



Annual report

2025-26

Twelve months of whiteboards,
paintbrushes, gift tables and one very
loud festival day, written up by the
Optimists who were there.



April 2025 to March 2026

Bengaluru and Mumbai

Gather

Teach

Feed

Paint



INSIDE

Contents



Start anywhere. Each section stands on its own, and the photos are all from this year's albums.

01	About Proud Indian	3
02	Where it began Notes from our co-founders	4
03	Board of trustees	5
04	The year, counted Events, people and our two chapters	6
05	Twelve months, in order	7
06	Teach Craft, robotics and learning kits	8
07	Feed Ration kits and festival lunches	9
08	Paint Kalakriti 2.0, one day in September	10
09	Gather Gift a Smile 2026, from wish to gift	12
10	Days with company teams 53 days, 11 companies	13
11	Trophies for the grown-ups Proud Indian Awards	14
12	Letters from our finance and HR leads	15
13	Our partners	17
14	Come along, or say hello	19

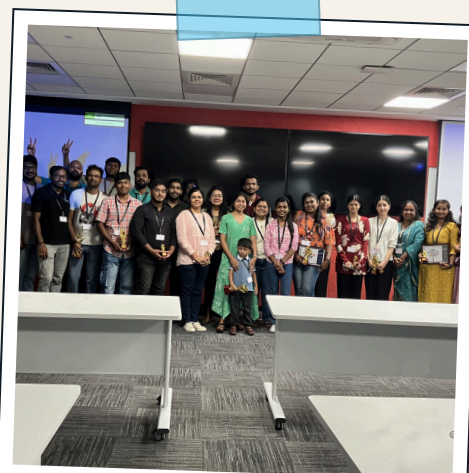
01 ABOUT PROUD INDIAN

Friends first, then a trust.

Proud Indian started on Republic Day 2019 with a handful of friends in Bengaluru who wanted their volunteering to add up to something. Seven years later it is still run by volunteers. We call them Optimists, and they plan every class, drive and festival themselves.

The idea we work by is printed on the banner behind our Gift a Smile table: development is how much the poor get richer. For us that means going back to the same communities, getting to know the children by name, and helping families find their own footing.

Our Bengaluru weekends ran from the LoG Community centre in Iblur and our centre in Indiranagar, and at the end of March we opened a new community centre. In Mumbai, our chapter ran most of the year's company volunteering days.



Some of this year's Optimists

↖ that's us, September

FOUR VERBS

Teach.

Maths and Spoken English in small groups, and craft classes that get the quiet ones talking.

Feed.

Food kits for families, and a proper meal whenever we bring the children together.

Paint.

Kalakriti, the one day a year when our children run the stage.

Gather.

Gift a Smile, outings, and Saturdays when company teams roll up their sleeves with us.

80G · 12A registered

NGO Darpan KA/2019/0234065

PAN AAETP0762C

Audited every year since 2019–20

02 FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS



Where it began.



"I've always thought change starts with knowing things. Knowing enough English to speak up. Knowing which government schemes your family is entitled to, and how to apply. That is why so much of our work is learning, in classes for the children and in Know Your Benefits sessions for their parents.

When I walk through the lanes where our children live, I see plenty that needs fixing. I also see children who are sharp and funny, and ready for more than they've been offered. Optimists kept turning up for them this year, weekend after weekend, and I'm grateful to every one of them. The children in these pages will be running things one day. I hope they remember who showed up."

S Chenthil Kumar

Co-founder, Proud Indian



"When people ask me what poverty is, I don't start with money. I start with options. Most of the families we work with have very few, and very few people telling them what's possible. They don't need rescuing. They need someone in their corner.

That belief brought a group of friends together in 2019, and it still decides what we do. We listen first, and our projects come from what people tell us they need. The dream is as big as it was on day one: to reach slum communities across India. For now we go one neighbourhood at a time, and this report is what that looked like in 2025–26."

H Sarjun

Co-founder, Proud Indian

03

GOVERNANCE

Board of trustees.

Proud Indian is a registered trust. Its two trustees answer for how it is run, from the accounts to the yearly audit.

