CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

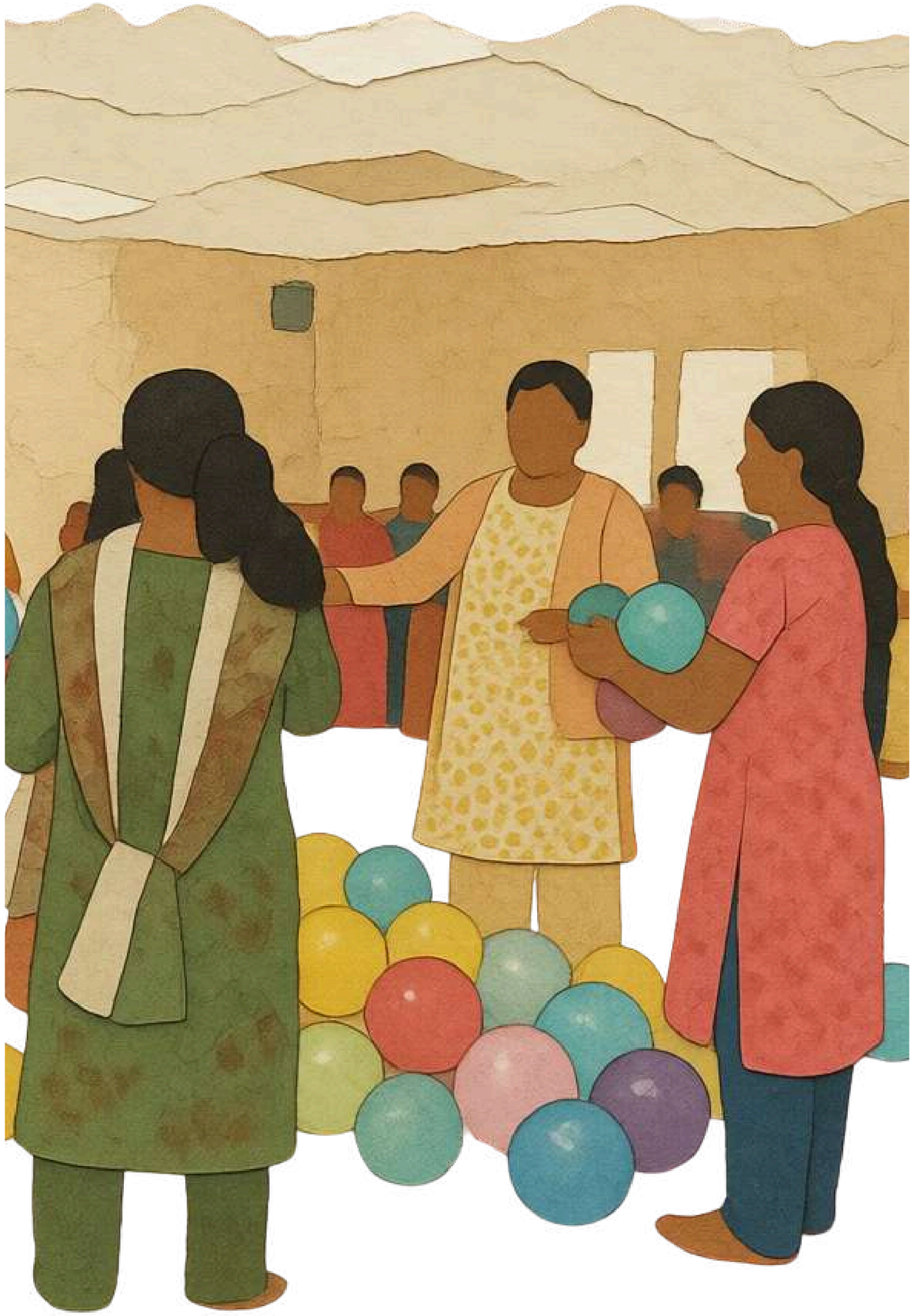
Nayi Disha

inform · connect · empower

Where Hope Meets Courage

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

10 Years of Supporting Caregivers,
Building Communities, Strengthening Systems



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Letter from the Founder

Ten years ago, we set out to make sure no family raising a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities walks alone. Today, we have reached 13.2 lakh lives and we stand at an inflexion point, ready to scale what works.

This year reaffirmed our belief in building with, not just for, families. We deepened our work with public systems to co-create caregiver support that reaches the last mile, and partnered with like-minded organisations to amplify voices and drive collective advocacy. Our six programmes, Saarthi, Samhita, Sakhi, Saathiyan, Samarth Parivaar, and Saksham, each grew in reach and depth, embedding our work within existing health and social welfare frameworks.

We also launched the Saathiyan Fellowship, bringing together 11 caregivers from across six states to lead change in their own regions. And we created the Caregiver Changemaker Awards to honour the family caregivers who have transformed their journey into strength and lasting impact for others.

We are deepining our ties with public health systems. With the new Saarthi Project, in partnership with Women and Child Development Department, we are working with frontline workers who are reaching the parts where support is much needed, right with early diagnosis. We're creating pathways for caregivers themselves to become mentors, advocates, and decision-makers within these systems. We're building technology that amplifies human connection.

None of this is ours alone. It belongs to every caregiver, volunteer, and ally who chose hope over fear and courage over doubt. As we step into our next decade, that shared resolve is what carries us forward.

Over the last decade, we have reached 13.2 lakh families and in our next decade, we aim to reach 30 lakh families. It means deepening our proven models, trusting local leadership, and building infrastructure that can continue this work. It means creating models that governments and health systems can adopt and sustain.

With warm regards
Prachi Deo

Families are often the primary caregivers, advocates, and decision-makers for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs). For millions of families in India, the journey begins with uncertainty navigating a diagnosis, understanding available services, accessing government schemes, and finding trusted support. This journey more often than not is lifelong, both for the families and children.

Nayi Disha exists to change this reality. We bridge this gap by ensuring that family caregivers have access to reliable information, connecting them to resources and peer communities, enabling them with required knowledge and skills, and strengthening the broader disability support ecosystem so that they can support and advocate for their children and loved ones.

Our Vision

To enable and equip families affected by developmental disabilities to be the change-agent in the development of their loved one, and not leave any family behind.

Our Mission

To provide hope and support to parents as primary caregivers of children touched by autism, down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

To build an evolving ecosystem and a strong interactive community of all stakeholders including health and education providers, non-governmental organizations, and other families.

To drive the reach countrywide through the power of digital technology and innovation, in an understood language.

