



dasra

A Step for Rising @ 2047

Dasra Annual Report 2024-2025





Table of Contents.

4.

Founders Letter

Director's Letter

6.

About Dasra

7.

Our Values:
Rooted in
Humility

8.

Our Pillars:
Anchoring Change,
Accelerating Equity

9.

Powering Change:
Our Impact in
2024-25

15.

Convenings 2024-25:
Dasra Going Places

20.

What's New @
Dasra

21.

Testimonials from
the Dasra Team

Founders' Letter



**Neera Nundy &
Deval Sanghavi**

Co-Founders and Partners
at Dasra

Dasra was born at a time charged with possibility, driven by urgency, grounded in purpose, and rooted in the belief that real transformation begins with communities and must reach those who have long been excluded from its promise. Today, we stand steady, supported by twenty-six years of learning, failures, and relationships built on shared purpose and mutual trust.

Over the years, we've seen some organizations grow from small, single-site efforts into large institutions reaching millions. Others have stayed small, making a deep impact on the everyday lives of people locally, persisting to ensure drought-affected communities have steady access to water, or that children in remote areas can count on a good education. Both paths reflect different but meaningful ways to create change.

We collaborated with more than 800 nonprofits this year, supporting them in their mission, building stronger institutions, and planning for long-term growth. This has helped us support access and implementation of 12 national, state-level, and local government policies.

India's nonprofits are working with deep local insight and steady resolve. In moments of crisis, they stay calm. In the face of limited resources, they adapt. In the wake of growing complexity, they stay present. Whether it is about last-mile delivery of sanitation policies or encouraging young girls to build their agency, they find ways to keep hope alive.

Such a change doesn't happen by chance. It takes bold leadership, sustained support, and a vision beyond short-term wins. As India has grown more confident in its development

path, the social sector has continued to demonstrate its deeply rooted collaborative spirit, self-assurance, and local leadership.

Private philanthropy in India is expected to accelerate to 10%-12% growth over the next five years, with family philanthropy through personal giving and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives playing a critical role. Beyond growth in volume, Indian philanthropy is evolving by becoming more meaningful, sustainable, and systems-driven. Throughout this exciting period, we at Dasra have been privileged to grow as a trusted nonprofit partner.

Our core mission is to bridge the gap between philanthropic intent and impactful action, connecting vital capital with strong community leadership. We achieve this by working closely with organizations, fostering collaboration, and creating opportunities that extend far beyond the typical grant cycles.

As India approaches its centenary, the path to a Viksit Bharat will depend on institutions that deliver impact with depth and scale. Public institutions need to be supported by nonprofits and funders aligning with this progressive vision. Nonprofits are helping design context-responsive models and solving to endure. Funders are sharing resources and fostering collaborations that enable cross-learning and innovation. At Dasra, we remain committed to strengthening the sector's connective tissue, unlocking catalytic capital, and nurturing an ecosystem capable of delivering on the bold promise of India@2047.

Director's Letter



Suparna Gupta,

Chairperson of the Board
at Dasra

We have consistently deepened our commitment to working in service of an ecosystem that aspires to be more impactful.

Our evolution into a systems orchestrator has been shaped by the recognition that enduring progress cannot be driven in silos; it must be enabled through collaboration, research, learning, and a shared vision of change.

Being a systems orchestrator means creating the conditions for institutions, non-profits, funders, and the government to come together — anchoring their collective strengths toward solving complex challenges. It means building platforms that foster alignment, sharing actionable insights, and strengthening the sector's capacity to serve the most vulnerable. Dasra's work today reflects this approach in action: **we continue to convene, connect, and co-create with partners across India to drive systemic, long-term impact.**

One area where this approach came to life meaningfully this year was in rural livelihoods.

Dasra contributed to 12 government policy engagements and advisories, including collaborations with the Ministry of Environment and the state governments of Jharkhand, Sikkim, and West Bengal.

These efforts focused on leveraging Gram Panchayats and Self-Help Groups to improve rural economic outcomes — recognizing that scalable solutions must be locally informed and institutionally supported.

The year's impact reflects the strength of our partners and the clarity of shared purpose. **We connected with 330+ funders through donor education initiatives, leveraging sectoral intelligence to inspire greater support for the grassroots.** We hosted convenings across

India and the world to enable cross-sector dialogue and surface solutions rooted in on-the-ground experience.

