RATNA NIDHI CHARITABLE TRUST
Spreading Hope Everywhere

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26

RATNANIDHI CHARITABLE TRUST · SINCE 1967

Every step.



Dayanand Panchal, 62, Thane
Back on the floor. Back on his feet.
with a Ratnanidhi Leg



WALK
40,000
limbs fitted



SEE
70,000+
spectacles given
7 lakh students screened



READ
13 lakh
books, 8,000+ libraries



EAT
2 crore
meals served



DISCOVER
940
budding scientists

THE YEAR IN ONE SENTENCE

In 2025-26, Ratnanidhi put **5,112** people back on their feet, **22,335** pairs of spectacles on faces that needed them, **3,01,422** hot meals in front of hungry children and **1,36,537** books into their hands, *and we did every step ourselves*.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

2 min

The cover and the Year in Numbers. The whole year at a glance.

10 min

Add the first page of each programme. What we do, and why it works.

30 min

Read the case stories, where every number becomes a name.



BACK ON THE FLOOR

Ramesh Nathe, 55, Pade village, Nashik

He sits cross-legged at home again, on his new leg. He rates its comfort 10 out of 10.

Cover: Dayanand Panchal. Unretouched photograph; background added.

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Find the cause closest to your heart.

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LETTER FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE

From mines to market: why we now do every step ourselves

To everyone who stands with Ratnanidhi,

In business we have a phrase: from mines to market. One company owns every step, from the raw material to the customer's hand, so it owns the quality at every step.

Ratnanidhi reached scale some years ago. 40,000 prosthetic limbs in eight years. More than 7 lakh eye screenings in five. Scale was never the hard part. The hard part is everything that happens after the camp is over. So this year we went into depth. We brought every step of every programme in-house, and we run it like a military command: clear orders, and feedback from every point, from the people we serve and from our partners. That feedback goes back into the design, the engineering, the delivery and the impact, all the time.

Take a leg. Our own medical centre makes the Ratnanidhi Leg, Google.org award winner designed with BETiC (IIT Bombay). We fit it the same day. Gait training teaches the person to walk on it. For people who have not walked for years, our physiotherapist works with them, free. About a month after the fitting, our call centre phones them, and it keeps phoning, at three months, at six months and beyond, the way a good company treats a customer. Are they walking? Are they happy? If something is wrong, we repair the leg, replace a part or build a new one. Whatever it takes, the person pays nothing. Our mission is to make people walk.

The same logic runs Vision For All. The Government of Maharashtra opens the school doors. Our own doctors go school to school, with our own equipment. The lenses come from EssilorLuxottica, from abroad and from their factories in India. Each pair is made to the child's prescription, boxed, delivered to the school and checked afterwards. From Gadchiroli to Nandurbar to Mumbai, from tribal villages to the metro, every child we screen comes from a low-income family.

And books. We collect them, import them, design and print our own storybooks, create learning content and put animated stories on

YouTube. Our libraries come in many forms: mini libraries, Wisdom Tree, Sapno ka Pitara and wall-hanging libraries. They sit in schools and colleges, hospitals and doctors' clinics, car and motorbike showrooms, gyms, housing societies and the passenger lounge at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) Airport. Our books are wide-format, full colour, on good paper, and free. Today there are more than 8,000 of these libraries, holding 13 lakh books.

Step inside the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre and a child's day changes. They climb into a spaceship cockpit, read under a ceiling made of books, and look out through windows onto the universe. Then they get to work. They do hands-on science experiments, test optical illusions, solve puzzles and write code on laptops. They study climate change and become food detectives, testing what's really on their plate. They take apart a laptop and a photocopier to see how each one works. The whole centre is air-conditioned, so even in Mumbai's heat, the only thing that makes them sweat is a hard puzzle.

Here is the part I am proudest of. These are not seven separate programmes. A school that gets our meals also gets a library, an eye test and scholarships, and its students come to the Centre. Each programme opens the door for the next. Principals know our team by name, and the relationship gets deeper every year. That is the design.

I also run a business, and I have brought its best habits into this trust. We treat every person we serve as a customer. We ask how they are, we fix what is wrong, and we stay with them for years. In business you would call the school ecosystem cross-selling, and you would call that six-month phone call lifetime value. In a charity it means one family, one school or one village keeps getting more from its relationship with us, year after year. Many of you who give through CSR come from business. You will recognise this way of working. It is our commitment to you.

Ratnanidhi won a Google.org award in 2017 and is a partner of BETiC (IIT Bombay). But the measure we care about most is the six-month phone call: is this person walking?

Come and see it for yourself, at a camp, a school or the Centre. Thank you for making every step possible.

Rajiv Mehta

Managing Trustee, Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust

TRUSTEES AND ADVISORY BOARD

The people who answer for every step

TRUSTEES



Mahendra Mehta

A man of great compassion and courage, he changed countless young lives. His legacy asks each of us to give with generosity and love.



Asha Mehta

A true humanitarian, she guides Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust with wisdom, love and a steady belief in the power of empathy.



Rajiv Mehta

MANAGING TRUSTEE

Son of Mahendra and Asha Mehta. He brings the discipline of business to every Ratnanidhi programme.



Nandini Mehta

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

She shows how professional success and social responsibility can work together, for the person and for the community.

ADVISORY BOARD

Expertise we lean on



Mr. Nitin Khanapurkar

Global Head, Governance & Internal Audit, Apex Group, London

Nitin has led professional services firms across four continents for more than 35 years. Growing up in India among visually impaired children shaped his commitment to empathy and inclusion. For decades he has supported work in mobility, vocational training, healthcare, hunger and education. He is a proud Rotarian and a Living My Promise signatory, pledging half his wealth to social good.



Prof. B. Ravi (Dr. Ravi Bhallamudi)

Director, National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK)

An alumnus of NIT Rourkela and IISc Bangalore, he joined IIT Bombay in 1992 and founded E-Foundry, OrthoCAD and BETiC, among other centres that turn ideas into real-world solutions. His AutoCAST software changed casting design in industry, and BETiC's medical devices have improved more than a million lives. A Fellow of India's leading engineering academies, he champions research that makes technology meaningful for society.



Prof. Rukaiya Joshi

Former Professor and Chairperson, Centre for Education in the Social Sector, SPJIMR

She has taught for more than four decades, up to MPhil level, and advises business and engineering colleges across Maharashtra. She has served on jury panels and audit committees of CSR organisations and NGOs, sits on NGO boards in Mumbai and Gujarat, and was a Trustee with Baba Amte at Jhabua.

The year in numbers.

Behind every number on these two pages is a person we know by name, a school we visit, a camp we ran, and a donor who made it happen.

Prosthetics & Mobility

WALK

5,887

prosthetics and mobility aids fitted for 5,112 people. Not one person paid.

1,070	2,055	2,059	596	90
Ratnanidhi Legs	Jaipur feet	Calipers	Crutches	Artificial hands

Vision For All

SEE

22,335

pairs of spectacles. A clear blackboard, road and register.

1 in 7 schoolchildren we screened needed spectacles. Most never knew it.

3,32,014	95
Students and adults screened	Camps
747	**11,000 ft**
BEST bus crew	Our camp in Ladakh

Mission Million Books

READ

1,36,537

books, given free to schools, clinics and communities.

- Sapno ka Pitara **40,522**
- Book donations **33,618**
- Wisdom Trees **24,550**
- Our storybooks **18,091**
- Financial literacy **14,485**
- Mini libraries & insurance **5,271**

808	244
Sapno ka Pitara	Wisdom Trees
18,091	**10**
Storybooks we wrote	States reached

WHERE THE WORK HAPPENED

12 states and union territories of India.

From tribal schools in Gadchiroli and Nandurbar to Mumbai's bus depots, from a village campus in Banaskantha to a camp at 11,000 feet in Ladakh.

Figures: RNCT programme statistics, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Science Centre: Impact Report, July 2025 to March 2026.

Food for Education

EAT

3,01,422

hot meals. Not one child paid.

3,163
Children every school day

38
Schools & centres

108%

of promised meals delivered on our largest project



Promised 40,490 **Served 43,755**

Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre

DISCOVER

+49%

Science scores rose after time at the Centre.

899
Students

68
Schools

70
Teachers



Average marks out of 80, same test

Financial Literacy

LEARN

7,466

children learned money before money taught them.

21
Schools

14,485
Storybooks kept

Asharatna Scholarship

RISE

58

bright students kept in school when fees stood in the way.

13
Schools

OUR PARTNERS

Governments open the doors. Scientists sharpen the tools.

Ten District Collectors have signed MoUs with Ratnanidhi. The Government of Maharashtra has signed three. BETiC (IIT Bombay) helped design our leg. This is who checks our work before they put their name next to ours.

GOVERNMENT

Government of Maharashtra. Three MoUs: vision screening in schools (2018, with OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation); free mobility aids, with the Medical Education and Drugs Department in association with the Chief Minister's office (2019); and a new MoU with the Education Department, signed on 24 August 2026, to screen about 20 lakh children over three years (2026-27). Letters of support from the Deputy Chief Minister and the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

PMPML, Pune. Eye care for Pune's city bus drivers, so the person at the wheel can see the road.

Nashik Police. Eye screening for police personnel.

Ten District Collectors. Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Jalna, Chandrapur, Nashik, Satara, Beed, Latur, Pune and Kolhapur. Collectors send civil-hospital optometrists and education officers with our team, school to school. Jalna has signed three MoUs with us: vision, disability and libraries.

BEST, Mumbai. BEST's own Medical Department records that Ratnanidhi screened 7,843 drivers and conductors in 2023, and approved Netra Suraksha Abhiyan again for 2026. This year, 747 BEST bus crew received spectacles.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

BETiC (IIT Bombay). Designed the knee joint inside the Ratnanidhi Leg. Our next project together, an AI phone app to screen children's eyes, is being planned.

World Bank, Washington DC. For about 15 years, the World Bank has sponsored a container of books for us every two years, to set up libraries. Those books planted the seed of Mission Million Books, and they still come.

Google.org (Google's philanthropy, USA). Supported the development of the Ratnanidhi Leg.

OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation. Ratnanidhi is a Global Charity Partner. Every lens in Vision For All comes from them. Their vice president has called it India's largest school eye-health programme.

OUR PARTNERS

Companies that send their people, not just their cheques

A cheque tells us a company trusts us. Sending its people tells us more. These partners came to see the work, and then did some of it.

COMPANIES

Cognizant. Its volunteers taught Saturday coding at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre. In August 2026, our students presented their AI projects to Cognizant's Managing Director, Rajesh Warrier, at Airoli. He gave them about 25 minutes (2026-27).

First Abu Dhabi Bank. Its officers tested our financial literacy students without warning: 85 questions across schools. The students answered all 85.

Collinson. 32 employees cooked and served 470 sandwiches for children in three Mumbai schools (September 2025).

WTW. Staff in Thane, Vikhroli and Gurugram filled 60 boxes of clothes, toys, books and hygiene essentials (February 2026).

Exim Bank. Gave stationery, toys, books and clothes for the children we serve.

Axis Bank Foundation. Gave stationery, toys, books and clothes for the children we serve.

Microsoft India. Taught AI tools to 58 rural learners at our Jagana centre, 21 of them women (April–May 2026, 2026-27).

Infosys Springboard. Employability training for young people at our Jagana centre, which began in September 2026 (2026-27).

INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY

Ruparel College, Mumbai. The principal signed a volunteering MoU with us on 11 September 2026, in the presence of the college's trustee. It brings Ruparel students into every Ratnanidhi programme, all year round (2026-27).

Free Press Journal. Angels of Bombay, our storybook series with the newspaper, launched in BMC schools in Kurla in September 2025.

Rotary. The Rotary Club of Khadki took financial literacy to 1,045 students in Pune. The Rotary Club of Palanpur City partners our Jagana centre. Rotary districts run vision camps using our method.

Hospitals. HB Desai Hospital (Pune), Tulsi Eye Hospital (Nashik), Sarwanan Hospital (Ulhasnagar) and civil hospitals across Maharashtra take on patients and camps with us.

Your company can stand on this page next year. Write to info@ratnanidhi.org.

WALK

PROSTHETICS AND MOBILITY

Two trips. One walk home.

Every camp is a full operation, run end to end by our own team.



Back at the wheel, on his new leg.

1

Trip one: screen and measure

The team examines every patient who comes in. They take measurements, decide which limb or caliper each person needs, and make the moulds.

2

In Mumbai: make

The moulds come back to Mumbai, where each prosthetic is built to one person's measurements. The finished limbs are then shipped back to the camp town.

3

Trip two: fit and walk

We phone every patient to bring them back. The team spends 2 to 3 days on site, fitting each limb and adjusting it until it is comfortable, then teaching the person to walk on it. Each patient goes home on their own feet, free of cost.

64	32	3	5,112
camps	locations	states	people fitted

THE REACH

All year, without a break

In **2025-26** our team ran **64** camps in **32** locations across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. That's more than one camp every week of the year.

Maharashtra

Beed, Kolhapur, Nashik, Nanded, Pune, Karad, Dhule, Ambajogai, Dharashiv, Jalna, Sangamner, Palghar, Talasari, Thane and neighbourhoods across Mumbai

Gujarat

Jagana in Banaskantha, Patan, Valsad, Navsari and Viramgam

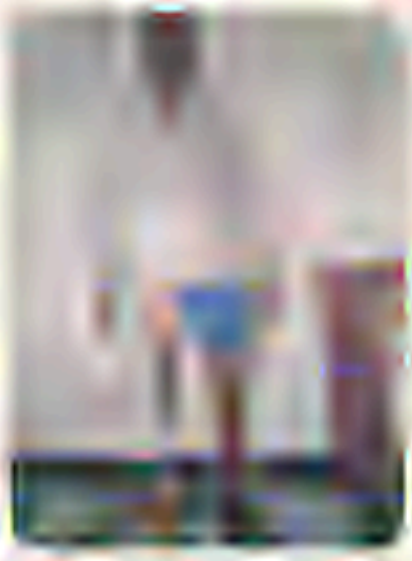
Madhya Pradesh

Ujjain, Indore and Bhopal

Each camp means two trips, a production run in Mumbai, shipping both ways and a phone call to every patient. Our Mahalaxmi centre in Mumbai also fitted patients all through the year.

2,059	2,055	1,070	596	90	17
calipers	Jaipur feet	Ratnanidhi Legs	crutches	hands	wheelchairs

Every aid is accounted for. Each one is recorded against the person who received it and the donor who paid for it.



THE PROOF

A fitting is the start, not the end.

A limb only changes a life if it is worn every day. So we keep calling the people we have fitted. Does the limb still fit? Is it comfortable? Is the person back at work? Anyone who needs an adjustment is called back for one.

> *"When he first wore the leg, tears of happiness filled his eyes. He felt he had been given a new life."*
>
> Field officer's note on Sandeep Kamble, electrician, Hupari, Kolhapur, March 2026

₹25,000 gives one person a Ratnanidhi Leg.
₹8,000 fits one Jaipur foot, one caliper or one artificial hand.

Scan to give a step.



Subhash Rathod, 42, Panvel: cross-legged on the floor, on his Ratnanidhi Leg.

RATNANIDHI LEG

Our own leg, built for Indian roads.

1,070
Ratnanidhi Legs fitted in 2025-26

₹0
cost to the person who wears it

IIT Bombay
knee joint designed with BETiC

Google.org
award winner

360°

360° motion: designed around how this person lives

A knee that works in a hospital corridor can fail on a village path. So our team designed the joint with IIT Bombay for uneven roads, staircases and rural paths. Its 360° motion lets the wearer turn, bend and sit down on the floor, where much of Indian life happens. Ramesh Nathe, a 55-year-old farmer from Dindori, now sits on the floor of his home again. Sandeep Kamble says he can sit "even on the ground".

Taken to where people live

The Ratnanidhi Leg goes wherever our camps go: across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, and to the Mahalaxmi Medical Centre in Mumbai. Every leg is moulded on site, built in our Mumbai workshop and fitted back in the patient's own district.

360° care: not a one-time sale

We measure, make and fit each leg, then train the wearer to walk on it. After that we keep calling, and we ask every wearer what is not working. Hanumant told us the fitting sometimes loosens, and Pratap told us his belt was loose. Both were called back, their legs adjusted and reshipped.

THE PROOF

Engineering you can measure in a working day.

Hanumant rides his scooter to the city to buy stock for his shop. Manu runs again. Shridhar takes the step up without a second thought. That is the test we design for: not whether a leg fits in the clinic, but whether a life starts moving again.



Hanumant, Naigaon
Back on his scooter, riding to the city for shop stock.



Manu, 26, Karnataka
Running again on his Ratnanidhi Leg.



Shridhar, Akola
Taking the step up, knee bending freely.

"Never lose hope. Disability does not define you. Stay strong and keep moving forward."

Hanumant Tamsure, shopkeeper, Naigaon, Nanded

₹25,000 gives one person a Ratnanidhi Leg, and their working life back.

Scan to fund a leg.



Gait training at our Mahalaxmi centre, Mumbai.

WALK

AFTER THE FITTING

One team. Three states. 5,112 people walking again.

The hardest step is the first one.

Picture a man who has not stood on two feet in years. He is holding the parallel bars, with a new leg beneath him and his family watching from the door. He is afraid to trust it. That moment decides whether a limb is worn every day or left standing in a corner. So we don't hand over a leg and say goodbye. We stay for the first step, and for every step it takes to make walking feel natural again.

A physiotherapist who knows their name

Since November 2025, everyone fitted at our Mahalaxmi centre can see our physiotherapist after their fitting: amputees and caliper users, and children among them. In the first nine months the physiotherapist recorded 542 walk-in visits. On the days the physiotherapist is not in, our team guides patients themselves. No one leaves without an exercise programme to keep building strength at home.

Every step watched

In our gait training area, patients practise on their new limb while a trained eye watches each step. They learn to balance, to turn and to climb. Only when they walk with confidence do they go home.

One journey, not three

For a daily-wage earner, every trip to Mumbai costs a day's income. So patients who travel from distant districts to our Mahalaxmi centre are measured, fitted and walking on the same day. They make the journey once, and they go home on their own feet.

We don't give up. Ever.

A limb can rub, loosen or start to hurt once it meets real life. Too often, that is when a person quietly puts it away. So for the past year our team has phoned every patient we fit. Is it comfortable? Is it holding? Are you walking every day? If the answer is no, we call them back, adjust it, and keep calling until they are happy and the problem is solved. There is no last call. A Ratnanidhi patient is cared for for life.

Our mission fits in one line: whatever it takes to make them walk.



WALK

40,000 limbs fitted in eight years.
Every one of them, a first step.



Sunil Pawar, Ratnanidhi Leg user, at our Mahalaxmi centre.

WALK

BEYOND THE LIMB · CARE FOR THE MIND

We heal the body. Now we heal the mind.

> *"You called me. That is the reason I am telling you. Nobody ever asked me."*
>
> A prosthetics beneficiary, speaking to an RNCT psychology volunteer

Ask what a person needs to walk again, and the answer keeps growing. They need a limb built for their body, so we design and make it ourselves. They need to learn to trust it, so we train them, step by step. They need it to keep working, so we call them for life. And they need the courage to step back into the world. A limb cannot give that.

So we did what good design always does: we went back to the person and listened. Psychology interns from Ruia College and K.G. Joshi & N.G. Bedekar College, Thane, made more than 150 calls to beneficiaries across Maharashtra and Vidarbha. Twenty final-year psychology students then held hour-long telephone conversations with 400 of them. What they heard changed how we think about rehabilitation.

400
Beneficiaries heard in hour-long calls

150+
Calls in the first field study

12
Weeks in the structured counselling course

1
Caller per person, in their own language

What 400 conversations taught us

Resilience is real, and it has a source.

It was strongest where there was family support and a clear purpose. Mothers, carrying the care of their children, were the most resilient of all.

Isolation is the deeper wound.

Many had never once been asked how they felt. Simply being listened to changed their tone within minutes.

Work heals.

Men spoke of hopelessness tied to no longer being the breadwinner. Those who returned to work, even for a small wage, were visibly more confident.

Language opens the door.

People spoke freely only in Marathi or their own dialect, and only to a caller they had come to trust.

What we built from it

We turned what we heard into a 12-week tele-counselling programme, written down in our Volunteer Guidelines.

01

One caller per person

Each beneficiary is matched with one caller who speaks their language and stays with them all the way through.

02

One theme per call

Rapport, emotional literacy, coping, identity, and finally livelihood.

03

Supervised throughout

A licensed psychologist supervises every volunteer, with a clear protocol for any sign of risk.

Body. Training. Lifelong care. Mind.

Body — A limb we make › **Training** — Every step watched › **Lifelong care** — We keep calling › **Mind** — Someone to talk to

Most organisations do one of these. We do all four, under one roof and with one team, so no one falls through the gap between them. Each stage improves the next: a counsellor's call reveals a loose fitting, and a fitting call reveals a person who needs to talk. It is one mission, carried all the way through. **Our mission is to make them walk.**

NOW UNDER WAY

Dignity Dialogues Challenge 2026

We have invited final-year psychology students to design and test a tele-counselling framework that any trained volunteer in India can follow. The first contestants come from:

- Maniben Nanavati Women's College
- The University of Mumbai
- K.G. Joshi & N.G. Bedekar College, Thane
- Lakshmibai College, Delhi
- Christ University, Bengaluru
- IGNOU
- SVNIRTAR, Cuttack

The winning framework becomes RNCT's national guide for 100+ volunteers.

Give one hour a week. Give a person their voice back.

If you lead a psychology department, practise as a counsellor or train students, join us. One call can reach someone who has never been asked how they are.

WRITE TO
info@ratnanidhi.org



Pradip Pawar, back in his sugarcane field on his new leg.

WALK

BEYOND THE LIMB · LIVELIHOOD

From walking to earning.

Walking again is the start. Earning again is the goal.

In the past eight years we have fitted **more than 40,000 prosthetic limbs.** A limb gets a person walking. A job gives them their life back. So in 2026 we began phoning the people we fitted, one by one, to ask a plain question: are you working? 425 adults have answered so far, and their answers tell us exactly where to help next.

What the survey found

Of 425 adults who answered

Working today	46%
Not working, and want to work	13%
Need skill training to get work	18%
Not working, and not looking for work	32%

WHAT STOPS THOSE NOT WORKING

Getting around (mobility or transport)	42%
Health or age	37%

Groups overlap: one person can want work and need training.