OUR APPROACH

Our Theory of Change is based on the foundation that family caregivers are the single most important influence on the well-being and development of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs). And sustained change begins with empowered caregivers. By equipping families with knowledge, support, and community, we strengthen their ability to access services, advocate for their rights, and make informed choices for their children. As caregivers gain confidence and agency, they become champions within their communities, helping create stronger support networks, improved access to opportunities, and a more responsive and inclusive ecosystem for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Family Support

Through our digital platforms, resource directories, helpline, workshops, and community programs, we provide families with the information and support they need at different stages of their journey.

Ecosystem Enablement

We work with service providers, civil society organizations, professionals, and community-based groups to strengthen the quality, accessibility, and reach of support available to families.

Community Leadership

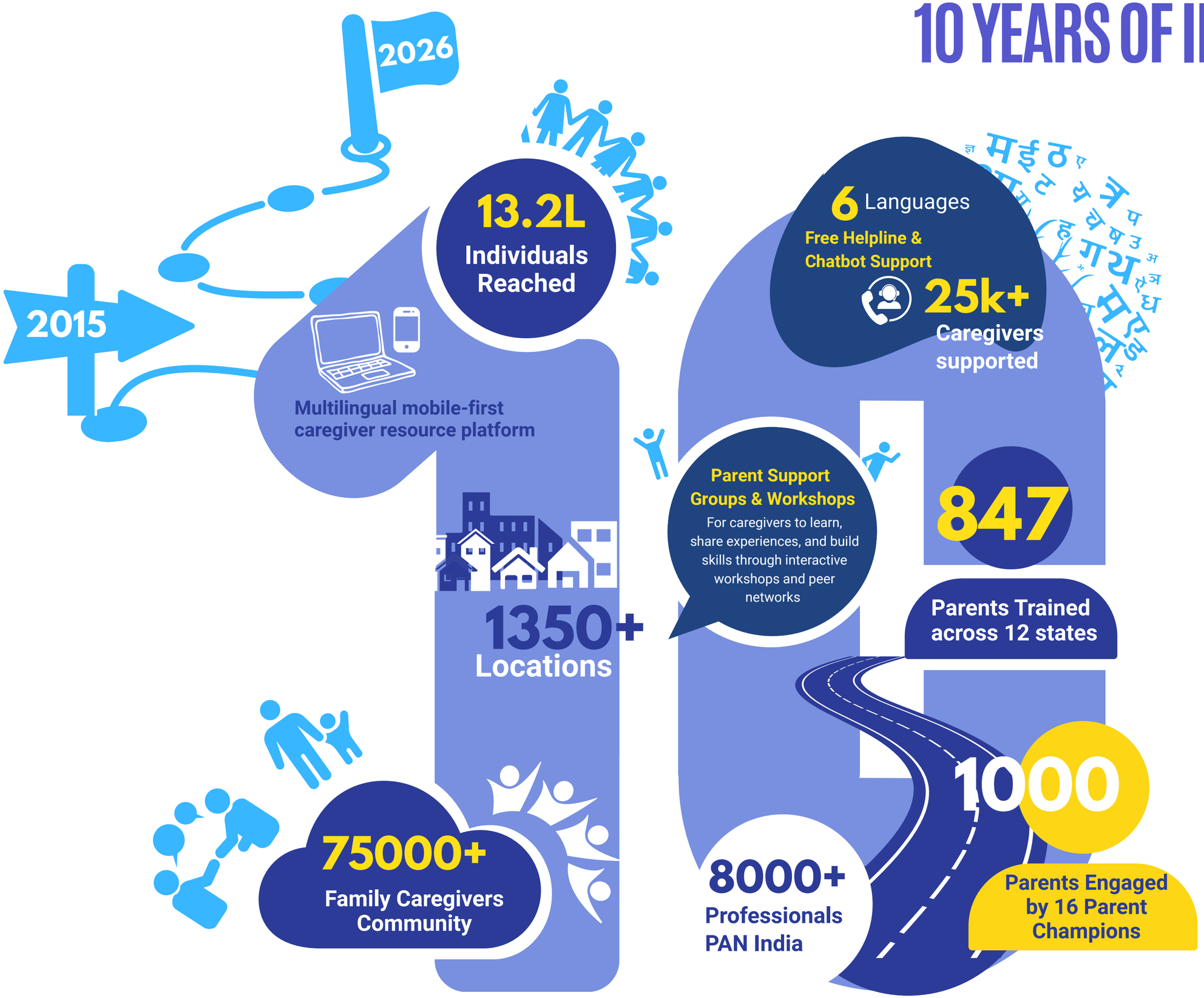
We nurture caregiver leaders and peer networks that foster mutual support, local problem-solving, and collective action.

Systems Change

By partnering with government bodies and institutional stakeholders, we integrate family-centered support into public systems, enabling greater scale, sustainability, and impact.

OUR MODEL

10 YEARS OF IMPACT



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Data Catalyst Program Grant 2025

Our Tech Innnovation got recognised and won Data Catalyst Program 2025 grant, an initiative by Project Tech4Dev and Dasra. The programme brought together data leaders from 13 NGOs for an intensive immersion creating a space for collaborative learning, peer mentorship, and co-creation around leveraging data for social transformation. Through this grant we are designing a centralised Data Collection Platform that integrates data from across all our programmes enabling real-time, cross-programme reporting and evidence-based decision-making, transforming fragmented data into actionable insights.

Community Impact Award, GAC 2026

Nayi Disha was honoured as the Second Place Winner of the Community Impact Award 2026 at the Global Autism Convention, held in Bengaluru from 21–25 January 2026. The convention brought together global stakeholders from across the autism ecosystem clinicians, researchers, educators, policymakers, self-advocates, and family leaders for structured dialogue, shared learning, and cross-sector engagement on advancing autism support and inclusion worldwide.

MILESTONES

- Completed 10 years of Nayi Disha
- Prachi Deo (Founder, ED) honored with Ashoka Fellowship 2025
- Launched Nayi Disha Caregiver Changemaker Award
- Launched Project Saarthi in partnership with Women and Child Development Department Madhya Pradesh
- Launched Saathiyan Fellowship for family caregivers
- Co-authored paper 'Family caregiving as a pathway to strengthen health outcomes in India' published in Frontiers
- Sakhi Helpline listed with DePWD as intellectual disability helpline

SAATHIYAN FELLOWSHIP

The first edition of Saathiyan Fellowship was launched in Jan 2026. The 12-month fellowship is a caregiver leadership-building initiative that nurtures family caregivers, particularly from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, to strengthen local caregiver communities through peer support, awareness building, and advocacy. The fellowship deepens caregivers' roles from participants to community champions.

