KESHAVLAL 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 2025-26

THE YEAR BEFORE FIFTEEN




Gateway
Athlte
Gateway
Athlete

THE YEAR BEFORE FIFTEEN

When The Gateway School of Mumbai was founded in 2012, the goal was simple: individualised, evidence-based education for learners with disabilities.



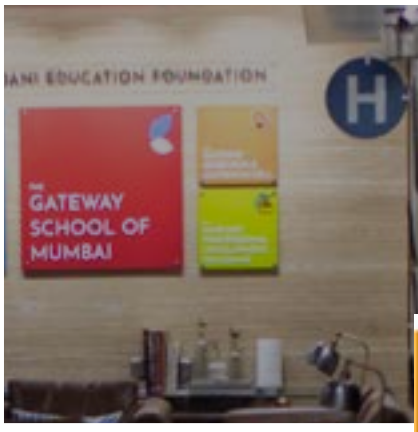
But the School soon became more than a place of learning - it became a place of learning for us. It showed us that real inclusion doesn't begin and end in a classroom. Lasting change meant empowering teachers, sharing knowledge, and letting research shape practice - leading to the Gateway Professional Development Programme and the Gateway Research & Outreach Centre, carrying the foundation's impact beyond the school's walls.

As Gateway's work reached more families, another truth emerged: many families sought our expertise, but a school can only open its doors to so many children. The need was far greater than the seats available. At the same time, our school setting meant there were certain profiles we simply couldn't support within it - children whose needs called for a different kind of engagement than a classroom could offer. In 2024, The Gateway Intervention Centre (TGIC) was established to close both gaps at once - so that every family could access Gateway's multidisciplinary care, and so that we could serve a far more diverse range of profiles, in every sense of the word. Today, these four verticals aren't separate initiatives - they're one journey. Each exists because the one before it revealed another way to serve, together building a stronger, more inclusive ecosystem for individuals with disabilities and everyone who supports them.

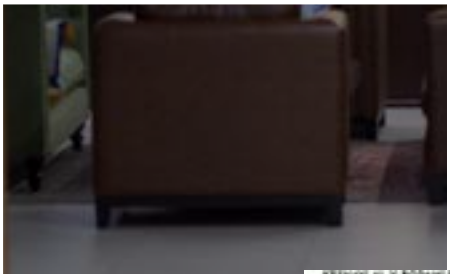


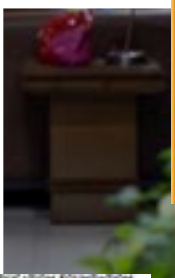
KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

















A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

A vision rooted in continuity and depth.



"As we enter the **15th year of The Gateway School of Mumbai**, I find myself reflecting on how our vision has grown over the years. We began with the hope of changing the lives of children with disabilities through quality education. Today, our purpose is larger: to help build an ecosystem where every child, regardless of where they live or where they study, has access to the support they deserve.

Our work is driven by a reality we cannot ignore. In India, an estimated **7.8 million children live with disabilities**, yet **28% remain out of school - far higher than the national average.** Even for those who do access education, opportunities beyond the classroom remain limited, with 70% of individuals with intellectual disabilities not in employment. These numbers remind us that inclusion cannot begin and end with a school. It requires early intervention, empowered educators, research that informs practice, and systems that create opportunities throughout a person's life.
For us, numbers have never been the focus. Every child that walks through the door, gets all our attention because we truly believe in looking at a child holistically and deeply. If we can change one child and the family's life, we see that as success and these stories push us to keep learning and growing and creating impact!

That depth demands a longer view than a single classroom or a single year. Our focus has always been the whole journey - from birth to adulthood - because a child's needs do not end at graduation, and neither does our responsibility. Continuity of learning and support across a lifetime is what allows a child to not just access opportunity, but to participate, contribute, and lead a fulfilling life.