What it means. Nearly half are back at work. Of those who are not, one in four wants to be. What stops them is rarely willingness. It is the journey to work, and a skill an employer will pay for. Both are problems we know how to solve: a better-fitting limb, a seated role close to home, a short course.

A pipeline, not a list

57
people want a job now. They have said so, in their own words, on the phone.

37
of them need a skill first, and have named it: driving, mobile repair, tailoring, computer work.

78
people in all asked for skill training, the clearest single need in the survey.

PROOF

Four companies have already come forward to offer jobs to people from this survey. We match each opening to a person's skills, location and mobility. That means seated roles for people with above-knee limbs, and floor and field roles for others.

Our commitment: every person, economically independent

We don't stop at a limb, and we won't stop at a phone call. Our commitment is that every person we fit who wants to earn will find a way to earn, whichever way suits their body, their skills and their life:

A job
with an employer who values their work

A micro business
of their own, built on a skill they already have

Work from home
for those who can't make the daily journey

Full-time work
for those ready to rebuild a household income

Part-time work
for those balancing health, age or family

Charity gives a person a limb. Earning gives them their dignity. We want every person we fit to live with full dignity, standing on their own feet in every sense.

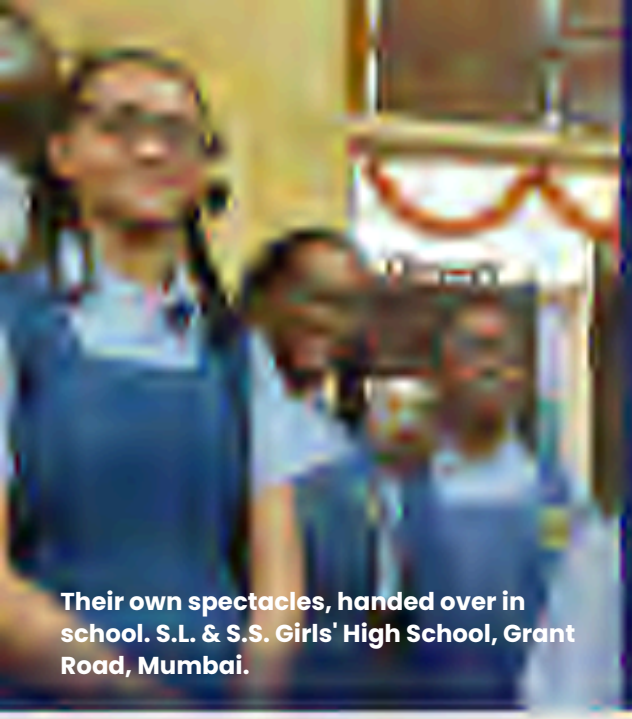
The calling goes on. 2,288 of the 7,309 people on our list have been phoned so far. Every call adds a name to the pipeline, and every name is a person an employer or a training partner can reach.

2,288 phoned — 7,309 on our list

Employers: hire from a pipeline that is ready.

Tell us your openings, and we will introduce the right candidates.

WRITE TO
info@ratnanidhi.org



Their own spectacles, handed over in school. S.L. & S.S. Girls' High School, Grant Road, Mumbai.

SEE

VISION FOR ALL · THE PROMISE

No child held back for want of spectacles.

1 in 7 children in the schools we screened this year needed spectacles

A child who cannot see the blackboard rarely says so. Teachers think the child is inattentive, the marks fall, and some children leave school. In the schools we screened this year, about one child in seven needed spectacles.

Most eye camps stop at a diagnosis and a prescription the family cannot afford to fill. **Ours end with a pair of glasses on the child's face.** Our optometrists test every child in their own classroom with our own equipment. Every child who needs correction receives EssilorLuxottica prescription spectacles, made for them, labelled with their name and handed over in school. It costs the family nothing.

22,335	3,32,014	95	12 + Ladakh	747
Free spectacles given	Students and adults screened	Camps held	Maharashtra districts, and Ladakh	Spectacles for BEST bus crews

From screening to spectacles, end to end.

1. District Collectors and education officers open the doors to Zilla Parishad and government-aided schools.
2. Our team screens each class with autorefractors and trial sets.
3. Prescriptions go to EssilorLuxottica, the lenses come back cut and fitted.
4. Each pair returns to the school tagged to one named child.
5. At the end of every camp, the district administration receives a child-wise record.

Every kind of correction

22,335 spectacles this year



- **5,815** spherical prescriptions
- **2,860** cylindrical prescriptions
- **801** bifocals
- **12,859** plano spectacles at medical camps for low-income adults



The people who drive Mumbai.

A bus driver who cannot see clearly puts a busload of passengers at risk. At nine BEST depots we screened 1,085 drivers and conductors and gave 747 pairs of spectacles, 425 of them bifocals, at no cost to BEST.

The women who care for every village.

ASHA and Anganwadi workers visit every pregnant mother, newborn and elderly person in their village. Nobody checks their eyes. In July and August 2025, with Panchayat Samiti Baramati in Pune district, we screened 2,527 of these frontline health workers. 414 of them now work with prescription glasses, mostly reading glasses for close work like filling in health registers. Another 707 received protective plain glasses. As far as we know, no one in India had screened ASHA workers' eyes before.

The highest camp we run.

From April to November 2025 our team went back to Ladakh every month. At over 11,000 feet, we screened about 18,700 students and adults and gave 853 pairs of glasses.

11,000 ft altitude · **18,700** screened · **853** pairs of glasses

Eight years of scale.

Since Vision For All began in 2018, it has screened more than 7.5 lakh students and adults in over 500 camps across 24 districts of Maharashtra.

7.5 lakh+ screened · **500+** camps · **24** districts

THE PROOF

A public body asked us back.

Close to 12,000 bus drivers and conductors at BEST and PMPML have now been screened by our teams. On 5 January 2026, BEST approved **Netra Suraksha Abhiyan 2026** for 8,000 more screenings and 2,000 Essilor spectacles, at no cost to BEST.



Saksham, Class 7, Mumbai. *His headaches stopped once he could read the board, and his marks rose from 60 to 90.*

WORKING WITH OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation (RNCT is a Global Charity Partner of EssilorLuxottica) · Government of Maharashtra, with letters of support from the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister · District MoUs with Jalna, Nandurbar and Gadchiroli · BEST · PMPML.

₹550 gives one child an eye test and their own pair of spectacles.

Scan to help a child see the board.



A hot lunch from our kitchen, eaten together on the classroom floor.

EAT

FOOD FOR EDUCATION · THE PROMISE

A hungry child cannot learn.

₹0 paid by any child, family or school

A child who comes to school hungry cannot hold attention through the afternoon. A family short of food will often keep that child at home. In Indian tradition, **anna daan, the gift of food,** is the highest form of giving. We practise it every school day. Ratnanidhi cooks fresh food every morning in its own kitchen and delivers it hot to schools and community centres across Mumbai. No child, family or school pays anything.

3,01,422
Meals served to children in 2025-26

3,163
Children fed every school day

38
Schools and centres

21
Mumbai neighbourhoods

From our kitchen to their plate.

The day starts in the RNCT kitchen in Mumbai. From there, freshly cooked food goes out hot to 38 schools and centres in 21 neighbourhoods:

1
RNCT kitchen, cooking fresh every morning

Mankhurd · Grant Road · Khetwadi · Girgaon · Thakurdwar · Kamathipura · Fort and Byculla · Mumbai Central · Tardeo · Mahalaxmi · Agripada · Nal Bazaar · Mazgaon · Wadala · Koliwada · Sewri · Kalachowki · Worli · Prabhadevi · Dharavi · Ghatkopar

A different meal every day of the week.

Every plate is built on lentils, rice and fresh vegetables, so children get protein and energy in food they know and finish. The menu changes a little with the seasons.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Khichdi and choli (black-eyed bean curry)	Rice and vegetable sabji	Khichdi and sheera	Rice and mixed dal of five lentils	Khichdi and potato sabji	Rice and chole





One school, every day.

At Union High School in Khetwadi, 130 children ate an RNCT lunch on each of 163 school days. That is 21,206 meals in one school, in one year.

21,206 meals at one school

Three schools near Grant Road.

We planned 40,490 meals and served 43,755.

Kamathipura.

At two sites in one of Mumbai's most vulnerable neighbourhoods, 45 or more children ate every day from August 2025 to March 2026. We planned 6,440 meals and served 6,785.

THE PROOF

Every meal counted. More delivered than promised.

Three schools near Grant Road

Planned	40,490
Served	43,755

Kamathipura, two sites

Planned	6,440
Served	6,785

> *"When food was not coming for two months, their weight went down. Now, after getting RNCT meals, their weight has increased. Attendance has become regular because of RNCT meals."*

₹25 feeds a child a hot school lunch.
Scan to give a child lunch today.



A Sapno ka Pitara on the classroom wall, GMP Sadashiva School, Arjunkot.

READ

MISSION MILLION BOOKS · THE PROMISE

A library on every classroom wall.

1,36,537

books sent into schools, clinics and communities in 10 states this year

A child who owns no book at home will often meet one only at school. Mission Million Books puts a library within arm's reach of that child. Since 2016 we have set up close to 1,000 libraries in Mumbai's schools and colleges. This year we went much further. We sent 1,36,537 books into schools, clinics and communities in 10 states, **many of them written, illustrated and printed by Ratnanidhi itself.**

1,36,537	808	244	1,07,887	18,091	10
Books given in 2025-26	Sapno ka Pitara wall libraries	Wisdom Tree libraries	Students who can reach them	RNCT storybooks given	States reached



MISSION MILLION BOOKS · THE REACH

Sapno ka Pitara: a library that hangs on a wall.

A Pitara is a soft, wall-mounted pocket that holds 50 storybooks at a child's eye level, covers facing out. It needs no shelf, no room and no librarian, so it works even in a one-room school in a forest district. **This year 808 Pitaras carried 40,522 books into classrooms.**

MAHARASHTRA

Gadchiroli

With the district administration, more than 300 wall libraries are already up in tribal and remote schools. They are on the way to 1,000 schools and close to 1 lakh children.

MAHARASHTRA

Nandurbar

After one conversation with the Collector, 300 Pitaras with 15,000 Marathi storybooks reached village schools in under 90 days.

RAJASTHAN

Hanumangarh

100 wall libraries are now up in the district's schools.





Wisdom Tree: a library in a single stand.

Each Wisdom Tree is a free-standing unit with 60 books, and sometimes up to 100. Half are storybooks, dictionaries and English and Hindi titles, and half are RNCT books. This year 244 schools received one, opening the shelves to 1,07,887 students.

Our own storybooks.

Commercial children's books rarely reach a Zilla Parishad classroom, and few are in the child's own language. So we write and print our own: stories of C.V. Raman, Homi Bhabha, Tessy Thomas, Mangalyaan and India's freedom fighters. They come in Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati and English, for children aged 5 to 14. This year 18,091 of them went out free, and we set up 28 model libraries in 22 schools.

A lending library for a whole district.

At our Jagana centre in Banaskantha, Gujarat, the library lends books to schools and colleges across the district for the school year. This year we stocked it with 12,899 of our own storybooks, the largest single delivery of RNCT books anywhere.

THE PROOF

Chosen by four districts. Proven over years.

Tested where it matters: in the classroom. After the libraries had been in use for up to two years, we went back and asked teachers, principals and librarians in 170 schools what had changed. They told us children read more, use new words and ask more questions.