The first cohort began with **11 caregivers** identified from **Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh**. Each fellow has identified a core problem based on their lived experience and local context, and has begun developing community-driven project ideas to address these gaps. Over time, their ideas will shape into micro-ecosystems of support by the caregivers and for the caregivers.

The Fellowship represents a key step in Nayi Disha's journey towards creating self-sustaining caregiver communities, ones that grow and support each other.

During this year-long journey, the fellows are being,

- Supported by refining and strengthening their project ideas by trainers and mentors
- Enabled with small scale implementation and learning
- Connected with relevant resources, stakeholders, and guidance

MEET THE TRAINERS & MENTORS

Dr Seema Lal
Trainer
Founder, Together We Can
Mental Health, Disability, Education Consultant

Nivedita Krishna
Mentor
Founder & Director, Pacta
Law and Public Policy Expert

Jaya Sudhakar
Mentor
Parent Advocate and Autism Community Leader

Beena Krishnamurthy
Mentor
Educator, Author, Advocate for Inclusive Education & Employment

"Initially, when I conceived my project idea, things were unclear and goals were somewhat vague. Now within few months, with the training and peer learning circles, things have started to get more structured and concise. I have a clear plan of action and sense of key deliverables. The concepts of 'creation of safe space', the 'facilitator mindset', 'significance of agreements', 'application of 'OPEN framework' and relevance of 'SMART Goals', have brought great change in the ways I connect with the parent community and in taking my project forward.

There is also a noticeable change in how I connect with the caregiver community and spread awareness towards inclusion.

Asma Aziz Khan, Bhopal, MP
Saathiyan Fellow 2026

CAREGIVER CHANGEMAKER AWARD

At Nayi Disha, we have always believed that the most powerful agents of change in the disability ecosystem are the family caregivers themselves. The parents, siblings, and guardians who navigate extraordinary challenges every day, and who often quietly transform those challenges into community action. For ten years, we have been witnesses to this power. With our 10th year milestone, we decided to formally honour it.

The Caregiver Changemaker Awards were launched in 2025 as an annual recognition for family caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have gone beyond their personal journeys to create lasting impact for others building organisations, running advocacy campaigns, establishing peer networks, or pioneering inclusive practices in their communities.

Why This Award Matters

Caregiver contributions to the disability ecosystem are immense and largely invisible. They are the ones who fight for their child's right to education, who sit with other parents in hospital corridors sharing what they have learned, who build WhatsApp groups that become lifelines, who start organisations when no service exists locally. The Caregiver Changemaker Award is Nayi Disha's commitment to seeing, naming, and celebrating this leadership and giving it the platform it deserves.

> "Caregivers are the true changemakers, turning their struggles into strength and hope into action. Their courage reminds us that inclusion begins with love and persistence."
>
> **Dr. Pramod Gaddam, President, Divis Foundation for Gifted Children**

The inaugural award received 42 nominations from across India, a response that reflected how deeply this form of recognition resonated with the community. A panel of jury members evaluated nominations based on the scope and sustainability of the caregiver's initiative, their commitment to community impact, and their role in shifting attitudes around disability and inclusion.

WINNERS 2025

"It is a great honor to receive this award. All the work I do in the disability space has been inspired by my son Nishant, and I am grateful to have been able to impact hundreds of children, families, teachers, and professionals through training, support, and inclusive initiatives."

Akila Vaidyanathan, Founder Director
The AMAZE Charitable Trust

"This recognition gives me confidence to take our work beyond the territory we currently serve, build connections across states, and work towards our vision of providing sports training and independent livelihood opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities."

Bijal Harkhani, Founder
Mantra Foundation

"It is my life's greatest privilege to work towards #InclusiveDuniya, and I am deeply honoured to receive this award. This recognition reflects the shared dream, dedication, and collective efforts of countless caregivers, volunteers, and allies working to create a more inclusive world."

Pooja Sharma, Founder & CEO
The Sarvodaya Collective

SAARTHI

"Mithu Didi helped me understand that it is imprtant to act early. She guided me to take my child to the DEIC again and also showed me simple activities to practice at home. Today, I truly feel empowered. With the right guidance and support from AWW didi, I have been able to take the right steps for my child's development."

Chamma, A Mother
Vishan Kheda, MP

Working closely with Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), caregivers, and local stakeholders, the programme aims to build a community-based, family-centred model that enables children at risk of developmental delays to be identified and supported earlier.

During its pilot year in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, **in partnership with Women and Child Development Department,** Saarthi focused on strengthening the capacity of frontline workers, improving developmental screening practices, and creating stronger linkages between families and referral services. Through specialised training, mentorship, and field support, Anganwadi Workers are equipped to use Disability Screening Schedule (DSS) and DSS+ tools, engage caregivers with empathy, and support families through structured home visits.

"Before Saarthi, I would visit homes and observe children, but I was often unsure whether what I noticed was important. After the training, I began to understand child development more clearly. The small signs, milestones, and differences. One day, I recognised these signs in my own relative's child and felt confident enough to guide the family. That moment made me realise how important this work is, not just for the community but for our own families too.

Now, when I visit homes, I don't just complete my duty; I feel responsible for guiding parents with care and respect."