REGISTERED TRUST
80G · 12A · AUDITED YEARLY



Sarjun H
Co-founder, Treasurer



Somasundaram A
Secretary

ON PAPER				
FOUNDED	REGISTERED	NGO DARPAN	REGISTRATION NO.	AUDITED
Bengaluru, 26 January 2019	80G and 12A	KA/2019/0234065	INT-4-00864-2018-19	Every year since 2019–20

04 2025-26 IN FIGURES

The year, counted.



85

events in two cities

17,000+

people reached

4,300+

volunteer turnouts, Optimists and company teams

14,600+

hours given by volunteers

EVENTS BY CHAPTER

one dot, one event



● 37 Bengaluru ● 48 Mumbai

Teach

2,000+

children in classes and learning drives

Feed

4,600

ration kits for families

Paint

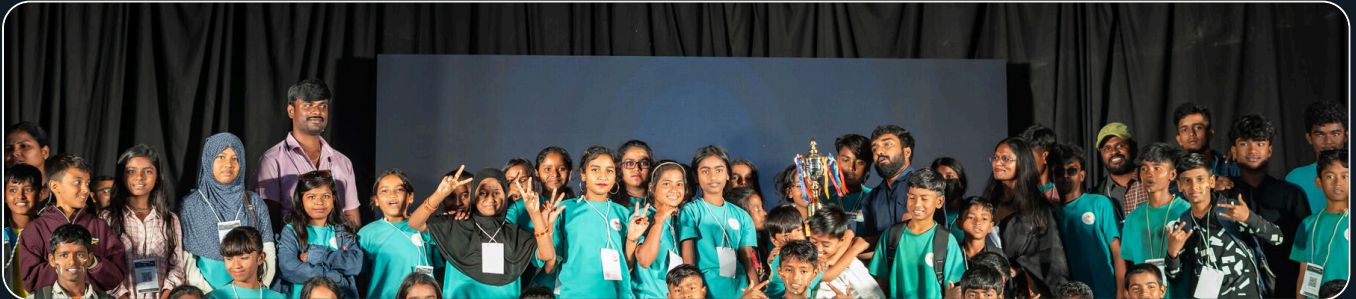
450+

children at Kalakriti 2.0

Gather

851

children at Gift a Smile 2026



Figures cover 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. They come from our Footprint Tracker, with estimates for the few events we only have photos of. Someone at three events is counted three times.

05 THE CALENDAR

Twelve months, in order.

Classes ran most weekends all year. This is what else filled the calendar.

Apr 2025	Ration kits and a volleyball court J.P. Morgan volunteers' kits reach Mumbai families; a new outdoor court in Thatali Kadi
May 2025	Craft classes and a trail clean-up Weekend art & craft gets going; rubbish cleared off the Savandurga trail
Jun 2025	Eight walls and two lake nests Volunteers and four artists repaint an orphanage; nests go up at Ulsoor and Kaggadasapura lakes
Jul 2025	Robots on Saturdays Robotics classes start at our Indiranagar centre; J.P. Morgan builds 49 MindMaze game kits
Aug 2025	Abacus kits Children build 50 abacus learning kits with AWS volunteers
14 Sep 2025	Kalakriti 2.0 Our festival, then awards for the volunteers who ran it; DBS Bank teams build six wheelchairs
Oct 2025	Gift a Smile planning begins 31 Optimists start planning; more Mumbai classrooms get repainted
Nov 2025	2,500 ration kits in eight days J.P. Morgan teams pack in Goregaon and Malad; a postmaster visits the LoG centre
27 Dec – 10 Jan	Gift a Smile 2026 851 children at six places; IDFC FIRST Bank repaints schools in Thane and Kurla
Jan 2026	Stall for a cause A day-long fundraising stall, and stationery for classes 1 to 5
Feb 2026	Birds and animals, in newspaper A wildlife craft session in Bengaluru; another school day with IDFC FIRST Bank
Mar 2026	A new community centre Leaders' training, Oracle's seed pens, and on 29 March a new Proud Indian community opens



01 EDUCATION

Teach.

Small groups and a whiteboard, so every child gets a turn.

$$7 \times 8 = 56 \checkmark$$



First postcards



Maths class

○

Classes happen close to where the children live. In Bengaluru that meant art & craft mornings, maths and Spoken English, and from July, robotics on Saturday afternoons at our Indiranagar centre. Groups stay small, so everyone gets called up to the board sooner or later.