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS

"Wall library project to bring Gadchiroli kids closer to books."
The Hitavada, 1 July 2025

"Dear Doctor... could we have one foot of space in your clinic?"
Gujarati Mid-day, 11 July 2024, on our Wisdom Tree libraries in doctors' clinics across Mumbai

WHAT THE CLASSROOM SAYS

"Ahmed Raza told his mother, 'I will sit in a rocket and go to the Moon.' She asked me why. I told her we had read them the story of how people went to the Moon in a rocket."

"We kept two library periods a week for each class, and the students were very happy using the library."

"It is attractive and easy for children of all ages to reach. Children are enjoying reading the books. Thank you for this innovative idea."

₹5,000 **puts a Sapno ka Pitara with 50 books on a classroom wall.**

Scan to give a classroom its library.



Students reading their financial literacy storybooks in class.

LEARN

FINANCIAL LITERACY · THE PROMISE

Earning money is a skill. Managing it is a life.

136 pages in three volumes, for every student to take home and keep

Most families who struggle with money don't earn too little. They were never taught what to do with what they earn. Children in low-income homes see money worries long before anyone explains money to them. Their first real money decision will often be a salary, a loan or a mobile wallet, with no one to ask.

So we start in school, when habits are still being formed and last for life. **Every student receives a 136-page financial literacy storybook, in three volumes, to take home and keep.** It's colourful and full of stories, so children read it for pleasure. And in the reading they learn to save, to budget, to bank and to tell a need from a want.

7,466
Students trained in 2025-26

21
Schools in Mumbai, Thane and Pune

14,485
Financial literacy storybooks given, to keep

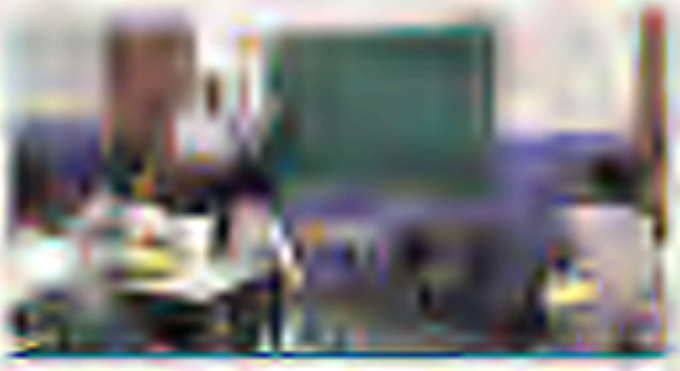
85 of 85
Questions from a bank's quiz, all answered

What the storybook teaches

The barter system › Needs and wants › Budgeting ›

Types of bank account › Online banking › Saving › Simple interest





A storybook that teaches for life.

The financial literacy storybook follows money through stories children can see themselves in. It runs from the barter system to needs and wants, budgeting, types of bank account, online banking, saving and simple interest. Students read it at home, share it with brothers and sisters, and show it to their parents. One book teaches a whole family.

Three sessions with a professional.

Each school receives three classroom sessions for Classes 8, 9 and 10, led by a SEBI-certified finance professional. The sessions bring the storybook to life with questions, games and real examples.

6,421

Mumbai and Thane

Students in 18 schools, from Khar to Ghatkopar to Thane.

1,045

Pune

In February 2026, students in three Pune schools took the same sessions and kept the same storybook.

1,471

Insurance, explained in stories

Money saved can be lost in one illness or accident. So we added a storybook that explains insurance to children. In 2025-26, 1,471 copies went out to families and schools in Mumbai and Thane.

THE PROOF

The real test came from a bank.

85 of 85

questions from a bank's quiz, all answered

"Students will take this learning to their parents as well."

"As I belong to a family of three daughters, finance can sometimes be a problem. But it is not a problem when we are aware of rules and rights."

₹700 **gives one student the financial literacy storybook and three sessions with a finance professional.**

Scan to teach a child to manage money for life.



A Science Club member opens up a broken laptop, March 2026.

DISCOVER

RATNANIDHI SCIENCE INNOVATION CENTRE · THE PROMISE

They can't afford an apple a day. Here, they learn to code on one.

Welcome aboard the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre.

A child who is amazed is a child who asks questions. So we designed every corner to make a child stop at the door and stare, then start to explore.

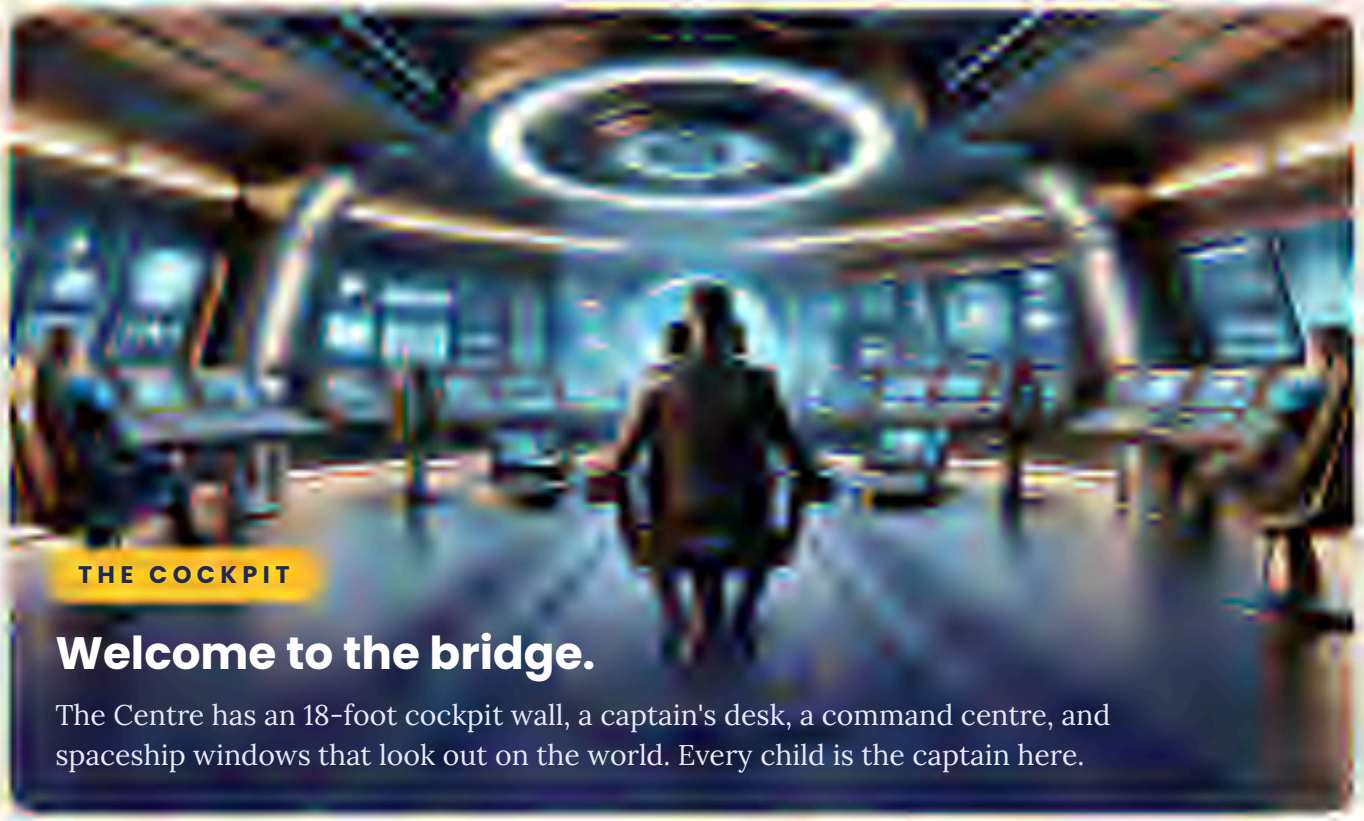
899	68	+47%	70	1,407
Students, Grade 5 to 10	Schools across Mumbai	Rise in science test scores	Teachers trained alongside them	Visits in nine months



ON BOARD

An Apple lab for children who can't afford an apple.

Even the best schools in Mumbai do not have Apple laptops in their science labs. We put them in front of children who cannot afford an apple or a banana every day. Here, they learn coding, Python, machine learning and digital literacy on **10 Apple MacBook Pros and 10 Lenovo desktops.** The best tools go to the children who need them most. That was our vision, and it is now real.



THE COCKPIT

Welcome to the bridge.

The Centre has an 18-foot cockpit wall, a captain's desk, a command centre, and spaceship windows that look out on the world. Every child is the captain here.



Take it apart to understand it.

Real innovators ask how things work. So children open up broken laptops, a photocopier and an old Yashica camera, find every gear and circuit, and learn how a machine thinks.



80+ experiments to touch.

Newton's cradle and Maxwell's wheel. An infinity well that falls forever. Coloured shadows, Pythagoras proved in wooden blocks, a DNA strand to trace, and optical-illusion gliders flying overhead.



750 sq ft

A sky made of books.

Look up, and 750 square feet of optical-illusion ceiling turns into an endless library, stretching into space overhead. Below it sits a 500-book science library to explore.

Puzzles at the gate.

Every child who comes aboard is handed a puzzle: fuel for the mind before the journey begins.

Mission comfort.

The whole ship is fully air-conditioned, so children can learn in the same comfort the city's top schools offer.

Every one of these was designed to answer a single question: what would make a child fall in love with science in a single day?

A day on board.

Classes come from Grant Road, Nagpada, Fort, CST, Dadar, Bandra and as far as Diva, for two to seven and a half hours at a time. Each child takes a short test on arrival, explores the Centre with a trained facilitator, and takes the test again before leaving. Every child goes home with an Illusion Book, and the best performers win a prize.

The Science Club: the long-haul crew.

Some children want more than one day in space. The Science Club gives them 40 hours over several months, climbing four levels. Each level earns a certificate. The first crew built models and gliders, ran quizzes and taught one another. From March 2026 they took apart and diagnosed broken laptops.

A	B	C	D
Foundation experiments	Applied concepts	Problem solving	Communication and projects

The adults who came aboard.

Science does not stop at the door. Teachers learn to link the experiments to their syllabus, so the voyage continues in the classroom.

The year in figures

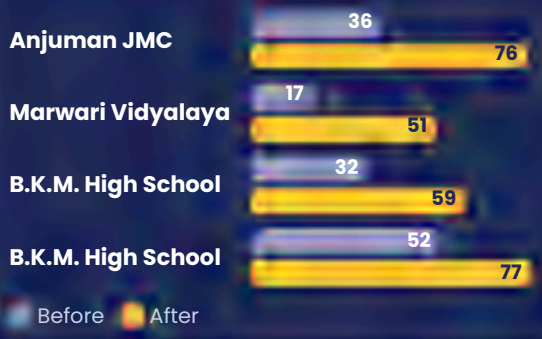
July 2025 to March 2026

Visits by students, teachers, parents and principals	1,407
Students reached	899
Schools	68
Teachers	70
Principals and parents	35
College volunteers and B.Ed. trainees	47
Science Club	40+ hours, levels A to D
Illusion Books given	1,184
Prizes won	154

THE PROOF

From 35 to 52 marks.

CHILDREN WHO LEAPT



"Before visiting the Science Centre, I was scared of physics. When I saw the gravity experiment, I finally understood why objects fall. Now I want to study aerodynamics."

"I built my first animation. I never imagined I could code!"

₹2,000 gives one student 40 hours at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre.

Scan to put a child aboard.