At the core of our work is a deep commitment to equity and collaboration for India. These aren't just values — they guide how we think, listen, and act. Equity shapes our approach to problem-solving. Collaboration helps us build trust, share ownership, and create solutions that can last.

We believe in the idea of India for the world, and the world for India. India's development journey holds lessons that go beyond its borders. Through our partnerships and knowledge work, Dasra is helping bring local ideas and insights to the global stage, showing what's possible when intent is backed by conviction.

As we look to the future, the road ahead calls for renewed resolve and deeper collaboration. Dasra remains steadfast in its commitment to enabling transformative change, rooted in equity, powered by partnership, and guided by evidence. We believe that by nurturing collective leadership and amplifying local wisdom, we can move toward our vision:

'A transformed India, where a billion thrive with equity and dignity'.



About Dasra

Dasra, meaning “enlightened giving” in Sanskrit, is a pioneering strategic philanthropic organization that aims for a transformed India where a billion thrive with dignity and equity. In 1999, Dasra began as a venture philanthropy fund to invest in early-stage nonprofit organizations in India. We recognized early that we had the responsibility, the capability, the connections, and the energy to be a long-game change agent, and we resolved to make a transformative difference through it. Dasra has gone through various stages of evolution—from a philanthropy fund to a bridge between NGOs and funders—and now, two decades later, Dasra has cemented its identity as a leading nonprofit systems orchestrator working with diverse stakeholders across the social impact ecosystem. We continue to pursue equity by strengthening leading NGOs, maximizing philanthropists’ impact, and enabling the government to better serve communities. Our effort is driven by an unwavering resolve to help India achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



Our Values: Rooted in Humility

We work to leave behind a world better than the one we came into. Our values serve as both a compass, directing our actions towards impactful change, and a mirror, reflecting our deepest convictions and motivations, even in the face of overwhelming odds.



Impact First

1.

We place the lives of vulnerable communities at the center of all our work. Despite the complexity, scale and depth of India's development problems, conscious prioritization of lives in philanthropy will accelerate social change towards a transformed India where a billion thrive with dignity and equity.



Integrity

2.

We are committed to a high moral standard that leads to both individual and organizational conduct. We are consistently honest towards everyone we work with and take pride in building a dependable and inclusive organization.



Trust

3.

We perform best when we rise above our self-interest and with unwavering confidence, rely on each other to achieve Dasra's vision. It is this collective trust that strengthens the foundation for embracing all relationships and enables us to work more effectively as a team.



Dynamic

4.

We respond to the constantly changing development landscape with foresight, agility and new ideas. It is only with this dynamism, high energy and positive attitude that we will continue to thrive as a thought leader, drive impact and accelerate social change.



Beyond the Rationale

5.

We are deeply compassionate and invested in the well-being of every single individual and organization necessary to achieve India's development goals. This freedom to go above and beyond empowers us to be owners of Dasra's audacious vision and collectively transform India.



Our Pillars:

Anchoring Change, Accelerating Equity

Thriving Communities to Build Solidarity



Diversity is as much a strength as it is a precondition for progress in India. Too often the historically marginalized and vulnerable communities that make up this diversity remain underserved on development gains. This exclusion overlooks their potential and perpetuates a system where the challenges repeat cyclically over several generations. For transformative change – historically marginalized and vulnerable communities must become the priority.

1.

Collaborative Platforms to Multiply Impact



Alliances, collaboratives, and networks can achieve what a single entity cannot – they bring alignment and momentum to issues, making the toughest challenges surmountable. They also have a powerful multiplier effect on achieving outcomes, uniting the strength of many to act across sectors, themes, geographies, and populations. By 2030, Dasra aims to incubate more platforms to encourage cross-learning and unite multiple stakeholders to solve critical issues.

2.

Accelerating Systems Change to Strengthen Roots



To tackle complex social issues effectively, we must go beyond surface level problems and address their root causes. We strive to transform systems by engaging in platforms and partnerships, influencing stakeholders with knowledge of best practices, and ensuring policies reflect ground-up insights. We believe systemic change is only possible when narratives shift. We create the infrastructure and spaces to enable this.

3.