○

Some sessions bring the outside world in: disaster preparedness, caring for older relatives, and a postmaster who left every child with a postcard to send. Company teams added learning kits, from 50 abacus kits with AWS to 49 MindMaze game boxes from J.P.

○

Morgan, and DBS Bank paired 200 new school bags with a lesson on money.

2,000+

children reached

24

classes and drives

980

volunteer hours



Art & craft

Robotics

Maths and English

Learning kits



02 NUTRITION

Feed.

Ration kits for families, and lunch for everyone on the big days.



Lunch, still in costume

It's hard to care about fractions on an empty stomach. Most of our food work this year happened in Mumbai, where J.P. Morgan volunteers, and one team from Schindler, packed ration kits and our Optimists got them to families. Over eleven packing and distribution days that came to 4,600 kits, 2,500 of them in one week of November.

In Bengaluru the biggest meal of the year was at Kalakriti 2.0. After a morning of painting and rehearsing, hundreds of children ate together on benches, steps and the ground, many still in costume.

On the plate

Ration kits	4,600
People reached	12,400
Packing days ..	11



03 KALAKRITI · OUR YEARLY FESTIVAL

Paint.

Kalakriti 2.0

Kalakriti is our festival, and it lasts exactly one day. On Sunday 14 September 2025, children from our communities took over classrooms, a courtyard and a big stage in Bengaluru for the second edition.



1

DAY

450+

CHILDREN

8

EVENTS

180+

VOLUNTEERS

ADMIT ONE

14 Sep
2025

The morning was quiet work: paint sets on newspaper, clay on the desks, pots turning blue and orange, and rangoli creeping across the court. After lunch the hall got loud, with singing, solo and group dance, and a fancy dress line-up of warriors, painted faces and a great deal of glitter.

Guest judges marked every event. By evening whole teams were crowding the stage to lift their trophies, and every child went home with a certificate.

KALAKRITI 2.0 · 14 SEP 2025

Eight events, one day.



04 COMMUNITY

Gather.

Gift a Smile 2026

Gift a Smile begins with a question. In November volunteers sat down with children at the LoG centre and asked what they'd like, while a team of 31 Optimists planned the rest.

Between 27 December and 10 January we delivered, at Thanal, Swabhimaan, our LoG community, Gubbachi, Links and Vidya India. 851 children lined up for badminton sets, cricket bats, school kits and lunch boxes. The banner behind the gift table said what we were there for: development is how much the poor get richer.



6

places

851

children

2,000+

volunteer hours



Three rackets, one doubles team



Name called



A full classroom



VOLUNTEERING DAYS WITH COMPANIES

Fifty-three days, many hands.

Eleven companies sent volunteers on 53 days this year. Most of those days were in Mumbai, run by our chapter there, many of them through Goodera.

The work changed with the team. Damp, peeling classrooms became rooms with alphabets, planets and trees on the walls, so a child gazing at the wall mid-lesson is still learning something. Other teams packed ration kits, made art with elderly residents, cleared Dadar beach or built wheelchairs.



Bunder Pakhadi



Before



After

J.P. Morgan	25 days	Ration kits, classrooms, art with elderly, sports days, MindMaze kits
IDFC FIRST Bank	10 days	Classrooms, a school library, 28 desks, art with elderly
DBS Bank	6 days	Beach clean-ups, six wheelchairs, school bags and a money lesson
Ethos	5 days	School and hygiene kits in Mumbai, an orphanage wall in Bengaluru
Seven more	1 day each	Schindler, Tata Communications, DP World, AWS, AMNS India, IBM, Oracle



25

classrooms transformed

SHADE: CLASSROOM SKY

3,800+

volunteers on company days

SHADE: MANY HANDS

1,410 kg

waste off Mumbai beaches

SHADE: LOW TIDE

11 PROUD INDIAN AWARDS

Trophies for the grown-ups.

Kalakriti takes months of volunteer work. On 28 September we booked a room, put the festival's numbers on the big screen and called twenty-two Optimists up one by one.