None of this depth is possible alone. Without partnership and collaboration, there is no growth - only repetition of what we already know. Every meaningful step forward this year has come from constantly observing, learning, and collaborating with others working toward the same goal.

This year reflects that journey. By expanding early intervention through TGIC, we are reaching children and families sooner. Through our partnership with UFLI, we hope to strengthen literacy instruction for countless learners across India. Our outreach programmes continue to equip educators with practical, evidence-based approaches, while our collaboration with the University of San Diego marks an important step toward preparing the next generation of leaders in special and inclusive education.

As we look ahead, my hope is that the foundation continues to create solutions that outlive us: teachers who transform classrooms, research that shapes policy and practice, families who find the support they need, and systems that ensure every child has the opportunity not only to access education, but to participate, contribute, and lead a fulfilling life. That has always been our vision, and it will continue to guide every step we take - one life, deeply changed, at a time." **- Indira Bodani**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS - 15TH YEAR FOR KVBEF

Moving beyond direct education to systemic suppport for all children.

Expanding early interverion with TGIC and also collaborating with University of Florida Literacy Institute and SOLES, University of San Diego to scale impact.

Equipping the next generation of educators and policy shapers.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PARTH PAWAR

Parth is currently balancing work and education as he completes Gateway's Career Path Programme.

He works in the Accounts & Finance department at Oriental Aromatics Limited, where he supports shipment documentation and SAP processes. Outside work, he enjoys VFX, video editing and creative writing, and hopes to continue building both his professional and creative skills.





AND WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES?

JASRAJ SHAH

Jashraj is pursuing Sports Management at IISM while gaining hands-on experience through internships. He hopes to build a career in sports operations and management.





RIJUL BOSE

Rijul will be pursuing a BBA in International Hospitality & Tourism Management at ITM: Institute of Hotel Management. During his six years at Gateway, experiences such as internships, Connect Beyond Classroom and Student Council helped him build confidence, leadership and independence. Passionate about travel, photography and business, he looks forward to a career in hospitality and tourism.

LIFE AFTER GATEWAY



This year marked an important milestone in Gateway's journey beyond the classroom with the launch of Life After Gateway, our first alumni initiative. More than a reunion, it reflected the growth of a community that continues to stay connected long after graduation. Alumni came together to share their experiences of higher education, employment and independent living, while supporting and learning from one another.

The gathering concluded with the alumni themselves choosing to meet every three months and take ownership of future gatherings; a meaningful step towards building a lifelong network of connection, mentorship and belonging within the Gateway community.

At Gateway, we believe that continued connection, support and community remain just as important as learners navigate adulthood.











KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THE GATEWAY STUDIO

While we celebrate the growing number of learners transitioning into meaningful employment, we recognise that every learner's journey is unique. Preparing for life beyond school is not only about careers; it is also about creativity, confidence and self-expression. This belief lies at the heart of **The Gateway Studio**.

Bringing together the Foundation's work in the arts, research and partnerships, the Studio creates opportunities for learners to become artists, creators and contributors through performances, multimedia projects and professional collaborations. As a lab school, it also enables us to share our educational and therapeutic practices with the wider community through original content and meaningful partnerships.



Meet The Speech Therapists

The Gateway School of Mumbai

SUBSCRIBE



Episode 1: Let's Not Blame Peppa Pig!



Episode 2: Are You Being Sensory Smart?



Episode 3: Neuroaffirming Social communication skills



Episode 4: Why does my child behave differently at school & home?



Episode 5: A Parent's Lens On Autism



Episode 6: Autism & Behaviour: The Shift That Matters



Episode 7: Picky Eating Isn't Just About Food

Looking ahead, we envision the Studio growing into a dedicated creative hub with specialised infrastructure, including a voice recording studio, opening new opportunities in voice-over and audio-based work while building on the strong vocal abilities of many of our learners.

More than just a creative space, **The Gateway Studio** is a platform for voice, visibility and possibility.