India for the World, the World for India to Inspire Movements



We hope to amplify, scale, and celebrate India's advancements and learnings in solving complex social impact issues "the Indian way." Collaborations with international philanthropy, civil society organizations, and multilateral organizations are helping us facilitate synergistic dialogue and resource mobilization. We are committed to forging a symbiotic relationship between India and the international community.

4.

Powering Change: Our Impact in 2024–25

Dasra's four strategic pillars — Thriving Communities, Collaborative Platforms, Accelerating Systems Change, and India for the World, the World for India — help us move from vision to action, anchoring our work in principles of equity, resilience, and collective strength.

In 2024–25, these pillars came alive through our in-depth engagement with the government, nonprofits, and philanthropy. We collaborated closely with national and state actors to strengthen public programs, engaged hundreds of nonprofits through funding and capacity-building, and took India's development voice to global platforms such as COP28, AVPN South Asia, and Climate

Week. Our research also shaped cutting-edge sector dialogue — most notably through the first India Nonprofit Report (INR) and the latest edition of the India Philanthropy Report (IPR), both of which built on years of on-ground learning to present evidence for stronger, more inclusive ecosystems.

Dynamic and responsive to the sector's evolving needs, our work constantly challenges us to innovate and envision new ways to strengthen India's nonprofit sector. Dasra works to support and amplify the efforts of grassroots nonprofits, build knowledge on India's social impact sector, and deepen state and philanthropic engagement in development.

At a Glance: Our 2024–25 Impact

Strengthening Grassroots Nonprofits for Sustainable Growth

We strengthen India's nonprofits by providing comprehensive, localized support across various critical areas. This includes tailored solutions for their unique challenges, robust operational guidance, and assistance on building new capabilities linked to organizational development. We further empower them through dynamic cross-learning initiatives and dedicated development platforms, fostering continuous growth and knowledge sharing within the sector.

800+

Indian nonprofits engaged through our support initiatives designed to enhance technology, leadership development, fundraising, communications, and other capabilities

90+

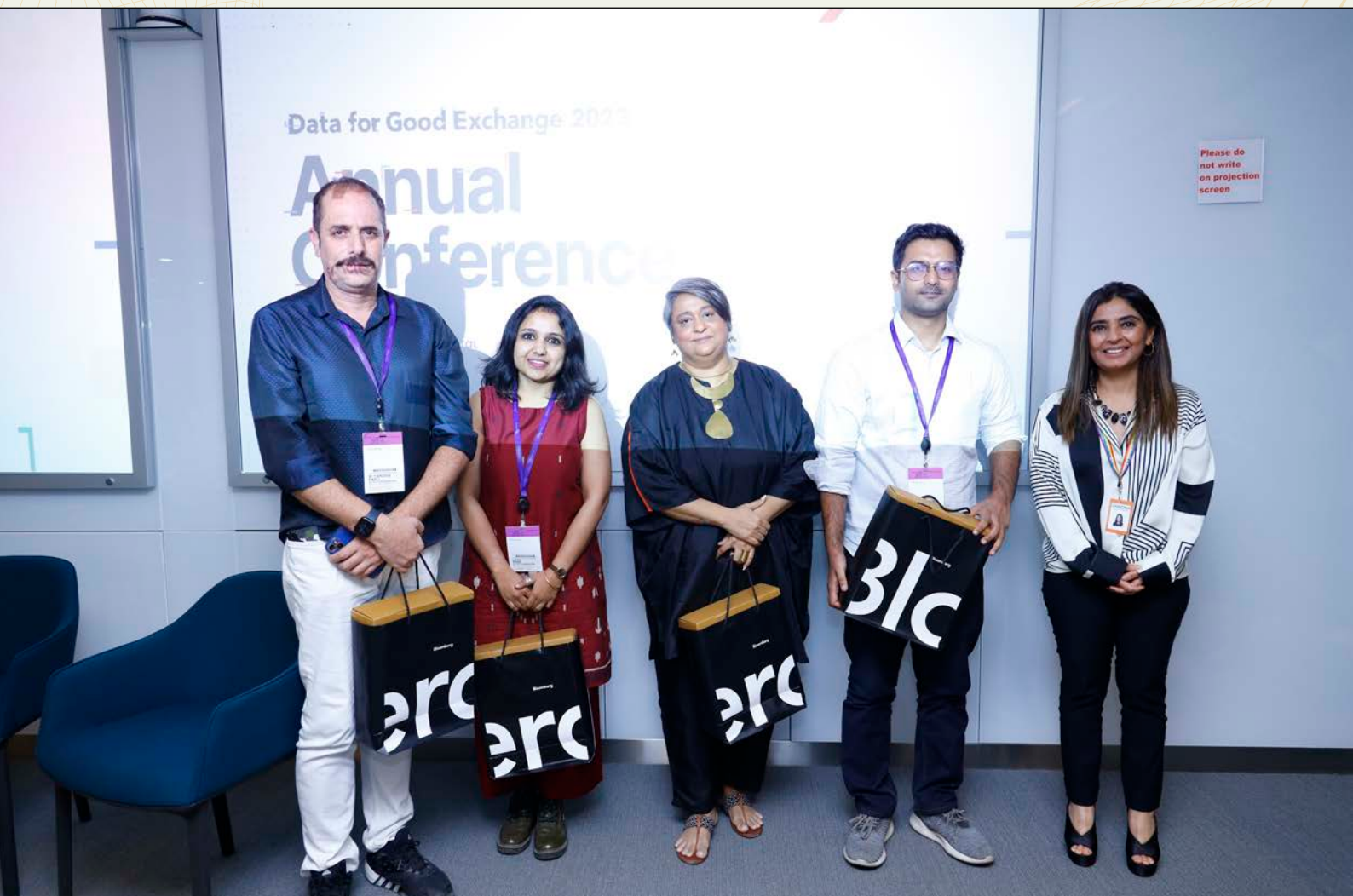
Organizations and 120+ leaders reached through cohort-based training programs to develop grassroots leadership and capabilities

