

KESHAYLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



THE
GATEWAY
SCHOOL OF
MUMBAI



THE
GATEWAY
INTERVENTION
CENTRE

THE
GATEWAY
RESEARCH &
OUTREACH CELL

THE
GATEWAY
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS



ANNUAL REPORT
2024-25

KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



MESSAGE FROM KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



As we look back at the academic year 2024–25, we are filled with pride, gratitude, and a sense of deep purpose. Each milestone, each small step forward, has brought us closer to realising our mission of building a truly inclusive learning community.



This year, we saw the spirit of Gateway flourish in new ways. **The Gateway Intervention Centre** grew stronger with the launch of our **Early Intervention Programme**, offering critical support to our youngest children. Student voices rang louder than ever with the **first-ever Student Learning Showcase**, where learners took centre stage to share their growth and learning journeys.

Creativity continued to blossom through the second edition of the **Visual Arts Showcase**, and our **Gateway Café expanded its services**, offering children more real-world experiences in hospitality and teamwork.

We were also proud to see our learners **collaborate with the American School of Bombay** and the **Govandi Arts Festival**, bringing **Bombay Bites: Stories of Mumbai Street Food** to life through a joyful performing arts showcase that celebrated storytelling, culture, and community.

One of the proudest moments this year was witnessing **a learner from the Career Path Programme transition to full-time employment**—a first in our community and a milestone that embodies our shared vision of independence and empowerment. Meanwhile, our literacy app, **FABLe**, continued to grow its reach, touching the lives of more learners across the country.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our founders, advisory board, generous donors, inspiring leaders, committed families, hardworking learners, and dedicated staff. Each one of you is a vital thread in the fabric of Gateway's story.

As we move forward, we do so with renewed determination—to keep growing, keep learning, and keep creating opportunities for every learner to thrive. Thank you for walking this journey with us



KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THE
GATEWAY
SCHOOL OF
MUMBAI



School Vision and Mission:

The Gateway School of Mumbai is committed to empowering children with learning challenges, their families, and the professionals who support them. We aim to equip students with the skills, knowledge, understanding, and attitudes needed to lead fulfilling, productive lives—as independent, successful individuals who contribute meaningfully to society. The vision driving this collaboration is to foster learning and promote evidence-based practices in education and therapy, both in India and around the world.

Since 2016, Gateway has proudly been recognised as an Ashoka Changemaker School—a testament to our ongoing commitment to innovation, empathy, and transformative education.



**CHANGEMAKER
SCHOOLS**



7.8 million
children with disabilities.

Source: UNESCO Report (2019)



28% of children
with disabilities remain out of school, much higher than the national average of 2.9%

Source: Social and Rural Research Institute (2014)



70% of individual
with intellectual disabilities are not employed

Source: Census 2011

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Siddhesh Pillai, born and raised in Mumbai, graduated from The Gateway School of Mumbai in 2019 after completing his NIOS 12th. Today, Siddhesh is carving out his professional journey as a Junior Executive at Qila.io, exploring new worlds in web development, blockchain, and cybersecurity. Always a curious learner, he is steadily expanding his skills in HTML and CSS, with an eye on the future.

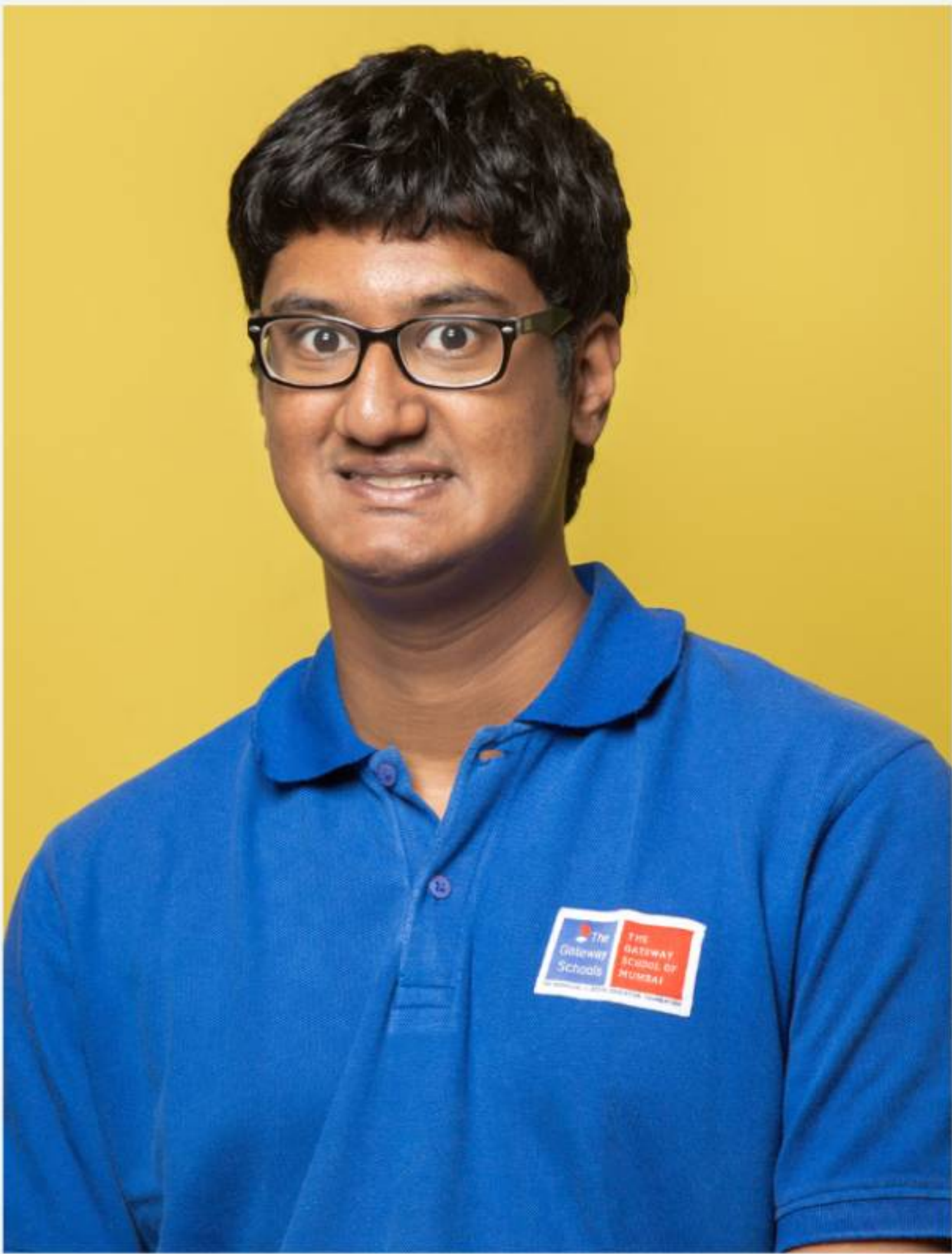
Beyond work, Siddhesh is a passionate car enthusiast, with the Porsche 911 and Toyota GR Yaris topping his favourites list. An avid gamer as well, he finds joy and adventure in games like Gran Turismo 4 and Persona 5. Travel holds a special place in his dreams, with a wishlist that spans South Korea, Japan, London, New York, Italy, and Germany.

Siddhesh lives with his family in Chembur, surrounded by his beloved four stray cats, two of whom were born recently. His deep bonds with his friends—his “second family”—and his love for animals reflect the empathy and understanding he values so highly. Reflecting on his time at Gateway, Siddhesh says the school meant hope for him—a place where he became a better and kinder person. At Gateway, he learned not just academic skills, but life lessons: empathy for others, the importance of understanding different perspectives, and the professional work ethic needed for success in a 9-to-5 job.

Among his proudest achievements is becoming the first Career Path Programme learner to transition into full-time employment, a milestone that embodies both his resilience and the vision Gateway holds for every learner. Siddhesh also takes pride in supporting his colleagues at work, whether by offering creative suggestions for website design or by being a dependable and positive presence in the team.

As he continues his journey, Siddhesh is working on staying positive, dreaming of travel adventures, and aiming to become an even stronger professional and a more respectful team member. His advice to current Gateway learners is full of hard-earned wisdom: “Don’t give up. If you have bad voices in your head, ignore them—it will be okay in the end.”

We are so proud of Siddhesh’s growth, resilience, and spirit, and we look forward to cheering him on as he continues to chase his dreams.



WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES?

At the end of Academic Year 2024-2025:

- ▶ Graduating from 10th: 81
- ▶ Graduating from 12th: 41

Our learners have gone on to pursue programmes at:

- ▶ Secondary: Foundation Programme in Fine Art & Junior College through the HSC Board
- ▶ Post-Secondary: Heriot-Watt University, Dubai, Amity University, Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) – Hotel Management, Wilson College – Bachelor’s Majoring in Philosophy, NMIMS School of Performing Arts, and International Institute of Sports Management (IISM)



Rajdeep Saraf

Currently, I am studying for my Foundation Course in Fine Arts at Rachana Sansad’s Academy of Fine Arts & Crafts, Prabhadevi, Mumbai. After completing it, I plan to join the First Year of G.D. Arts at the same institution.