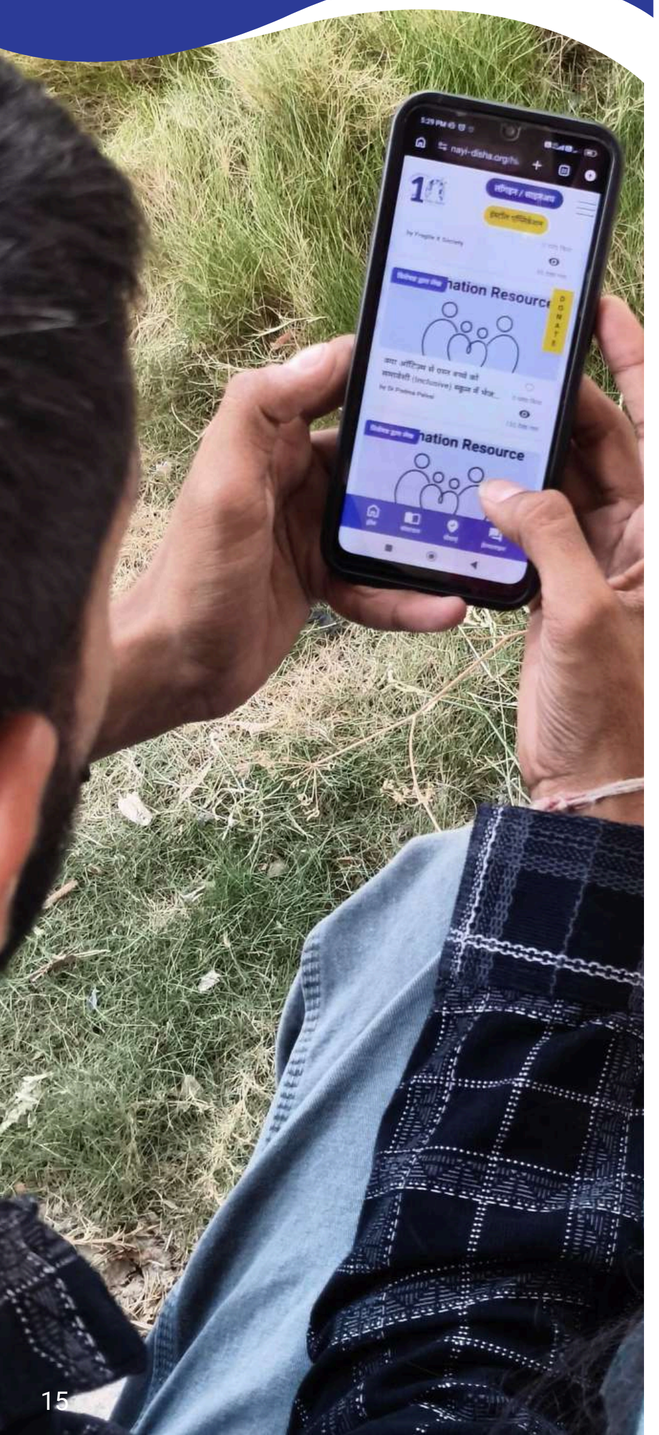
Omwati Mewada, Anganwadi Worker Awantipura, MP

27 Anganwadi Workers
Trained in developmental screening and family-centred support

813 Children
Screened for developmental delays and disabilities

69 Children
Identified for further support and referral

SAMHITA



Nayi Disha's digital knowledge and resource platform, Samhita, continued to serve as a trusted companion for family caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities offering accessible, evidence-based information and support pathways required at every stage of the caregiving journey. For many families, the period following a diagnosis is marked by uncertainty, confusion and acute shortage of reliable guidance and Samhita was developed to address this exact gap.

This year was pivotal in Samhita's evolution. The platform was comprehensively updated and is now available as a Progressive Web App (PWA), enabling caregivers to access critical resources seamlessly across mobile devices, meeting families where they are, in the language they speak. New sections were introduced to connect caregivers with Nayi Disha programmes, fellowship opportunities and community initiatives, deepening the platform's role as a gateway to the wider Nayi Disha ecosystem.

Making information more accessible and discoverable, AI-powered search capabilities were introduced. Improvements in content structure, multilingual accessibility, metadata, and discoverability combined to deliver a **152% increase in platform users** compared to the previous year.

Accessibility and inclusion remained at the heart of the platform's development. New features were introduced to better support users with visual impairments, while enhanced contributor functionality opened meaningful pathways for persons with disabilities to share their lived experiences, enriching the platform with perspectives that only those who have walked this journey can offer.

487822

Nayi Disha Website Users

5.4L

Users viewed Service Providers Directory

89.2K

Useres viewed Information Articles

70%

Users found Samhita organically

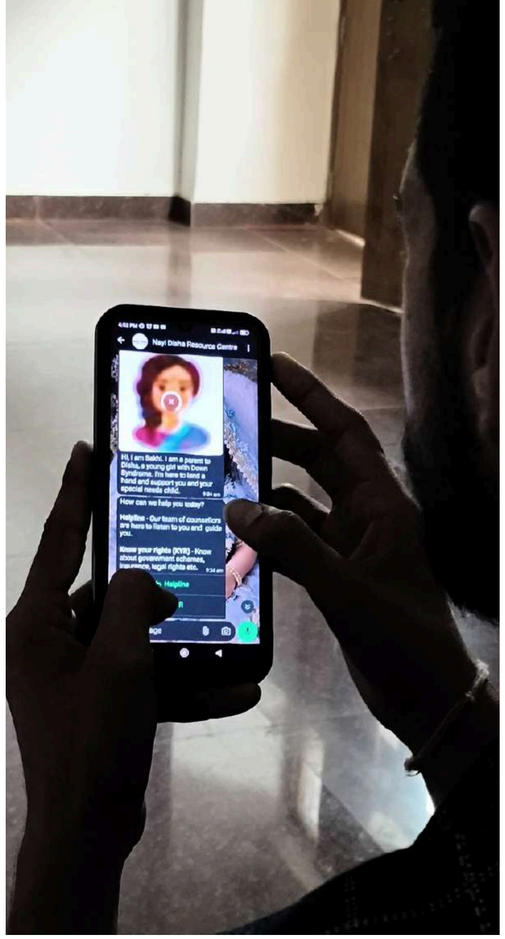
61%

Users accessed Samhita on mobile

SAKHI

Sakhi, Nayi Disha's multi-channel helpline, is accessible nationwide through phone calls and WhatsApp chatbot, ensuring that families can reach out in the way that feels most accessible to them. Operating across 5 languages with a team of trained social workers, special educators, and counselors, Sakhi connects caregivers to accurate information, emotional support, expert guidance, and service referrals.

We received **31% more caregiver queries** on the Sakhi helpline in 2025-26 with 43% queries originating from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The **23% repeat caller rate** particularly emphasises the experience of families of being heard, supported, and receiving practical solutions.



13517	6671	250+	89%
Queries Managed	Families Reached	Towns Across India	User Satisfaction

A major milestone was the upgrade of the Sakhi WhatsApp Helpline, which introduced a **Large Language Model (LLM)-powered chatbot** capable of providing more contextual, accurate, and responsive support based on Nayi Disha's knowledge resources.

21.4%
Families were able to access services for their child.

21%
Gained better understanding of their child's condition.

33.1%
Successfully applied for disability-related documentation and entitlements.

19%
Implemented practical parenting and intervention strategies at home.

Voices of Care

"I felt completely alone. When I called the helpline, someone listened. They didn't just give me information. They helped me see that I had options, that my son had a future, and that I didn't have to face this alone."

Mother of a child with autism
Sehore, Madhya Pradesh

"I didn't know about the Niramaya scheme or how to apply. The counsellor walked me through every step, even worked around website glitches to get me the help I needed. I now feel secure knowing my son's health is covered."

Ms. Srilatha, Mother
Mumbai, Maharashtra

When her 3 year old son was diagnosed with Autism, Sapna (*name changed*) from MP, felt overwhelmed and alone. With little knowledge about autism and managing therapy transitions in a new city, she struggled in isolation while her family blamed her.