5X

Enabled grassroots organizations to increase their fundraising outcomes up to 5X through our support

From Barriers to Gateways: EMP Bindi's Digital Leap with D4GX

1.



Across rural India, millions of women remain excluded from livelihoods opportunities due to barriers rooted in gender, literacy, language, and access. EMP Bindi International has long been at the forefront of dismantling these barriers. The organization's Women Prosper Initiative equips semi-literate and illiterate rural women with tools and training to confidently participate in the digital economy.

In 2023, EMP Bindi joined the D4GX India Initiative, a collaborative effort to strengthen data and digital capabilities in the social sector. Sakhi is a multilingual platform that enables women to navigate smartphones, access government schemes, conduct digital transactions, and explore income-generating

opportunities. Resource support, tailored mentorship, peer learning, and strategic guidance from D4GX enabled them to integrate QR code functionalities and a more human-centered design lens into the app to amplify its reach.

As a co-anchoring partner of D4GX, Dasra played a key role in facilitating networks, curating knowledge flows, and unlocking collaborative potential across the cohort. For EMP Bindi, this journey was about evolution rather than reinvention, supported by a community committed to advancing inclusive digital futures.

Empowering Institutions Through Catalytic Philanthropy

We curated learning opportunities for funders, by supporting them in their journeys for creating social impact. By leveraging sectoral intelligence – we have consistently informed funders about the needs on the ground, in the voices of proximate and community-based leaders. We are steadfast

in engaging the current and next generation of Indian philanthropists, across family and corporate giving. Our programs are focused on advancing donor education, and building bridges for the grassroots.



300+

Funders connected through donor education and bridge-building initiatives, inspiring greater support towards under- resourced geographies and causes in India



20+

International and national philanthropy events hosted across themes such as art and culture, women's empowerment, technology and AI, and animal welfare focused on unlocking greater capital for India's development



16+

Research products launched to spotlight nonprofits, inform sectoral action, and strengthen India's knowledge infrastructure for inclusive development

Breaking Chains, Building Futures: Salem People Trust's Fight Against Bonded Labor

2.



In the rural heartlands of Tamil Nadu, generations of marginalized caste families were trapped in bonded labor – their dignity stripped away, and their futures stolen. Salem People Trust is a grassroots nonprofit that emerged from within these communities, liberating over 300 families through legal support, community mobilization, and survivor empowerment. The organization nurtures community leaders, acknowledging the powerful role of lived experience in transforming lives by engaging survivors as peer educators.

Dasra has played a pivotal role by connecting Salem People Trust with a pool of flexible

funding as a partner under the Rebuild India Fund. Throughout the partnership, Dasra supports them in strengthening their institutional frameworks and reporting processes, empowering them to scale their impact.