Alongside academics, I have been training in Ceramics and Pottery under Ms. Shalan Dere since 2023. Mr. Gitesh Vedak has guided me in Fine Arts and various art mediums since 2021. I am also learning Graphic Designing under Mr. Omkar Mahashabde, using design software like Affinity and Adobe Illustrator since 2023. For wellness, Dr. Mickey Mehta’s team has been training me since August 2021, and Dr. Samindara Sawant, Founder of Disha, has been my go-to counsellor since February 2021.

Gateway taught me kindness, dignity, making friends, and regulation skills, which are helping me now. My goal is to become a professional Art-Based and Kinesthetic Therapist. I am also passionate about Fine Arts, Ceramics, Painting, and Sculpting, and I want to participate in exhibitions. In December 2024, I participated in my first public art show at Chaitra-Chitra Kalamahotsav, organised by Chitrakutir Kalagram CHS Ltd., Pen, and sold my first painting.

Siya Merchant

I am currently in the Class 11 equivalent TI-4 program at Pro-Education School, Umalas, Bali, studying Math, English, Global Studies, Business Studies, Art, and Music. I will also participate in the ASDAN certification. I do extracurricular classes in Tech, Art, Basketball, and Music at school. Gateway School nurtured me beautifully. I made lifelong friends there, whom I miss every day after moving to Bali. Gateway taught me kindness, which I practice daily. I also enjoyed the social work I did, and it continues to impact me deeply. I am a happy 18-year-old girl who lived in a joint family with my grandparents, parents, uncles, and aunts. Family is very important to me. I started at Little Palms Nursery, moved to Bombay Scottish School, and then shifted to Gateway to complete my NIOS 10th board exams.

I will complete my ASDAN certification at The Pro-Education School in Bali, where I will choose a subject and take both written and practical exams.



Farhan Choudhury

I am currently pursuing a Foundation Year Programme in Business Management at Heriot-Watt University, Dubai. The university maintains a strict policy against bullying and ragging, with serious consequences including possible deportation. I am grateful to be part of an environment where both students and faculty demonstrate mutual respect, and I have always been treated with dignity, including for the ways in which I may be different. My journey toward this point has been shaped significantly by my time at Gateway. Before joining Gateway, I attended another IB school where I unfortunately faced instances of bullying—both for my physical condition and academic performance. These experiences deeply impacted my confidence and motivation.

Gateway School stood out as a place of acceptance, where students of all backgrounds and abilities are supported and celebrated. A family friend had informed us about Gateway’s zero-tolerance

approach to bullying, which encouraged my grandmother to give me the opportunity to experience it for myself. After just one day, I came home with a smile—something that helped us decide that this was the right place for me. At Gateway, I was offered the flexibility to choose between NIOS and IGCSE pathways. With the constant support of my teachers and my grandmother, I chose to pursue the IGCSE curriculum and successfully graduated in 2021. I later returned to Gateway to complete Grades 11 and 12 under the NIOS board, graduating again in April 2024. Throughout my time here, I benefited from the dedicated support of counsellors and therapists, who played a crucial role in my academic, emotional, and physical development.

Looking ahead, I am committed to completing my Business Management degree and aspire to launch my own venture after gaining relevant work experience. My time at Gateway has laid a strong foundation for the journey ahead, and I will always remain grateful to the school for empowering me to believe in myself again.

STUDENT IMPACT



STUDENT IMPACT

CAREER PATH PROGRAMME

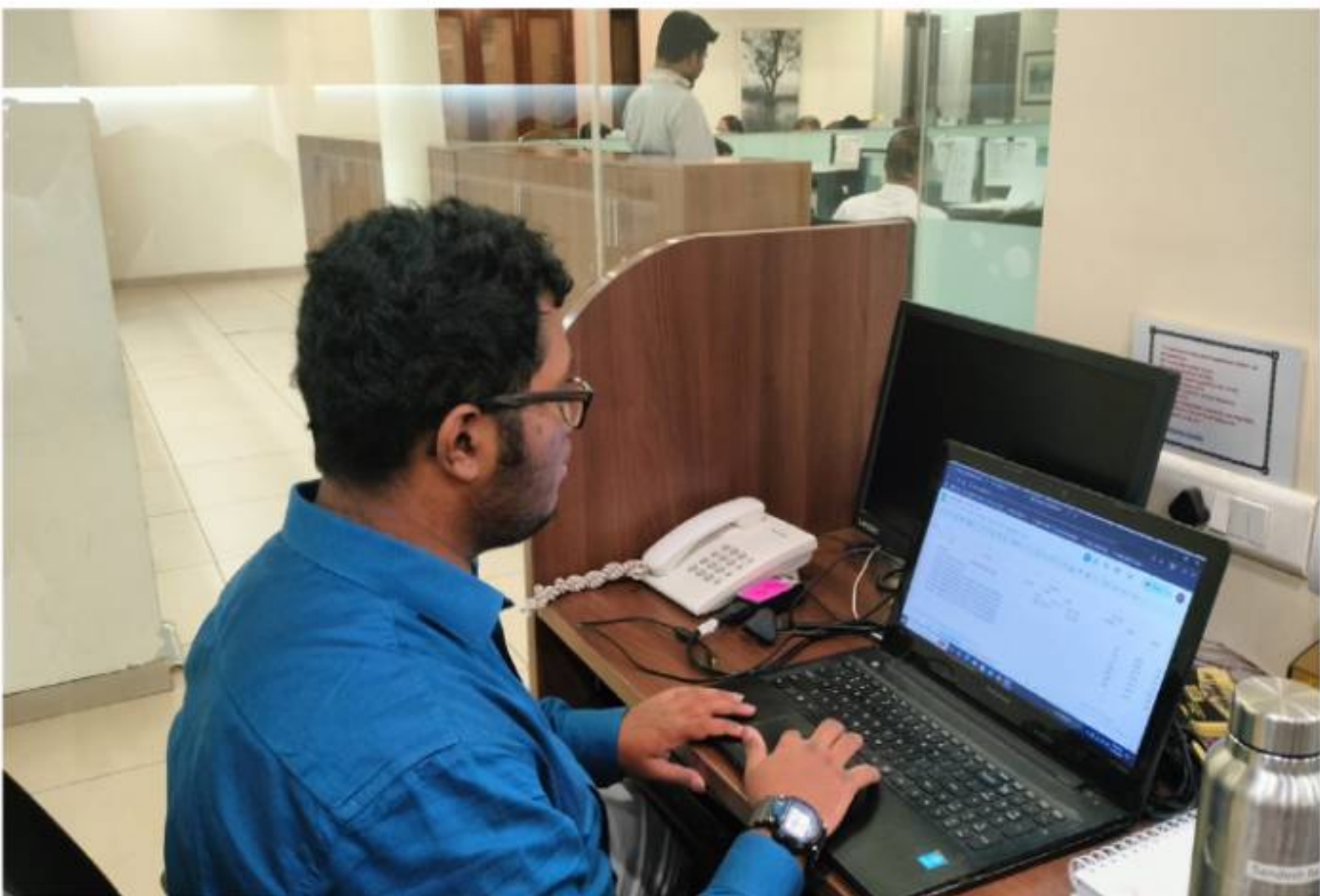


Our Career Path Programme (CPP) offers learners **customised employment opportunities** and is designed to support neurodiverse young adults by equipping them with the skills and experiences needed to **pursue meaningful careers and lead independent lives**.

By focusing on **personalised learning** (building essential vocational, social, and life skills based on each learner’s abilities, interests, and needs) and **real-world experiences** (providing opportunities to intern with various organisations), CPP empowers learners to transition into the workplace with the confidence and skills they need to succeed.

Three of our **Year 2 CPP learners**, who are about to enter Year 3, are currently in the process of exploring full-time employment opportunities at different organisations:

- ▶ One learner is on probation at **Qila** (as of May 2025),
- ▶ Another is pursuing an opportunity with **Hotel Diplomat**, and
- ▶ A third learner is interning with **McDonald’s**



We are proud of the progress our learners have made and the partnerships we continue to build with inclusive employers. Each step forward reaffirms our belief that with the right support, all individuals can find pathways to independence, success, and personal fulfilment.

STUDENT IMPACT

THE GATEWAY CAFÉ

Launched in the academic year 2023–24, The Gateway Café was established as a **learner-led initiative** to provide **nutritious, delicious meals** to the Gateway community while offering learners authentic, hands-on experiences in culinary arts, hospitality, and entrepreneurship.

In the academic year 2024–25, the café expanded its services to reach even more members of the community. Beyond offering daily, weekly, and monthly meal subscriptions to learners and staff, the Gateway Café began catering to a wider range of school events and special occasions. This year, the café successfully provided meals for participants of Gateway’s Professional Development Programme across six Saturdays, curated menus for school events such as book readings, parent-led gatherings, and art showcases, and offered special catering for milestone celebrations like Graduation and Gateway Prom.