DISCOVER

Before their visit, 47% knew the true shape of the Earth. Afterwards, 100% did.



Kainath, an Asharatna scholar, studies at home in Mumbai.

RISE

ASHARATNA SCHOLARSHIP · THE PROMISE

Bright enough. Now able to stay.

2 to 4 years we stay with a scholar, all the way to Class 10

Some of the brightest students in Mumbai's schools go home to a single room with no desk, irregular water and a parent who earns very little. They are not short of talent. They are short of fees, and of someone to guide them.

The Asharatna Scholarship closes both gaps for school students up to Class 10. **It pays the fees, so a deadline never decides a child's future.** And it surrounds the student with everything else a bright mind needs to rise. In 2025-26, 58 students in 13 schools became Asharatna scholars.

58	13	Up to Class 10	One
Scholars supported	Schools	Support through the school years	Complete package, all in-house

ASHARATNA SCHOLARSHIP · THE REACH

How a scholar is chosen.

Students who are doing well but whose families cannot keep up with fees apply to us. Our team interviews each one and visits the home. **The visit tells us what a form cannot:** how many people share the room, whether there is light to study by, what the student wants to become.

Not just fees. A whole path.

A scholarship pays the school. But a scholar needs much more than a receipt, so every Asharatna scholar receives the full Ratnanidhi package:

Fees
paid directly to the school.

Mentorship
from a guide who follows their marks, their worries and their goals.

Science, computers and life skills
at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre, including coding on the same MacBook Pros that few top schools offer.

Financial literacy
taught in their own schools, so they learn to manage money before they earn it.

Libraries and storybooks
to keep them reading beyond the syllabus.

Every one of these is designed, run and delivered by our own team. Nothing is outsourced. That is how we hold scale, depth and quality together: we connect the dots for one child at a time.

Staying with a student.

Many scholars need help for two to four years, all the way to Class 10. Each scholar's file records marks, attendance, well-being and goals, so support continues for as long as it is needed.



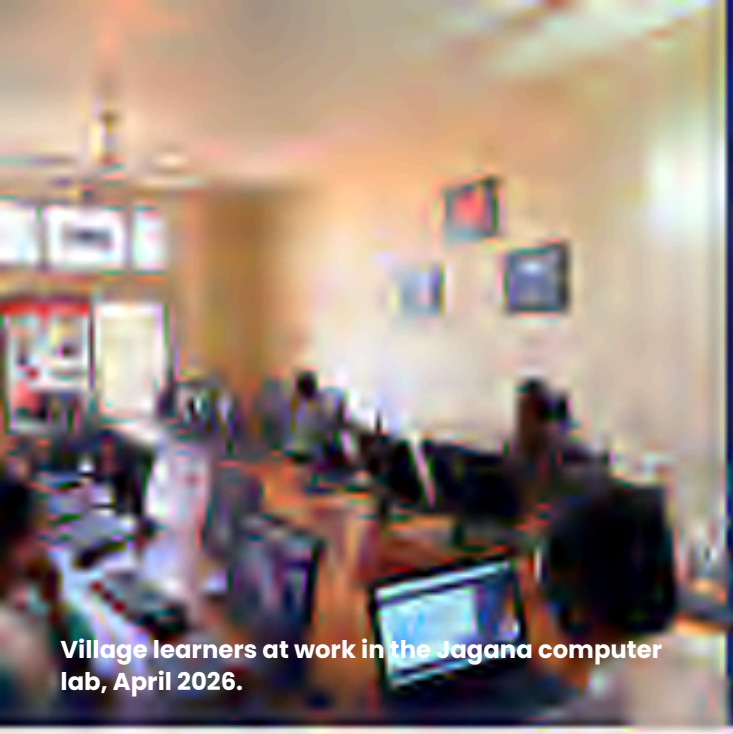
THE PROOF

What a whole package does.

Alisha, Class 9, B.K.M. High School. A cab driver's daughter from a one-room home in a Worli chawl. Star Student more than once, a silver medal in the 100-metre race, and a plan to sit the UPSC. This year an Asharatna Scholarship took the fee worry away, and brought her into hands-on science at our Centre, guidance and books.

Keep one bright student in school, with a mentor and a full set of skills.

Scan to support an Asharatna scholar.



Village learners at work in the Jagana computer lab, April 2026.

JAGANA

RATNANIDHI CENTRE, JAGANA · THE PROMISE

One campus. Every programme. A whole district.

Twelve kilometres from Palanpur, Banaskantha. Everything here is free.

Twelve kilometres from Palanpur, on the highway into Banaskantha, Ratnanidhi runs its own rural campus. It began as a medical centre for the villages around it. Today the same three acres hold a free prosthetics centre, a community library and a solar-powered building with 100 computers. **A farmer can be fitted with a leg in the morning, while his daughter learns AI in the lab and his son borrows a book on the way home.** Everything here is free.

470
People fitted with limbs and aids, 2025-26

100
Computers in five labs and an AV room

58
Learners trained in AI, aged 12 to 62

11+
Villages they came from

What happens here

Disability camps. From June 2025 to March 2026, Jagana held 13 fitting camps for Ratnanidhi Legs, Jaipur feet, calipers and artificial hands, with Rotary. 470 people received 520 aids.

A library for the district. In January 2026 we restocked the Jagana library with storybooks, atlases and reference books sent from our Mumbai office.

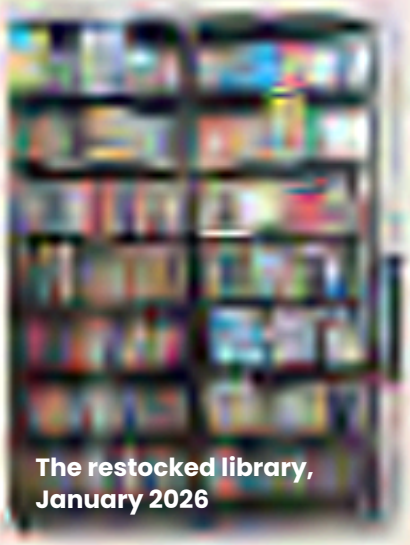
AI for rural learners. From 20 April to 6 May 2026, 58 learners from 11 villages learned Copilot, generative AI and AI tools for Word, Excel and PowerPoint. 21 of them were women and 4 had disabilities.

Skills for first jobs. Since August 2026, a free 15-day, 60-hour employability course with Rotary Club of Palanpur City has prepared graduates for work in seven sectors, from IT to hospitality.

Clothes for families who need them. With the local Rotary club, donated garments reach families in the villages around the centre.



The AI course, April 2026



The restocked library, January 2026



Garments for village families, April 2026



A PARTNERSHIP THAT GREW

It started with one camp. Now it is a partnership.

Our work with Rotary in Palanpur began with disability camps at Jagana: 13 of them in 2025-26 alone, fitting 470 people. Garments for village families followed in April 2026, and then a free employability course with Rotary Club of Palanpur City in August 2026. Each project grew out of the one before, because both sides had already seen the other deliver.

PROOF

In Palanpur, one Rotary partnership now spans disability camps, garment distribution and employability training at a single campus.

Have an idea for Jagana?

The best ideas for this campus have come from the people around it. If you see a way to grow the work at Jagana, we would love to hear it. Send us your suggestion, and we will sit down with you to make it happen.

WRITE TO
info@ratnanidhi.org



Cognizant's Managing Director, Mr. Rajesh Warrier, looks over our students' AI projects. Airoli, 20 August 2026.

SERVE

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

Your team gives a day. A child remembers it for a year.

470 sandwiches made by one company's staff, carried by hand to 470 children

Companies want their people to do more than sign a cheque. **We give them real work, with a child at the other end of it.** In 2025-26, teams from Collinson, Cognizant, Willis Towers Watson (WTW), Exim Bank and Axis Bank Foundation, together with Daan Utsav volunteers, cooked, taught, collected and gave for the children and families we serve.

32
Collinson employees in our kitchen over two days

470
Sandwiches made and served by hand, one per child

3
Schools reached on foot from the kitchen

60
Boxes of clothes, toys, books and essentials from WTW's offices

What their teams did



On the floor of our Khetwadi kitchen, September 2025

Carried by hand, up the school stairs

Collinson cooked, then served.

Over two days in September 2025, **32 Collinson employees** from HR, marketing and technology made 470 sandwiches in our Khetwadi kitchen. They carried them by hand to 470 children at Balak Vrinda English Primary School, Sundatta English High School and Wilson High School, Girgaon. Another Collinson team taught computers at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre.

Daan Utsav volunteers cooked too. In June 2025, a Daan Utsav volunteer group made sandwiches in the same kitchen for the same children.



Cognizant taught code. Then the visit went the other way.

Cognizant volunteers ran Saturday coding classes, first in Mumbai schools and then at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre. On 20 August 2026, four of our students walked into Cognizant's Airoli office and presented their own AI projects to **Mr. Rajesh Warrier, Managing Director of Cognizant.** He leaned in to ask a 12-year-old how their AI model tells marine life apart from ocean garbage, and got a confident, correct answer. He stayed with them for close to 25 minutes. Behind those four stood 31 children who had spent their summer holidays at the Science Centre, going from paper coding blocks to training AI models. **The company liked what it saw, and the children saw where coding can take them.**

WTW emptied its cupboards.

For Daan Utsav, staff at WTW's Thane, Vikhroli and Gurugram offices filled **60 boxes** with clothes, toys, books and hygiene essentials (February 2026). Our volunteers carried them to villages in Banaskantha, Gujarat.

Exim Bank and Axis Bank Foundation gave what children need.

Their teams donated garments, toys, stationery and books, which went straight to the children and families we serve.

PROOF

The Managing Director of one of India's largest technology companies gave our students close to 25 minutes of his day. Worley has already asked us for a full year of volunteering plans, from April 2026 to March 2027. Companies that work with Ratnanidhi stay, and their leaders get involved.

How it works for you

You choose the day and the activity: cook, teach, sort, donate or deliver. We bring the venue, the materials and the children. Your team works for half a day and meets the people it helped. We share the photos and numbers for your CSR records.

The best place to start is the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre. Schools send their classes to us every week, so your team can teach coding, science or English without leaving central Mumbai.

PLAN A DAY
info@ratnanidhi.org



A young mother and her baby with their baby kit, Banaskantha, January 2026.

SHARE

GARMENTS, TOYS AND ESSENTIALS

Some days, a child needs a sweater more than a lesson.

Collected in Mumbai. Sorted by age and size. Delivered by hand.

Alongside our programmes, we collect clothes, toys and everyday essentials from families and companies in Mumbai. **We sort them by age and size, and carry them to the children and families who need them most:** from Mumbai to Ulhasnagar, Satara and Solapur, to the villages of rural Banaskantha in Gujarat, and as far as Bengaluru.

What happened this year

32,269 garments

1,649 toys and games

2,710 stationery items

37,028 items in all. Also 30 hospital aids, including 10 oxygen concentrators and 9 wheelchairs; 143 pairs of footwear; 105 purses; 117 utensils; and even a harmonium and a guitar.



JANUARY 2026

Clothes for school and for winter.

In January 2026, school children received new clothes, and young mothers received baby kits for their newborns.



APRIL 2026

From Mumbai offices to Gujarat villages.

Staff at Collinson and Willis Towers Watson filled office donation drives with clothes, toys, books and hygiene essentials. Our volunteers, with the Rotary Club of Palanpur City, carried them to families in the villages around our Jagana centre in Banaskantha.