As Salem People Trust continues to change lives, shift mindsets, and build inclusive futures, their resolve embodies a central aspect of Dasra's mission: strengthening localized, community-led solutions to solve India's toughest social challenges.

Complementing Government Programs and Policies

Our effort is always in alignment with the national development agenda, for a Viksit Bharat where a billion thrive with equity and dignity. We have partnered with the government at the local, state, and national levels, harnessing hyperlocal expertise and community knowledge to inform policies and implement solutions. Over the last year, we deepened our engagement with government actors on urban development issues, working closely with Odisha's Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) and Assam's Department of Housing & Urban Affairs (DOHUA) to strengthen urban cities' resilience.

- As the Secretariat of the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance, worked closely with Odisha's Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) to strengthen the pioneering Odisha Urban Academy
- Collaborated with Assam's Department of Housing & Urban Affairs (DOHUA) of Assam and nonprofit Janaagraha to build 10 City Action Plans for the state's urbanizing cities

12+

Policies and schemes informed through evidence-building and multistakeholder collaboration.

100+

Convened 100+ cross-sector stakeholders through thematic working groups on women's empowerment, healthcare, and urban development



Transforming Cities, Empowering Communities: The Odisha Model in Action

As the Secretariat of the NFSSM Alliance, Dasra anchors 30+ technical organizations with expertise in areas including data and monitoring, community engagement, and organizational strengthening, to advance inclusive sanitation. The Alliance's Odisha chapter was set up in 2021 to build stronger collaboration and knowledge-sharing among partners, with the long-term vision of accelerating state-led efforts.

A decade ago, Odisha faced an ecological reckoning: untreated fecal waste was choking its rivers. The need for decisive action was clear, and the state government rose to

meet the moment. Today, the success of the Odisha model is shaping a new vision for how collaboration and hyperlocal solutions can build more inclusive cities, with sanitation as a key cornerstone. In 2024, with Dasra as its anchor, the NFSSM Alliance Odisha Chapter emerged as a key collaborator in the pioneering Odisha Inclusive Urban Sanitation Policy. The Chapter continues to partner with the state government to strengthen the Odisha Urban Academy as a center for excellence, embodying the spirit of a progressing India where community ownership and systems change go hand-in-hand.



Convenings 2024–25:

Dasra Going Places

This year, we embarked on our mission to position India as a thought leader in global development with fresh enthusiasm. A rapidly growing economy, India is uniquely positioned to impart lessons on how nonprofits, philanthropists, and governments can come together to shape tangible social impact outcomes. As we ushered in aspirations of a Viksit Bharat, we sought opportunities to

take our message to diverse stakeholders across India and the world, sparking dialogue, collaboration, and transformative change.

Dasra curated **300+ platforms and partnerships in 2024–25**, convening forums and facilitating cutting-edge dialogue about development, philanthropy, and India's growth story.

1.

Dasra Philanthropy Forum 2024:

Bridging India and the World for Collaborative Impact



Sessions: **18** Speakers: **54+** Reach: **275+**



In its 11th edition, the Dasra Philanthropy Forum (DPF) in New York marked 25 years of our impact. It brought together philanthropists, nonprofits, policymakers, and innovators who are shaping the future of giving. Centered on the theme 'Thriving Through Equity,' the Forum highlighted how inclusive progress depends on mobilizing resources and building strong partnerships that reach far beyond borders. DPF showcased India's innovative approaches to complex social challenges—demonstrating how data-driven insights and collaborative models are influencing development conversations globally.



Discussions delved into evolving philanthropy practices, the growing role of technology in driving impact, and the power of cross-sector collaboration. By fostering a dynamic exchange between Indian and international stakeholders, the Forum reinforced the value of shared expertise in scaling meaningful change. More than an event, DPF 2024 was a platform for collective leadership, amplifying solutions that can drive lasting progress for communities everywhere.

India Philanthropy Forum 2024

Catalyzing Collaborative Impact for India's Development



Sessions: **16** Speakers: **65+** Reach: **300+**



The India Philanthropy Forum (IPF), held globally with key editions in London and Boston in 2024, brings together diverse stakeholders across philanthropy and the nonprofit sector to advance India's social development agenda. By fostering dialogue grounded in evidence and shared expertise, the Forum promoted strategic collaboration and knowledge exchange. The London edition spotlighted the importance of community-led solutions and the role of innovation in strengthening local initiatives. It emphasized how philanthropy can support impactful interventions by aligning resources and taking informed risks.