Through their leadership, collaboration, and dedication, our learners continue to make the Gateway Café a space where community building and skill development go hand in hand. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing the café, and its team, continue to grow in the years ahead.



STUDENT IMPACT

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips play a vital role in creating a **holistic educational experience**. They offer learners valuable opportunities to **build social connections, strengthen their social and emotional skills, develop critical thinking abilities, and apply life skills** in authentic, real-world settings. Throughout the year, all our learners—from our youngest to our senior ones—participated in enriching experiences beyond the school walls, engaging directly with the world around them.

They participated in a wide range of field trips that connected classroom learning to the real world and fostered personal growth, independence, and curiosity.



Our CPP, HSAP Senior, and NIOS learners **visited community spaces** such as restaurants, malls, workshops, and bookstores to practise life skills and social engagement. NIOS 12th learners deepened their understanding of mass communication during a **visit to the Times of India printing press**, witnessing firsthand the operations behind one of Asia's largest newspaper production houses.

Several groups experienced the rich culture and natural beauty of Maharashtra through **overnight trips**—with CPP learners visiting **U Rivergate** in Karjat and high schoolers exploring agritourism and folk traditions at **Parashar Agri and Culture Tourism**, Pune.

Meanwhile, lower and middle school learners explored ecosystems, science, nature, and sensory experiences through visits to **Nehru Science Centre, Byculla Zoo, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, and Green Valley Park**. They also learned about the vital roles of community helpers during trips to a **police station, fire station, and bus depot**.

Our NIOS learners also visited the **Bhau Daji Lad Museum** for a hands-on Ragmala art workshop, while middle schoolers viewed a documentary on Australian wildlife at the science centre. Throughout the year, these experiences provided rich opportunities for inquiry, creativity, community engagement, and self-discovery, strengthening Gateway's commitment to holistic education.



SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMME

This year, our Service Learning Programme continued to empower Gateway learners to become active, **contributing members of society through meaningful engagement with the wider community.**

Our NIOS 12th and 10th learners partnered with the **National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped (NASEOH)**, applying their classroom learning to real-world contexts. Weekly visits involved art and movement-based activities, culminating in a special Warli art project that encouraged creative storytelling and deeper connection with the adults at NASEOH. Learners also helped organise a Ganesh Chaturthi Fundraiser in collaboration with NASEOH, successfully raising INR 33,220 through the sale of handcrafted items made by the adults at NASEOH. Our learners managed advertising, marketing, sales, and logistics, demonstrating strong teamwork, entrepreneurship, and community spirit. Our

High School Adaptive Programme (HSAP) Senior learners launched their own service initiatives this year, beginning with **hosting a potluck celebration** for their Junior peers as part of Friendship Day. They independently planned the event, handled communications, and put together an afternoon of food and performances. Extending their efforts beyond Gateway, HSAP learners also partnered with **Access Life Assistance Foundation**, organising an interactive visit for children undergoing treatment for paediatric cancer. Across all projects, Gateway learners built empathy, leadership, collaboration, and advocacy skills—living out our shared belief that every learner has the ability to meaningfully impact the world around them.



STUDENT IMPACT WORKSHOPS



Throughout AY 2024–25, Gateway learners engaged in a range of workshops designed to **expand their skills, creativity, and real-world understanding.**

Our NIOS and IGCSE **high school learners** collaborated with **Natasha Sharma** and volunteers from the **Govandi Arts Festival** and **IMC**, contributing to the art decor for IMC's global charity event.

Our learners also attended a **self-advocacy session** led by **Yash Charitable Trust**, learning from self-advocates about resilience, representation, and inclusion.

To celebrate National Sports Day, learners participated in a **high-energy Tabata movement workshop** led by the PE team and **Adellina Andrew**.



Career exploration was strengthened through a **career guidance workshop** at **Mithibai College**, **entrepreneurship and sports management sessions** with **Qila.io** and **Leon Menezes**, and **site visits** to the **International Institute of Sports Management** and **Rachna Sansad Institute of Fine Arts**.

Middle school learners experienced a **live shadow puppet performance** by **Chetan Gangavane**, exploring the traditional art form of Chitrakathi.

As part of the mass communication module, learners attended a **hands-on camera workshop** led by **Art Teacher Anirudha Desai**.

In visual arts, learners explored the vibrant tradition of **Madhubani painting** through a workshop facilitated by **EkiBeki**.

Gateway also hosted a **dynamic debate workshop** in collaboration with **Looking Glass** and the **Harvard Debate Council**, building critical thinking and public speaking skills.

These diverse workshops offered our learners opportunities to discover new passions, build essential skills, and connect more deeply with the world around them.



STUDENT IMPACT

HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE: GATEWAY X CODE 43

This year's High School Performing Arts Showcase, **Bombay Bites: Stories of Mumbai Street Food**, was a vibrant celebration of creativity, collaboration, and storytelling. Over the course of several months, learners explored Mumbai's iconic street foods—vada pav, bhel, and pav bhaji—delving into their histories, preparing the dishes in class, and discovering how food brings people and stories together. Creative writing exercises led by facilitators helped shape one of the original scripts for the show.

The showcase featured **three unique plays** spanning genres from comedy and ensemble theatre to documentary theatre, alongside live performances by Gateway's own student band. Learners developed a wide range of talents, from comic timing and creative writing to rapping, beatboxing, music composition, and acting, demonstrating incredible growth both on and off the stage.

This year's production was made even more special through **partnerships with the Govandi Arts Festival and Code 43**, a hip-hop collective from Govandi, who mentored and performed alongside our students, introducing them to the dynamic world of Desi Hip Hop. We were also delighted to welcome students and staff from Jai Vakeel School for an exclusive preview during the technical rehearsal.

We are deeply grateful to the Gateway community, Govandi Arts Festival, and all our partners for making this showcase a transformative experience, offering our learners a wider space to connect, express themselves, and find their unique voices.



STUDENT IMPACT

BOMBAY BITES TRAVELS TO THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BOMBAY



After a dynamic opening performance for the Gateway community, our high school learners took their production, **Bombay Bites: Stories of Mumbai Street Food**, to the Black Box Theatre at the **American School of Bombay (ASB)**. Performing for a packed house, this marked the first time Gateway learners toured their show to another school, stepping confidently into a new space and connecting with a new audience.

The performance at ASB was the result of a unique collaboration between **Gateway learners, ASB’s IDBP students**, and **Code 43**, the talented hip-hop crew associated with the Govandi Arts Festival. Together, they co-created and rehearsed a new version of Bombay Bites, blending music, movement, and storytelling into a vibrant multicultural, mixed-ability celebration of Mumbai’s street food culture.

Throughout this journey, learners built meaningful relationships, supported each other with language, communication, and performance, and showcased their resilience, creativity, and talents. The collaboration truly embodied the spirit of inclusion and community-building through the performing arts, offering learners a powerful platform to express themselves and find their voices.

The audience’s response was heartfelt and enthusiastic. Dr. Paul Richards, Head of School at ASB, shared, “Dear Gateway students, you have brightened our lives with your performance and your humanity.” Other audience members praised the show’s joy, energy, and the heartfelt storytelling that left a lasting impression.

We are deeply grateful to the ASB community — including Dr. Paul Richards, Rob Russell, Vanita Barrett, Khushnuma Ferzandi, Joyson Peter, and Joby Anthony — as well as the Gateway team, parents, and the Govandi Arts Festival team, for making this inspiring collaboration possible.



STUDENT IMPACT

BUILDING STUDENT AGENCY

At Gateway, nurturing student agency remains central to our mission of empowering learners to take ownership of their growth, make meaningful choices, and lead with confidence. This year, our learners demonstrated agency through a range of real-world, learner-led initiatives that showcased their skills, creativity, and leadership.

Our Career Path Programme (CPP) Year 1 learners brought together the skills they developed across the year in their culminating **Year-End Project**. In preparation, they collaboratively planned and hosted a **pop-up café** for parents, teachers, and peers—designing menus, purchasing supplies, preparing food, setting up the space, and managing customer service and transactions. On the day of the **Student Learning Showcase**, these learners further showcased their entrepreneurial and functional skills through a range of self-led stalls and activities, from selling homemade pizzas, chocolates, and ready-to-eat foods, to organising Zumba sessions and stage performances.

Our NIOS Prep, 10th, and 12th learners also took the lead in organising **The Gateway Extravaganza**—a vibrant event featuring food stalls, games, art sales, and a garage sale. They practised executive functioning, teamwork, and leadership, making key decisions, managing logistics, and

pledging most of their profits to support Access Life, an NGO working with children undergoing cancer treatment. Through these experiences, Gateway learners didn't just practise skills; they took ownership, found their voices, and made a real impact on their community—living examples of student agency in action.



STUDENT IMPACT

STUDENT LEARNING SHOWCASE

This year, we hosted our **inaugural Student Learning Showcase**, a vibrant, interactive event celebrating our learners' growth across academic and real-world domains. Our learners presented their academic journeys through exhibits and discussions spanning science, language, mathematics, and interdisciplinary connections. They also showcased their work in multidisciplinary learning units, data entry classes, cooking sessions, physical education activities, and more, offering the community a rich and comprehensive view of their learning experiences.

