

Annual Report 2024–2025

Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)

Empowering Communities. Advancing Dignity

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

<https://janmitranyas.in/>

<https://pvchr.asia/>

महिला मर्केटिंग इवनिंग/एटि

जनमित्र न्यास: हाशिये की आवाज़ से लोकतंत्र की धड़कन तक

बनारस की धरती से निकली एक आवाज़ आज पूरे देश में लोकतंत्र और न्याय की मशाल जला रही है। यह कहानी है “जनमित्र न्यास” (JMN) की, जिसने दो दशक से अधिक समय से हाशिये पर खड़े लाखों लोगों को न्याय, गरिमा और आत्मनिर्भरता दिलाने का अभियान छोड़ा है।

लोकतंत्र की धड़कन

जनमित्र न्यास यह सिखाता है कि लोकतंत्र केवल वोट डालने तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि हर नागरिक के जीवन में गरिमा, न्याय और अवसर सुनिश्चित करने का नाम है। असमानता और भेदभाव से भरे इस दौर में, जनमित्र न्यास उम्मीद की वह भोर है जो एक नए समाज और नए भारत का सपना जगाती है।

वारणसी से शुरू हुआ जनमित्र न्यास दो दशक से हाशिये पर खड़े लोगों को न्याय, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और आत्मनिर्भरता दिला रहा है। बंधुआ मजदूरी की मुक्ति से लेकर बच्चों की संरक्षण और वैश्विक मंच पर आवाज़ उठाने तक, यह संगठन लोकतंत्र को जमीनी रूप से मजबूत बना रहा है।

लोकतंत्र का असली पैमाना

भारत जैसे विशाल लोकतंत्र की सार्थकता केवल चुनावों और वोटों तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि इस बात से तय होती है कि सबसे गरीब और वंचित व्यक्ति तक समाजवाद और न्याय पहुंच रहा है या नहीं। इसी सोच से 10 मई 1999 को वारणसी में डॉ. लेखिन

रघुवंशी और श्रीनिवासजी ने जनमित्र न्यास की स्थापना की। डॉ. श्रीनिवास जी अखिल भारतीय और महात्मा गांधी से प्रेरित यह संगठन आज पूरी उत्तर प्रदेश से निकलकर देश के 16 राज्यों में सक्रिय है।

गांवों से उठती बदलाव की कहानियां

● जनमित्र न्यास ने गांवों को लोकतंत्र की असली प्रयोगशाला बना दिया।

● गुप्तहर बस्ती की फुल देवी ने किशन गार्डन से बच्चों की मोहन सुधारने के साथ आत्मनिर्भरता की राह फकीरी।

● रसकरा गांव के बंधुआ मजदूर परिवार को न्यास ने गुलामों से मुक्त कराया, जमीन का

हक दिलाना और आज वह परिवार अपने पैरे पर खड़ा है।

- ये उदाहरण बताते हैं कि बड़ा बदलाव छोटे-छोटे कदमों से आता है।

शिक्षा और बच्चों की संसद: लोकतंत्र की नर्सरी

- न्यास का मानना है कि शिक्षा केवल किताबी तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि
- यह इंसाफ को सवाल पूछना और जवाब मांगना भी सिखाती है।
- दुनियाकी सालीन कार्यक्रम से 3,981 बच्चों तक शिक्षा पहुंची।
- 1,500 बेटियों को छात्रवृत्ति और 85 को साक्षरता दी गई।
- अब तक 1.2 लाख बच्चों को शिक्षा से जोड़ा गया।
- 22 गांवों में वल रूढ़ी बच्चों की संसदें लोकतंत्र की नर्सरी हैं, जहाँ बच्चे सीधे पंचायत से सवाल पूछते हैं।

स्वास्थ्य और पोषण: अधिकार की नई परिभाषा

- 48 गांवों और 2 मोहल्लों के 6,000 से अधिक बच्चों तक स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं पहुंचीं।
- 512 महिलाओं और किशोरियों की टोली स्वास्थ्य एवं प्रजनन अधिकारों पर जागरूकता फैला रही है।
- FOPL अभियान संसद और प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय तक पहुंचा, जिसके बाद राष्ट्रीय



मानवाधिकार आयोग ने अल्ट्रा-प्रोसेस्ड खाद्य पदार्थों पर चेतावनी लेबल लगाने का निर्देश दिया।

रोजगार और आत्मनिर्भरता

● जनमित्र न्यास ने बकरी बैक और प्लांटेशन ड्राइव जैसे अनेकों प्रयोग किए।

● अब तक 15,000 पौधे गांवों और बास्तियों में लगाए गए।

● कई किसान फलदार वृक्षों से आमदनी कमा रहे हैं और आत्मनिर्भर बने हैं।

न्याय और गरिमा की लड़ाई

● संगठन का सबसे बड़ा कार्य रहा है सामाजिक

न्याय की रक्षा।

● 20,000 से अधिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप (पुलिस अत्याचार, जातीय हिंसा, महिलाओं पर हमले)।

● 11,000 बंधुआ मजदूरों और मानव-तस्करी पीड़ितों को आज़ादी।

● टॉरेंटमोबिलिटी बेरेपी ने पीड़ितों को मानसिक सहायता दिया और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मॉडल का दर्जा पाया।

वैश्विक मंच पर गूंजी बनारस की आवाज़

जनमित्र न्यास को संयुक्त राष्ट्र के इकॉनॉमिक

एंड सोशल काउंसिल (ECOSOC) ने विशेष परामर्शदाता का दर्जा प्राप्त है। जर्मन संसद से लेकर बाली डेमोक्रेसी फोरम तक, खट्ट की मौजूदगी बताती है कि बनारस से उठी यह किंगडो अब वैश्विक स्तर पर न्याय और लोकतंत्र की मशाल बन चुकी है।

संस्थापकों की प्रेरक यात्रा

डॉ. लेखिन रघुवंशी – उच्च जाति परिवार में जन्मे, लेकिन विशेषाधिकार त्यागकर दलित बस्तियों और बंधुआ मजदूरों के बीच जीवन समर्पित किया।

श्रुति नागवंशी – दलित और आदिवासी

महिलाओं की आवाज़ बनी और सैकड़ों महिलाओं के लिए प्रेरणा स्रोत है।

देवी ने साबित किया कि असली बदलाव केवल नारी से नहीं, बल्कि जीवन की आदुति से आता है।

असर की झलक

● 20,000 मामले: न्याय हेतु हस्तक्षेप

● 11,000 बंधुआ मजदूर मुक्त

● 25,000 बच्चों को शिक्षा का अवसर

● 15,000 पौधों का रोपण

● 1,200 गांवों-बास्तियों तक पहुंच



Hindustan. (2025, December 24). Jan Mitra Nyas: From the voice of the marginalized to the heartbeat of democracy [Newspaper article]. Hindustan, p. 5.

Message from the Acting President

Dr. Mahendra Pratap Singh
Acting President, Jan Mitra Nyas



The year 2024 has been a period of both **transition and affirmation** for Jan Mitra Nyas—transition in leadership roles, and affirmation of the enduring values, vision, and impact that define our institution.

Jan Mitra Nyas stands on the foundation laid by **Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi**, whose life and work continue to inspire movements far beyond India. His contribution to human rights, Dalit dignity, and survivor-led justice has received global academic recognition. Notably, his work has been featured in **Leonardo Verzaro’s anthropological thesis**, where Mr. Raghuvanshi is described as embodying “*resistant vitality*”—a concept that captures his role in shaping transformative activism through storytelling, community mobilisation, and ethical resistance. This scholarship has strengthened global discourse on Dalit rights and grassroots human rights praxis.ⁱ

In 2024, Mr. Raghuvanshi was further honoured with the **REX Karmaveer Puraskaar – Maharatna Prerna Award**, recognising his lifelong commitment to social justice and human rights. He was also acknowledged as an **Honorary Visiting Senior Fellow at IMPRI**, a distinguished public policy think tank, in recognition of his contributions to democracy, civic mobilisation, and community-based institution building.ⁱⁱ

Due to serious health challenges following post-COVID complications, Mr. Raghuvanshi formally resigned from his executive responsibilities in March 2024. However, we are privileged that he continues to guide Jan Mitra Nyas as a **Senior Advisor to the Board of Trustees**, ensuring continuity of vision, values, and institutional memory.

The year also marks a historic milestone for Jan Mitra Nyas as it has formally evolved into a **woman-led organisation** under the leadership of **Ms. Shruti Nagvanshi**, who now serves as **Chief Functionary and Managing Trustee**. Her leadership reflects both continuity and renewal—anchored in grassroots accountability, gender justice, and ethical governance.

In 2024, Ms. Nagvanshi received multiple national and international recognitions for her leadership and advocacy. She was honoured with the **2024 Great Companies International Women Entrepreneur Award**, acknowledging her pioneering work through Jan Mitra Nyas in advancing the **Sustainable Development Goals at the grassroots level**, particularly in improving children’s health outcomes in marginalized communities since 1999.ⁱⁱⁱ Her work, and that of Jan Mitra Nyas, has been featured in the *Women Story* titled “*Jan Mitra Nyas: Pioneering Health Equity at the Grassroots.*”

Her global leadership was further recognised at the **68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** at the United Nations Headquarters, where her activism for human rights and gender justice in Uttar Pradesh was highlighted. Her journey has been documented in “*Hum: When Women Lead,*” a prestigious coffee table book jointly supported by **UN Women India and the Ford Foundation**, featuring 75 stories of transformative women leaders across India.^{iv} Additionally, Ms. Nagvanshi was awarded the **Karmaveer Gold Chakra Award (2024)** for her tireless advocacy for the rights of marginalized Dalit and Adivasi women.^v

As **Acting President**, I have assumed this responsibility to ensure stability, compliance, and collective leadership during this period of transition. I am confident that under the stewardship of Ms. Shruti Nagvanshi, supported by an experienced Board of Trustees and advisors, Jan Mitra Nyas will continue to grow as a resilient, ethical, and community-rooted institution.

The recognitions received in 2024 are not merely individual honours; they are a testament to the **collective strength of survivors, communities, staff, volunteers, and partners** who together uphold the mission of Jan Mitra Nyas—to translate constitutional values and human rights principles into lived realities.



Dr. Mahendra Pratap Singh, PhD
Acting President
Jan Mitra Nyas

Message from the Chief Functionary & Managing Trustee

Shruti Nagvanshi

Jan Mitra Nyas



The year **2024–25** has been one of **deep responsibility, resilience, and reaffirmation of purpose** for Jan Mitra Nyas. At a time marked by leadership transition, regulatory challenges, and growing social inequities, our organisation continued to stand firmly with marginalized communities—ensuring that justice, dignity, and rights remained non-negotiable.

Jan Mitra Nyas, rooted in Varanasi since 1999, has consistently worked with **Dalit, Adivasi, migrant, and urban-poor communities**, translating constitutional values into lived realities. During this reporting year, our programmes reached across **human rights protection, torture rehabilitation, child and maternal health, public health advocacy, adult literacy, gender justice, and democratic participation**, reaffirming our belief that democracy must be lived every day—not only practiced at the ballot box.

A defining milestone of this year has been the transition of Jan Mitra Nyas into a **woman-led organisation**. I assumed the responsibility of **Chief Functionary and Managing Trustee** during a period of institutional transition, following the resignation of **Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi** from executive responsibilities due to serious health challenges. We remain deeply grateful that he continues to guide the organisation as **Senior Advisor to the Board of Trustees**, ensuring continuity of values, vision, and institutional memory.

