the country. Established in 1892, the JN Tata Endowment for the Higher Education of Indians has scrupulously followed its founder's mandate. Through a rigorous selection process, it awards scholarships to candidates having excellent calibre and credentials enabling them to pursue quality higher education at some of the best institutions in the world. Until March 2024, the Endowment had awarded scholarships to 5,736 students pursuing higher studies overseas across 847 diverse fields and specialisations.

During FY 2023-24, 90 scholarships were awarded, aggregating to ₹72.40 million, with 46% of the awardees being women. While study destinations covered Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, the most preferred countries continued to be the USA and UK.

Lady Tata Memorial Trust (LTMT)

The Trust was founded in 1932 by Sir Dorabji Tata in honour of his wife, Lady Meherbai. It dedicates four-fifths of its income to studying leukaemia and one-fifth to researching ways to lessen disease-related suffering in both India and other countries. The Trust also funds institutional scientific research, awards fellowships to PhD candidates, recognises young researchers with awards and supports teacher preparation programmes at several colleges.

Indian Awards for Alleviation of Human Suffering

The Trust received a total of 72 project proposals in response to the online submissions requested from Indian universities and institutions in FY 2023-24; of these, 30 research projects were shortlisted and the students were then contacted for interviews. A total of 11 projects from various Indian universities and institutions were chosen and the students were offered Junior Research Fellowships aggregating to ₹2.14 million for the academic year 2023-24.

The research projects were as under:

- Functional Regulation of Chromosome-14 (miR-379/656) miRNA Cluster and its Clinical Utility in Hepatocellular Carcinoma;
- Single Round Infectious Particles - A reverse genetics approach to understand early-stage viral infection of Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus;
- Development of plant tailored defensins targeting human fungal pathogens;
- Micro-delivery of microneedle encapsulated vaccine adjuvant for allergen-specific immunotherapy to house dust mite allergy;
- Design Optimisation and Fabrication of Metal Oxide Semiconductor (MOS) based Optoelectronic Memory for Digital Bio-sensing and data storage Applications;
- De novo synthesis and characterisation of short antimicrobial peptide, SA19K, to inhibit Fusarium corneal infections;
- Design and fabrication of thin film/nano-devices for non-invasive detection of diabetes and IBS by breath monitoring;
- In silico design, synthesis and invitro evaluation of some novel 4,4- disubstituted N-[(1Z)-1-phenylethylidene] benzohydrazides as antibacterial agents targeting Streptococcus pneumoniae GlmU enzyme;
- Long-acting injectable depot system to treat chorioretinal diseases;
- Whole transcriptomic characterisation of left and right sided colon cancer;
- Formulation and Evaluation of a Novel Gastroretentive Drug Delivery System containing Nutraceuticals for Treating Anaemia.

Institutional Research Grants

The primary areas of focus for the fiscal year 2023-24 were leukemia, biology and treatment of cancer. Of the 27 proposals received, nine were selected for assistance, with a total funding commitment of ₹809.30 million over three years.

The research projects selected were on:

Leukaemia

- Minimal Residual Disease guided therapy in newly diagnosed Multiple Myeloma-a multi-arm seamless phase II/III study;
- Impact of CSF flow-cytometry in Paediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) patients: A prospective cohort study;
- Harnessing epigenetic dependencies for immunomodulation in acute myeloid leukaemia;
- Harnessing the power of functional genomics and novel therapeutics to improve outcomes in acute myeloid leukaemia.

Biology and Treatment of Cancer

- Liquid biopsy unravelling the treatment resistant mechanisms with risk stratification in EGFR mutated non-small cell lung carcinoma;
- Long read sequencing to study HPV integration sites in genomes of patients with cervical cancer;
- A study of prognostic risk-assessment analysis and disease-monitoring through blood-based MALAT1 expression in association with perineural invasion and lympho-vascular invasion in OSCC;
- Global phosphoproteomics to uncover novel mechanisms of therapy sensitivity and resistance to CDK4/6 inhibitors in hormone-receptor-positive HER2-negative (HR+/HER2-) metastatic breast cancer;
- Functional characterisation of patient derived single cell spheroids from Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma to decipher clinical heterogeneity: A Tool for drug Screening and Radiation Sensitivity.

The following three projects were shortlisted in FY 2022-23 in the field of Leukaemia and sanctioned for a total funding of ₹50 million over three years in FY 2023-2024.

Leukaemia

- Daratumumab for Minimal Residual Disease Eradication in T-Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia – A Phase 2 Study;
- A Phase I study of maintenance therapy with combination of pomalidomide and oral azacytidine for adult patients with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML);
- Randomised Trial to Study the Effect of Rifaximin on Gut Microbiome Diversity post Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant in Acute Leukaemia.

Impact Stories

A Fresh Start for Mr. Walke

In August 2022, Mr. Pandharinath Walke, a dedicated young man, encountered a life-changing event at work. While operating a printer, a serious accident led to the loss of his arm above his elbow. This unfortunate incident not only caused him physical pain but also rendered him unable to work, leaving his family without their primary source of income. Suddenly faced with financial uncertainty, Mr. Walke and his family struggled to adapt to their new reality.

Refusing to be defined by his challenges, he sought ways to reclaim his life. In December 2022, he sought help from Otto Bock, a renowned prosthetics specialist, seeking a solution that would enable him to work again. Following a comprehensive assessment, the experts prescribed a 'Right Transradial Myoelectric Prosthesis' designed specifically for his needs. It featured a carbon fibre laminated socket, myofacial hand, battery, charger and cosmetic glove. The total cost for this innovative prosthetic was ₹3,72,120.

Recognising the financial burden of his new prosthetic, Mr. Walke reached out to Tata Trusts for assistance. Through a partnership between Tata Trusts and the healthcare organisation, he received a discount of

₹55,818 on his prescribed prosthesis, reducing the total cost to ₹3,16,302. He managed to raise ₹1,00,000 through the generosity of friends and family, but still faced a considerable financial shortage.

Tata Trusts stepped in with crucial support, providing Mr. Walke with ₹1,58,000, which allowed him to proceed with the prosthetic fitment. With this financial backing, he began the rigorous process of training in early 2023, dedicating two weeks to physical adaptation and practice. On April 24, 2023, the completed prosthesis was delivered to him. With the prosthesis, Mr. Walke regained his independence and confidently returned to his job at the printing firm, ready to face challenges with renewed determination.



The Trusts wish to acknowledge the efforts of their teams and partners for sharing case stories and photographs.

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