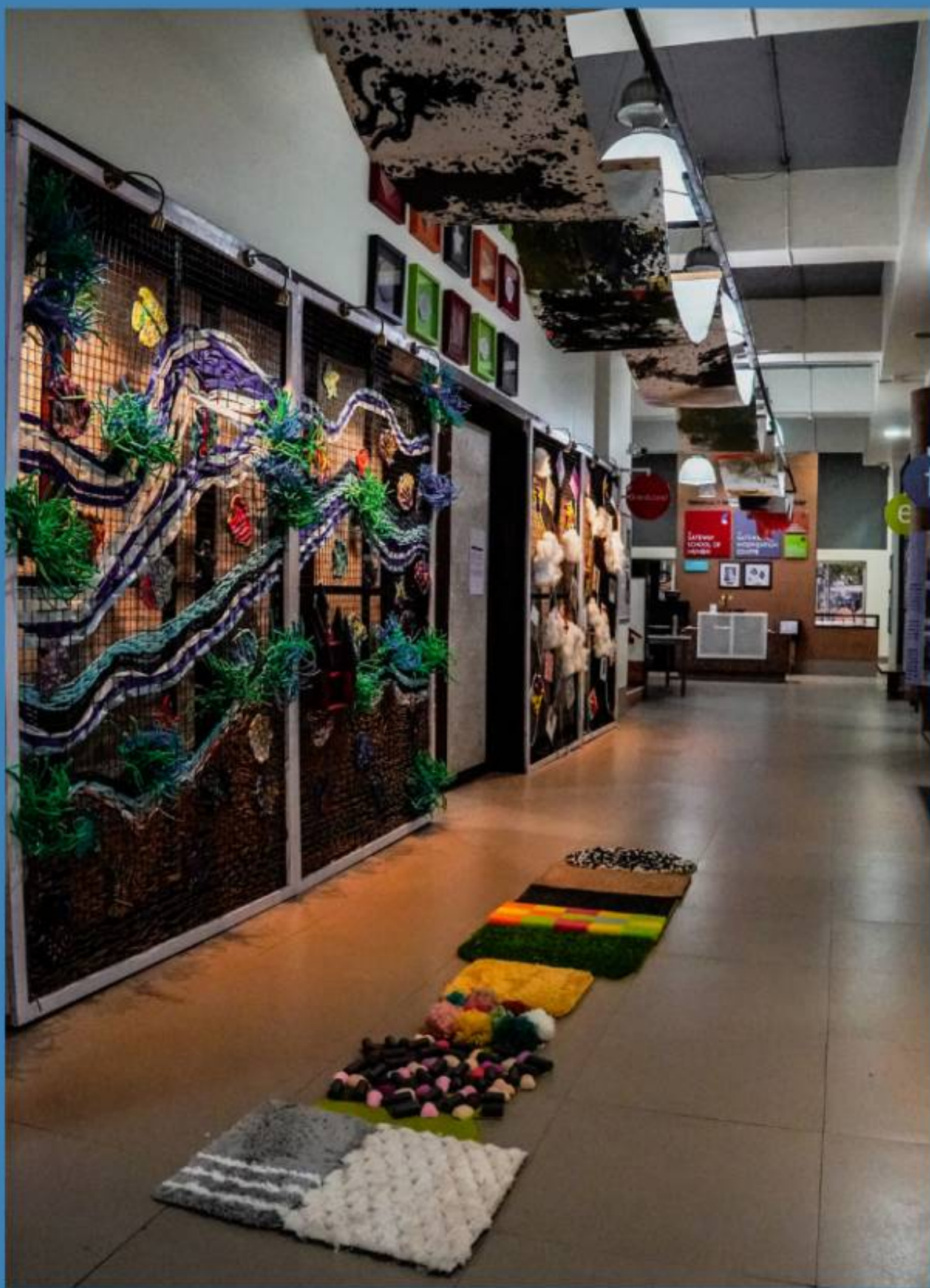
The event was not only a **celebration of academic achievement** but also a **powerful demonstration of essential life skills**. Our learners took ownership of planning, organising, and managing their exhibits and activities, practising communication, interpersonal skills, decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork. Their leadership shone through a variety of initiatives: some hosted a garage sale, others displayed their photography expertise, a few curated tasting experiences, and many set up stalls highlighting their creative and culinary talents.

The Student Learning Showcase reflected **our commitment to building student agency, interdisciplinary learning, and holistic development**. It was a proud moment for our entire community to see our learners step forward with confidence, creativity, and a deep understanding of their educational journeys.



STUDENT IMPACT

VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASE

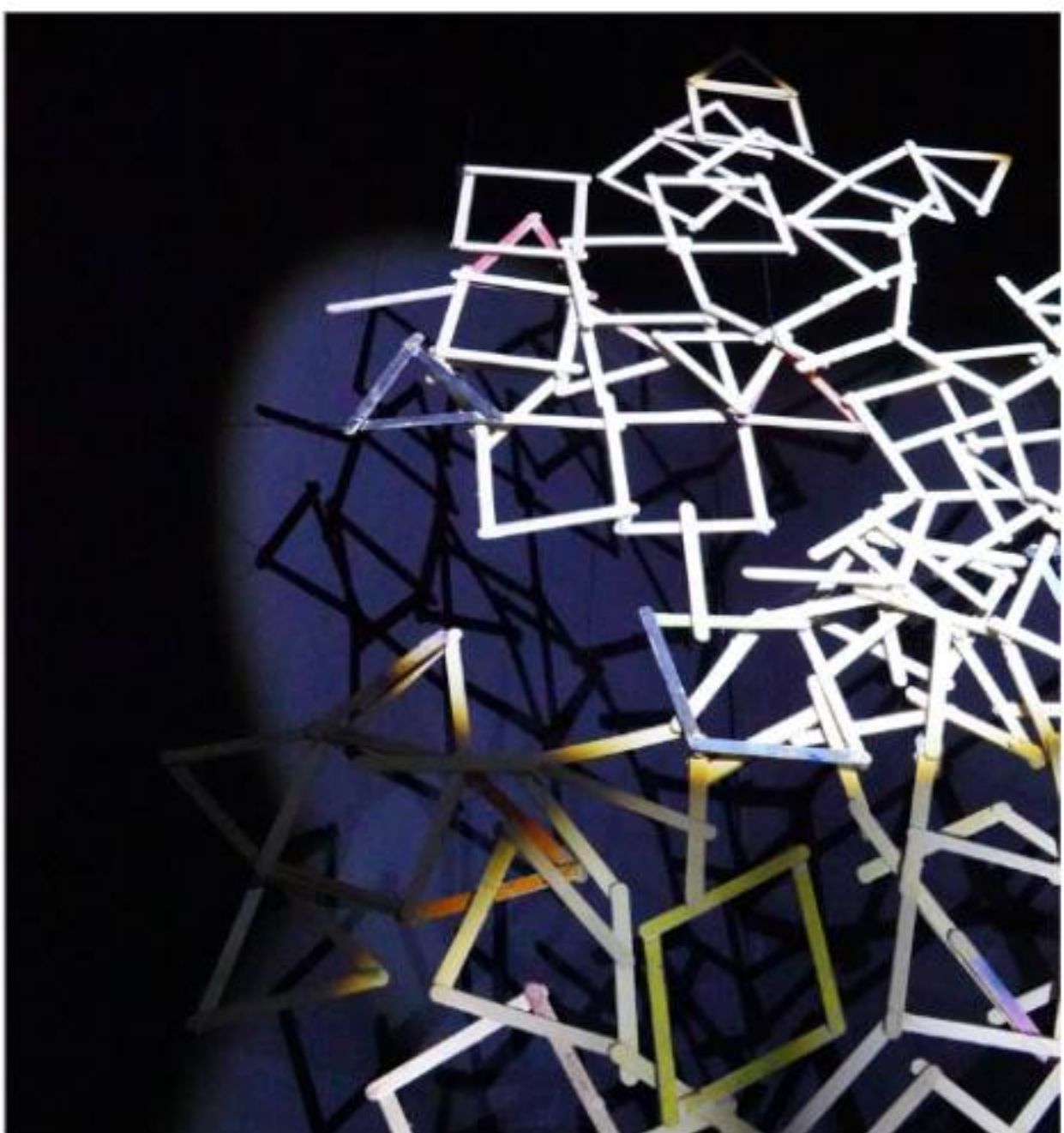
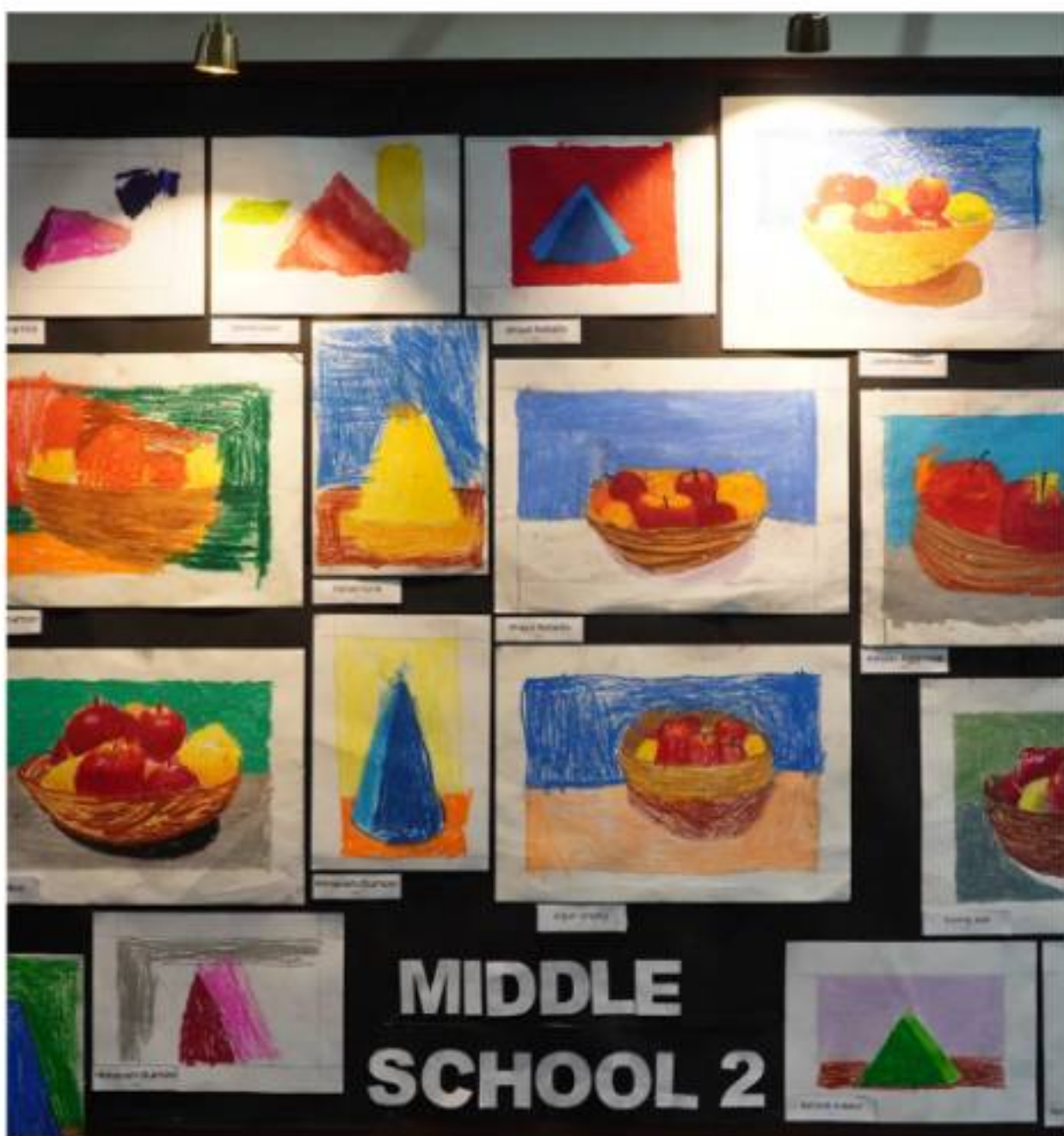