Despite the denial of FCRA renewal in March 2024, **all programmes continued without interruption**. This resilience was made possible through collective leadership, staff commitment, community solidarity, and the unwavering trust of our donors and partners. During the year, Jan Mitra Nyas successfully implemented:

- **CRY-supported maternal, child, and adolescent health interventions** across 50 villages in Varanasi, resulting in improved antenatal care, reduced malnutrition, strengthened VHNDs, and restored nutrition entitlements for hundreds of children.

- **UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture—supported psycho-legal rehabilitation**, reaching **142 survivors (105% of target)** through testimonial therapy, legal aid, medical support, and community empowerment.
- **IRCT-supported holistic rehabilitation through livelihoods**, recognised as **best practice** in the IRCT Final Evaluation for integrating testimonial therapy, psychosocial care, and economic restoration.
- **Public health and nutrition advocacy**, supported by the **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and Global Health Advocacy Incubator**, culminating in the historic **Patna Declaration** on Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL), endorsed across political parties.
- **Shiksha Plus adult literacy programme**, implemented with the support of the **Shiv Nadar Foundation**, empowering **918 adult learners—96% women—**through ICT-enabled education, health integration, and community participation.
- **Scholarship and education support**, made possible by **Ms. Parul Sharma and donors from Sweden**, ensuring that girls and children from ultra-poor families continued their education without interruption.

Our work during the year was strengthened by partnerships with **CRY – Child Rights and You, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, IRCT, Shiv Nadar Foundation, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Online Giving Foundation, individual donors, and community volunteers**. Each partnership represented not only financial support, but shared values of justice, accountability, and dignity.

The organisation’s financial position remained **stable, transparent, and fully compliant**, with audited accounts reflecting sound governance, adequate liquidity, and strict adherence to donor and statutory requirements. This financial discipline ensured that resources were used efficiently and ethically for the communities we serve.

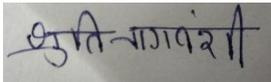
Recognition received during 2024–25—nationally and internationally—belongs not to individuals alone, but to **survivors who spoke truth to power, women who led change, children who reclaimed health and education, and communities who organised collectively**. These acknowledgements reaffirm that **grassroots action can shape national policy and global discourse**.

As Chief Functionary, I reaffirm my commitment to **ethical leadership, transparency, survivor-centred practice, and institutional resilience**. Jan Mitra Nyas will continue to strengthen systems, nurture collective leadership, and stand unwaveringly with those at the margins.

Our journey ahead remains guided by a simple conviction:

Lasting social change emerges when survivors lead, communities participate, and institutions are held accountable.

With gratitude and resolve,



Shruti Nagvanshi

Chief Functionary & Managing Trustee

Jan Mitra Nyas

From the Margins to the Heart of Democracy

Born on the soil of Varanasi, **Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)** represents a powerful voice that has grown from the margins of society to become a vital force in strengthening democracy and justice in India. For more than two decades, JMN has worked relentlessly with marginalized and excluded communities, enabling them to claim **justice, dignity, and self-reliance**.

At its core, JMN believes that democracy is not limited to casting votes during elections. True democracy is realized when every individual—regardless of caste, class, gender, or social status—can live with dignity, access justice, and participate meaningfully in public life.

Our Vision of Justice and Democracy

JMN's work is rooted in the understanding that **social transformation begins at the grassroots**. Through community-based initiatives, legal awareness, rights education, and collective action, the organization has supported thousands of families in asserting their rights against exploitation, discrimination, and injustice.

From rural villages to urban settlements, JMN has consistently focused on:

- Strengthening access to justice for marginalized communities
- Promoting dignity, self-confidence, and leadership among the oppressed
- Supporting children's education, health, and protection
- Advocating for human rights through dialogue, documentation, and democratic engagement

Impact That Extends Beyond Numbers

Over the years, JMN's interventions have touched the lives of tens of thousands of people—freeing bonded laborers, supporting survivors of violence, enabling children to return to school, and amplifying community voices at local, national, and international platforms. These efforts have not only improved individual lives but have also contributed to a broader culture of **accountability, rights, and participatory democracy**.

Looking Ahead

The year **2024–2025** reaffirmed JMN's commitment to building an inclusive society where justice is not a privilege but a right. As this Annual Report documents, our journey continues with renewed resolve—to stand with the marginalized, to challenge injustice, and to strengthen democracy from the ground up.

Jan Mitra Nyas remains committed to empowering communities and advancing dignity—today and for generations to come.



Hindustan. (2025, December 24). *Jan Mitra Nyas: From the voice of the marginalized to the heartbeat of democracy* [Hindi newspaper article]. Hindustan (Varanasi ed.), p. 5.

Jan Mitra Nyas: From the Voice of the Marginalized to the Heartbeat of Democracy

A detailed feature on **Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)** was published on **page 5 of Hindustan**—one of India's leading Hindi newspapers—on **24 December 2025**. The article traces the journey of Jan Mitra Nyas from its grassroots origins in Varanasi to its present role as a nationally recognized platform for justice, dignity, and democratic participation.

Rooted in Varanasi, Reaching the Nation

The report highlights that Jan Mitra Nyas emerged from the social realities of Varanasi, one of India's oldest cities, where deep-rooted inequalities of caste, class, and gender continue to marginalize large sections of society. Over the last two decades, JMN has worked consistently with communities living on the margins—Dalits, Adivasis, women, children, and informal workers—helping them assert their rights and reclaim their dignity.

The newspaper emphasizes that JMN's work is not charity-driven but **rights-based**, grounded in the belief that democracy must be experienced in everyday life, not only during elections.

Democracy Beyond the Ballot

According to the article, Jan Mitra Nyas defines democracy as more than the act of voting. For JMN, democracy means ensuring:

- Access to justice for the poorest and most excluded
- Dignity and self-respect for marginalized communities
- Opportunities for education, health, and livelihood
- Collective participation in decision-making

The feature notes that JMN has played a critical role in spreading legal awareness, strengthening community leadership, and building confidence among people who have historically been denied a voice.

Justice, Education, and Social Transformation

The report documents JMN's interventions across multiple sectors, including:

- **Access to justice:** Supporting victims of exploitation, violence, and discrimination to approach legal and administrative systems
- **Bonded labor and livelihoods:** Assisting families trapped in debt bondage and informal exploitation to regain freedom and economic independence
- **Education:** Enabling thousands of children from marginalized communities to access schooling and prevent child labor
- **Health and nutrition:** Supporting community-level awareness and access to essential services

The newspaper highlights that JMN's approach combines **community mobilization, legal advocacy, and public dialogue**, ensuring that change is sustainable and locally rooted.

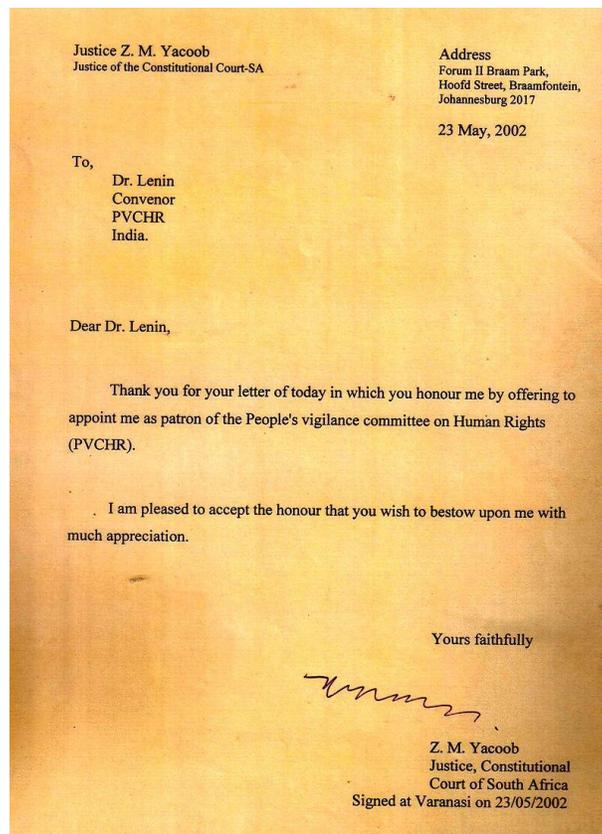
National and International Recognition

The article also notes that the work of Jan Mitra Nyas and its leadership has received recognition beyond the local context. JMN's engagement with national institutions and international platforms has helped amplify grassroots voices and bring attention to systemic injustices faced by marginalized communities in India.

A Movement of Hope

In conclusion, the *Hindustan* feature describes Jan Mitra Nyas as a **movement of hope** in an era marked by inequality and social polarization. By standing with the most excluded and transforming individual struggles into collective action, JMN continues to contribute to the strengthening of democracy and social justice in India.

The article affirms that Jan Mitra Nyas is not only addressing immediate injustices but is also helping shape a vision of an inclusive and dignified society—where democracy is lived, practiced, and defended every day.



Patron of PVCHR

Justice Z. M. (Zak) Yacoob
Former Judge, Constitutional Court of South Africa
Former Chancellor, University of Durban, South Africa

The **People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)**—an initiative promoted and nurtured by **Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)**—is honored to have **Justice Z. M. (Zak) Yacoob** as its Patron.

Justice Yacoob is an internationally respected jurist and human rights advocate, best known for his tenure as a Judge of the **Constitutional Court of South Africa**, where he played a pivotal role in shaping constitutional jurisprudence rooted in equality, dignity, and social justice. Blind since childhood, his life and work stand as a powerful testament to resilience, ethical leadership, and unwavering commitment to human rights.

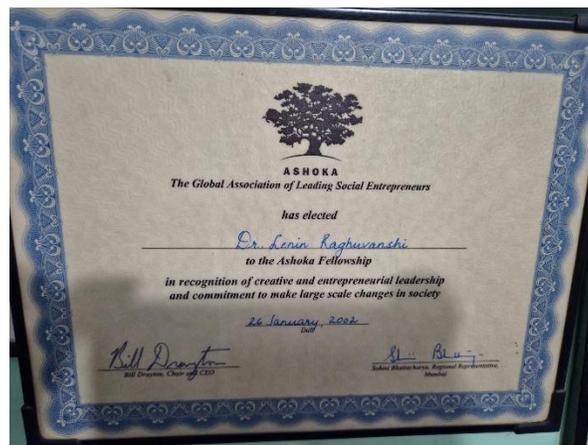
In a letter dated **23 May 2002**, Justice Yacoob formally accepted the invitation to serve as Patron of PVCHR, expressing his appreciation and support for the organization’s mission to uphold human dignity and justice. His association with PVCHR has provided profound moral legitimacy and global perspective to its grassroots human rights work in India.

As Patron, Justice Yacoob symbolizes PVCHR’s commitment to **constitutional values, accountability, and the universality of human rights**, bridging struggles for justice across the Global South. His guidance and solidarity continue to inspire PVCHR and Jan Mitra Nyas in their efforts to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and strengthen democratic practice at the grassroots.

Leadership Transition, Ethical Legacy, and Organisational Continuity

Foundational Leadership and Contribution

The organisation’s growth and credibility are deeply rooted in the ethical leadership and personal contributions of **Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi**, Founder-Convenor of the People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and Senior Advisor to Jan Mitra Nyas.