In Boston, discussions centered on expanding philanthropy's role beyond financial support—encouraging the integration of expertise, networks, and technology to enhance transparency, accountability, and outcomes. The event reinforced the value of data-driven approaches for effective decision-making and impact measurement. Together, these forums underscored IPF's commitment to facilitating partnerships and scaling evidence-based solutions, supporting India's continued progress through informed and collaborative philanthropy.



Dasra Philanthropy Week 2025:

Advancing Impact Through Collaboration and Knowledge



Sessions: **50** Speakers: **170+** Reach: **2000+**

In its 16th edition, Dasra Philanthropy Week (DPW) brought together a diverse range of stakeholders across the social sector. The convening featured the Mumbai edition of our flagship India Philanthropy Forum, concluding a series of global editions. DPW offers a unique platform for cross-sector dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration focused on advancing equitable development in India. The event spotlighted critical themes including women's empowerment, youth leadership, and nonprofit innovation, underscoring philanthropy's role in scaling impactful, community-driven solutions across the country.



This year, we also prioritized conversations on data, technology, and AI, exploring how these tools can enhance decision-making, broaden reach, and improve program effectiveness—while maintaining ethical, context-sensitive application. Every year, DPW presents an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening India's nonprofit ecosystem through evidence and support, connecting funders and nonprofit leaders to envision collaborative pathways towards a sustainable and inclusive India.



Highlights

1. India Leading Collaborative Change in South Asia

In 2024–25, Dasra strengthened South-South collaboration and amplified India's leadership in the region through strategic convenings that fostered learning, innovation, and joint action across critical development themes:

AVPN x GivingPi Funders Roundtable at the South Asia Summit 2024, Chennai

Dasra brought together leading funders to exchange insights on philanthropic models across South Asia. Focused on “Philanthropy in Action,” the roundtable explored traditional grants, CSR innovations, and strategic individual giving—catalyzing dialogue and partnerships to address women's empowerment, sustainability, and poverty.

Stanford PACS Philanthropy Summit

Co-curated with AVPN and Stanford PACS, this convening facilitated learning on innovative philanthropic strategies and community-driven approaches across sustainability, health, gender, and more—reinforcing Asia's role in shaping the future of philanthropy.

Signpost to Bali: South Asia Consultative Process

Through sessions with over 300 attendees, Dasra contributed to shaping South Asia's collective voice for the World Water Forum 2024. The process highlighted regional collaboration and innovation in sanitation, with an emphasis on community engagement, gender, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience.



2. Bringing India's Voice to Global Development Platforms

In 2024–25, Dasra strengthened India's engagement with international development conversations by contributing to high-level global convenings. These platforms enabled cross-border dialogue, policy influence, and the integration of India-focused perspectives into broader global agendas:

Summit of the Future: Generation Equality Event

Youth Ke Bol was acknowledged as a co-organizer of an official side event focused on youth SRHR, bodily autonomy, and inclusive policymaking. The session convened UN agencies, government representatives, and youth leaders, advancing policy dialogue on youth-centered development priorities.

Skoll World Forum 2025

Dasra convened two sessions focused on philanthropy's role in advancing India's development goals. The discussions spotlighted women-led philanthropy, diaspora engagement, and the potential of collaborative funding models to drive systemic change across sectors including gender and climate.

International Philanthropy Forum: Global Touchpoints

Dasra hosted focused convenings in Mumbai, New York, London, and Boston to engage funders and sector leaders in reimagining the role of India-focused philanthropy. These gatherings surfaced insights on effective giving practices, built alignment among key stakeholders, and positioned IPF as a growing international platform for collaborative action.



What's New @ Dasra

We remain committed to growing from strength to strength with our partners, leading with new-age capabilities and cutting-edge sectoral insights to play our part in nurturing India's future. In 2024-25, we embarked upon several exciting initiatives aimed at making India's nonprofit sector more resilient and future ready.

● Building the Next Generation of Nonprofit Leaders:

To strengthen the pipeline of professionals in the nonprofit space, we launched the Dasra Fellowship in 2024 — a structured learning and work experience designed for young individuals aspiring to build careers in the development sector.