We also celebrated the second edition of our Visual Arts Showcase, **Sensory Scape**—a vibrant **exploration of creativity, perception, and connection**. Our learners’ year-long artistic journeys were curated into an immersive gallery walk, thoughtfully arranged by our Visual Arts team with the support of our staff. Visitors entered the showcase through a sensory pathway that led them to a textured wall, where art moved beyond the visual realm—encouraging them to engage through touch, connection, and tactile exploration.

Each room offered a unique sensory experience. In one room, the atmosphere was soft and poetic—delicate embroidered works shifted with the air, evoking the gentle motion of petals in the breeze. In stark contrast, a shadowy space invited discovery, where sculptures emerged only under focused beams of light, turning the simple act of looking into a journey of revelation.

Through this carefully crafted journey, our learners’ artworks spoke not just to the eyes but to the hands, the body, and the imagination. Sensory Scape was not just an exhibition; it was a conversation between the senses and the imagination, bridging the gap between what is seen and what is experienced.

The showcase reflected our commitment to fostering inclusive, experiential education, celebrating every learner’s voice, vision, and creative growth.



STUDENT IMPACT

INTER SCHOOL BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Sachin Nangia, Avanti Naik, Arya Morbia, and a few other learners participated in **Badminton Smash**, an inter-school badminton tournament organised by **professional badminton player Sahil Gurbuxani** at **The Willingdon Sports Club**, Mumbai. Learners from ten other schools took part in the tournament, making it an action-packed and exciting experience.

Our learners participated enthusiastically, showcasing strong sportsmanship, determination, and teamwork throughout the event. **Sachin and Arya won a bronze medal in their category**, a wonderful achievement that reflects their hard work and spirit. We are proud of our learners’ achievements this year and look forward to supporting their continued growth in the years ahead.



STUDENT IMPACT

INTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Our lower and middle school learners—**Arjun Shetty, Dipesh Bohara, Deeyaan Shah, Seth Viegas, Mukil TR, Siddharth Nagarmath, and Ivaan Jain**—embraced the spirit of competition at the **VIBGYOR VIVA Interschool Football Tournament (U-12 Boys)**, organised by **VIBGYOR High**, Kharghar. The event saw **participation from 24 schools** across Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai.

Our learners, trained under the guidance of **Sports Coach Vikas Nerlekar** and **Sports Coordinator Frazer Vaz**, played two spirited matches—one against VIBGYOR High and the other against Vishwajyot High School. They displayed admirable performance, teamwork, and resilience, while thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to interact with students from other schools. Filled with camaraderie and sportsmanship, the tournament offered a memorable and enriching learning experience, reinforcing the values of teamwork, perseverance, and mutual respect.



COMMUNITY IMPACT



Gateway's vision of an inclusive society, where each person has what they need in order to be successful, is only possible in partnership with the larger community. Gateway partners with parents, families, professionals, and organisations to further our vision.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

At Gateway, parents and families work together with our team towards the common goal of serving our learners. Meaningful partnerships with them continue to strengthen the learning experiences of our learners.

This year, families of our HSAP Senior learners collaborated closely with teachers to extend classroom learning into real-world contexts. **The Wander and Wonder Cart** was one such initiative where parents joined hands with staff to create an engaging food event. It introduced learners to healthy eating choices while offering a practical opportunity to apply their money transaction skills from maths class. Parent collaboration was also key to organising a **Diya Decoration workshop**. Working with teachers, parents simulated the experience of a real community workshop—from signing up and paying fees to sourcing earthen diyas and bringing materials from home. Learners practised planning, teamwork, and creativity as they painted and decorated their own diyas.



Parents helped us identify like-minded organisations we could partner with. Moreover, they willingly and enthusiastically volunteered as a reader/writer for some of our middle and high school students.



Our **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** generously organised **The Gateway Fiesta**, a joyful celebration of creativity, community, and fun. The event featured a lively flea market where learners showcased and sold handmade crafts, artworks, baked goods, and culinary treats—from handbags, bookmarks, chocolates, and mousse to paintings and embroidered rings. The energy continued with a **dance session** led by choreographers Asif and Shifa, followed by a **glamorous fashion show** where learners confidently walked the ramp. Throughout the day, students lit up the stage with **song and dance performances**. **Bowling, trampoline, and raffle draws** added excitement, while guests enjoyed **fluid art, pottery, tattoo art, nail art**, and a relaxing **foot spa** experience. A range of delicious food and refreshing drinks completed the vibrant atmosphere. The Gateway Fiesta gave learners, families, and staff a chance to connect, celebrate, and unwind in a lively, welcoming setting.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

MUSICAL EVENING

Gateway came alive with the vibrant sounds of **Yeh Shaam Mastani: A Musical Evening**—a joyful and unforgettable celebration of music, community, and creativity. For the first time ever, our outdoor amphitheatre echoed with live music, laughter, and unbreakable rhythms—just as it was always meant to. The event brought together our Gateway community, budding in-house musicians, passionate music enthusiasts, and talented bands from other schools, creating an atmosphere filled with connection and artistic expression.

The evening was packed with immersive musical experiences. **Interactive bonding sessions for parents and children** nurtured physical, emotional, and social development, while an **electrifying karaoke session** gave everyone a chance to sing their hearts out. **Workshops in beatboxing and ukulele** introduced participants to new skills, turning voices into rhythm machines and making music-making accessible and fun. **Our lively drum circle** further reinforced the collective power of rhythm to connect and energise.

Live performances by Gateway learners and guest musicians added to the magic of the evening, showcasing incredible talent through soulful melodies and high-energy beats. From solo acts to ensemble performances, every note played celebrated the unifying, uplifting spirit of music.