*Ashoka Fellowship Certificate awarded to **Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi** in 2002, recognizing his creative and entrepreneurial leadership and lifelong commitment to large-scale social change, human rights, and non-violent justice.*

For more details on his life, work, and contributions, visit:

👉 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenin_Raghuvanshi

When Mr. Raghuvanshi was elected as an **Ashoka Fellow in 2002**, he made a defining decision that shaped the organisation's values: he **donated the entire first fellowship amount** to strengthen grassroots human rights work rather than using it for personal benefit. He has continued to serve the movement **pro bono**, providing strategic guidance, mentorship, and international representation without remuneration.

Equally foundational was the contribution of his family. **His mother provided free space for the organisation's first office**, converting a personal family resource into a public institution for justice, dialogue, and non-violence. These acts of sacrifice and solidarity laid the moral and material foundation for PVCHR and Jan Mitra Nyas to evolve into nationally and internationally recognised human rights institutions.

Transparent Update on Leadership Change

In the interest of transparency and responsible governance, the organisation records that **Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi resigned from his executive roles on 22 March 2024** due to serious health concerns following **ICU treatment for post-COVID complications**. The decision was taken to prioritise medical recovery while safeguarding organisational stability and accountability.

This transition reflects continuity of values rather than withdrawal from public life. Mr. Raghuvanshi continues to remain associated with the movement in an advisory and mentoring capacity, consistent with his long-standing pro bono commitment.

Interim Management and Board Oversight

Following the resignation, the **Governing Board activated interim management arrangements** to ensure smooth operations. Senior programme staff assumed operational responsibilities under enhanced Board supervision. The Board increased the frequency of review and compliance meetings, ensured clear approval mechanisms, and maintained oversight on finance, safeguarding, and statutory obligations.

This governance response ensured that leadership transition did not affect decision-making integrity or organisational accountability.

Programmatic Continuation and Compliance

All programmes continued **without interruption** during the transition period. Donor commitments, statutory compliance, financial controls, audits, and reporting obligations were fully honoured. Safeguarding, risk management, and ethical standards remained central to implementation, reflecting the organisation's institutional maturity and distributed leadership model.

Transition Planning, Recovery, and Organisational Strengthening

The leadership transition period was also used for **internal reflection and strengthening**. Roles were clarified, responsibilities redistributed, and systems reviewed to reduce over-dependence on individuals and reinforce collective leadership. These steps strengthened resilience, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

As Mr. Raghuvanshi continues his recovery, the organisation moves forward grounded in the values he helped establish—**service over self, collective ownership, ethical leadership, and commitment to justice and dignity**.

This transition demonstrates that the organisation is **institution-led rather than individual-dependent**, capable of adapting responsibly to change while remaining anchored in its mission. The legacy of contribution, sacrifice, and ethical leadership continues to guide its work, ensuring continuity, credibility, and confidence among communities, partners, and donors.

Strengthening Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Systems

Supported by CRY – Child Rights and You

Implemented by Jan Mitra Nyas

Project Period: 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Location: Varanasi District, Uttar Pradesh

1. Executive Summary

With the support of **CRY**, Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN) worked across **50 villages, 4 rural blocks, and 1 urban settlement** in Varanasi to ensure **equitable access to health, nutrition, and child protection services** for the most marginalized communities—primarily Musahar, Dalit, migrant, and urban poor families.

Key results achieved during the year:

- **484 Village Health & Nutrition Days (VHNDs)** conducted (81% of annual target)
- **205 live births** supported with improved maternal and newborn care
- **393 children immunized**, ensuring near-universal vaccination coverage
- **128 severely underweight children** enrolled in structured nutrition care
- **166 children moved from Moderate Malnutrition to Normal**

- **335 children regained access to government nutrition entitlements** through advocacy
- **232 women registered in the first trimester**, enabling early ANC and risk detection
- **Health facilities reactivated** through sustained system-level advocacy

This intervention demonstrates how **community-led monitoring combined with policy advocacy** can deliver sustainable improvements in child and maternal health outcomes.



Children and community members from a marginalized settlement in Varanasi gather for a candlelight march, reaffirming their collective commitment to child rights, safety, and dignity. The event symbolizes hope, awareness, and solidarity for a future where every child's right to health, education, and protection is upheld.

2. Program Context and Rationale

The project area is characterized by:

- High rates of **maternal anemia and child malnutrition**
- Weak last-mile delivery of public health services
- Understaffed and dysfunctional health facilities
- Exclusion of migrant and marginalized families from entitlements

CRY's support enabled JMN to move beyond service delivery to **system correction**, ensuring that public institutions function as intended for children and women.



Community members participate in a theatre-based workshop organized by Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN) with support from CRY (Child Rights and You), using participatory theatre as a tool to build awareness on child rights, education, and social issues through dialogue and collective reflection.

3. Program Reach

Category	Coverage
Villages covered	50
Pregnant women tracked	313
Lactating mothers	256
Children (0–36 months)	963
Adolescent girls	657
Migrant families (brick kilns)	280

4. Key Impact Areas

A. Maternal Health: Saving Lives Through Early Action

What Changed

- **74% of pregnant women registered in the first trimester**
- **55 High-Risk Pregnancies (HRP) identified early**
- **37 HRP cases successfully referred and treated**
- **149 institutional deliveries** in government hospitals



Adolescent girls and women actively participate in a Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND), engaging with frontline health workers on nutrition, anemia prevention, maternal care, and adolescent health. The session strengthens awareness, access to services, and community ownership of health and nutrition rights.

Why It Matters

Early registration and HRP management directly reduced maternal and neonatal risk, especially in Musahar and migrant communities where home deliveries were previously common.

CRY's support enabled: consistent tracking, counselling, referral coordination, and accountability of health providers.

B. Newborn and Child Health: Closing Survival Gaps

Measurable Outcomes

- **320 mothers received PNC within 24 hours**
- **301 newborns breastfed within 1 hour of birth**
- **393 children immunized**
- **8 critically malnourished children treated at NRC**

Impact

Improved postnatal care and immunization coverage contributed to **reduced preventable illness and child deaths**, especially in high-risk habitations.

C. Nutrition: Reversing Malnutrition Trends

Child Nutrition Outcomes

- **128 Severe Underweight (SUW)** children received individualized care
- **376 Moderate Underweight (MUW)** children monitored
- **Growth movement achieved:**
 - SUW → MUW: 62 children
 - MUW → Normal: 166 children

Systemic Breakthrough

- **472 children denied double ration** identified
- Advocacy with District Administration, ICDS, and Child Rights Commissions
- **335 children restored to nutrition entitlements**

➔ **This represents structural impact beyond individual beneficiaries.**

D. Adolescent Girls: Addressing the Anemia Crisis

Key Results

- **657 adolescent girls screened for hemoglobin**
- **54 severe anemia cases identified**
- **450 girls received iron supplementation**
- Menstrual hygiene education and sanitary pad access ensured

Outcome

Post-intervention testing showed **measurable hemoglobin improvement**, reducing future maternal risk and improving school participation.



A Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN) counsellor conducts a blood pressure check for a high-risk pregnant woman at a community health centre, supported by CRY (Child Rights and You). The session highlights early risk identification, continuous monitoring, and strengthened access to maternal healthcare for marginalized women.

E. Strengthening Public Health Systems (Beyond Service Delivery)

CRY's support enabled JMN to function as a **system watchdog**:

Institutional Changes Achieved

- Reactivation of **Health & Wellness Centers**
- Posting of **ANM/CHO staff** after long vacancies
- Renovation and equipment provision in sub-centres
- Functional **VHSNC bank accounts** and utilization of funds

Why This Matters

These changes ensure **long-term access to services**, even beyond the project cycle.

F. Migrant and Brick Kiln Families: Reaching the Unreached

- **25 brick kilns covered**
- **11 VHND points activated near worksites**
- Pregnant migrant women linked to ANC and emergency referrals
- Seasonal disease prevention campaigns conducted

➔ This intervention reduced **exclusion due to mobility**, a critical child rights concern.



Children and adolescents participate in a life skills session organized by Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN) with support from CRY (Child Rights and You), building confidence, teamwork, communication, and leadership through interactive activities in the community.

5. Child Survival Impact (High-Risk Villages)

In **14 high-risk villages**, child and infant deaths reduced significantly between 2022–2024 due to:

- Improved ANC and institutional delivery
- Nutrition support and kitchen gardens
- Community awareness and timely referrals

Several villages reported **zero child deaths in 2024** after years of repeated loss.

6. Value Addition of CRY's Support

CRY's partnership enabled:

- Rights-based interventions instead of short-term relief
- Focus on **most excluded children**
- Evidence-driven engagement with government systems
- Sustainable, scalable impact beyond direct beneficiaries



Pregnant and lactating women receive Take Home Ration (THR) at an Anganwadi centre as part of nutrition support facilitated by Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN) with support from CRY (Child Rights and You), ensuring improved maternal nutrition and healthy child development.

7. Key Learning

When communities are empowered to demand services, and systems are held accountable, child health outcomes improve sustainably.

8. Way Forward (2025–26)

- Deepen adolescent anemia reduction strategy
- Expand community-based nutrition models
- Strengthen migrant child protection linkages
- Scale system accountability mechanisms

Jan Mitra Nyas expresses deep gratitude to **CRY** for standing with marginalized children and families. This partnership has not only improved health indicators—it has **restored dignity, rights, and trust in public systems**.

Story 1: Saving Two Lives Through Timely Maternal Care

From High Risk to Safe Motherhood

Chanda, a pregnant woman from a Musahar settlement in Varanasi, developed severe fever and breathing difficulty late at night. Her family first took her to a nearby private clinic that lacked proper facilities. As her condition worsened, both her life and her unborn child were at serious risk.

Through regular pregnancy tracking under the CRY-supported program, a Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN) counsellor was alerted at around 3:00 a.m. Recognizing danger signs of a **high-risk pregnancy**, the counsellor intervened immediately, ensured Chanda was taken to a government Primary Health Centre, and escalated the case to senior health officials when treatment was delayed.

Chanda was referred to a higher facility and received timely treatment. **Both mother and baby survived.**

“We would not have survived without this support. Now we trust government hospitals,” said her family.

SDG Alignment

- **SDG 3.1** – Reduce maternal mortality
- **SDG 3.2** – End preventable newborn deaths
- **SDG 10.2** – Promote social inclusion of marginalized communities

Story 2: Beating Malnutrition – One Child at a Time

A Child’s Journey from Severe Underweight to Healthy Growth

Ravi (name changed), a two-year-old child from a Musahar basti, was identified as **Severely Underweight (SUW)** during routine growth monitoring. His family struggled with food insecurity, irregular ration supply, and limited awareness about child nutrition.

JMN enrolled Ravi in a **community-based malnutrition care plan** supported by CRY. His mother received regular counselling on breastfeeding, complementary feeding, hygiene practices, and was linked to Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs). At the same time, JMN advocated with ICDS officials to restore the family’s **double nutrition entitlement**, which had been denied earlier.

Within months:

- Ravi moved from **SUW to Moderate Underweight**, and later to **Normal**
- His weight and immunity improved
- His mother became an active participant in VHND sessions

Today, Ravi is a healthy, active child—no longer at risk of life-threatening malnutrition.

SDG Alignment

- **SDG 2.2** – End all forms of malnutrition
- **SDG 3.2** – End preventable deaths of children under five

- **SDG 1.3** – Access to social protection systems

Story 3: Restoring Childhood Through Social Protection

How Sponsorship Helped Two Children Stay in School

Seema, a widowed mother from Harhua block, struggled to raise her two school-going children after her husband's death. With a monthly income of barely ₹3,000 from daily wage work, the family often faced hunger, debt, and the risk of school dropout.