Over six months, seven fellows worked closely with different teams at Dasra, contributing to key initiatives. Through a combination of mentorship, technical training, and hands-on project support, they developed a grounded understanding of how nonprofits and ecosystem platforms operate to create long-term impact.

The Fellowship is part of Dasra's broader commitment to strengthening the nonprofit ecosystem by building talent and capacity. By enabling deeper sector exposure for emerging professionals, it also helps bridge the gap between interest in the development space and readiness to contribute meaningfully. This is one more way in which Dasra is investing in long-term infrastructure for India's social sector.

● Mapping the Pulse of India's Nonprofit Sector:

With the launch of the India Nonprofit Report (INR) 2025, Dasra has taken a significant step in improving access to structured information about India's nonprofit sector. Developed in partnership with Kearney, the INR is the first comprehensive study of its kind focused on the operations, growth, and contribution of nonprofit organizations across the country.

Drawing from over 400 survey responses, 30 interviews with nonprofit leaders, and official NGO Darpan data, the report highlights emerging trends, challenges,

and opportunities across key development themes. It introduces a framework to better understand how nonprofits are working — who they serve, how they scale, and where they need support. The INR builds on Dasra's long-standing work in research with a bias for action.

By producing publicly accessible, data-backed insights, we aim to support more informed decision-making across the development ecosystem and amplify the role of nonprofits as partners in India's growth story.

● Harnessing Data, Technology, and AI to Support the Sector:

This year, we deepened our focus on leveraging data, technology, and AI to help nonprofits innovate, scale, and strengthen community impact. Through the Data for Good Exchange (D4GX), in partnership with Bloomberg, Societal Platform, and Stanford PACS, we supported 40 nonprofits across 22+ Indian states and union territories to build data-led solutions. We also launched Byte by Byte, a report capturing key learnings since the initiative began in 2021.

The Data Catalyst Program, in collaboration with Project Tech4Dev and Goalkeep, equips nonprofit leaders to design actionable data strategies and foster a culture of learning within their organizations. At Dasra Philanthropy Week 2025, a convening in Bangalore explored how emerging technologies can drive equity — from open-source collaboration to gender-inclusive AI. By generating evidence, building partnerships, and amplifying community-driven innovation, we aim to create an ecosystem where nonprofits are not just tech-enabled—but future-ready. This is our vision for a more inclusive and resilient India.

Testimonials from the Dasra Team

In this section, we're proud to share testimonials directly from our OneDasra team. It offers an authentic glimpse into the vibrant spirit and exceptional talent that defines our organizational culture. These voices underscore our belief that our greatest asset is, and always will be, our people.



Husainbee Khan

Analyst and Dasra Fellow

“

I am a Psychology graduate with a strong foundation in education, development, and social impact. My journey began with teaching at a local coaching centre, followed by an internship as a Teaching Assistant at an NGO, where I contributed to enhancing learning outcomes. Currently, I serve as an Analyst at Dasra, where I contribute to the Family Philanthropy initiative, focusing on livelihood, education, and healthcare. In this role, I engage with organizations working to improve educational outcomes and healthcare access, assessing their impact and potential for future funding support. I thrive at the intersection of learning and impact, leveraging my expertise to drive sustainable development. My role allows me to develop critical insights, foster collaboration, and deepen my understanding of philanthropy, management, and systemic change.

”



Shreya Shome

Associate

“

I am an Associate at Dasra, working on strategy and philanthropy. Prior to Dasra, I worked in growth strategy at McKinsey and Company, and have pursued a degree in Economics and Gender Studies. From day one, Dasra has felt larger than life. The organization's energy is rooted in hope. I work primarily with philanthropists navigating the unbridled potential and complexity of India's social sector, helping think through, innovate, and execute ideas that can shift systems. What drives me is the chance to build — better, deeper, together. It's tracing the quiet “why” before the “what”, understanding the roots of uncertainty, building powerful trust, and sharing this impact with the world. Sitting atop Dasra's deep well of knowledge, it's a privilege to help move insight into action. I came in idealistic. Every day, it deepens into belief.