Yeh Shaam Mastani was more than an event—it was an experience that filled our hearts and strengthened our community bonds. We look forward to creating many more opportunities to celebrate the arts, creativity, and the joy of coming together.





KESHAYLAL Y. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



THE GATEWAY INTERVENTION CENTRE



THE GATEWAY INTERVENTION CENTRE

Understanding Psychiatry: A Workshop by Dr Jagan Chilakamarri

As part of our second **Health and Wellness Week** to promote healthy and mindful living, we organised a workshop on understanding psychiatry, early childhood development, the detection of developmental delays and deviations, and the impact of psychiatric medication. The informative and thought-provoking workshop was conducted by esteemed Dr Jagan Chilakamarri, a board-certified child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist with extensive private practice experience and with experience working in elite institutions such as **Yale** and **Emory**.

Dr. Jagan opened participants' minds to the role of a psychiatrist in a multidisciplinary team and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in treatment and management. He also gave participants an insight on how puberty affects brain development and mental health. He emphasised the role of parents as gatekeepers in a position to have the best knowledge about their child. Parents play a vital role in detecting early signs of developmental delays that are easy to miss. Dr. Jagan also talked about what parents should look out for during the initial stages of their child's development and discussed some different types of therapy and treatment options. All in all, the workshop was extremely enlightening and Dr. Jagan left participants with valuable insights and knowledge.

We are pleased to share that Dr. Jagan continues to work closely with our team, providing expert guidance and support for specific students as part of our ongoing commitment to mental health and well-being.



THE GATEWAY INTERVENTION CENTRE

Early Intervention

This year, we were proud to launch the Early Intervention Programme at The Gateway Intervention Centre. Designed to support infants and young children who are at risk of, or showing signs of, developmental delays, the programme brings together a team of experts—occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, and special educators—who work collaboratively to nurture the **holistic development of each child**.

Grounded in our philosophy of **family-centred care and empowerment**, the programme places parents at the heart of their child’s journey. We believe that early start services, strong parent-professional partnerships, and viewing parents as gatekeepers to their child’s growth are essential for meaningful progress.

Our curriculum framework is thoughtfully designed to address key developmental domains. Children engage in activities that support sensory integration, language development, and emotional regulation, while also building gross and fine motor skills, play skills, early literacy, problem-solving abilities, and life skills. Music, movement, and story time are woven into the daily rhythm, creating joyful, nurturing experiences that foster both learning and connection.

Rooted in evidence-based practices, the Early Intervention Programme has already begun making a meaningful difference and continues to grow, as we partner closely with families to build strong foundations for every child’s future.



SUMMER PROGRAMME

Gateway's Summer School 2025

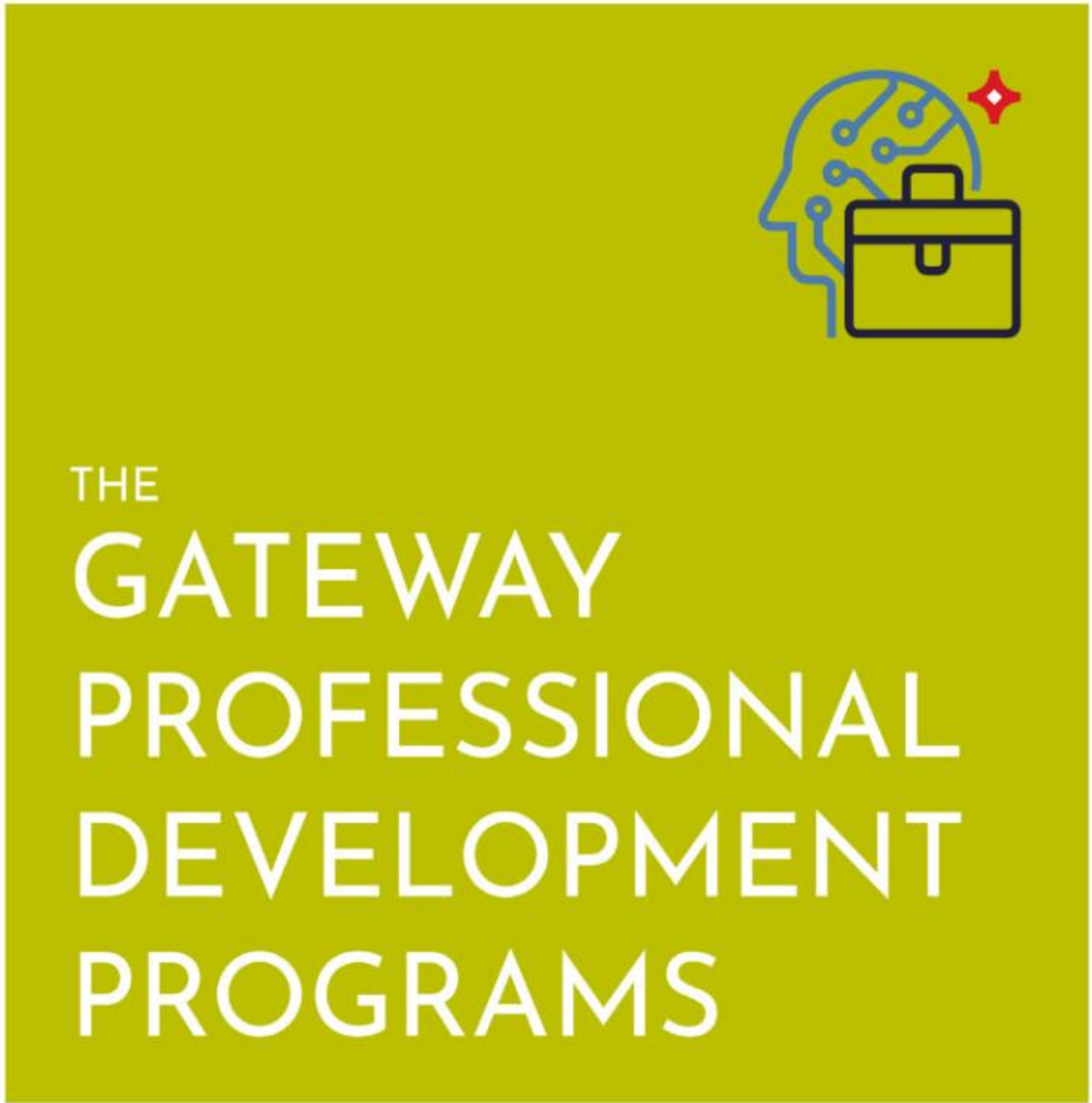
This year, we successfully hosted our two-week **Summer School** programme from 12 to 23 May. Designed for learners aged 7–13 years and 14+ years, the programme **blended structured learning with exploratory play**, ensuring **developmentally appropriate experiences** while **fostering friendships** across age groups.

Each day featured a dynamic mix of fitness and creative activities, hands-on culinary sessions, and social skills training led by experienced professionals. Learners also participated in drama and dance, reinforcing movement and self-expression as essential elements of the programme. Friday excursions, including community visits and heritage walks, provided learners with real-world learning experiences beyond the classroom. Throughout the two weeks, the programme offered **an enriching summer of creativity, connection, and confidence-building**—strengthening both skills and relationships in a joyful, supportive environment.





KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



CAPACITY BUILDING

In-house capacity building

This year, our team remained deeply committed to professional growth and collaborative learning by actively participating in a wide range of targeted workshops, study programmes, and outreach initiatives. These opportunities not only enriched individual expertise but also contributed meaningfully to Gateway’s culture of inquiry, innovation, and reflection. Teachers explored the integration of movement into classroom routines through the Movement Integration Workshop by Dipna Daryanani, where they learned to enhance student engagement and cognitive development through purposeful physical activity. In the Understanding Psychiatry workshop led by Dr. Jagan Chilakamarri, educators deepened their understanding of mental health, child development, and the multidisciplinary nature of supporting students with developmental delays.



The Circles and Cycles Workshops—Reclaim Your Childhood and Interpret the World—conducted by Bindiya Hassaram and Angela Mee Lee offered an immersive exploration of the Reggio Emilia philosophy, encouraging teachers to reflect on childhood, identity, and pedagogical intent. This was further enriched by a week-long study programme on the Reggio Emilia Approach in Singapore, organised by REACH (Reggio Emilia in Asia for Children), which provided first-hand exposure to Reggio-inspired settings and deepened our team’s commitment to child-led learning and documentation.



A visit to the Helen Keller Institute provided powerful insights into inclusive education practices for children with visual and hearing impairments, reaffirming the importance of accessibility and differentiated instruction in our classrooms. Additionally, the Sing, Move, and Play Music Workshop by Tala Education inspired educators to incorporate music more intentionally across learning areas, fostering creativity, rhythm, and emotional expression. Beyond personal development, team members also shared their learning through Gateway’s Outreach and R&D initiatives—mentoring external educators, conducting community workshops, and contributing to innovation through task forces and collaborative projects.



Together, these experiences have strengthened both individual and institutional capacity, reinforcing Gateway’s dedication to lifelong learning, reflective practice, and educational excellence.