JMN identified the family and supported them in accessing **child sponsorship support** under CRY-linked mechanisms. Both children received financial assistance, which Seema used to buy:

- School uniforms, books, and bags
- Bicycles, allowing her children to travel safely to school 4 km away

“Earlier my children walked long distances and missed school. Now they go together every day,” Seema shared.

The children's school attendance improved, household debt reduced, and the family regained dignity and stability.

SDG Alignment

- **SDG 1.2** – Reduce poverty among vulnerable families
- **SDG 4.1** – Ensure access to quality education
- **SDG 8.7** – Prevent child labour by strengthening family income security

Empowering Healthier Choices: Advocating for Effective Front-of-Package Labels on Ultra-Processed Foods in India

During the reporting period, Jan Mitra Nyas implemented an intensive, multi-state advocacy initiative to promote **mandatory warning-label Front-of-Package Labelling (FOPL)** on ultra-processed foods in India. The project responded to the alarming rise of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**—including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases—driven by increased consumption of foods high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats, particularly among children and adolescents.

The advocacy strategy combined **political engagement, public mobilization, civil society coalition-building, media advocacy, and institutional accountability mechanisms**. Registered advocacy letters were sent to all national and regional political parties using **NFHS evidence** to highlight India's double burden of malnutrition. A historic **Public Dialogue on FOPL** held in Patna resulted in the **Patna Declaration**, endorsed by

all political parties in Bihar, committing to warning-label FOPL and its inclusion in election manifestos.

Significant political traction was achieved through direct engagement with Members of Parliament and Legislative Councils. Parliamentary interventions included formal letters to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare and questions raised in the Rajya Sabha. Advocacy with statutory institutions resulted in the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** issuing a notice to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), directing it to explain delays in implementing effective food labelling regulations.

A robust media and communications campaign amplified the advocacy message nationwide, reaching millions through print, digital, television, and social media platforms. These efforts collectively repositioned FOPL as a **child rights, public health, and consumer protection issue**, strengthening accountability and advancing the policy discourse toward regulatory reform.



16 February 2024

Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi, Chief Functionary/CEO
JanMitra Nyas
SA 4/2 A Daulatpur
Varanasi, 221002

Re: INDIA-IR-43 Grant Closeout Confirmation

Dear Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshi:

Thank you for completing your project entitled, "Consolidating collective voices for strong FoPL regulation to protect child and maternal health," during the time period of October 01, 2022 to September 30, 2023 granted in the amount of \$62,030 through the Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund (TFKAF) Global Health Advocacy Incubator, a program of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) and Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund (TFKAF). This letter confirms that all necessary documentation & requirements are fulfilled towards TFKAF under this grant.

Our organization is pleased to assist you with your important work to improve cardiovascular health. If you wish to request technical assistance in areas such as communications, research, laws or advocacy, please contact the grants unit Program Officer with whom you worked during the course of your grant. In addition, please visit our website at www.tobaccofreekids.org/advocacy-tools for useful advocacy tools.

Our organization stands ready to continue to assist you in the important work that you are doing under your current grant INDIA-RIIR-43 to improve cardiovascular health. Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund would like to recognize, congratulate and sincerely thank JanMitra Nyas for its work, dedication and accomplishments on Resolve to Save Lives.

Thank you again for your time, effort and commitment to building a healthier and safer world.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Coffey', is placed above the typed name.

Pamela Sumner Coffey
Vice President, Global Operations

WWW.ADVOCACYINCUBATOR.ORG

Grant closeout confirmation letter issued by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) and Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund (TFKAF), recognizing the successful completion of Jan Mitra Nyas's project on strengthening Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL) regulations to protect child and maternal health in India.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. **Strengthen political support** for effective warning-label FOPL
2. **Enhance public support** for mandatory FOPL by mobilizing voices from strategic states
3. **Engage SME industry associations** to build dialogue on warning-label FOPL adoption
4. **Implement a comprehensive communications campaign** to advance FOPL advocacy



Political leaders, civil society representatives, and public health advocates come together at the Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Patna, during a significant public dialogue to endorse the Patna Declaration, collectively demanding strong warning-label Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL) to address non-communicable diseases, malnutrition, and protect children's health.

For more details, visit:

👉 <https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/2024/02/on-february-7-2024-in-patna-significant.html>

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS ON WORK PLAN

Objective 1: Strengthening Political Support for Effective Warning-Label FOPL

Key Activities & Progress

- Conducted **regular meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs), MLAs, and political leaders** across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand
- Engaged **seven MPs**, including newly inducted members, through in-person and virtual consultations
- Facilitated parliamentary advocacy resulting in:
 - Letters to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare**
 - Questions raised in the **Rajya Sabha** on food safety and public health
- **JanMitra Samman Award** conferred on Prof. Sanjay Paswan (MLC, Bihar) for leadership on FOPL and social justice
- Continuous engagement with **political think tanks and Legislative Council members**
- Strengthened policy credibility through appointment of **Lenin Raghuvanshi as Honorary Visiting Senior Fellow at IMPRI**, enabling evidence-based policy dialogue

Outcome:

FOPL gained recognition as a legislative priority linked to children's health, NCD prevention, and consumer rights.

Objective 2: Enhancing Public Support through Strategic Mobilization

Key Activities

- Registered advocacy letters sent to **all national and regional political parties**, citing NFHS data
- Dissemination of the **Patna Declaration** to seven political parties
- **Public Dialogue on FOPL – Patna (7 February 2024)**
 - Venue: Kasturba Gandhi Assembly Hall, Gandhi Museum
 - Participation: 85 representatives from CSOs, political parties, academia, and health experts

- Coalition partners included PVCHR, PIPAL, All India Hawkers Forum, Bandi Adhikar Andolan, and Indian Roti Bank

Major Outcomes

- **Unanimous endorsement of the Patna Declaration** by all political parties in Bihar
- Policy commitments highlighted:
 - **DMK Nutrition Guarantee Scheme** – 74% reduction in nutritional deficiencies
 - **Congress commitment** to extend the Mid-Day Meal Scheme up to Class XII
 - **CPIM advocacy** for increased ICDS and MDM funding

Grassroots Mobilization

- **Sankalp Yatra for Health Protection** conducted across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand
 - Over **1,000 participants**, including parents, teachers, ICDS workers, and community leaders
- District-level engagements with CSOs, law universities, PTAs, and private medical practitioners
- Awareness sessions on NCDs, hypertension, and misleading food marketing

Objective 3: Engagement with SME Industry Associations

Progress

- Initial engagement with **MSME leadership**, including meetings with the Chairperson, MSME
- Dialogue initiated on nutrition profile models, regulatory timelines, and consumer transparency
- Recognized challenges due to industry resistance; groundwork laid for continued engagement

Objective 4: Comprehensive Communications & Media Campaign

Media & Communication Achievements

- **12 major media events** organized

- **10 high-impact publications** (Op-eds + campaign messages)
- **44.2K social media reach** through influencer recognition
- **304K views** on BBC Hindi coverage
- Coverage across:
 - National & regional print media
 - Digital platforms and YouTube
 - Television interviews

Key Communication Tools

- Op-eds on ultra-processed foods, mental health, NCDs, and misleading food labels
- Campaign messages on World Heart Day, World Hypertension Day, Republic Day
- Media workshops for journalists in Uttarakhand
- Recognition of public health advocates through **Jan Swasthya Mitra Samman**

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Historic Patna Declaration** endorsed by all political parties in Bihar
2. **NHRC intervention** directing FSSAI to explain delays in food labelling reform
3. **National media traction** positioning FOPL as a child rights and public health priority

CHALLENGES & MITIGATION

Challenges

- Resistance from large food corporations
- Regulatory delays and extended compliance timelines
- Financial strain due to FCRA renewal challenges

Mitigation

- Sustained advocacy using domestic resources
- Strengthened alliances with CSOs, health experts, and media

- Continued engagement with constitutional and statutory bodies

This reporting period demonstrates that **strategic, rights-based advocacy can influence public health policy discourse**. Jan Mitra Nyas successfully elevated Front-of-Package Labelling from a technical regulatory issue to a **national conversation on child health, nutrition justice, and consumer rights**. While regulatory reform remains ongoing, the project has laid strong political, social, and institutional foundations for mandatory warning-label FOPL in India.

For More Details and Supporting Documentation, Please Visit the Following Links:

Readers may refer to the links below for **detailed reports, policy analysis, media coverage, advocacy updates, and thematic documentation** related to Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), nutrition, and public health advocacy undertaken by Jan Mitra Nyas:

- **Project documentation and advocacy updates:**
<https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/>
- **Advancing Public Health and Nutrition – PVCHR’s successes aligned with Fit India:**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290/advancing-public-health-and-nutrition-pvchrs-successes-in-line-with-fit-india-80f61ef92c43
- **Pandit Nanhku Maharaj Memorial Dialogue – Public Health & Social Justice:**
<https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/2024/11/pandit-nanhku-maharaj-memorial-fourth.html>
- **Ensuring Public Health: NHRC’s Ongoing Interventions on Food Labelling:**
<https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/2024/11/ensuring-public-health-nhrccs-ongoing.html>
- **The Hidden Threat of Ultra-Processed Foods:**
<https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/2024/12/the-hidden-threat-of-ultraprocessed.html>
- **Awareness Initiatives on Unregulated Ultra-Processed Foods and NCDs:**
<https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/2024/10/awareness-initiatives-on-unregulated.html>

Promoting a Psycho-Legal Framework to Reduce Torture and Other Violence (TOV) in India

Project Information

- **Project Code:** 993-DA-2
- **Project Title:** Promoting Psycho-Legal Framework to Reduce Torture and Other Violence (TOV) in India
- **Supported by:** United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)
- **Implemented by:** Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)
- **Partner Organization:** People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)
- **Country of Implementation:** India
- **Project Location:** Varanasi and surrounding districts
- **Year of Implementation:** 2024
- **Type of Project:** Direct Assistance

1. Executive Summary

In 2024, Jan Mitra Nyas, in partnership with PVCHR and with the support of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, implemented a survivor-centred psycho-legal intervention model to address torture and other forms of violence in India. Despite severe operational challenges—most notably the denial of FCRA renewal in March 2024—the project not only continued uninterrupted but exceeded its planned targets.

A total of **142 survivors of torture** were supported against a planned target of 135 (105% achievement). The project combined **psychosocial rehabilitation, testimonial therapy, legal aid, medical support, community mobilization, and institutional advocacy**, establishing a nationally recognized best-practice model in a non-UNCAT context.

2. Context and Rationale

India continues to face systemic challenges related to custodial violence, police brutality, and impunity, compounded by the absence of ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT). Victims—primarily from marginalized communities—experience physical, psychological, and socio-economic consequences that require integrated, long-term support.