”



Dhruv Mitter
Senior Manager

“

I lead Urban Sanitation at Dasra, working with diverse stakeholders to build consensus and accelerate inclusive sanitation outcomes. I anchor our work on cross-learning in the region through knowledge management, peer-to-peer networks, and institutional strengthening. Prior to Dasra, I supported corporates and foundations on their CSR strategies, impact assessments, and performance improvement plans across sectors such as WSH, gender, livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and education. Being at Dasra provides the unique opportunity to collaborate with committed stakeholders across nonprofits, philanthropy, government, and communities. I particularly value leading our cross-learning efforts across South Asia, where we foster knowledge exchange and institutional strengthening through peer networks. This work enables us to influence systems, scale context-relevant innovations, and support inclusive solutions. Through the work I anchor, I aim to contribute to ensuring access to safe and sustainable sanitation for the most marginalized communities across the region.

”



Aditya Bhatkal
Team Lead

“

I'm a Team Lead working on Data, Tech, and AI at Dasra. Before this, I worked in tech product management and analytics in Canada, for US-based clients. At Dasra, I'm primarily motivated by the prospect of enabling nonprofits to use foundational data/tech to further their cause. This could entail converting excel sheets to visuals to understand the bigger picture or map trends. It could entail incorporating the use of advanced reporting that strategically inform nonprofits on how to grow, for instance by using predictive analytics to identify a new geographic focus area. I aspire to contribute the sector by helping nonprofits embrace technological transformation and tools, supporting them in widening and scaling their impact.

”



Khyati Pokar
Associate

“

I am an Associate at Dasra, and I support the curation and management of the portfolio of organizations for the Rebuild India Fund. I hold a Master's in Social Work with a specialization in Mental Health from TISS. My passion for mental health advocacy and wellbeing drives my commitment to creating inclusive environments that foster resilience within marginalized communities. Working at Dasra gives me the space to learn from and contribute to India's vibrant development ecosystem. Through the Rebuild India Fund, I have the privilege of co-travelling with our partner organizations and proximate leaders who bring deep-rooted understanding of their communities' needs. What excites me most is collaborating with a growing community of grassroots organizations, fostering spaces where peer learning thrives and collective wisdom emerges. At Dasra, the freedom to exhibit agility and innovation allows me to be part of creating dynamic solutions that honor local leadership while building sustainable pathways for community-driven change across India's diverse landscapes.

”



Shachi Nelli
Manager

“

I lead global relationships for GivingPi, India's largest family philanthropy network housed at Dasra. Before this, I spent nearly a decade leading grassroots campaigns and cross-sector programs focused on civic engagement, gender, health, and public policy. I cherish how my work at Dasra enables me to engage with diverse stakeholders, including philanthropists and NGO leaders, allowing for a bird's eye view of the sector. I'm constantly growing and broadening my perspective — learning how to think across timelines, geographies, and levers of change. What I value most is the culture. It's fast-paced and complex, but also deeply kind. I am grateful for and always energized by the spirit of collaboration we try to embody at Dasra!

”



Dinella Oliveira
Associate Director

“

I'm Dinella Oliveira, Associate Director at Dasra, leading the Talent, Tech, and Data & AI teams. After spending over two decades in operations and process excellence across industries, I made the shift from the corporate world to the social sector when I joined Dasra nine years ago, and it's been the most meaningful chapter of my career.

I enjoy designing systems and processes that help people and teams thrive. Whether improving talent practices, advancing tech solutions, or deepening our use of data, I love building structures that strengthen how Dasra delivers impact. My goal is to create an environment where our people and partners can do their best, most meaningful work.

”



Sujit Vasant Dhumal
Team Lead

“

Over the past 10 years, I've seen Dasra grow from a close-knit 40-person team to a well-respected organization in India's development sector. As part of the finance team, I've had the privilege of managing over 14 Dasra Giving Circles. These collaborative platforms connected donors to grassroots NGOs, ensuring resources reached the right partners after a thorough process of due diligence and financial planning. Through this work, I developed a deeper understanding of the social sector. It helped me realize just how powerful structured funding, knowledge sharing, and leadership development can be in driving meaningful and lasting change. I continue to believe in Dasra's mission and in the role I play, ensuring that strong financial foundations help meaningful social change take root and grow.

”



www.linkedin.com/company/dasra/



www.instagram.com/dasraindia



www.x.com/dasra



www.facebook.com/dasra

www.dasra.org