Discovering Nayi Disha in 2022 was a turning point in their journey. The Sakhi Team provided structured guidance, connected her to therapy centers, and crucially, helped her understand her rights as a parent. This knowledge gave her confidence. The team further connected Sapna with Nayi Disha's parent support groups, trainings, and expert webinars where isolation and confusion started transforming into strength and understanding.

"धीरे धीरे मुझे समझ आने लगा कि मेरा बच्चा सीखेगा. शायद थोड़ा धीरे और अलग तरीके से, लेकिन सीखना ज़रूर होगा."

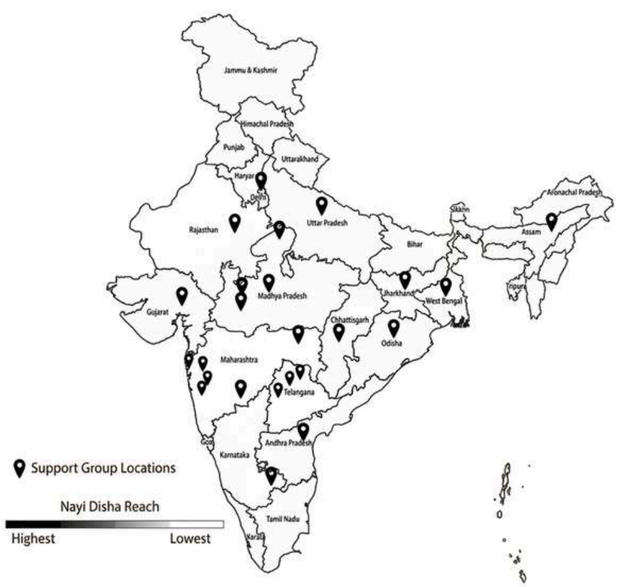
Today, her son attends Class 1 at Kendriya Vidyalaya, writes independently, and loves drawing. But her impact extends far beyond her family. Armed with knowledge and confidence, Sapna has now become a Nayi Disha Parent Champion and advocates for other families, has supported 5+ children through referrals, and persuaded therapy centers to adopt Open Door Policy and actively guides other caregivers.

She adds, "इंसान मिल जाते हैं तो रास्ते आसान हो जाते हैं. हमें लोगों ने मदद की, अब हम भी किसी की मदद कर लेते हैं."

SAATHIYAN

Saathiyan is a peer-led community care and support group initiative by Nayi disha that connects families across geographies, languages, and disability experiences. These communities provide caregivers with a safe space to ask questions, share challenges, exchange practical advice, and learn from one another's lived experiences. Anchored primarily through WhatsApp support groups, the communities are further strengthened through facilitated support group sessions, expert-led webinars and structured communication processes. Using Glific, an open-source communication platform, Nayi Disha team actively moderates the support groups towards purposeful community exchange around themes like legal guardianship, vocational pathways, puberty, government schemes, and everyday caregiving struggles.

37	9271	26
Support Groups	Caregivers in community	Parent Champions



52.4%
Caregivers feel emotionally supported.

96%
Now feel less alone in caregiving journey

59.1%
Comfortable sharing experiences

54.4%
Confident opening up in group

"Through Nayi Disha's support team, I and other parents are receiving extremely important, useful, and practical information. This guidance is provided while keeping in mind the abilities of the children and their mental condition, which helps in better understanding matters related to the children's welfare, physical hygiene, mental development, and day-to-day caregiving.
As parents, we face many challenges every day while carrying out our daily lives. In such circumstances, the support and guidance provided by Nayi Disha's team inspires us to manage ourselves, fulfill our family responsibilities, and adapt our child's behavior to social environments. This support is proving to be extremely helpful in reducing the impact of the child's disability and in promoting their overall development."

A Parent
Saathiyan Support Group
Pune, Maharashtra

Voices of Care

When Ajit Singh from West Champaran, Bihar, noticed developmental delays in his son at around three years of age, he began a long search for answers. During the COVID period, he travelled nearly 250–300 km every week to Patna for consultations, assessments, and therapy. After multiple evaluations, his son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with Intellectual Disability.

The journey came at a significant cost. Frequent travel affected Ajit's employment, leading to job loss, while therapy expenses created financial strain. Social stigma added another layer of difficulty, with people dismissing his concerns and offering unhelpful advice. The prolonged stress also affected his wife's mental well-being. Despite these challenges, Ajit remained committed to his son's development.

In 2022, Ajit connected with Nayi Disha while searching online for disability-related information. Through the helpline, webinars, parent support groups, and guidance on government schemes, he gained a clearer understanding of autism and accessed support such as the UDID card and Niramaya scheme.

Today, Ajit continues to advocate for his child with confidence and determination. His story demonstrates how access to information, community support, and perseverance can help families navigate complex challenges and create better opportunities for their children.

SAMARTH PARIVAR

Samarth Parivar is Nayi Disha's community engagement and ecosystem-strengthening programme that brings together caregivers, service providers, government institutions, and local partners to create sustainable support systems for families.

The programme continued to expand its reach across Telangana, and Maharashtra through on-ground and digital engagement, strengthening local support ecosystems in both urban and underserved regions.

Through key outreach and community building events like helpdesks, workshops, training and support groups, and awareness and sensitisation campaigns, we connected families to trusted information, government entitlements, and local resources. Simultaneously, we built stronger local support ecosystems by forging partnerships with local hospitals, Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs), District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), administration, special schools, therapy centres, and community-based organisations. These collaborations improved referral pathways, increased awareness of available services, making it easier for families to access the support they need.

143 **Events conducted**

3486 **Participants attended**

397 **Professionals reached**

Voices of Care

In Hyderabad, Telangana, Sudeep and his family had already spent years supporting their son after he was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). After some time being spent in exploring the right answers, they finally sought occupational therapy and behavioral interventions. Despite being on the right path, the same questions kept resurfacing. What services are available for their child? Which government schemes could help? Were they making the best decisions for their child? And the most important, who could they turn to for guidance from those who truly understood their journey?

Caregiving is often an isolating experience. Even when families are accessing therapies and support, many continue to navigate uncertainty, emotional stress, and a constant search for reliable information. The family's connection with Nayi Disha began through a UDID helpdesk at their therapy centre. What started as support for disability certification soon opened the door to a wider network of information, services, and peer support. Through support groups, they learnt about government schemes such as UDID and Niramaya, discovered practical strategies from fellow caregivers, and found answers to many of the questions that accompanied their child's developmental journey.

"The parent conversations in the support group helped me a lot. I learned many things I didn't know before and found answers to many of my questions.", Sudeep adds.

Today, they continue to support their son's development through ongoing therapies, while feeling more informed, connected, and confident. Their journey demonstrates that support is valuable at every stage of caregiving whether a family is beginning to understand a diagnosis or has spent years seeking the best outcomes for their child.