FEBRUARY 2026

Toy libraries in Mumbai schools.

Our toy libraries put board games and toys in classrooms, so play becomes part of the school day, as it did at Giri school in February 2026.

Clear a cupboard. Fill a child's day.

Do you have clothes, toys, books, stationery or everyday essentials your family or office no longer needs? Give them to a child who does. Companies, housing societies and families can donate directly or run a collection drive. We pick up, sort and deliver, and we send you photos of where your donation went.

WRITE TO

info@ratnanidhi.org

PRINT

EDUCATION PRINTING

We print the books teachers ask us for.

Storybooks open a child's mind. But school authorities in Mumbai talk to us every day, and **what they ask for is help with the syllabus.** So in 2025-26 we went beyond storybooks and began printing education books linked to what their classrooms teach, and we keep improving them from that daily feedback.

What we printed this year



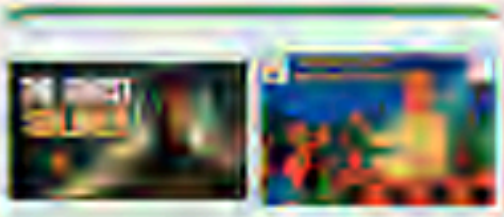
Love Learning English.

An English workbook for Mumbai's schools, corrected and reprinted through June and July 2025 until it worked in class.



My First Money Adventure, with an activity book and answer key.

The financial literacy storybook now comes with exercises, so the lesson continues after our trainers leave.



India's heroes, in four languages.

Stories of Major Ramaswami Parameswaran and Lieutenant Colonel Jasram Singh, in English, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati, and the first book in a new series on India's music maestros: Pandit Bhimsen Joshi's life for children, made with Baithak Foundation.



The Illusion Book.

Every child who visits the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre takes one home.



Ten experiments to save the planet.

A climate book that children can try at home.



Insurance, explained in stories.

In English and, from September 2025, in Marathi.

PROOF

These books are not written in an office and left there. The English workbook went through four versions in under two months before schools received the final one.

Fund one title for one school year.

Tell us the class and the subject; we will write, print and deliver it.

WRITE TO

info@ratnanidhi.org

WATCH

DIGITAL STORYBOOKS

Our storybooks have learned to speak.

From the printed page to every phone in India. Free, in English, Marathi and Hindi.



We have written more than 100 storybook titles. Print carries them to the schools we can reach. **Animation carries them to every child in India with a phone,** and to the parents and teachers beside them. This is Ratnanidhi's first step into digital education: inspiring stories told on screen, in English, Marathi and Hindi, free for every child, parent and teacher in the country.

24
Animated storybooks on our YouTube playlist

100+
Storybook titles written by us

3
Languages: English, Marathi and Hindi

₹0
Cost to any child, parent or teacher



Science you can watch.

Raju & Meera's Magical Climate Mission, the animated version of our climate change book, shows children ten experiments to save the planet. UNICEF appreciated it.

Books you can hear.

Voice-overs of **The Cosmic Adventures of Raju** are the first of our audiobooks.

DIGITAL STORYBOOKS · NOW PLAYING

Indian Heroes, animated

Our YouTube playlist now holds 24 animated storybooks. Among them:



Sunita Williams: A Girl Who Dared to Touch the Stars



Dr. Tessy Thomas: India's Missile Woman



Ritu Karidhal: From Lucknow's Rooftops to India's Mars Mission, in English, Hindi and Marathi



Aryabhata: The Boy Who Dreamed of Stars



The Story of Jagadish Chandra Bose



The Boy Who Measured the Stars: Meghnad Saha



The Fearless Ghost Soldier: Lt. Col. Jasram Singh



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, in Marathi



The Brave Bomb Catcher Who Learned to Fly in Water



Wright Brothers: 12 Seconds That Changed the World and Apollo 11: One Small Step



A Takshashila Time-Travel Adventure



Who Stole the Science Fair Volcano? and Inside Oceanus-7, two science mysteries

Watch them now, free.

Scan the QR code to open the full playlist on our YouTube channel.

Help a million children find these stories.

Every one of these stories is free. We wrote them, illustrated them and animated them so that no child in India has to miss them. UNICEF appreciated our climate story. Our printed books are already in more than 1,100 schools. **Now the stories need one thing we cannot do alone: reach.**

You know the teachers' WhatsApp group, the parents' circle, the school assembly and the community library near you. One share from you can bring a whole classroom to these stories.

Start small. Share one story with one school this week. If you have a bigger idea, send it to us. That could be screening the stories in your school, adding them to a reading programme, translating them for your region, or working with us to take them across your district.

IDEAS AND COLLABORATIONS

info@ratnanidhi.org



Reading *Angels of Mumbai* on launch day in a BMC school in Kurla, September 2025.

IMAGINE

INNOVATION LAB · NEW IDEAS, NEW PARTNERS

Every year, we try something no one has tried yet.

Test fast. Listen to children. When it works, take it to scale.

Our biggest programmes all started small. The Wisdom Tree began as a thought in a doctor's waiting room, and today it stands in hundreds of schools. Sapno ka Pitara began as one pocket of books on one classroom wall. Now four district administrations have chosen it. **We test fast, we listen to children, and when something works, we take it to scale.**

Here is what we tried this year.



The launch, with teachers and partners holding the new book



First pages, first heroes

THE IDEAS · 1

Angels of Mumbai.

These are true stories of ordinary Mumbaikars who changed their city, written for children and drawn from the Free Press Journal series. A man saves a million drops of water. A girl turns trash into treasure. One neighbourhood hero cleans up his street, and a van becomes a library. The book launched in September 2025 in BMC schools in Kurla, with a local NGO doing the groundwork, and a second volume followed in 2026. **Children don't just read about heroes from history books. They meet heroes from their own streets.**



The Shop of Honesty.

It is a stationery shop with no shopkeeper. Children pick what they need and pay into a box. A committee of five students runs it, and every rupee goes to scholarships for children in the same school. It opened in 2026 in a school where our Financial Literacy programme runs. **Honesty isn't taught here. It's practised, every day.**



Inside You.

Posters and a book take children on journeys through the human body. They hang on the walls of Mumbai schools, **so a child can trace a heartbeat on the way to class.**



Food Detectives.

At the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre, children learn to test food and catch adulteration. **They take the skill home, and their families eat safer.**



Climate Warriors.

At the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre, children don't just read about climate change. They run the experiments themselves. With their own hands they see how heat traps the planet, how water can be saved and how waste can be turned into something useful. **They leave as Climate Warriors,** with simple actions to take home to their families and schools.

Your idea could be next.

Every idea on this page began with one person who asked, "What if?" Some came from our team. Others came from teachers, doctors, journalists and volunteers who saw a gap and trusted us to fill it.

Here is what we bring to your idea. We have our own writers, illustrators and printers, and a science centre. Our books are already in more than 1,100 schools, and our programmes reach children across Maharashtra, Gujarat and beyond. An idea that would take you years to build alone can be in a classroom with us in months.

You bring the idea. We bring the reach.

SHARE YOUR IDEA
info@ratnanidhi.org



Back on his scooter, on a Ratnanidhi Leg



Standing tall at home, on his own two feet again



At ease on his own front steps, with his new leg



Back at work: an office day on a prosthetic leg



Waiting their turn at the eye test in school



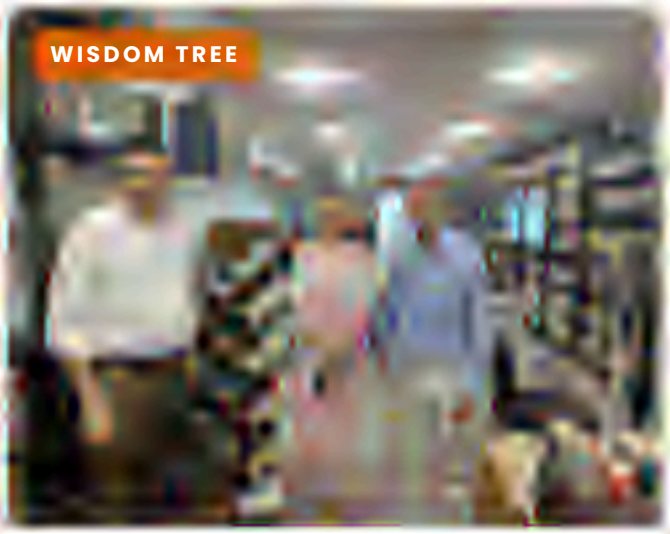
BEST crews in uniform at the Kurla depot camp



Lunch time at S.L. & S.S. Girls' High School, January 2026



Little ones tuck into a hot lunch, January 2026



A Wisdom Tree library handed over at the NCPA



A reading circle with Sapno ka Pitara books, Nandurbar, July 2025



Picture books on the shelves at the Jagana library



Flybrary: free books for travellers at the airport



Sunita Williams: The Girl Who Reached the Stars, in English



The First Param Vir Chakra: Major Somnath Sharma, in Marathi



Girls at work in the iMac Creativity Lab



Opening up a photocopier to see how it really works



MoU with Jalna district for disability, vision and library work, January 2026



Microsoft-certified digital and AI training at Jagana, April 2026

SCHOLARSHIP



Homework on the floor of her home: an Asharatna scholar

SCHOLARSHIP



An Asharatna scholar studying at home

TOYS



Donated toys open a toy library in a Mumbai school

Every photograph here is a person we have met. Thank you for helping us reach them.



Hanumant Tamsure on his scooter, Naigaon

CASE STORIES · STORY 1 OF 2

RATNANIDHI LEG

At eight he lost a leg. At 35, he rides.

A Nanded shopkeeper, a new Ratnanidhi Leg, and a scooter ride to the city

In 1998, an eight-year-old boy was crossing a road in Nanded district when a truck hit him. Doctors fought for his left leg. They could not save it.

Hanumant Tamsure could have stopped there. He didn't. On his first artificial leg he went back to school and back to his friends.

Today he is 35. He lives in Naigaon with his wife and daughters, and he runs the village kirana shop himself. Keeping a shop stocked means riding into the city again and again to buy goods. For a man on one leg, every trip is work. He has done it for nearly three decades, on legs that had to carry a man, a family and a business.

In March 2026, at our camp in Mukhed, our team measured him for a Ratnanidhi Leg, built it in our Mumbai workshop and fitted it back in his district. He felt the difference at once: light, comfortable, natural. He gave it 10 out of 10.

Today he climbs stairs without support and works through his day without help. And he rides his scooter again: down the lane, onto the road, into the city for stock.

That ride is the whole story. It is the shop staying open. It is a household running on money he earns. It is his daughter's education.

When he told us the fitting sometimes loosens, we called him back, adjusted his leg in our workshop and reshipped it. We don't stop at the fitting.

He has never met the person who paid for his leg. But every morning, on that scooter, he carries their gift into the city.

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Hanumant Tamsure, 35, kirana shop owner

WHERE
Naigaon, Nanded district

CAMP
Mukhed, March 2026

HIS RATING
10 out of 10

“Never lose hope. Disability does not define you. Stay strong and keep moving forward.”

HANUMANT TAMSURE



Sandeep Kamble with his Ratnanidhi Leg, Hupari

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Sandeep Kamble, electrician

WHERE
Hupari, Kolhapur district

FOUND US
On Facebook

FITTED
11 March 2026

HIS RATING
10 out of 10

“When he first wore the leg, tears of happiness filled his eyes. He felt he had been given a new life.”