The Toby Pulanco Fellowship for Aspiring Special Educators

This year marked the successful launch of Gateway’s new Teaching Fellowship Programme, designed to offer aspiring educators an immersive experience in working with learners with disability.

Our fellows spent the year engaging deeply with learners, collaborating closely with teachers and families, and building hands-on skills in inclusive education. They participated in a range of professional learning opportunities—including knowledge-sharing workshops, classroom observations, and professional learning communities—allowing them to connect theory with practice and refine their understanding of effective teaching strategies.

Through this dynamic and supportive environment, our fellows not only gained valuable experience but also contributed meaningfully to the learning journeys of our learners. Their dedication, curiosity, and growth over the course of the year have been inspiring, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements as they complete their first year with us.

We look forward to continuing to nurture future educators through this programme, strengthening our broader commitment to excellence, inclusion, and lifelong learning.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Professional Development Programme 2024

To date:

- 7 cohorts
- Over 400 participants
- Over 70 organisations
- Over 30 low fee paying schools
- From cities all over India and from Dubai and Thailand

Gateway’s Professional Development Programme (PDP) entered its seventh year, continuing its mission to build a community of educators committed to creating an inclusive society. This year, a total of 61 professionals enrolled from 19 different organisations and schools. The programme offered participants an enriching learning experience, deepening their understanding of child development and equipping them with the skills needed to design effective, inclusive programmes for all learners – including those with special needs. Through a blend of theory, practice, and collaboration, participants strengthened their ability to foster inclusive, student-centered learning environments.



TESTIMONIALS

“ All the PD workshops were absolutely insightful. I learnt a lot and implement all these strategies in my classes.

- Ritika Bhattacharya

“ Loved the experience! It shifted my perspective on inclusion and taught me practices to include all students by making minor yet effective changes.

- Tamanna

“ I loved every minute. Facilitators were knowledgeable, engaging, and patient.

- Parul Shah

“ I am immensely impressed with the structuring of the entire programme and how informative and knowledgeable it has been without being too overwhelming.

- Shirin Chimthanawala

CAPACITY BUILDING

This year, The Gateway Skills Lab continued to extend Gateway’s mission beyond our classrooms through **YouTube episodes** designed to share actionable teaching practices with a wider community.

Through **short, accessible videos**, the series introduced **evidence-based strategies** that educators and families can use to support student learning. Topics ranged from **reading fluency techniques**—such as choral, echo, and partner reading—to broader practices aimed at **improving comprehension, engagement, and independence in learners**.

By making these resources freely available, The Gateway Skills Lab has empowered educators and caregivers both within India and beyond to integrate inclusive, research-backed methods into their work. The series represents Gateway’s ongoing commitment to building capacity, fostering inclusion, and ensuring that effective educational practices reach as many learners as possible.



Dr. Radhika Misquitta
Co-Principal

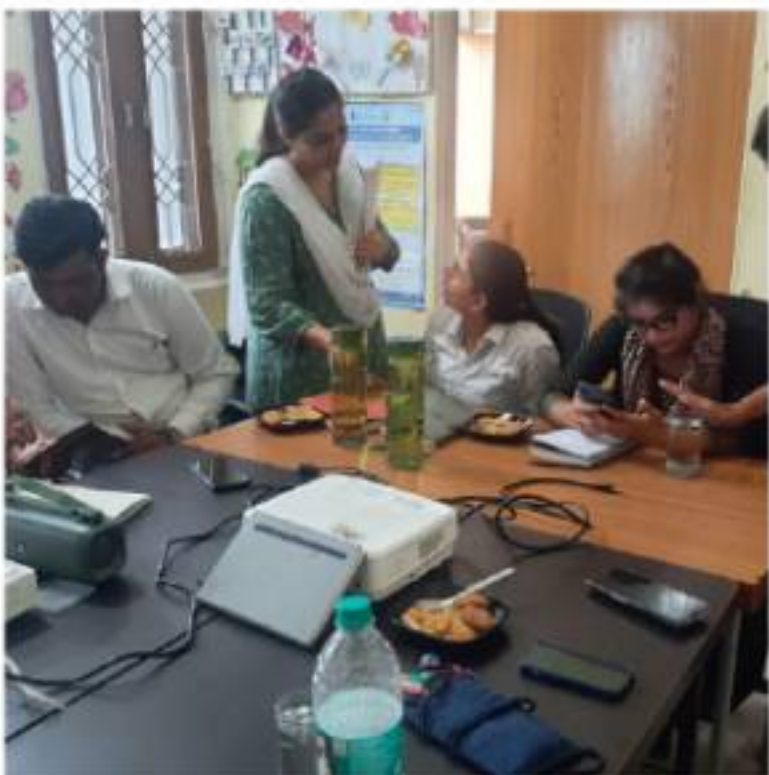




KESHAYLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



THE
GATEWAY
RESEARCH &
OUTREACH CELL



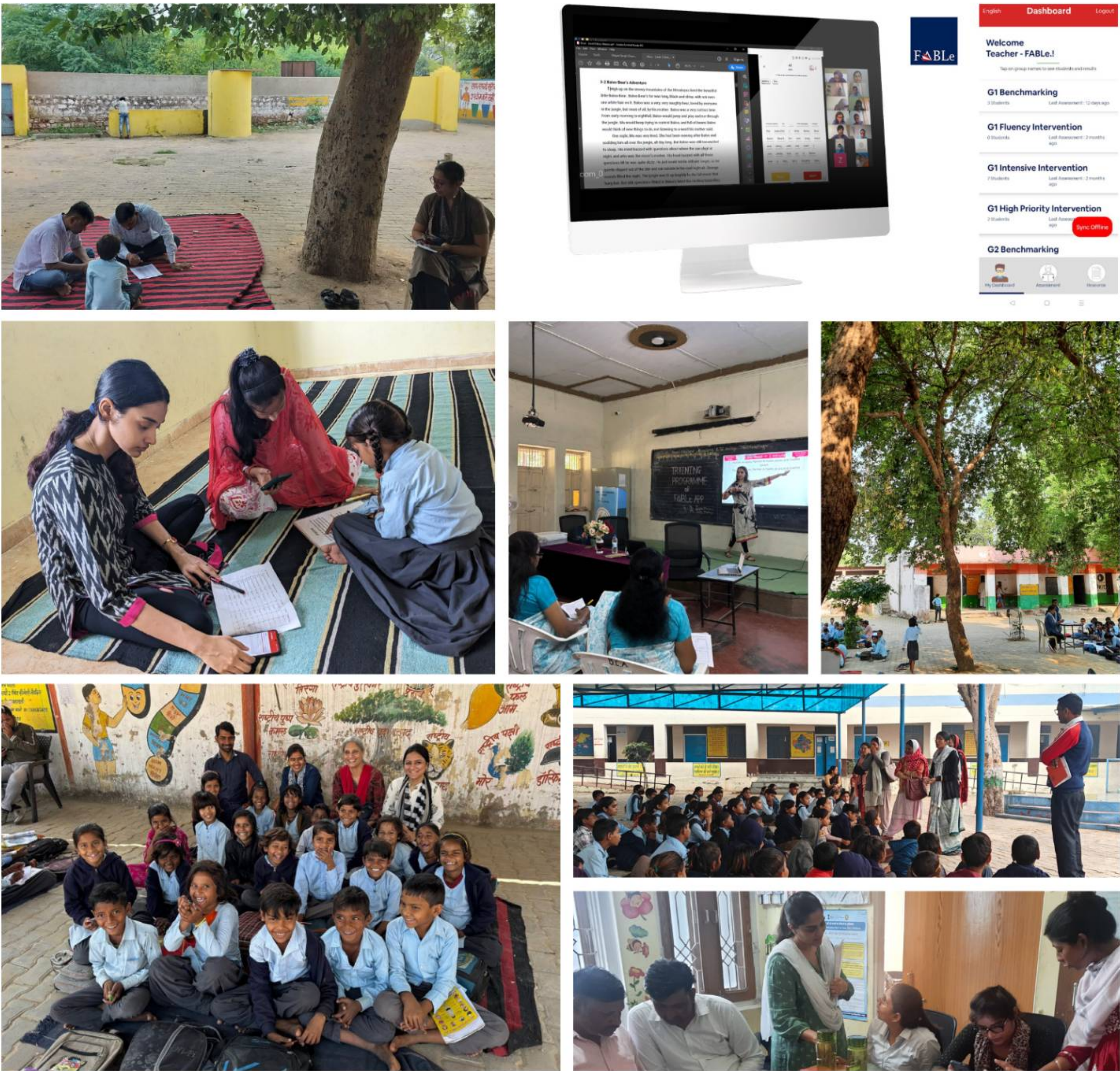
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

FABLe, our homegrown **literacy assessment application**, continued to grow this year, supporting schools and educators across India in **building strong foundational reading skills**. Designed to screen, assess, and monitor oral reading fluency using Indian benchmarks, FABLe is now available for **Grades 1 to 5 in English, Hindi, and Marathi**.