Waiting for names



Rising Star

Umme Kulsum

Harshit Saparia

Humaira Rabbani

Samra Rabbani

Mustafa Mansur

Abhinaya M

Chaitanya M

Divya M

Prakash Kumar M

Eipsa Nayak

Adarsh Gokul

Ganesh Krishna

Rajkumar Sivasamy

Dhanush Sudhakara

Thousif Khan (Kabir)

Shilpa Tripathy

S. M. A. Muskaan



Extra Mile

Muthu Subramanian

Ajay D

Rida Mustafa

Subbulakshmi SP



Exemplary

Sai Nirchitha Mukkara



12 FROM OUR FINANCE LEAD

A note on the money.

My job gives me a view of Proud Indian that most people never see: the spreadsheets. They tell a short story. Nearly everything we receive goes into programmes, and nearly everything we do happens because someone chose to give.

To our donors, thank you. Your money became class materials, food kits, festival lunches and the gifts children carried home at Gift a Smile. We spent it with care, and every rupee shows up in our audited accounts.

Thank you, too, for the messages. A kind word from a donor in a difficult week does more for this team than you'd think. We hope you'll stay with us for another year.

With sincere gratitude,

Sarjun

Finance Lead



95%

of funds go to programmes

Giving? Claim 80G.

Add your PAN when you donate and your 80G receipt arrives by email.



12 FROM OUR HR LEAD

To everyone who turned up.

Every event in this report started with a sign-up. Someone spotted a session on the dashboard, tapped "Show interest" and turned up with their sleeves rolled. Thank you, all of you.

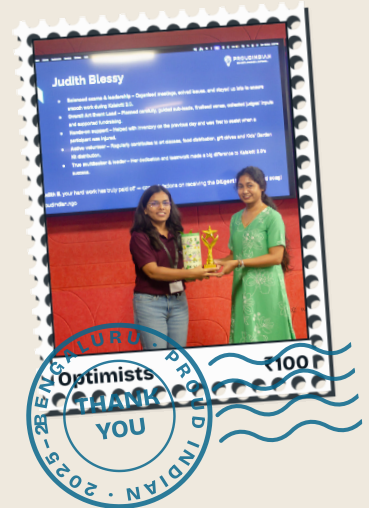
A special thank you to the leads who planned the sessions, chased the supplies and stayed back to sweep up. And to the people who came for one event and then kept coming: you are why the children keep seeing familiar faces.

Teams do their best work when people look out for each other, and I saw a lot of that this year. Thank you for making Proud Indian somewhere people want to spend their weekends.

With sincere appreciation,

Sameedha

Human Resource Lead

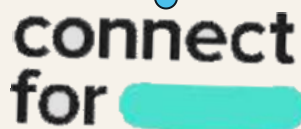


13 PARTNERS

With help from our friends.

A lot of this year ran on borrowed rooms, donated supplies and extra pairs of hands. Thank you to the organisations that lent them.








Company volunteers came from **J.P. Morgan, IDFC FIRST Bank, DBS Bank, Ethos, Schindler, Tata Communications, DP World, AWS, AMNS India, IBM and Oracle**, many of them through **Goodera**.



2026-27

Come along next year.

You don't need to be a teacher, an artist or a cook. Pick one session, come along, and decide afterwards whether you'll be back.

1

Register on the dashboard

2

Tap "Show interest"

3

Get approved, show up

Volunteer.

Every session goes up on the dashboard first.


[Become an Optimist →](#)
dash.proudindian.ngo/register

Donate.

Any amount from ₹100. Add your PAN for an 80G receipt.


[Donate →](#)
proudindian.ngo/#donate


Maths class



Gift a Smile



Pot painting



Wish collection

Become an Optimist
dash.proudindian.ngo/register

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dash.proudindian.ngo/register

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Become an Optimist
dash.proudindian.ngo/register

take one ↑

Say hello.

Write, call, or drop in at the community centre in Ibbaluru. If you want to help, tell us what you're good at.

REGISTERED OFFICE

No. 224, 3rd Floor, WorkFlo Ranka Junction
80/3, Old Madras Road, KR Puram
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560016

WRITE TO US

General: connect@proudindian.ngo
Volunteering and internships: hr@proudindian.ngo
Donations: finance@proudindian.ngo

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Proud Indian LoG Community
Near Suncity Apartment, Ibbaluru, Bellandur
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102

CALL OR WHATSAPP

+91 99864 31321

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