OUR FIELD OFFICER, KOLHAPUR CAMP

RATNANIDHI LEG

The day Sandeep wept

An electrician, a worn-out leg, and a Facebook post that led to Kolhapur

In 2003, a machine at a Kolhapur factory crushed Sandeep Kamble's right leg. It had to be amputated.

He did not let it end his working life. On an artificial leg, he became an electrician: a man who climbs ladders, kneels behind switchboards and stands all day. For twenty years he did it, raising a son and a daughter in Hupari.

But a leg that carries a man for twenty years wears out. Sandeep's did. For an electrician, a failing leg is a failing livelihood.

He found us on Facebook. At our camp in Kolhapur, our team measured him, built his new Ratnanidhi Leg in Mumbai and brought it back. On 11 March 2026, he put it on for the first time.

Our field officer wrote down what happened next: "When he first wore the leg, tears of happiness filled his eyes. He felt he had been given a new life."

The new leg is light. He walks and climbs with confidence. He can sit on a chair, a sofa, even on the ground, the way an Indian home is lived in. He rates it 10 out of 10, and our service the same.

Ask Sandeep what he wants next, and he does not talk about himself. He wants to take care of his son and daughter, and give them a better future.

A machine took his leg twenty-three years ago. This year, someone he will never meet helped give it back. That person is part of the reason an electrician in Hupari is still climbing ladders, and two children still have a father who can provide for them.



Jayshri Kokne at home in Wazarga, Nanded district

CASE STORIES · STORY 1 OF 2

PROSTHETICS AND MOBILITY

Jayshri's next exam is the MPSC

She lost her leg to cancer. She did not lose her plan.

In October 2023, a hospital in Pune took Jayshri Kokne's left leg. The cause was cancer. She was a teenager from Wazarga village in Nanded district, still in school.

Her father has passed away. Her sisters are married. At home it is just Jayshri and her mother, and for more than two years her mother carried everything: the house, the income, and a daughter who could barely move.

Jayshri's confidence fell. But she never stopped studying. She sat her HSC examinations and enrolled in Arts.

In January 2026, at our camp in Mukhed, our team measured her, built her new leg, fitted it and trained her to use it.

The first weeks are slow, and she is honest about it. She practises every day. She still leans on crutches, and she has begun taking her first steps on the new leg. She can sit comfortably now and do more of her daily work herself. As she grows stronger, a lighter leg is the next step in her care.

What the leg has already given back is harder to measure. Jayshri has her confidence again, and a goal she says out loud: to prepare for the MPSC and UPSC examinations, to stand on her own feet, and to support the mother who carried her.

Somewhere in Nanded district, a future civil servant is learning to walk again. One day she may sign the files that decide how a district cares for people like her. Her first step was paid for by someone who believed she deserved it.

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Jayshri Kokne, Arts student

WHERE
Wazarga, Nanded district

CAMP
Mukhed, January 2026

HER GOAL
MPSC and UPSC

"Never lose hope. Disability does not define your abilities."

JAYSHRI KOKNE

PROSTHETICS AND MOBILITY

A BEST man back on his commute

An above-knee amputation, a Ghatkopar camp, and a job he still goes to



Ajay Nalawade at home in BEST Colony, Ghatkopar

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Ajay Nalawade, with BEST since 2008

WHERE
BEST Colony, Ghatkopar

CAMP
Ghatkopar, January 2026

HIS RATING
10 out of 10

"Never give up hope. Disability does not define who you are."

AJAY NALAWADE

Since 2008, Ajay Nalawade has worked for BEST, the bus service that keeps Mumbai moving. His salary feeds his wife and son in BEST Colony, Ghatkopar. It is the family's only income.

In 2023, a four-wheeler crashed into him. His right leg had to be amputated above the knee.

Losing the knee as well makes walking far harder to relearn: every step, every stair, every crowded bus. For a man whose family depends on his getting to work, the question was simple and frightening. How would he get there?

In January 2026, the answer came to his own neighbourhood. At our camp in Ghatkopar, our team fitted Ajay with a modular prosthetic leg. He practises on it every day.

Today he climbs stairs and walks with confidence. He can sit on a chair, a sofa or the floor. And every morning he commutes to his job at BEST on his new leg. He rates it 10 out of 10.

When the fitting loosened, he told us. It needed a small adjustment, not a new leg, and his feedback went straight to our workshop.

His goals are simple: keep supporting his family, and give his son a good education.

In the same months we fitted Ajay's leg, our eye camps were testing his colleagues' eyesight at nine BEST depots across Mumbai. One organisation, two kinds of care, for the people who carry Mumbai to work.

Someone Ajay will never meet made sure he could keep getting to work, and his son could keep getting to school.

VISION FOR ALL

The headaches stopped. The marks went up.

A Class 7 boy in Andheri, one school eye camp, 60 to 90



A Vision For All student reading in his new spectacles

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Saksham, Class 7

SCHOOL
Our Lady of Good Health High School, Andheri East

HIS MARKS
60 before, 90 after

For a while, school hurt for Saksham. He had headaches, and reading and writing were the hardest part of his day. For a boy in Class 7, that is most of the day.

His father, Baburao, knew something was wrong with his eyes. But knowing is not the same as fixing.

Then Vision For All came to Our Lady of Good Health High School in Asalpha, Andheri East. Our team tested every child, and Saksham received his own EssilorLuxottica spectacles, made for him, free.

When our volunteer went back in September 2025, Saksham's answer was short. The headaches had stopped. He could read the blackboard from the last bench.

Five months later, his father said it in his own words: "Headache is stop." Then he added the part that matters most to a parent. Before the spectacles, Saksham was scoring 60. Now he scores 90.

His school saw it too. A teacher told us the camp found children who needed spectacles but had never been diagnosed, and that overall results improved.

Saksham is not unusual. Of 216 students we surveyed after they got their spectacles, 103 said their headaches had stopped. Of 29 teachers and principals, 27 said children could now read the board from the last bench.

Baburao asked us for one thing: regular eye tests. It is a fair request. Every year, another child sits on the last bench, squinting, quietly falling behind, and nobody knows why.

A pair of spectacles is a small gift. For Saksham, it was the distance between 60 and 90. For the next child on the last bench, someone only has to decide it is worth giving.

"Headache is stop."

BABURAO, SAKSHAM'S FATHER

VISION FOR ALL

They used to tease her. Then she got her glasses.

A Class 8 girl, a blackboard she could not see, and the friends she made after



A Vision For All student reading in her new spectacles

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Daksha, Class 8

SCHOOL
Shivner Vidya Mandir, Mumbai

SOCIAL SCIENCE
6 out of 20 before, 15 after

"Daksha now concentrates in class, and is scoring well in every subject."

MS. RENU RAI, HER TEACHER

Daksha is in Class 8 at Shivner Vidya Mandir in Mumbai. For a long time she could not see the blackboard. If you can't see the board, you can't copy the lesson. If you can't copy the lesson, you fall behind, and children notice.

Her classmates teased her. In Social Science she was scoring 6 out of 20.

Nobody had connected the two. The problem was never Daksha. It was her eyes.

Then Vision For All came to her school. Our team tested every child, and Daksha received her own EssilorLuxottica spectacles, made for her and handed over in class, free.

She put them on, and the blackboard came into focus. She now copies every word. Her Social Science score has risen from 6 to 15 out of 20.

But the change her teacher noticed first was not in her marks. "Daksha now concentrates in class," says Ms. Renu Rai, "and is scoring well in every subject."

The teasing stopped. Daksha has made friends.

Her head of school, Ms. Deepa Sasi, told us the camp helped every student it screened, and asked us to come back and do more.

Think about what a pair of glasses did here. It didn't just sharpen a blackboard. It gave a girl in Class 8 back her place among her classmates, her confidence and her friends.

There are thousands of Dakshas in classrooms across Maharashtra tonight, still being called slow, still sitting alone. Each one is a single eye test, and a single pair of spectacles, away from being seen.



Lunch is served at Union High School, Khetwadi

CASE STORIES · STORY 1 OF 2

FOOD FOR EDUCATION

A chess player's lunch

₹67 a day, a family of five, and a girl who plans to be a doctor

Aamir Pathan collects waste cloth in south Mumbai and earns about ₹10,000 a month. That money feeds, houses and schools a family of five. Do the arithmetic and it comes to about ₹67 per person per day, for food, rent, travel and school.

His daughter Mahera is in Class 8 at Union High School in Khetwadi. She is not a child you would describe by her circumstances. She loves maths. She plays chess, and has the certificates to prove it. She draws, and she dances.

Ask her what she wants to be, and she says: a doctor.

On ₹67 a day, a family makes hard choices every week. A doctor's education is a long way off. Lunch is not.

Every school day, a Ratnanidhi vehicle pulls up at her school with a meal cooked that morning in our own kitchen. The children come up one by one with their plates. Mahera's favourites are dal chawal and bhel.

For a girl who goes back to maths after lunch, that plate matters more than it looks. A child who has eaten can hold a number in her head and see a chess game through. A meal does not make a doctor. But an empty stomach can quietly end the idea of becoming one.

Mahera is one of 130 children at Union High who ate with us every school day this year: 21,206 meals in one school.

She still has a long road ahead: four more years of school, the entrance exams, medical college. None of it is certain. But every school day this year, one thing was. At lunchtime, there was a plate for her. Someone she will never meet made sure of it.

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Mahera, Class 8

SCHOOL
Union High School, Khetwadi

HER GOAL
To become a doctor

THIS YEAR
21,206 meals in her school



Lunch time in a Grant Road classroom

CASE STORIES · STORY 2 OF 2

FOOD FOR EDUCATION

A silver medal on ₹33 a day

A fruit seller's daughter who draws, reads and plans to be a doctor

Neha's father, Surendra, sells fruit near the Mahalaxmi race course. He earns about ₹5,000 a month. It is the only income for a family of five. That is about ₹33 per person per day, for everything.

Neha's world is drawing. She won a silver medal in the Rangotsav drawing competition. She reads in her free time. Her favourite subject is science, and she wants to become a doctor.

Every school day at Sundatta High School on Grant Road, Neha eats a hot Ratnanidhi meal with her classmates. Her favourites are poha and khichdi.

For her family, that meal is one less thing to stretch ₹33 around. For Neha, it means sitting through a science lesson with something in her stomach, instead of counting the minutes until she can eat.

She is one of 100 children at Sundatta who ate with us every school day this year. Across three schools near Grant Road, we promised 40,490 meals. We served 43,755. When children are hungry, we don't stop at the target.

Neha's story is ordinary, and that is the point. A school meal will not change what her father earns. It changes what she can do with the hours she spends in class.

One day Neha may walk into a medical college. If she does, some of the energy that carried her there came from a plate of poha at Sundatta, and from someone who decided that a fruit seller's daughter should never have to learn on an empty stomach.



Choosing a book from the Sapno ka Pitara on the classroom wall, Gadchiroli

CASE STORIES · STORY 1 OF 2

MISSION MILLION BOOKS

Libraries on the walls of tribal schools

Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, and a box of dreams on every classroom wall

In the forests of Gadchiroli and the hills of Nandurbar, many schools have no library, no shelves, and sometimes no electricity. Many children there have never owned a colourful storybook.

So we sent the library to the wall.