SAKSHAM

Saksham is a structured parent training programme designed to empower caregivers with practical, evidence-based strategies. Over the past three years, Saksham has evolved from isolated training cohorts into a community-building platform, providing sustained support through monthly support groups, a dedicated helpline, and personalized guidance to the alumni and new parents.

We are deepening Saksham's impact through a 14-month engagement model with each cohort, including 3 in-person sessions, monthly WhatsApp-based thematic support, and community-led sustainability. This year, we will significantly expanded in Maharashtra and Telangana while strengthening quality standards, ensuring every parent has access to evidence-based strategies to support their child's development.

From training to community: Repeated cohorts in same locations build sustained parent networks and peer support

Language accessibility: Content delivered in 4 regional languages; 200+ information resources created

Beyond training: Monthly support groups, helpline support (200+ calls from caregivers), and expert sessions

Quality assurance: Standardized training manual, Quality Assurance framework, and trainer capacity building

98%
Caregivers understand their child's developmental needs better

97%
Feel confident managing developmental challenges

96%
feel confident providing home interventions

100%
Reported greater acceptance of their child's diagnosis

370 • **12**

Caregivers trained — States covered

"Saksham gave me the confidence to support my son's development. Today, my child attends school regularly, and I continue applying these strategies at home."

Deepali Sonawane, Mother
Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra

Voices of Care

When her son was diagnosed with Intellectual Disability at the age two, Varsha Pawar (Nagar, MH) found herself facing an uncertain future. For nearly two years, she struggled with depression, relying heavily on therapists and schools while feeling unsure of her own role in his development.

Varsham came across Saksham in Nov 2025. Through the 3-day training, she learnt practical strategies to support her son at home, creating a conducive learning environment, and responding more effectively during moments of distress.

Most importantly the programme transformed the way she saw herself. "I felt that I too am an expert, a different kind of expert. I have expertise about my child that no one else does." This change from passive observer to active facilitator changed everything. She began introducing structured activities, spending more intentional time with her sone, and mindfully asking herself, "What more can I do?"

Today, he responds better to instructions, shows improved engagement in activities, and is gradually building independence in daily living skills. For Varsha, however, the greatest change has been to recognise her own agency as her child's first and most important teacher.

10TH ANNIVERSARY

In November 2025, Nayi Disha marked a significant milestone of completing 10 years. Held in Hyderabad, the anniversary celebrating the spirit of **'caregiver as changemakers'** brought together caregivers, policymakers, practitioners, funders, partners, and inclusion advocates who have been integral to the organisation's journey over the past decade.

A key highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Nayi Disha's **10-Year Special Report**, capturing a decade of growth, learning, and resilience, and celebrating the countless caregiver journeys that have shaped the organisation's work.

A panel discussion, "Caregivers Are Real Changemakers: Changing Lives, Changing Attitudes", with leaders from philanthropy, healthcare, and the caregiver community xplored how caregivers are increasingly shaping systems, influencing attitudes, and driving change.

The event was an opportunity to reflect on how far the movement has come and reaffirm a collective commitment to building a more inclusive future. **Chief Guest G.V. Prasad, Co-Chairman and MD, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories**, highlighted the often-unrecognised role of women in caregiving and called for stronger systems that acknowledge and support caregivers. **Guest of Honour Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India**, spoke about the transformative potential of technology, innovation, and cross-sector collaboration in advancing inclusion.

The evening concluded with a performance by young adults with developmental disabilities from the Shankar Foundation, capturing the spirit of inclusion care, resilience, and inclusion that continues to define Nayi Disha's journey.

THERA MEET

The annual professionals convening Thera Meet was held on 8 March 2026 at the Rainbow Children's Heart Institute, Hyderabad. **80 professionals,** including occupational therapists, special educators, physiotherapists, counsellors, school leaders, early intervention professionals, and medical practitioners came together for a day of expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, case-based learning, and experience sharing to foster deeper reflection and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The convening featured a multidisciplinary panel comprising **19 experts** from leading organisations and institutions, alongside parent representatives whose lived experiences ensured that conversations remained grounded in the realities faced by families. These diverse perspectives created a safe and reflective space for professionals to examine their practices, share challenges, and collectively identify pathways towards more transparent, inclusive, and child-safe systems of care.

Key Outcomes

- Strengthened orientation towards family-centred and transparent models of care
- Increased opportunities for cross-disciplinary learning and collaboration
- Greater reflection on quality standards, accountability in practice
- Recognition of therapist well-being as integral to sustained quality service delivery

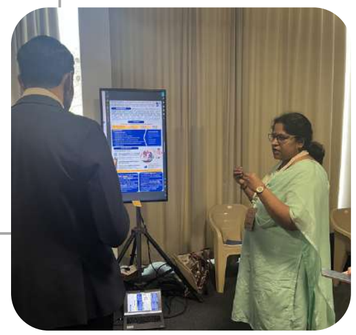
"My biggest takeaway from Therameet 2.0 was the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in supporting children with special needs. Listening to different therapists and educators helped me understand how combining approaches can create more effective individualized interventions. The event reinforced that continuous learning and collaboration are key to improving outcomes for children with diverse needs."

A Special Educator

Global Autism Convention 2026

Nayi Disha participated in cross-sector dialogue with global stakeholders from the autism ecosystem during the convention held in Bengaluru (21–25 January. Founder. Prachi Deo joined the panel “Parenting on the Spectrum: Journeys, Strategies, and Shared Wisdom,” sharing insights on caregiver-informed systems and the often-overlooked role of siblings in support structures within families. The also presented a poster on Project Saarthi, a multi-year initiative focused on strengthening early identification pathways and field-level mentoring for Anganwadi Workers to build responsive, community-based support for families.

The team also won second place in Community Impact Award 2026. Building on the convention’s themes, CAREADD’s Teenagers & Young Adults (TYA) team published an article by Nayi Disha on “Creating a future for autistic young adults needs: Parents and professionals as equal advocates".



Purple Fest 2025

Purple Fest Goa (9–12 Oct 2025) highlighted the power of collective action in advancing inclusion. Nayi Disha engaged with over 150 stakeholders, including caregivers, NGO leaders, academia, and government representatives, reinforcing the shared belief that accessibility must be the norm.

A key highlight was the launch of Sakhi, an AI-powered WhatsApp chatbot offering verified information, counselling, and guidance for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in five languages, including voice support that was also integrated with DEPwD’s Divya chatbot to strengthen access to support services.