The Gateway Studio came to life this year through a series of student showcases that celebrated learner voice, creativity and authentic expression, while creating opportunities for learners to engage with wider audiences. Together, they marked an important milestone in the evolution of our creative arts programme, demonstrating how it has grown from showcasing talent within the school to creating meaningful opportunities for learners to participate, collaborate and perform in the wider community.

The Student Learning Showcase gave parents a window into everyday learning in the classroom, offering a space to see, first-hand, how their children think, question and grow. The DOT. LINE. SHAPE. FORM. Visual Arts Showcase, on the other hand, brought the creative arts programme to life, highlighting not only what learners had created, but how they thought, reflected and communicated their ideas with growing confidence and independence.
Our High School production, Timeless Tagore, marked an important milestone as learners took their performance beyond Gateway to Billabong High International School and TATA Literature Live! at the NCPA. More than a performance, it demonstrated how the arts can create meaningful opportunities for inclusion, collaboration and participation in mainstream cultural spaces.

In the Lower School, sensory theatre continued to evolve through an ongoing collaboration with Polyglot Theatre, Australia. Learners co-created immersive performances rooted in play, movement and imagination, leading to a pilot collaboration planned for 2026: an exciting next step in strengthening Gateway's international partnerships in inclusive theatre education practices.



















COMMUNITY VISITS

Learning beyond the classroom.

The number of experiences matters as much as where they happened. This year, learning moved beyond the classroom continuously and deliberately - across community visits, service partnerships, expert sessions, and student-led events, each one building toward independence and real-world readiness.



24+
community locations visited

3
overnight / extended trips

3
service-learning partnerships

8+
expert-led workshops and sessions.

2
Open Stage events

2
student-led fairs

11
graduates

15kg + 47kg
plastic + clothing diverted













Field Trips & Community Visits

147
trips & visits

- **Culture & Art:** MuSo, JNAF (CSMVS), Nehru Centre, Bay Owl Studios, Rural Modern Glass Studio, pottery workshops
- **Life Skills & Community:** IKEA, Chembur Market, Aayushi Super Shoppy, R City Mall (fabric exploration), MR. DIY, cafés & restaurants
- **Nature & Environment:** Diamond Garden, Heritage Gardens, Malabar Hill beach & nature trail
- **Civic Awareness:** Mankhurd Fire Station, Conscious Collective (Godrej Design Lab), science centres & museums

Impact: Each visit is repeated practice, not a one-off outing - the sheer frequency turns real-world skills into habits, not just experiences.












Overnight & Extended Trips

3
trips

- **Ranthambore National Park (out-of-state milestone):** first extended wildlife/outdoor experience for many learners; jungle safari with a tiger sighting, block printing, cultural activities, and a local school exchange
- **Karjat & Monteria Eco Village:** nature immersion and peer bonding

Impact: Ranthambore marks a new ceiling! It was the first time many learners navigated an unfamiliar environment outside their home state. It sets a benchmark for how far the school can now stretch its experiential learning.











Service Learning Programme

3
ongoing partnerships

- Balanand Orphanage, NASEOH, Access Life Foundation (paediatric cancer support)
- **Activities:** storytelling, games, Diwali celebrations with handmade cards & hampers, donation drives, and sales of partner organisations' handmade products (rakhis, diyas)



Impact: What began as single visits has matured into sustained relationships - repeat engagement with the same organisations, deepening impact for both learners and the communities they serve.





Workshops & Expert Sessions

8+
sessions

- Career Path guest speakers (Anirudha Desai, Neeta Bajaj)
- Dance & movement workshop (Swara)
- Live global session with polar explorer Robert Swan (Antarctica Day)
- Folk theatre with Dhanendra Kawade
- Sustainability workshop with Manpasand
- Puppy Cuddles community outing
- Guest sessions with Manpasand and Project Mumbai on waste management

Impact: Learners are increasingly exposed to global and expert voices, from a live session with a polar explorer to industry professionals, widening horizons beyond Mumbai, and even India.