This year, FABLe expanded its reach through meaningful partnerships, fieldwork, and research. With support from **Tata Trusts**, our team piloted the FABLe app in Rajasthan to begin estimating local oral reading fluency benchmarks for Hindi. In collaboration with Tata Trust's local partner CMF, Gateway team members travelled to Hindaun in Karauli district to train facilitators and conduct assessments across four government schools. This field experience helped test the app in real-world conditions and offered valuable insights into the literacy landscape of rural classrooms.

In Maharashtra, we partnered with **Anjali Morris Foundation** and **Sajag Trust** to strengthen FABLe's reach among Marathi-speaking learners through teacher training and implementation support.

FABLe reflects Gateway's **commitment to equitable literacy outcomes** for all learners and to **building capacity** through research, innovation, and community-rooted collaboration.

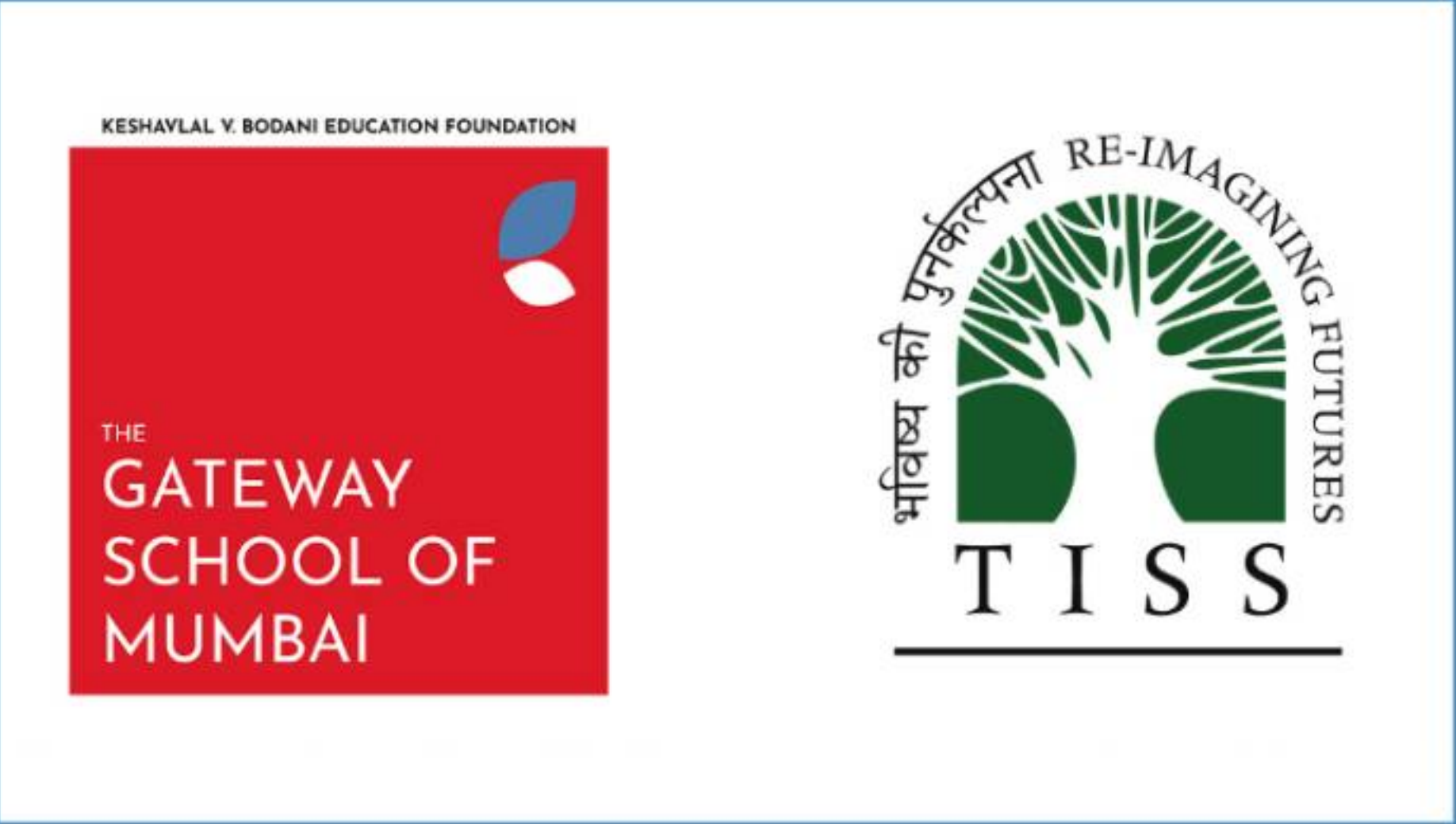


PARTNERING FOR CHANGE!

Tata Institute of Social Sciences

We continue to partner with the **Centre for Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE)** at **TISS** to teach courses on Inclusive and Special Education to pre-service B.Ed, M.Ed, and MA in Education students.

At the **Rachana Fellowship Winter School** (TISS Mumbai), we conducted a workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy in Mathematics, focusing on designing low-floor, high-ceiling tasks that promote engagement, deeper thinking, and accessibility for all learners.



School Engagements & Outreach

Throughout the year, we led a series of impactful workshops and ongoing training programmes across the country, partnering with schools and universities to build capacity in inclusive and literacy-focused practices. Highlights include a comprehensive literacy workshop conducted across four cities with Attalim Schools, as well as sustained teacher training and coaching initiatives at Bharat Children’s Academy in Walchandnagar and Aseema Charitable Trust’s Pali Chimbai Municipal School in Mumbai.

As part of our Research & Outreach Cell, our team worked closely with nine educators—including one special educator—



teaching Grades 1 to 5, using a school-embedded model that combined classroom observations, targeted training on student-centred strategies, and ongoing coaching through video submissions and collaborative reflection. This approach supported the adoption of practical, inclusive methods to improve reading fluency, comprehension, and student engagement.

In addition to our work with schools, we collaborated with higher education institutions such as SNDT Women’s University, Jai Hind College, and Delhi Public School Patna to advocate for inclusive education, integrate technology in interventions, and strengthen support for neurodiverse learners.

Through these sustained efforts, we continue to drive change beyond our own classrooms—supporting educators in creating equitable and engaging learning environments where all students can thrive.



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Conferences

We presented our work at prestigious international conferences this year, sharing innovations in inclusive education, literacy, and employment pathways. At the **International Association of Special Education Conference** in the Czech Republic, we presented on early intervention, social-emotional learning, and the Career Path Programme. We also showcased FABLE at the **International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities Conference** in Poland. Additionally, we presented Gateway's Career Path Programme at the **Dignity of Work Forum**, advocating for inclusive employment practices alongside experts from Utah State University. We were also part of a panel discussion on Inclusion: The Role of Technology at the **3rd International Conference on Education**.



Published research

We co-authored a research article comparing preservice teachers' knowledge of reading instruction in India and England. Published in **Education Sciences**, the study contributes to global conversations on early childhood education and literacy support.

You can read the paper [here](#).



THANK YOU!

Contributors:

Anti Gravity (Yudisthir & Karan Jaising)
Sid Ugrankar
Siddhesh Vaibhav
Biba Bajaj
Smita Jatia
Pankaj Kanodia
Ketan Jariwala
Kiran Bommakanti
Priyanka Jain
Vishpala Hundekari
Ankeet Dave
Tanaz Mohammed
Harshvardhan Tanwar
Sunil Tripathi
Mansi Sanghvi

Surekha Jhaveri
Nishna Mehta
Nalini Sorenson
Drupa Khanna
Bipasha Vittal
Bhairavi Parekh
Sonali Bendre & Mrunaal Chablani
Tanya D'Souza
Soham Sharda
Jaydev Dhakan
Namah Mistry
Leon Menezes
Nishita Deshmukh
Ashrita Katyal
Grishma Shah

Donors:

Oriental Aromatics Limited
BDH Industries Ltd.
IMC India Securities Pvt. Ltd.
Maple Digital Technology International Pvt Ltd.
20th Century Holding Pvt. Ltd.
TCFC Finance Ltd.
CFF Fluid Control Limited
Kishore Kanungo Charitable Trust
Unnati Welfare Foundation
Sheth Vithaldas Kanji Charitable Trust
M/S Netplace Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Anshuman Ghose
Gayatree Basu
Niti Sanjeev Patel (Penny Patel)
Maruti Prabhakar Naik
Manisha Kiritkumar Dalal
Omkar Foundation
Sanjeev Hanuman Mathur
Pushpa Pravinchandra Mehta / Shefail Yogesh Goel
Ramesh Shantilal Mehta
Sapna Jogani
Ramesh Samrathmal Seth
Aarti Bhandari
Suman Mukul Agarwal
Hitendra Merchant

KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



www.gatewayschoolmumbai.org



+91-22-25563613
+91-22-25563614
+919137458892



info@gatewayschoolmumbai.org
info@gatewayinterventioncentre.org



BS Devashi Marg,
Opposite Hemant Karkare CNG Station,
Govandi Station Road, Govandi - East
Mumbai - 400088, Maharashtra, India