Digital Citizen Summit 2025

Prachi Deo, Founder & ED Nayi Disha, along with Nivedita Krishna, Founder Pacta, moderated a fishbowl discussion on “Rerouting Access : Disability and the Future of Mobility Platforms”. This session discussed about how the App-based mobility has significantly expanded independence for persons with disabilities, but also how existing gaps in public transport and inconsistent accessibility still limit full inclusion.

The speakers, also including persons with lived experience, shared practical insights on interface, design barries and consideration of human factor in accessibility. Ridha Fatima, Counsellor Nayi Disha and a PWD, was also part of the speakers panel.

Fireside Chat, S&P Global PRG

Nayi Disha's Founder and ED, Prachi Deo, was invited for a fireside chat on disability inclusion and the lived experiences of family caregivers, hosted by S&P Global PRGs, Global REACH, and ParentsNet.

The conversation explored the often invisible emotional and practical responsibilities shouldered by caregivers and highlighted the need for sustained, systemic support for families raising children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Discussions also focused on the importance of early identification and developmental milestone tracking, the impact of societal stigma, and what meaningful inclusion in schools truly entails.

TEAM SPEAKS

Sandeep Singh
Outreach Executive, Samhita

At Nayi Disha, we believe that collaboration creates a stronger support system for families. My work to expand our Service Providers Directory helps connect families with professionals and organizations that can support them. Whether it is building partnerships with service providers, run awareness campaigns like that for Child Protection Policy (CPP) and Open Door Policy (ODP) or help families become more aware, I feel that my work contributes to the community. Every new connection that we build is a step in the direction of a family finding the right support.

Amit Khobragade
Outreach Executive, Saarthi

Through community outreach in rural MP, we have been growing trust among families by ensuring they feel most comfortable, in their own spaces, at their own pace. Many carry years of silence around developmental disabilities, unsure where to turn and afraid of the judgment. When I sit with them, listen with patience, and simply keep showing up, something shifts. That moment when a parent says “we didn't know help like this existed”, is exactly why our work matters.

Shifa Nerekar
Community Engagement Counsellor, Saathiyan

Through my work with Support Groups and the Saathiyan Fellowship, I have seen how peer spaces can help caregivers move from seeking support to becoming leaders themselves. When people are given a safe space to share their experiences, learn from one another, and reflect together, they begin to recognise the value of their own knowledge and lived experience. Over time, many caregivers start creating support systems and opportunities for others within their communities.

Sreeleakha M
Lead, Sakhi Helpline

Sometimes, just being listened to without judgment can help them a lot. As a counsellor, my priority is to listen with empathy, understand their concerns, and resolve their doubts to provide the most relevant support. A Helpline conversation can provide immediate solutions or resources, and reduce stress and anxiety. It makes caregivers feel less isolated and more supported in their journey. I feel motivated by being there for someone in need and feeling like I'm contributing to something bigger. Every conversation is a chance to make a positive impact, no matter how small it is. It is fulfilling to play a small part in their journey, building a bit of hope and connection.

Anjana U
Sr. Frontend Developer, Technology

Working on Nayi-Disha's caregiver centred website has given me a deeper understanding of the challenges families face while seeking information and support related to disability. Being part of the technology team allows me to contribute by enhancing the website experience, ensuring that families and caregivers can easily access the information and resources they need.

Saamiksha Tangri
Content Editor, Samhita

Accessibility goes beyond simply structuring information clearly and keeping it concise. It’ i equally important to consider how the information is presented so that it feels relatable, meaningful, and easy for caregivers to engage with. Hence, we always ensure that our information resources and content are neuro-affirming and accessible. Our goal is to create content that caregivers can return to with confidence, content that feels approachable, relevant to their experiences, and genuinely accessible in the way it communicates information.

Jitendra Kisan Khairnar
Outreach Executive, Samarth Parivar

I work with families across Solapur district and regularly interact with parents who are looking for support for their children with IDDs. One experience that stayed with me was helping a parent apply for the Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme when they were struggling with the process. Through my work, I have realised that even if families are aware of schemes and services, many often do not know how to apply and access them. One of my biggest learning has been that the right information, at the right time, to the right person can make a real difference in a family's life.

Saujanya Tata
Sr. Specialist, Saksham

What inspires me most about parents is their resilience to learn, adapt, and advocate for their children. Given the right support, they often become the strongest champions for inclusion and development. Through Saksham, I see parents move from confusion and self-doubt to understanding and confident, making informed decisions and trusting themselves as active partners in their child's development. Working with parents has taught me that meaningful support is not merely about giving answers but helping families build their knowledge, confidence, and support systems they need to navigate their own journey.

FUNDERS

A CSR Initiative by kotak Asset Management

BAJAJ FINSERV

STATE STREET

e2open

mariwala health initiative

TECH mahindra FOUNDATION

COLRUYT GROUP

DIVI'S FOUNDATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

INDIA WELFARE TRUST

FOURTH PARTNER ENERGY

PARTNERS

Swavlamban – Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

NIMHR

NIEPMD

DIVYANG BHAVAN FOUNDATION

AYJNISHD(D)

C.R.C.-Gorakhpur

Child development center

COMMUNIVERSE

Latika

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Manager, LGT
Venture
Philanthropy, Ex-
Major, Indian Army

Prachi Deo
Founder &
Executive Director
Nayi Disha

Sudarshana Kundu
Executive Director
Gender at work
Co-Founder Nayi Disha

Vivek Subramanian
Executive Director
Fourth Partner
Energy

THE TEAM

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Nayi Disha Resource Centre
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

	Particulars	Note No.	As on 31.3.2026	As on 31.3.2025
	FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
1	**Funds**			
	Corpus Fund	-	11,07,813	2,07,813
	Capital Fund	-	1,08,05,393	83,18,634
2	**Current Liabilities**			
	Other current liabilities	-	3,20,698	4,55,670
	TOTAL		**1,22,33,904**	**89,82,117**
	ASSETS			
1	Non-current assets			
	Property, Plant & Equipments and Intangible assets			
	(i) Fixed Assets	-	4,94,122	5,81,320
	Other Non Current Assets	-	3,30,535	45,302
2	**Current Assets**			
	Cash and Bank Balance	-	1,14,09,247	83,55,495
	TOTAL		**1,22,33,904**	**89,82,117**

for Nayi Disha Resource Centre

General Secretary
Date : 13.08.2026
Place:Secunderabad.