This project responds to these realities by positioning torture rehabilitation as both a **human rights obligation** and a **public health priority**, aligned with:

- **SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-being
- **SDG 10:** Reduced Inequalities
- **SDG 16:** Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

3. Project Objectives

- Provide holistic psycho-legal rehabilitation to survivors of torture and other violence
- Strengthen survivor dignity and agency through testimonial therapy
- Facilitate legal redress, compensation, and institutional accountability
- Build community-based resilience and survivor support networks
- Advocate for systemic reforms and alignment with international human rights standards

4. Beneficiaries Reached

Quantitative Overview

- **Planned beneficiaries:** 135
- **Victims effectively assisted:** 142
 - **Male:** 77
 - **Female:** 65

Target Groups

- Indigenous communities: 71
- Human rights defenders and journalists: 28
- Lower caste communities: 26
- Religious and linguistic minorities: 14

Context of Torture

- Law-enforcement related violence: 135 cases
- Places of detention: 5 cases
- Healthcare institutions: 2 cases

5. Assistance Provided

a. Psychological Support

- Testimonial therapy delivered to all 142 survivors
- **131 Honor Ceremonies** (123 individual, 8 group)
- Enabled survivors to reclaim dignity, reduce trauma, and contribute to advocacy
- **Detailed report:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/01/the-healing-power-of-collective.html>

b. Legal Assistance

- **14 court cases** pursued
- **160 meta-legal interventions** with police, administration, and NHRC
- **₹72,75,000 (approx. USD 88,400)** secured as compensation
- **Case documentation:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/01/fighting-torture-and-custodial-violence.html>

c. Medical Support

- **9 health camps** organized in Musahar settlements
- Medicines, inhalers, supplements, and wound care provided
- **Health camp report:**

<https://testimonialhealing.blogspot.com/2025/01/report-on-health-camp-for-survivors-of.html>

d. Social & Community Support

- **42 Folk School events** across 30+ locations
- **1,401 participants** (56.3% women)
- Issues addressed: police torture, women's rights, livelihoods, legal literacy
- **Details:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/01/empowering-communities-insights-from.html>

6. Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME)

Between **May and December 2024**, multiple PME sessions were conducted, involving 12–14 staff members each time. These sessions:

- Reviewed progress against indicators
- Strengthened testimonial therapy methodology
- Built staff capacity on SDGs, resilience, and financial management
- Documented the project as a **best-practice rehabilitation model**

Key PME outcomes confirmed:

- Continuity of services despite zero-salary periods
- Increased community ownership
- Strengthened survivor trust and engagement

7. Challenges and Adaptive Strategies

Major Challenges

- **Denial of FCRA renewal (March 2024)**
- Suspension of foreign fund inflows
- Staff financial hardship and resignations

Mitigation Measures

- Shift to **FCRA-exempt UN funding mechanisms**
- Domestic donations and CSR partnerships
- Pro-bono legal and medical services
- Volunteer-led community outreach

This resilience ensured **zero service disruption**.

8. Financial Overview (UNVFVT Grant)

- **Total project budget:** USD 51,676
- **UNVFVT grant:** USD 31,000
- **Amount spent:** USD 30,902
- **Variance:** USD -98

Highest allocation:

- Psychological support: **54.1%**
- Administration: **13.4%**
- Social support: **12.3%**

9. Key Achievements

- 105% target achievement despite funding crisis
- NHRC interventions leading to accountability and protection
- Compensation secured for survivors
- Recognition as a **national model for torture rehabilitation**
- Strengthened international advocacy linkages

The 2024 project cycle demonstrates that **commitment, community solidarity, and survivor-centred approaches can overcome structural and financial barriers**. Jan Mitra Nyas successfully delivered holistic rehabilitation, advanced justice, and strengthened dignity for survivors of torture—setting a benchmark for human rights work in challenging legal environments.

For More Details and Public Documentation, Please Visit:

- **Project Knowledge Hub:**
<https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/>
- **Testimonial Healing & PME Reports:**
<https://testimonialhealing.blogspot.com/>
- **Advocacy & Publications:**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290

For More Details and Photographic Documentation, Please Visit the Following Links:

Readers may refer to the links below for **in-depth narratives, photographs, analysis, recognitions, academic engagements, and public discourse** related to community empowerment, human rights advocacy, torture rehabilitation, and institutional accountability:

- **Empowering Communities: Shruti Nagvanshi Wins the 2024 Great Companies International Women Award**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290/empowering-communities-shruti-nagvanshi-wins-the-2024-great-companies-international-women-d7bb53b4a633
- **Academic Visit Strengthens Human Rights Dialogue Between Shoolini University and PVCHR**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290/academic-visit-strengthens-human-rights-dialogue-between-shoolini-university-and-pvchr-0cac05c56216
- **Holistic Rehabilitation for Torture Survivors: Empowerment and Resilience Through Integrated Support**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290/holistic-rehabilitation-for-torture-survivors-empowerment-and-resilience-through-integrated-59b5f201589a
- **Inger Agger: A Life of Compassion, Resilience, and Transformation**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290/inger-agger-a-life-of-compassion-resilience-and-transformation-681b237635a7
- **Celebrating Farhat: A Life of Service, Compassion, and Resilience**
https://medium.com/@lenin_75290/celebrating-farhat-a-life-of-service-compassion-and-resilience-9e63fe784b07
- **Leonardo Verzaro: An Anthropologist's Journey into Transformation and Humanity**
https://medium.com/@shruti_25784/leonardo-verzaro-an-anthropologists-journey-into-transformation-and-humanity-83cb1e69aa0d
- **The National Human Rights Commission's Vigilance: A Beacon of Hope Amidst Police Brutality**
https://medium.com/@shruti_25784/the-national-human-rights-commissions-vigilance-a-beacon-of-hope-amidst-police-brutality-ed7b30688bcb
- **Human Rights in Limbo: Missing Leadership Across India's Commissions**
<https://www.newslaundry.com/2024/12/10/no-permanent-chairpersons-missing-officials-human-rights-in-limbo-in-50-of-indias-commissions>
- **Lenin Raghuvanshi in the Spectrum: A Philosophical Lens on Justice and Social Change**
<https://medium.com/@drbahadursinghyadav/lenin-raghuvanshi-in-the-spectrum-a-philosophical-lens-on-justice-and-social-change-2c57ee195bc6>
- **Inspiring the Change: Lenin Raghuvanshi and Shruti Nagvanshi Receive the Distinguished Rex Award**
<https://medium.com/@drbahadursinghyadav/inspiring-the-change-lenin-raghuvanshi-and-shruti-nagvanshi-receive-the-distinguished-rex-255dd01e5616>

- **The Foundation of Jan Mitra Nyas: A Legacy of Family, Friends, and Philanthropy**
<https://medium.com/@drbahadursinghyadav/the-foundation-of-janmitra-nyas-a-legacy-of-family-friends-and-philanthropy-3ece9031b294>
- **From Personal to Collective Liberation: Leonardo Vergaro's Study**
<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2025/01/from-personal-to-collective-liberation-leonardo-vergaros-study/>
- **A Memoir by Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi**
<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2024/05/a-memoir-by-dr-lenin-raghuvanshi/>





Jan Mitra Nyas and PVCHR team members participate in planning, review, and coordination meetings as part of the UN-supported project on promoting a psycho-legal framework to address torture and other violence. These sessions focused on case reviews, survivor support strategies, legal follow-ups, psychosocial interventions, monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening collective action to ensure dignity, justice, and rehabilitation for survivors of torture and custodial violence.

Education, Justice, and Dignity: Transforming Lives Through Scholarships and Rights-Based Support (2024–25)

1. Overview

During the reporting year, **Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)** in collaboration with the **People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)** continued its commitment to **education, justice, and dignity** for marginalized children and families in Varanasi and surrounding areas. Through **scholarships, legal aid, psychosocial support, and survivor-centred advocacy**, the organisation supported families facing **poverty, injustice, disability, gender discrimination, and state violence**.

These interventions were made possible through the compassionate support of **Ms. Parul Sharma and donors from Sweden**, whose sustained partnership ensured that no child's education stopped due to poverty or injustice.

2. Key Outcomes at a Glance

- **Girls supported through scholarships:** 10+ (school to university level)
- **Families supported:** Widowed, disabled, wrongly incarcerated, and ultra-poor households
- **Education levels covered:** Intermediate, Bachelor's, Master's
- **Additional support:** Bicycles, mentoring, legal advocacy, counselling
- **Core themes:**
 - Education as empowerment
 - Justice and rehabilitation
 - Gender equality
 - Inter-generational resilience

Standing strong against the odds

Akanksha Sarraff

At the age of 15 she silently protested for child marriage and set up an example for the society. Her intense eyes have the spark to fight against all the evils of society.

Meet Chanda Rajbhar, a Banarasi bala who shot to fame when she protested against child marriage and is now leading Munshi Prem Chandra Bal Panchayat Committee, which has been formed with the support of local NGO Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) in 2003. It aims to protect the right every child and also to perform street plays on this theme.

"I aim to be a teacher so that I could teach poor and helpless children and I am actively involved in street-play and perform at many places in city to spread awareness about child right," shared Chanda whose name has appeared in a list of 'Desh Ke 25 kamyab Chehre' in the November 17 issue of a national magazine.

"Ladkiyaan chahe to kya nahi kar sakti. Mera aisa manana hai ki har

baat ki shuruat aapke apne ghar se hi hoti hai," expressed Chanda, in a stern voice while talking to HT City on Thursday.

Chanda is a resident of urban slum Baghwanal in Varanasi. Chanda's father Kishore Rajbhar used to weave sari but after this industry failed, he started driving rickshaw.

However, due to bad physical condition, he is unable to drive rickshaw and now Chanda's mother Bhagwati hardly manages the need of family and medical treatment of her husband by selling vegetables and earns only Rs 1000.

"My terrifying experience began when I reached the age of 15 (in June 2010) and my mother decided for my early marriage due to pitiable economic conditions of our family.

After hearing my mother's decision I started shivering and I silently protested her stopped eating food.

I was thinking my entire dream would ruin if my mother will marry me to someone. I decided to protest

against child marriage. During that time one



Chanda Rajbhar

thing was reverberating in my mind which I was already discussing in the meeting of Bal Panchayat and street play that it now time to protest in my own home," said Chanda.

Talking about her committee achievement, Chanda said, "We protest against child marriage through street play and now a days the number of child marriages in Baghwanala has fallen down and this area is a model slum with 100 per cent birth registration, vaccination, education to the poor children and on November 19 we are also going to perform a street play against child right."

Standing Strong Against the Odds — A story of courage, voice, and change.

This archive feature highlights how a young girl from an urban slum in Varanasi challenged child marriage and became a leader for children's rights. Such stories reflect the power of community-led action, creative expression, and rights-based advocacy in transforming lives and inspiring future generations.

3. Impact Stories (Case Studies Summary)

3.1 Lighting the Lamp of Hope – The Sahni Family

After the death of Raghuvar Sahni, an auto-rickshaw driver who died of Hepatitis-B, his four children faced extreme poverty. Through scholarships and mentoring support:

- **Saniya Sahni** completed her Bachelor's degree and enrolled in an **M.A. program**
- **Saloni Sahni** is pursuing **B.Sc.**
- A **bicycle** provided ensured safe and regular college attendance

This family's journey demonstrates how **education prevents generational poverty** and restores dignity after loss.

 **Full story:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/lighting-lamp-of-hope.html>

3.2 Fiza's Flight – From the Lanes of Varanasi to the Path of Justice

Born into a family struggling with illness and poverty, **Fiza Parveen** was discouraged from studying beyond school. With support from the **Muskan Bai Scholarship Program**:

- She continues her **Class 12 education**
- Actively participates in **street plays and rights campaigns**
- Aspires to become a **lawyer for the marginalized**

Her journey reflects the power of **education + voice**.

 **Full story:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/fizas-flight-from-lanes-of-varanasi-to.html>

3.3 From Chains to Wings – Paru and Resham Sonkar

Paru Sonkar was wrongfully imprisoned. Through PVCHR's legal advocacy supported by **UN Trust Fund, DIGNITY, IRCT**, he was acquitted. His daughter **Resham**:

- Completed **12th grade with First Division**
- Is pursuing **B.A. at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith**
- Dreams of becoming a **teacher**

This case highlights the **link between justice and education**.