A Sapno ka Pitara is a fabric wall hanging with pockets for 50 storybooks in Marathi and English: stories of scientists, soldiers, freedom fighters and space. It needs no shelf, no room and no librarian. A child just walks up and takes a book.

In June 2025, the newspapers of Gadchiroli carried the story. With the district administration, we would set up wall libraries in 1,000 tribal and remote schools, for nearly one lakh children. Within weeks the first boxes were on their way. More than 300 schools there now have one.

In Nandurbar, it began with a single conversation with the Collector. In under 90 days, 300 Pitaras reached village schools, carrying 15,000 Marathi storybooks to children who had never had books of their own. Teachers there report better focus, a growing vocabulary and children asking more questions.

Across the year, 808 Pitaras carried more than 40,000 books into classrooms, from Nandurbar and Gadchiroli to Hanumangarh in Rajasthan.

Picture a girl in a one-room village school, reaching up to the wall for a book about Sunita Williams. She has never been to a city. She has never seen a rocket. Tonight, she will dream about space.

Each Pitara will be opened by children for years. Every one began with someone in a city far away who decided that a child in a forest district deserves the same stories as their own.



The Sapno ka Pitara at GMP Sadashiva School, Arjunkot

CASE STORIES · STORY 2 OF 2

MISSION MILLION BOOKS

A village school with no shelves now has a library

Arjunkot, Karwar, and the wall that changed a classroom

GMP Sadashiva School sits in Arjunkot, a village in Karwar taluk, Karnataka. Space is tight. Supplies are tighter. There was nowhere to keep books, so storybooks and activity cards got lost or scattered, and reading time often meant searching.

Then a Sapno ka Pitara arrived.

It is a fabric wall hanging with labelled pockets for storybooks, activity cards and worksheets, sorted by reading level. No shelves. No electricity. No installation. You hang it on a wall, and the wall becomes a library.

Teacher Jennifer Maxi Belima watched what happened next.

> **"Children walk up, pick their level, and begin. It's organised, it's joyful. It's changed our classroom."**

Think about what that means for a child. Before, a book was something a teacher handed out, if she could find it. Now it is something a child chooses, at her own level, whenever she is ready. Choosing is where a love of reading begins.

Arjunkot is hundreds of kilometres from our office in Mumbai. We will never meet most of the children who read from that wall. That is how Mission Million Books works. One library reaches a classroom in another state, and keeps working there, quietly, for years.

Somewhere in Arjunkot today, a child is reaching up to that wall. She does not know who put the books there. She only knows they are hers.

AT A GLANCE

SCHOOL
GMP Sadashiva School

WHERE
Arjunkot, Karwar taluk, Karnataka

NEEDS
No shelf, no electricity, no installation

FINANCIAL LITERACY

One of three daughters, now planning the budget

Three sessions, one storybook, and a girl who knows her rights



A financial literacy session in Ghatkopar

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Jiyaba, Class 9

WHERE
A girls' school in Ghatkopar

SESSIONS
Three, with a SEBI-certified professional

“As I belong to a family of three daughters, finance can sometimes be a problem. But it is not a problem when we are aware of rules and rights.”

JIYABA, CLASS 9

Jiyaba is in Class 9 at a girls' school in Ghatkopar. She is one of three daughters, and in her home money is never far from anyone's mind.

She became aware in a classroom. A SEBI-certified finance professional came to her school for three sessions. Every student received our financial literacy storybook to take home and keep: colourful stories that explain the barter system, needs and wants, budgeting, bank accounts, online banking, saving and interest.

Her classmate Kasturi read it closely. She now plans to save from her pocket money, and to teach what she learned to her family and friends.

Principals saw the ripple. "Students will take this learning to their parents as well," said Ms. Sharmila Stephen of Vidya Niketan High School, Thane.

That is the quiet power of this programme. In a few years Jiyaba will face real decisions: a first salary, a bank account, perhaps a loan someone pushes on her. Many girls from homes like hers meet those moments alone, with no one to ask. Jiyaba won't. She already knows a need from a want, and she knows her rights.

A storybook and three sessions. That was all it took for a girl who once saw money as a problem to start seeing it as something she can manage. Imagine that, in every classroom where a girl is still afraid of money.



Financial literacy sessions at Wilson High School, Girgaon

CASE STORIES · STORY 2 OF 2

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Earlier I used to spend money without thinking

A Class 8 girl in Girgaon, and the habit that will protect her family

Nidhi is in Class 8 at Wilson High School in Girgaon. Like most children her age, she spent whatever she had, whenever she had it. No one had ever shown her another way.

Then our financial literacy team came to her school: three sessions with a SEBI-certified finance professional, and a colourful storybook of her own to take home and keep. The book walks children through money the way they live it: needs and wants, saving, budgeting, how a bank works, how interest grows.

Something shifted. In Nidhi's own words:

> **"Earlier I used to spend money without thinking, but these sessions have made me more aware about how to spend money and understand the importance of savings."**

Her classmate Jinan learned how money grew from barter to banks. Her teacher, Ms. Jerlin Churchil, watched students learn to put needs before wants.

It sounds small. It isn't. A child who learns to pause before spending at school is an adult who pauses before a loan at work. In homes where one bad decision can undo a year of savings, that pause can protect a whole family.

Habits formed in school last a lifetime. Nidhi is forming hers now.

This year, 7,466 students in 21 schools in Mumbai, Thane and Pune went through the same sessions and took home the same book. Each one will now think twice before spending, and teach someone at home to do the same.

Somewhere in Girgaon tonight, a girl is putting a coin aside instead of spending it. Someone made that lesson possible.



Alisha at home with her family, Worli

CASE STORIES · STORY 1 OF 1

ASHARATNA SCHOLARSHIP

A Star Student from a one-room home

A cab driver's daughter in Worli, and a plan for the UPSC

To reach Alisha's home, you walk off Mahatma Phule Road in Worli into a chawl of about 400 houses. The lanes are so narrow only one person can pass at a time. There is no road to her door.

Home is a single room, about 80 to 100 square feet, shared by four people. There is no proper bed. Water comes when it comes, and so does electricity. To make a phone call, the family steps outside to find a signal. Her father drives a cab. In some months, nothing is left over.

Inside that room lives a student her principal praises highly. Alisha is in Class 9 at B.K.M. High School. She scored 73% in her first-term exams. She speaks fluent English, acts in school drama, won a silver medal in the 100-metre race, and has been named Star Student more than once. Maths is her weak subject, and she says so.

She wants to study science after Class 10, and then sit the UPSC examination. She believes education is how her family's life will change.

For a family like hers, school fees arrive like a test with no right answer. This year, an Asharatna Scholarship took that test away. It pays most of her fees. And it brought her into the rest of our world: hands-on science at our Centre, guidance and books.

When our volunteers visited her home, they wrote that she was focused despite her surroundings: a deserving student with strong potential, if given the right opportunities.

The narrow lane outside her door has not changed. Where it leads, for Alisha, has. Someone decided that a cab driver's daughter in a one-room home deserves her chance at the UPSC.

AT A GLANCE

WHO
Alisha, Class 9

SCHOOL
B.K.M. High School, Worli

FIRST TERM
73%

HER GOAL
Science, then the UPSC



Optical illusions at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre

CASE STORIES · STORY 1 OF 2

RATNANIDHI SCIENCE INNOVATION CENTRE

Pooja was scared of physics. Then she saw why things fall.

One visit, one experiment, and a new word: aerodynamics

Pooja is in Class 8 at Wilson High School. Before she came to the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre, she was scared of physics.

Then she watched the gravity experiment, and something clicked.

> **"When I saw the gravity experiment, I finally understood why objects fall. Now I want to study aerodynamics."**

From fear to ambition, in one visit. That is exactly what the Centre is built to do. Children from low-income and government-aided schools step into a spaceship-like world and touch science with their own hands: a Newton's disc that spins seven colours into white, a "magic" tap that seems to pour from mid-air, an infinity well, pulleys and levers.

Arushi, from B.K.M. High School, counted 20 experiments in one visit. Centrifugal and centripetal force, she says, became crystal clear.

The tests show it sticks. Before their visit, 47% of students knew the true shape of the Earth. Afterwards, 100% did. Understanding of how light bends through glass rose from 27% to 65%.

In one quarter alone, 521 children from 16 schools spent more than 4,400 hours learning here.

Ravi, from Dnyaneshwari Vidyalaya, built his first animation on our Apple computers. "I never imagined I could code!"

A child who stops being afraid of a subject is a child who keeps going with it. Pooja's fear of physics is gone. In its place is a word few girls in her neighbourhood have ever said out loud: aerodynamics.

One day she may help design the aircraft we fly in. Her lift-off happened in a room someone else chose to build for her.



The laptop-repair club at work, March 2026

CASE STORIES · STORY 2 OF 2

RATNANIDHI SCIENCE INNOVATION CENTRE

The laptop would not switch on. That was the lesson.

Class 8 and 9 students open up dead laptops to find out why

Rishabh's laptop would not switch on. There was no charger. When he tried to open the case, an ordinary screwdriver would not fit.

So he found a set of mini screwdrivers, and got inside.

What he found looked like a city in miniature: chips, wires, cables, a circuit board. He worked the problem until he had a diagnosis. The screen was faulty, and the laptop had no power.

Rishabh is in Class 8 at Marwari Vidyalaya. In March 2026 he joined our Science Club's laptop-repair sessions at the Ratnanidhi Science Innovation Centre, with Class 8 and 9 students from four Mumbai schools. Each got a laptop that did not work, and one task: find out why.

Not everyone fixed theirs. That was never the point. Ayush, from B.K.M. High School, could not get his running.

> **"I could not repair it, but I got knowledge about the system inside the laptop."**

Nikul came away able to name the RAM, the chips and the display. Ayan worked out that his machine needed spare parts before it could run again.

These children will grow up surrounded by machines. Most people only ever use them. Rishabh has opened one up, found the fault and named it. A laptop is no longer a mystery to him. It is something that can be understood, diagnosed and, one day, fixed. Perhaps one day, built.

That is how engineers begin. Rishabh's beginning was a broken laptop, a tiny screwdriver, and a room someone else believed he deserved.

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WHERE WE WORK · 2025-26

Every star is a place *we've worked.*

From Leh in the Himalayas to Kozhikode on the Kerala coast, this is the map of a year's work.



41 places

12 states and union territories

24 districts of Maharashtra

A place we worked this year · Head office · States we worked in

41 PLACES, BY STATE

DELHI 1
- Delhi

GUJARAT 6
- Ahmedabad
- Banaskantha
- Bharuch
- Dwarka
- Vadodara
- Viramgam

HARYANA 1
- Gurugram

KARNATAKA 2
- Bengaluru
- Uttara Kannada

KERALA 1
- Kozhikode

LADAKH 1
- Leh

MADHYA PRADESH 1
- Indore

MAHARASHTRA 24
- Ahilyanagar
- Akola
- Chandrapur
- Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
- Dharashiv
- Dhule
- Gadchiroli
- Jalna
- Kolhapur
- Latur
- Mumbai
- Nagpur
- Nanded
- Nandurbar
- Nashik
- Palghar
- Pune
- Raigad
- Ratnagiri
- Sangli
- Satara
- Solapur
- Thane
- Yavatmal

NAGALAND 1
- Dimapur

RAJASTHAN 1
- Hanumangarh

TELANGANA 1
- Hyderabad

UTTAR PRADESH 1
- Gorakhpur

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