

INDIA

We look back at 2025 and the progress that we could chart and the benefits that the communities we serve in India could gain, with gratitude to our donors and supporters.

Sustained support for climate-resilient agriculture for farmers and breakthrough initiatives in Nature based Solutions and Clean Energy, could help the communities cope better with climate change.

Women at risk from gender based and climate-induced violence could find avenues for alternative livelihoods that granted them enhanced safety.

Disasters were unremitting but affected communities received relief and rehabilitation aid, while our award-winning disaster management system was strongly entrenched in vulnerable areas.

We have proudly initiated a research on restoring the fragile blue-carbon ecosystems of the Sundarbans while improving aquaculture productivity & community resilience, and a new initiative on forest management and forest fire prevention & control in fire-prone Himalayan zones.

Stepping into 2026, we hope to be able to move the needle further on the goals of stronger, resilient communities, with your continued support.

During the year, Pragya's Women's Empowerment and Counter Trafficking programme made good progress in the states of West Bengal and Rajasthan, with women & girls at risk, as well as survivors of trafficking.

Women in districts of South & North 24 Parganas, and in Kolkata city, in W. Bengal, who are at high risk of being trafficked, strengthened their pathways to economic independence. Trained in incense & candle making, their Eco Vile Creations with Roshnai candles and Mehak incense-sticks, has begun finding local markets. In addition, 15,000 women and adolescent girls also received assertiveness training and counselling via women's peer support groups and Pragya-operated Women's Information Access Centres (WIACs).



In Dungarpur & Udaipur districts of Rajasthan, we reached out to 300+ survivors of trafficking, and enhanced their recovery and pathways to justice. Earlier formed into 10 Survivors' Collectives, the survivors received trauma-informed psychosocial & legal counselling from Pragya-operated WIACs and their panel of psychologists & lawyers, as well as structured self-defence and vocational training to reduce the risk of re-trafficking. In 2026, we shall expand our programme for women at-risk and survivors of violence.

In the district of Nuh in Haryana state, above a thousand women & men, and more than 500 youth were gender sensitised, with the adolescents actively engaged in school-based campaigns, to promote gender equality, nutrition, and equitable practices. District stakeholders, including frontline health and childcare workers, teachers, and district officials, strengthened their collective commitment to advance the sustained adoption of gender-equitable and nutrition-focused practices in the community.



Pragya's Programme on Climate Risk Management gained ground during the year, with multiple initiatives across eight states spanning north India, towards its objectives of climate resilience for vulnerable, frontline communities.



In the 3 districts of Araria, Sonitpur and South 24 Parganas, 3,000 small-scale farmers initiated the adoption of climate-resilient and regenerative agriculture practices to improve their farm production and resilience to floods and cyclones. Raised-bed farming, climate-resilient seed varieties, drip systems and improved soil practices were introduced through grassroots R&D plots and 330 early adopters. Marginal women farmers received incense and candle making training for small-scale group enterprise.

In Rajasthan and Bihar, 4000 small and marginal farmers who had adopted Medicinal Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and high value cash crops, recorded income increases, with Pragya-operated MAP Centres and grassroots Demo farms boosting interest & adoption. Buyer-seller meets enabled market access, forged linkages with premium buyers and direct sales to big buyers.



CETs were promoted across 300 villages in these districts, raising community awareness. Multiple small-scale demonstration CET applications installed- a solar and solar-wind hybrid system in a school, an off grid solar unit in a community center- are providing a source of reliable power during blackouts, reducing dependence on fossil fuels; more are in the pipeline for 2026.

In 2025, we also took up an ambitious installation of local-level micro-grids using solar PV in two small remote Himalayan villages in the district of Uttarkashi in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand. Communities of these villages have been fully engaged in logistics and installation planning too, and are transporting batteries, panels, etc., on mule-back for the actual installation due to start in the new year. Newer installations are planned in the energy-deficit Nuh district, Haryana.



100 community institutions formed for Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management, displayed leadership, setting up Nature-based solutions, including floating crop beds and Biofloc systems, to reduce climate risks. Local youth developed as Disaster Response Teams began using the Pragya-designed Dynamic Risk Response Information System (DRRIS) app for real-time local-level reporting of climate events, improving disaster preparedness.

17 areas with high & moderate susceptibility to forest fires have been identified through thorough mapping & zonation in the districts of Uttarkashi and Rudrapur (Uttarakhand) and Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), for targeted forest management and fire prevention & control actions in 2026. Participatory documentation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge on forest management and fire prevention & control was initiated for its integration into district-level forest fire management strategies.



TheAQUAMAP project aimed at restoring the fragile blue-carbon ecosystems, carried out a shoreline change & sediment dynamics analysis and an assessment of mangrove losses & gains, in the coastal district of South 24 Parganas, and identified twelve priority sites for implementing NbS aligned with aquaculture practices with sediment & nutrient management. Local aquaculturists and district authorities reached a shared understanding of the coastal topography, sediment dynamics, and biodiversity restoration, and suitable NbS interventions have been co-designed for 2026 implementation.

In 2025, our Humanitarian Action Programme was rooted even more strongly through continuing efforts aimed at sustainable Community Based Disaster Management, alongside Pragya's response to disaster events.

During the year, we took our award-winning DMS-Himalaya project to its sustainability in 12 Himalayan districts across 5 Himalayan states. In previous years, all 12 districts had been equipped with 63 Automated Weather Stations and trained local Disaster Response Teams, effectively using the Pragya-developed DMS-Himalaya Disaster Management app. During the year, all actors were trained, local and vendors linkages strengthened, and DMS-Himalaya alerts and response actions by Disaster Response Teams was institutionalised, ensuring sustained, effective disaster management.



In Aug. '25, a severe flashflood in the Himalayan village of Dharali (Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand state), wiped out many homes & businesses. Pragya reached 250 households, including 50 migrant labour families in Dharali, with humanitarian relief- emergency shelter, clothing, and solar lighting- and bolstered community resilience with the construction of a multi-purpose community shed. Restoration of 140 flood-damaged farmlands will be taken up in 2026.