 **Stories:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/from-chains-to-wings-story-of-paru-and.html>
<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2023/09/triumph-of-truth-paru-sonkars-acquittal.html>

3.4 Muskan's Return to Books – The Smile That Found Its Light Again

After her father became permanently disabled due to a failed spinal surgery, **Muskan Seth** was forced to drop out. Scholarship support enabled her to:

- Enrol in **B.A. (1st Year)** at Gyan Dahini Mahila University
- Escape child labour in agricultural fields
- Restore dignity to her family

 **Full story:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/muskans-return-to-books-smile-that.html>

3.5 Wings of Determination – Shivangi Sahni

From a fisherfolk family affected by COVID-19 unemployment:

- Scholarship + **bicycle support**
- Passed Intermediate with **First Division**
- Now studying **B.A. (1st Year)** at Agarsen Mahila Mahavidyalaya
- Aspires to become a **teacher**

 **Full story:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/wings-of-determination-shivangis.html>

3.6 Shital's Strength – Rising from Dust

From a Dalit agricultural labour family:

- Faced risk of early marriage and dropout
- Supported through PVCHR scholarship
- Now a **3rd-year B.A. student**
- Family attitudes shifted from marriage to education

 **Full story:**

<https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/shitals-strength-rising-from-dust.html>

4. Cross-Cutting Impact

These stories collectively demonstrate:

- **Education as liberation**, not charity
- **Justice restores futures**, not only freedom
- **Girls' education transforms families and communities**
- **Small interventions (scholarship, bicycle, mentoring)** create long-term change

5. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 🎓 **SDG 4 – Quality Education**
- ♀ **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**
- ⚖️ **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions**
- 🧑 **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities**

6. Gratitude and Acknowledgement

We express our deepest gratitude to:

- **Ms. Parul Sharma**
- **Donors and friends from Sweden**
- Community volunteers and educators

Your solidarity transformed **despair into dignity** and **dreams into realities**.

This year's work affirms a powerful truth:

When justice meets education, lives change permanently.

Jan Mitra Nyas and PVCHR remain committed to ensuring that **no child drops out, no girl is silenced, and no injustice goes unanswered.**

 **Read All Stories Together**

 <https://pvchr.blogspot.com/2025/11/girl-power-and-justice-building-better.html>

Holistic Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors through Livelihoods, Testimonial Therapy and Community Empowerment

Project Reference: UAT Rehabilitation Grant (IRCT)

Implementing Organisation: Jan Mitra Nyas / People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)

Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Project Period: 1 February 2024 – 31 January 2025

Reporting Period: 1 February 2024 – 31 January 2025

1. Background and Organisational Context

Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN), working through the People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), has been active since 1999 in defending the rights of marginalized and excluded communities in India. Inspired by the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the organisation addresses caste-based discrimination, bonded labour, police torture, custodial deaths, and denial of dignity and justice.

PVCHR is a member of the **International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)** and contributes to global efforts on torture prevention and rehabilitation. The organisation implements **holistic rehabilitation**, combining psychosocial healing, livelihood support, legal advocacy, community mobilisation, and policy engagement.

2. Project Rationale and Objectives

Survivors of torture face long-term psychological trauma, social exclusion, economic marginalisation, and barriers to justice. This project aimed to address these interconnected harms through an integrated rehabilitation model.

Core Objectives

- Strengthen psychosocial healing and dignity restoration through **Testimonial Therapy (TT)**.
- Enable economic independence via **livelihood support and skill development**.
- Build survivor resilience and leadership through **Folk Schools and community forums**.
- Enhance organisational capacity for survivor support, documentation, and advocacy.

- Promote accountability through engagement with human rights institutions, police, and government bodies.

Target Groups

- Survivors of torture and custodial violence
- Families of torture survivors
- Women, children, and youth from marginalised communities
- Grassroots human rights defenders

3. Key Activities and Achievements

Activity 1: Capacity Building and Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME)

Staff Capacity-Building Training (Feb 25–29, 2024)

- Participants: 32 staff, volunteers, and human rights activists
- Focus: trauma understanding, Testimonial Therapy, documentation, survivor-centred advocacy

PME Meetings (Oct 29–30, 2024 & Jan 22–23, 2025)

- Addressed project planning, FCRA delays, sustainability strategies, and compliance
- Reinforced commitment to survivor support despite financial constraints

Outcome: Improved organisational resilience, enhanced survivor documentation, and strategic continuity.

Activity 2: Testimonial Therapy for Survivors of Torture

- **31 survivors** (13 women, 18 men) from Varanasi, Sonbhadra, and Kaushambi underwent Testimonial Therapy
- **19 individual honour ceremonies** held, transforming private pain into collective dignity

Impact:

- Significant psychosocial improvement
- Restoration of dignity and agency
- 100% improvement in quality-of-life indicators based on WHO well-being and ICF participation scales

Testimonial Therapy pioneered by PVCHR in India (2008) is now practised internationally.

Activity 3: Folk Schools and Community Empowerment

- **42 Folk School sessions** conducted across 30+ locations
- **1,401 participants** (789 women, 612 men)

Key Themes:

- Police torture and illegal detention
- D.K. Basu Guidelines
- Women's rights
- Livelihoods and social protection

Impact:

- Breaking the culture of silence
- Increased legal awareness
- Strong survivor-led peer networks

Activity 4: Strategic Interventions with Institutions

- Engagement with NHRC, police departments, and government authorities
- Advocacy for custodial accountability, compensation, and systemic reform

Key Result:

- ₹72,75,000 awarded as compensation in custodial torture and death cases across multiple states

Activity 5: Livelihood Support as Holistic Rehabilitation

Livelihood restoration is central to dignity and long-term recovery.

Key Interventions:

- Goat distribution to **25 families**
- Skill development, kitchen gardening, nutrition, and market linkage
- Seed and plant distribution to **2,261 families**

Outcomes:

- Income generation (₹33,500 earned through goat sales)
- Community solidarity (goat donations back to foundation)
- Improved mental health (WHO-5 well-being scores increased)

Activity 6: Advocacy to End Torture in Election Manifestos

- Submission of formal appeal demanding ratification of UNCAT
- Call for zero tolerance to torture and survivor rehabilitation guarantees

Activity 7: Life Skills for Children and Youth

- **46 adolescent collectives**
- **804 adolescents** (535 girls, 269 boys)

Impact:

- Improved confidence, communication, leadership, and school retention
- Girls challenging gender norms and taboos

Activity 8: Integrating Literature and Sports in Healing

- **Mirza Ghalib Literature Club** for storytelling and expression
- Sports initiatives (football, cricket, snooker, yoga)

Impact:

- Reduced PTSD symptoms
- Enhanced confidence, trust, and community reintegration

4. Organisational Impact

- Strengthened survivor alliance and staff competence
- Improved evidence-based programming
- Enhanced national and international collaboration
- Greater resilience despite funding and regulatory challenges

5. Lessons Learned and Sustainability

Key Learnings:

- Survivor participation strengthens outcomes
- Livelihoods are essential for psychosocial recovery
- Continuous capacity building ensures sustainability

Future Plans:

- Diversified funding
- Institutionalised training
- Survivor-led advocacy networks

The project demonstrates that **holistic rehabilitation works** when dignity, livelihoods, healing, and justice are addressed together. Despite structural challenges, PVCHR continues to uphold the values of resilience, accountability, and human dignity.

Holistic Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors through Livelihoods

PVCHR's Contribution within the IRCT Framework

1. Background and Context

The People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and Jan Mitra Nyas are long-standing member organisations of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). Both organisations have pioneered **holistic rehabilitation models** that integrate **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** with **livelihood interventions**, recognising that economic exclusion, trauma, and social stigma are deeply interconnected for survivors of torture.

The initiative "**Holistic Rehabilitation of Torture Victims through Livelihoods**" was developed in alignment with IRCT's global strategy to strengthen survivor-centred, integrated rehabilitation models. The full concept and field experience are documented here:

For full details: <https://www.scribd.com/document/984263339/Holistic-Rehabilitation-of-torture-victims-through-Livelihood>

2. PVCHR's Livelihood and Testimonial Therapy Model

PVCHR's approach is distinctive in combining:

- **Testimonial Therapy / Brief Narrative Therapy** – enabling survivors to reconstruct dignity, agency, and meaning by documenting and sharing their lived experiences of torture.
- **Livelihood Restoration** – small-scale, context-specific economic interventions (agriculture, micro-enterprises, skill-based work) designed to rebuild self-reliance.
- **Community-Based Rehabilitation** – engaging families and communities to reduce stigma, rebuild trust, and promote social reintegration.

This integrated model recognises that **healing is incomplete without economic security**, and that livelihoods interventions are most effective when embedded within psychosocial care.

3. PVCHR in the IRCT Livelihoods Evaluation (Best Practice)

According to the **IRCT Final Evaluation Report (30 June 2025)**, PVCHR is explicitly recognised as one of the **founding and piloting Member Centres** (alongside ACTV Uganda, TRC Palestine, Restart Lebanon, and TPO Nepal) that shaped the livelihoods integration model

Key findings from the evaluation that reflect PVCHR's strengths include:

a. Psychosocial Impact

- Livelihood support significantly increased **hope, self-confidence, and reduction in anxiety and depression** among survivors.
- Survivors participating in livelihood activities showed **better retention in counselling and rehabilitation programmes**, accelerating recovery trajectories.
- Testimonial and narrative-based approaches strengthened survivor agency and reduced self-stigma.

b. Economic and Social Outcomes

- Even modest livelihood inputs helped survivors **meet daily expenses**, improve nutrition, and restore family roles.
- Collective livelihood models (seed distribution, agriculture, small animal rearing) contributed to **community cohesion** and reduced fear in areas affected by police violence and torture.
- PVCHR's work demonstrated how livelihoods can address **systemic and communal trauma**, not just individual harm.

c. Proof of Concept

The evaluation confirms that:

- Livelihood integration is a **“game changer”** in torture rehabilitation.
- PVCHR’s model illustrates how **economic empowerment complements mental health recovery**, validating IRCT’s global strategy on “Healing” and “Leaving No One Behind”

4. Alignment with IRCT Strategy

PVCHR’s work closely aligns with IRCT’s evolving strategy (2022–2025 and beyond) by:

- Embedding livelihoods within rehabilitation rather than treating them as stand-alone projects.
- Using survivor-centred, evidence-informed, and context-sensitive approaches.
- Contributing survivor testimonials and field learning to IRCT’s global knowledge base, including publications and peer learning forums.

The IRCT evaluation highlights PVCHR’s contribution to shaping a **multi-level Theory of Change**, linking:

- **Survivor-level recovery** (psychosocial wellbeing and economic agency),
- **Community-level outcomes** (social cohesion, stigma reduction),
- **Global advocacy and learning** within the anti-torture movement

PVCHR’s work represents **best practice within the IRCT Livelihoods Programme**. By integrating testimonial therapy, psychosocial care, and livelihood restoration, PVCHR demonstrates that **self-reliance is both a therapeutic outcome and a human right**. The IRCT evaluation affirms that such holistic models are essential for sustainable rehabilitation of torture survivors and should be expanded with long-term funding and partnerships.