As per our report of even date
For Sankar & Raja

Chartered Accountants
FR No. 006601S

J.Raja
Partner
Membership No.200490
UDIN: 26200490LPGCTL3417

Nayi Disha Resource Centre
Consolidated Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Year ended on 31st March, 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

S.No.	Particulars	Note No.	As on 31.3.2026	As on 31.3.2025
1	**INCOME**			
	Grants Received	5	3,05,57,229	1,85,78,000
				49,13,661
	Individual Donations		16,36,489	4,86,761
	Other Income (Prize Money & Workshop Reg. Fee)	5	6,05,506	-
	Bank Interest Income	6	2,99,838	3,21,882
				-
	Miscellaneous Income		-	91,881
	Total Income		**3,30,99,062**	**2,43,92,185**
2	**Local Fund Program Expenses**			
	Expansion of Multichannel Helpline Support for Families Impacted by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Phase II Supported by Bajaj Finance Limited -	7.10	80,68,919	56,28,651
	Advancing of Child Rights in Marginalized -Tribal Communities Supported by Azim Premji Foundation	7.20	25,85,309	32,27,446
	Enhance Nayi Disha Platform to Provide Better Support to Families Impacted by Developmental Disabilities Supported by Blujay Solutions India Pvt Ltd	7.30	7,98,002	5,12,640
	Enhance Nayi Disha Platform to Provide Better - Support to Families Impacted by Developmental Disabilities Supported by Colruyt Group India Pvt Ltd	7.40	5,01,797	4,81,927
	Enhance Nayi Disha Platform to Provide Better Support to Families Impacted by Developmental Disabilities Supported by E2Open Software India Pvt Ltd	7.50	1,87,997	1,89,073
	Project Saarthi for Women and Child Development (WCD) Supported by Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited	7.60	10,09,670	-
	Know Your Rights Program with LLM State Street Corporate Services Mumbai Pvt Ltd	7.70	34,14,538	28,69,744
	Project Saarthi FOR Women and Child Development (WCD) Supported by India Welfare Trust	7.80	18,02,168	-
	Digital Outreach Program to Create Awareness about - Intellectual Disabilities Supported by Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited	7.90	68,02,637	65,51,033
	Create Sustainable Support Communities Supported by Mariwala Health Foundation	7.10	20,64,384	[illegible]
	Digital Outreach Program to Create Awareness about Supported by Tech Mahindra Foundation	7.11	14,40,912	-

Cont...2

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 2 -

S.No.	Particulars	Note No.	As on 31.3.2026	As on 31.3.2025
	Administrative Expenses	7.13	3,56,533	9,26,798
	Out of Donatiions and Bank Interest			
	Awareness & Outreach Programme for Anganwadi Workers	7.12	8,05,000	-
	Supported by FPEL Trinity Pvt Ltd			
	Other Program Expenses			22,86,950
	Total Local Fund Program Expenses		**2,98,37,867**	**2,41,23,793**
	Payments			
	Project Saarthi-Women and Child Development (WCD)			
	Supported by Child Vikas International	7	**4,34,505**	
	-	-	-	
	Project Saarthi- Women and Child Development (WCD)	7	90,850	
	Supported by Charities Aid Foundation America	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	Women and Child Development (WCD) Program Expenses	7	1,47,318	
	Out of Donatiions and Bank Interest	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	Administrative Expenses	7	14,565	
	Total FC Program Expenses		**6,87,238**	-
	Depreciation		87,198	-
	-			
	Total Program Expenses (Local and FC)		**3,06,12,303**	**2,41,23,793**
	Surplus / (Deficit) (1-2)		**24,86,759**	**2,68,392**

for Nayi Disha Resource Centre

NAYI DISHA RESOURCE CENTRE HYDERABAD

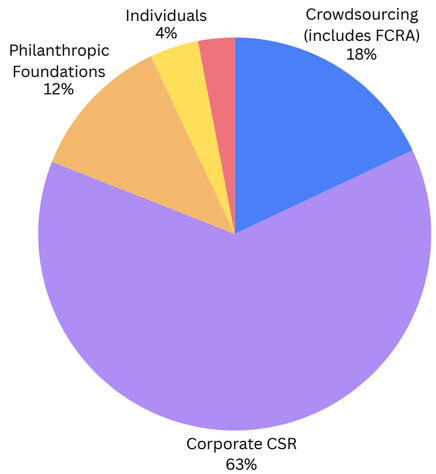
General Secretary
Date : 13.08.2026
Place:Secunderabad.

As per our report of even date
For Sankar & Raja
Chartered Accountants
FR No. 006601S

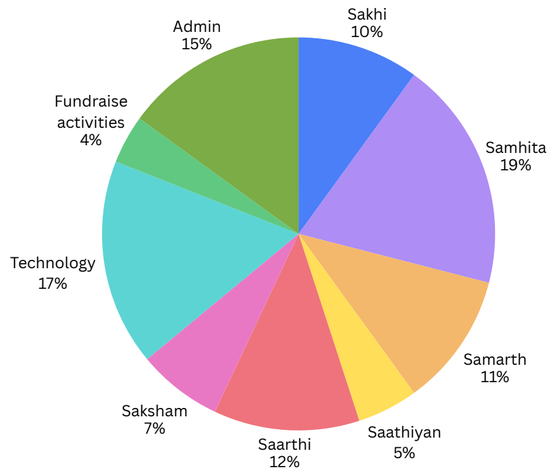
SANKAR & RAJA SEC'BAD CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

J.Raja
Partner
Membership No.200490
UDIN: 26200490LPGCTL3417

FY2026 Source of Funds



FY2026 Use of Funds



Looking Ahead: Building financial sustainability

Behind every family Nayi Disha supports is a system that has to work quietly and reliably. It includes trained staff, reliable technology, and processes people can depend on. Programme funding builds the visible work. But what about organisational machinery that keeps that work going for years without interruption?

As we continue to grow and scale, the organisation needs a diversified and flexible financial base. Most of our funding comes from CSR, and it is tied to specific programmes. But it leaves little room to invest in things that operate behind the scenes. Chief among them is technology, which is no longer a support function for us. It is how we reach families in towns where no service exists. To make support accessible and build replicable models, our administrative capacity, systems and staff development have to keep pace as well.
So we are widening the base. We are prioritising individual giving, foreign contributions and a dedicated corpus. All of these give us unrestricted funds that we can invest where they are needed most. That means maintaining our digital infrastructure, building the capacity of our team, and continuing to invest in research and needs assessments that keep our programmes relevant.

Our income has been growing faster than our expenditure. That is a strong position to build from. A better mix of corporate, foundation and individual support, with more of it unrestricted, gives us the stability to scale. Nayi Disha is at an inflexion point. We now need the flexibility to build on this financial momentum and invest in what makes responsible growth possible.

Second floor, Vindhya – C4, CIE-IIITH, IIIT,
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To learn more about our work, visit
nayi-disha.org

To support our work and donate