For full narrative, case studies, and photos, please visit:

 <https://www.scribd.com/document/984263339/Holistic-Rehabilitation-of-torture-victims-through-Livelihood>

Shiksha Plus (Adult Literacy Programme)

Reporting Period: October 2024 – March 2025

Implementing Organization: Jan Mitra Nyas

Project Partner: Shiv Nadar Foundation

Project Location: Kathiraon and Barzi villages, Baragaon Block, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

1. Project Description and Background

The **Shiksha Plus Adult Literacy Project**, initiated by the Shiv Nadar Foundation in 2015, addresses India's persistent adult illiteracy challenge, particularly among marginalized rural populations. The programme targets individuals aged 15 years and above who were excluded from formal education, equipping them with functional literacy and numeracy skills through an **ICT-enabled learning methodology**.

Under this initiative, **Jan Mitra Nyas** implemented the project in Kathiraon and Barzi villages of Varanasi, aiming to reach **2,500 adult learners**. The programme integrates literacy with broader goals of **social justice, public health, gender equality, and community empowerment**, ensuring sustainability through volunteer engagement and collaboration with government institutions.

2. Geographic and Demographic Profile

Survey findings revealed significant literacy gaps, especially among women and marginalized social groups. While census literacy rates ranged between 58–59%, project surveys showed higher learning potential when supported through community-based and ICT-driven interventions. The programme focused particularly on **women learners**, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBC communities.

3. Beneficiaries Reached

- **Total Direct Beneficiaries:** 918
 - Male Learners: 40
 - Female Learners: 878

Social Category Breakdown:

- OBC: 620
- SC: 197
- ST: 95
- General: 5

Religious Composition:

- Hindu: 872
- Muslim: 45

The data reflects a **highly inclusive and gender-responsive enrollment pattern**, with strong participation from socially and economically marginalized groups.

4. Key Achievements

- **Empowered 918 adult learners** with foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- **Recognition by the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Varanasi** for contributions to adult literacy.
- **State-level representation at Ullas Mela 2025**, Lucknow.
- Government support through the **ULLAS App**, certification, and learner incentives.
- **Extensive community outreach**, surveying 1,977 households and identifying 1,594 potential learners.
- **Strengthened digital infrastructure** with 23 laptops and 19 projectors.
- Integration of **health and literacy**, including an eye health camp benefiting 184 villagers.
- Media visibility across **19 newspapers and 9 digital platforms**.

5. Activities and Outcomes

a) National Girl Child Day & International Day of Education

- Awareness sessions on girls' education and gender equality.
- Increased female enrollment and participation.
- Participation of over 50 community members.

b) POSH Act Orientation Workshop

- Street plays on workplace harassment.
- Legal awareness on the POSH Act, 2013.
- Strengthened grievance redressal and ICC understanding.

c) Eye Health Camp

- **184 villagers screened**, 44 cataract cases identified.
- Free surgeries, spectacles, and post-operative care provided.

- Improved learner attendance and engagement post-treatment.

6. Learning Assessments and Outcomes

Baseline–Midline Progress

- **Baseline Average Score:** 3.00%
- **Midline Average Score:** 45.30%

Continuous Assessments

Scores steadily improved from **26% in January** to **83% by April**, demonstrating strong learning gains in reading and numeracy.

7. Monitoring, DVRs, and Quality Assurance

Daily Visit Reports (DVRs) by Field Supervisors and Resource Coordinators ensured:

- Timely class operations.
- Improved attendance and reduced dropout.
- Effective augmentation classes.
- SOP compliance and Jan Shikshak accountability.

8. Kits and Resources Distributed

Learner Kits

- Jute Bag, Notebook, Slate, Pencil, Eraser – **918 learners**

IT Kits

- Laptops – 23
- Projectors – 19

9. Challenges

- Initial resistance due to age and social norms.
- Digital literacy gaps among learners and volunteers.
- Infrastructure limitations in school premises.
- Coordination challenges across villages and teams.

10. Lessons Learned

- Community trust-building is essential.
- Continuous volunteer training enhances outcomes.
- Flexible class scheduling improves retention.
- Integrating health services supports sustained learning.
- ICT tools are effective with ongoing technical support.

11. Case Studies (Summarised)

- **Vidya Devi (55):** From illiteracy to confidently supporting grandchildren's education.
- **Malti Devi (45):** Regained dignity and independence after learning to read medical prescriptions.
- **Rajkumari Devi (70):** Proved lifelong learning is possible at any age, becoming a community inspiration.

The **Shiksha Plus programme**, implemented by Jan Mitra Nyas with support from the Shiv Nadar Foundation, has demonstrated that **adult literacy is a powerful catalyst for dignity, confidence, and social inclusion**. With measurable learning outcomes, strong community ownership, and integrated health and digital approaches, the project offers a **scalable and replicable model** for rural adult education.

For more details, please visit: <https://path2literacy.blogspot.com/>

Reference to Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi in Academic Research

The academic thesis *Looking for Asia's Turn: A Study of (Sub)Regional Human Rights Mechanisms of South and Southeast Asia through India and Thailand* (2018), submitted under the **European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA)** at **Adam Mickiewicz University**, explicitly references **Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi**, Founder and CEO of the **People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), Varanasi, India**.

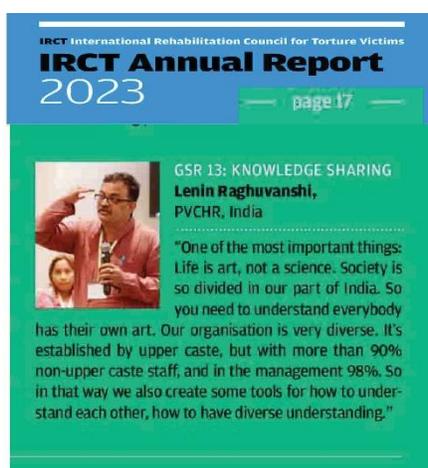
The author, **Shikha Rana**, conducted **expert interviews** as part of her research methodology to understand the role of civil society actors in Asia's human rights landscape. Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi is cited as one of the key interviewees whose insights contributed to the analysis of **civil society engagement with international human rights mechanisms**, particularly in the absence of a formal regional human rights system in South Asia.

The thesis notes that the future of human rights protection in South Asia requires **strong national human rights records and active civil society participation**, emphasising that sub-regional and national initiatives form the foundation for any potential regional human rights mechanism. Dr. Raghuvanshi's interview is referenced in this context, underscoring the importance of grassroots organisations like PVCHR in bridging local realities with international human rights norms.^{vi}

From Grassroots Action to Global Engagement

In 2024, the **People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)** and **Jan Mitra Nyas (JMN)** deepened their commitment to justice, dignity, and inclusion through a wide spectrum of **community-led interventions, national advocacy, and international engagement**. Rooted in the lived realities of marginalized communities, the year's work demonstrated how **rights-based practice, survivor leadership, and knowledge-sharing** can generate sustainable and systemic social change.

Across villages, institutions, policy platforms, and global forums, PVCHR and JMN addressed interconnected challenges related to **human rights violations, torture rehabilitation, public health, educational exclusion, gender injustice, and democratic participation**.



Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi of the People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), India, featured in the IRCT Annual Report 2023 (Page 17) under Global Sharing of Resources (GSR-13). His reflections highlight the importance of cultural understanding, diversity, and survivor-centred approaches in the rehabilitation of torture victims, underscoring PVCHR's contribution to

IRCT International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

IRCT Annual Report 2023

IRCT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

5.3 Supporting Livelihoods

Poverty is a leading risk factor for torture: Being poor makes you more likely to be tortured. And being tortured makes you more likely to be poor, as survivors struggle to return to work, putting them at risk of falling into a cycle of poverty and social exclusion, aggravating the trauma already suffered. IRCT's Global Impact Data since 2020 consistently shows that between **40% to 50%** of all **torture survivors** treated around the world, Global North and South, live in **poverty**, according to their national standard. In such a context, the ability of members to deliver as full **rehabilitation** as possible to survivors of torture is **severely constrained** in cases where the survivor is struggling to meet **basic needs** for themselves and their family. In 2023, IRCT's five-member Livelihoods Steering Committee were joined by another six members now implementing livelihoods supporting projects, with all reporting significant positive impacts on the rehabilitation of survivors in their care.

In India, PVCHR support rehabilitation for survivors of torture by providing them with goats, a key source of supplementary income.



Supporting Livelihoods for Torture Survivors in India: PVCHR's livelihood rehabilitation initiative, featured in the IRCT Annual Report 2023 (Section 5.3), demonstrates how economic empowerment—through activities such as goat distribution—plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of poverty, trauma, and social exclusion, enabling survivors of torture to rebuild dignified and sustainable lives.

Human Rights and Torture Rehabilitation

A central pillar of work in 2024 remained the **holistic rehabilitation of survivors of torture and custodial violence**. PVCHR continued to implement its internationally recognised model integrating **testimonial (narrative) therapy, psychosocial care, legal accompaniment, community mobilisation, and livelihood restoration**. Survivors were supported not only to heal, but also to reclaim **dignity, agency, and social participation**.

This approach—acknowledged as **best practice within the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)**—demonstrated that healing is sustainable only when **economic security, voice, and justice** are restored together.

Public Health, Child Rights, and Nutrition Advocacy

PVCHR and JMN played a leadership role in **child health and nutrition advocacy**, particularly through campaigns demanding **Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL)** to protect children from ultra-processed foods. The historic **Patna Declaration**, supported by political parties and civil society actors, positioned child health as a **non-negotiable public priority**.

This work effectively bridged **grassroots awareness, policy dialogue, and institutional accountability**, reinforcing the right of children and families to accurate information and healthier food environments.

Education and Adult Literacy

Through the **Shiksha Plus programme of the Shiv Nadar Foundation**, adult literacy emerged as a powerful tool for empowerment—especially for women. **ICT-enabled learning centres, trained community educators, and integration with health and civic awareness** enabled adult learners to acquire not only literacy and numeracy skills, but also **confidence, independence, and social voice**.

These initiatives reaffirmed that education is not merely academic; it is foundational to **dignity, participation, and informed citizenship**.

Gender Justice and Institutional Accountability

In 2024, PVCHR and JMN strengthened their engagement on **gender justice**, including institutional compliance with the **POSH Act** and focused interventions for **adolescent girls' empowerment**. Leadership by women human rights defenders ensured that issues of **workplace safety, gender discrimination, and bodily autonomy** remained central to organisational practice and public discourse.

Knowledge, Culture, and Democratic Dialogue

The year also marked significant contributions to **knowledge production and cultural dialogue**. Through articles, academic engagements, literature forums, and public conversations, PVCHR amplified voices on **caste justice, democracy, survivor**

resilience, and pluralism. Initiatives such as the **Mirza Ghalib Literature Club** reaffirmed the role of culture and storytelling in **healing, resistance, and social transformation.**

Recognition and Ethical Leadership

The ethical foundations of the organisation were further validated through **national and international recognition** of its leadership and work. These acknowledgements underscored a model of leadership rooted in **service, integrity, and solidarity**, rather than hierarchy or personal gain.

Transparency and Documentation

All activities undertaken in 2024 are **fully documented** through photographs, reports, stories, and media coverage available on the organisation's official digital platforms.

Survivor-Centred Rehabilitation & Advocacy

- Continued implementation of **testimonial therapy** and community-based rehabilitation for survivors of police torture and caste violence.
- Recognition of PVCHR's work in the **IRCT Annual Report**, highlighting its contribution to global rehabilitation practice.
- Ongoing engagement with **NHRC, SHRCs, police accountability mechanisms, and UN human rights processes.**

Documentation:

- <https://pvchr.asia/>
- <https://pvchr.blogspot.com/>
- <https://petition-nhrc.blogspot.com/>
- <https://survivorconnect.org/en>

Public Health & Child Rights Advocacy

Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL)

- Leadership in building cross-party consensus through the **Patna Declaration.**
- Policy dialogues, political engagement, and evidence-based advocacy using **NFHS data.**
- National visibility through blogs and media analysis.

Documentation & Photos:

- <https://healthofchildren.blogspot.com/>

Education & Adult Literacy (Shiksha Plus – Shiv Nadar Foundation)

- Implementation of **Shiksha Plus** with a focus on women and marginalized communities.
- ICT-enabled learning, community educators, health–literacy integration, and government convergence.
- Distribution of digital tools and learning kits; participation in state-level education events.

Photos & Detailed Reports:

<https://path2literacy.blogspot.com/>

Gender Justice & Institutional Engagement

POSH Act & Workplace Safety

- **Shruti Nagvanshi** appointed as External Member of the **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)**, ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Varanasi.
- Orientation sessions on gender sensitivity and legal compliance.
- Continued leadership on women’s rights, adolescent health, and workplace dignity.

Knowledge Production, Writing & Public Discourse

- Thought leadership by **Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi** and **Shruti Nagvanshi** published across national platforms.
- Focus on caste justice, Dalit rights, human dignity, rehabilitation, democracy, and education.
- Academic and public dialogues at universities and conferences.

Selected Platforms:

- https://medium.com/@lenin_75290
- https://medium.com/@shruti_25784
- <https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/author/neodalit/>
- <https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/author/shrutibreakssilence/>

Culture, Literature, and Pluralism

Mirza Ghalib Literature Club

- Inauguration of the Literature Club in Varanasi promoting pluralism and dialogue.

- Indo-German cultural exchange and recognition of artists contributing to peace and justice.
- Youth engagement through literature, art, and storytelling.

Awards, Recognition, and Leadership

- **REX Karmaveer Awards 2024** conferred on **Lenin Raghuvanshi** and **Shruti Nagvanshi** for lifelong contributions to justice and social change.
- National and international recognition of PVCHR and JMN's ethical, survivor-centred work.
- Continued visibility through media, public talks, and digital platforms.

Documentation:

- <https://medium.com/@drbahadursinghyadav>

Digital Outreach and Public Engagement

Throughout 2024, PVCHR and JMN ensured transparency and outreach through:

- Blogs and websites
- YouTube videos and event recordings
- LinkedIn, Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram

Official Channels:

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/pvchrindia>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pvchr/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/pvchr/>
- <https://x.com/pvchr>
- <https://www.instagram.com/pvchr96/>

The year 2024 reaffirmed **PVCHR and Jan Mitra Nyas** as **credible, resilient, and ethical institutions** operating at the intersection of **human rights, rehabilitation, education, health, culture, and democracy**. Through survivor-led approaches, community ownership, and sustained advocacy, the organisations continued to translate **constitutional values and human rights principles into lived realities**.

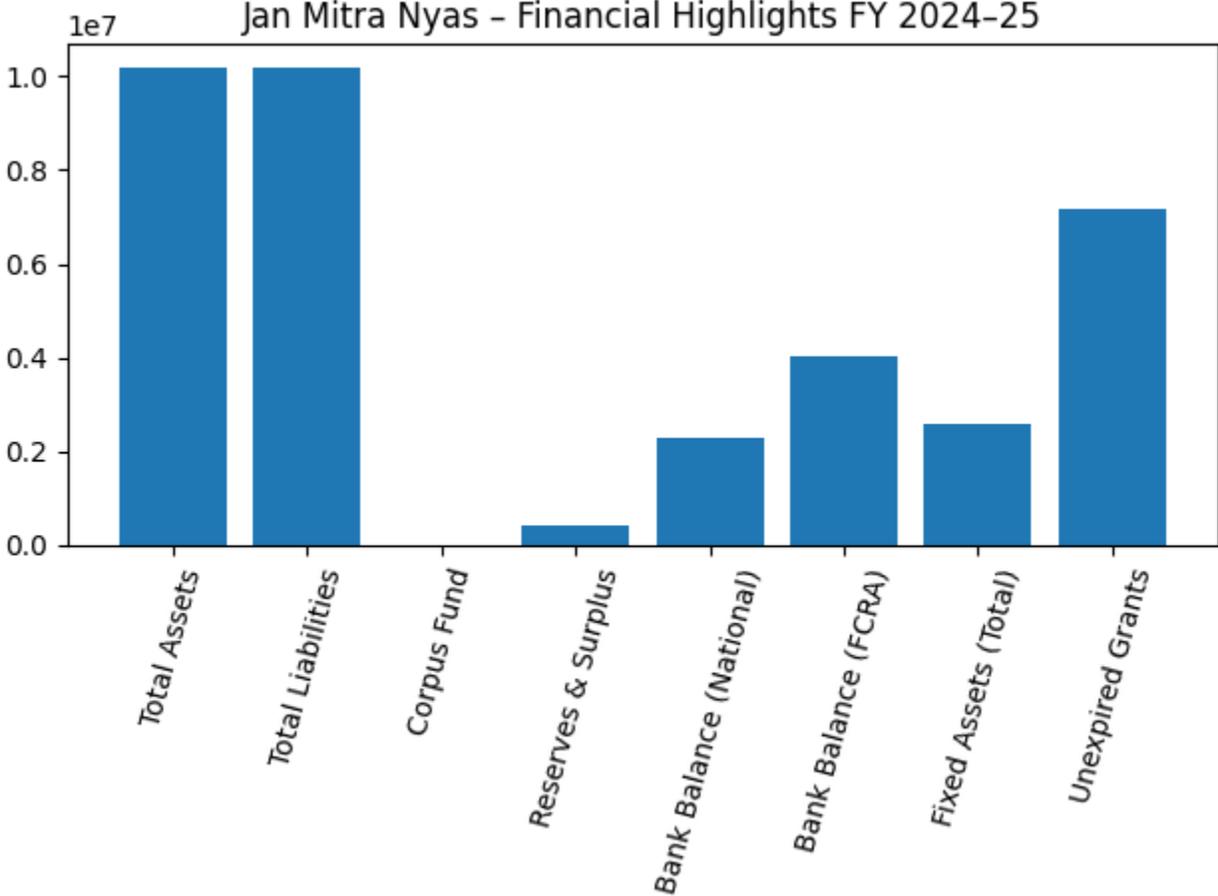
Above all, 2024 reaffirmed a core truth:

lasting social change emerges when survivors lead, communities participate, and institutions are held accountable.

Financial Highlights – FY 2024–25)

Jan Mitra Nyas

Reporting Period: 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025



Financial Highlights Table (For Visual Annual Report)

Category	Amount (INR)
Total Assets	1,01,69,192
Total Liabilities	1,01,69,192
Corpus Fund	2,628
Reserves & Surplus	4,09,778
Bank Balance (National)	23,00,354
Bank Balance (FCRA)	40,11,740
Fixed Assets (Total)	26,04,811
Unexpired Grants	71,74,402

Jan Mitra Nyas maintained a **stable, transparent, and compliant financial position** during FY 2024–25, ensuring uninterrupted programme delivery across human rights, rehabilitation, education, health, and social justice initiatives.

Key Financial Snapshot

- **Total Assets:** ₹1.02 crore
- **Total Liabilities:** ₹1.02 crore
- **Reserves & Surplus:** ₹4.10 lakh
- **Total Fixed Assets:** ₹26.05 lakh
- **Unexpired Grants:** ₹71.74 lakh
- **Bank & Cash Balance:** ₹63.45 lakh

The organisation closed the year with **adequate liquidity**, sound asset management, and full alignment with donor and statutory requirements.

 *Full audited balance sheet:*

 <https://janmitranyas.in/pdf/consolidated-balance-sheet-as-at-31st-march-2025.pdf>

Donor-Specific Financial Summary

Use of Funds

Funds received during FY 2024–25 were utilised strictly for **approved programme purposes**, including:

- Torture survivor rehabilitation and livelihood restoration
- Adult literacy and digital empowerment (Shiksha Plus)
- Child health and nutrition advocacy
- Gender justice and institutional strengthening

Grant Management

- **Unexpired grants** reflect ongoing multi-year projects and were carried forward as per donor agreements.
- **Foreign Contribution (FC)** utilisation reflects project timelines and phased implementation.
- All donor funds were **segregated, tracked, and reported** in accordance with funding conditions.

Financial Integrity

- Independent audit conducted by **A.K.A. & Associates, Chartered Accountants**
- Zero adverse audit remarks
- Robust internal controls and approvals in place

FCRA-Aligned Financial Narrative

In compliance with the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**, Jan Mitra Nyas confirms that:

- All foreign contributions were **received only in designated FCRA bank accounts**
- Utilisation was **project-specific and purpose-bound**
- Unutilised balances were carried forward as **unexpired grants**
- Fixed assets created from foreign contribution are properly capitalised and depreciated
- Separate books of account for **National and FCRA funds** were maintained

The organisation remains **fully compliant with FCRA, Income Tax Act, and donor reporting requirements**.

Donor-Wise Financial Summary (Annual Report / Donor Annexure)

Summary of Funding – FY 2024–25

Donor / Funding Partner	Nature of Grant	Utilisation Status
IRCT	Livelihood Rehabilitation	Ongoing (Unexpired Balance Carried Forward)
UN Voluntary Trust Fund	Torture Rehabilitation	As per project timeline
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids	Child Health Advocacy	Utilised
Shiv Nadar Foundation	Adult Literacy (Shiksha Plus)	Ongoing
CRY	Child Rights & Community Work	Ongoing
Online Giving Foundation	Education & Relief	Utilised
Individual / Institutional Donors	General & Emergency Support	Utilised

All donor funds were utilised strictly for approved purposes, with balances carried forward where projects extended beyond the financial year.

The financial year 2024–25 reflects **strong governance, fiscal discipline, and transparency** at Jan Mitra Nyas. The organisation remains financially sound and well-positioned to sustain and scale its mission of **justice, dignity, and rights-based development**.

ⁱ https://medium.com/@shruti_25784/leonardo-verzaro-an-anthropologists-journey-into-transformation-and-humanity-83cb1e69aa0d

<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2025/01/from-personal-to-collective-liberation-leonardo-vergaros-study>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.impriindia.com/lenin-raghuvanshi/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.womenstory.in/post/janmitra-nyas-pioneering-health-equity-at-the-grassroots>

<https://jubileepost.in/en/shruti-nagvanshi-wins-the-2024-great-companies-international-women-entrepreneur-award/>

<https://www.greatcompanies.in/post/shruti-nagvanshi-winner-of-the-2024-great-companies-international-women-entrepreneur-award>

^{iv} <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/photo-essay/2024/03/whenwomenlead-indias-celebration-of-womens-leadership-at-csw-68>

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/06/hum>

^v <https://medium.com/@drbahadursinghyadav/inspiring-the-change-lenin-raghuvanshi-and-shruti-nagvanshi-receive-the-distinguished-rex-255dd01e5616>

^{vi} Rana, Shikha. *Looking for Asia's Turn: A Study of (Sub)Regional Human Rights Mechanisms of South and Southeast Asia through India and Thailand*. European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, Adam Mickiewicz University, 2018. Interview with Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi, Founder and CEO, People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights, Varanasi, India (email interview, 13 June 2018).