Enrichment & Literacy

- **Language Buddy Reading Programme** (launched Sept 2025) - older learners read aloud to younger ones; monthly, ongoing, expanding to high schoolers
- **Language Arts Week** (theme: Around the World) - Costume Carnival Day, Artists Day, World Read Aloud Day; performances by Marathi theatre group Goshtarang, with parents, poets, and writers joining in.

Impact: A new, ongoing programme (not a one-time event) designed to scale across grade levels, with older learners now stepping into mentor roles for younger ones.







Platforms for Expression

2
Open Stage events

- **Non-competitive, open to all:** dance, music, poetry, and instrumental performances (veena, keyboard, drums);



Impact: From August to December, ownership shifted visibly into learners' hands culminating in students themselves co-hosting the event, a marker of growing confidence and independence.







Building Student Agency

- **CPP Year-End Projects:** Year 1 learners ran a dance workshop, a cookie stall, and a jewellery stall; Year 2 learners independently led card/bookmark stalls, a live corn-cracker stall, karaoke, and a tote-bag upcycling workshop. They took full ownership from ideation to execution.
- **NIOS Connect Beyond Classroom (CBC):** "Chai Pe Charcha" home visits, restaurant etiquette practice, IKEA Home Science visit, monthly cooking sessions.
- **NIOS Project-Based Learning (sustainability theme):** field interviews on waste habits, denim upcycling, terracotta jewellery, composting, plastic donation drive with Project Mumbai, culminating in a ramp-walk showcase at Service Learning Showcase.

Impact: The clearest year-over-year progression in the report: Year 1 learners work collaboratively with guidance; Year 2 learners plan and execute independently. This is the pipeline from supported to self-directed, made visible.











Sustainability in Action

47
kgs clothing donated

- **Organic Farming Initiative:** kitchen garden with methi, sarso, okra, chilli, cherry tomatoes, 1 curry tree, and pudina; mustard crop harvested and cooked as sarso da saag for staff
- **Zero Waste Initiative with Project Mumbai:** Plastic Donation Drive (15 kg recycled) and KAAPAD clothes drive (47 kg donated)
- **10–12** plants grown
- **1 tree** planted

Impact: What started as a single classroom project grew into a campus-wide, continuing initiative. Sustainability is moving from a lesson to an institutional habit.



Student-Led Events

2
major
events

- **Gateway Frolic Point:** gaming event across classes.
- **Gateway Extravaganza 2.0:** fair with DIY art stalls, game zone, food counters, and a Garage Sale run entirely by NIOS learners (planning, pricing, transactions).



Impact: Fully learner-organised, end to end. Evidence that skills built through the year (budgeting, planning, communication) are now being independently applied, not just practised.







Milestones of the Year

- 11 graduates celebrated at Graduation Ceremony & Prom (March 2026)
- Sports Day held off-campus for the first time at Fr. Agnel Sports Turf, Vashi.
- 12-school interschool football tournament matches vs Indo Scots Global School & Empyrean School
- Basketball shooting competition across Lower, Middle, and High School Adaptive Programme learners

Impact: Moving Sports Day off-campus and competing against 12 other schools signals a widening comfort zone and learners are now competing and performing in mainstream, unfamiliar settings.

Taken together, this isn't a list of isolated events - it's a year of compounding independence. Each repeated community visit, each student-led stall, each off-campus milestone adds another rung to the same ladder: learners moving from guided participation to self-directed ownership.

This is what the foundation's philosophy of depth over width looks like in practice - not reaching more children superficially, but taking the same children further, one real-world skill at a time, building toward a fuller, more independent life beyond school.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council continues to be an important platform for developing leadership, responsibility and student voice at Gateway. Now in its third year, the Council has grown into a valued school tradition, with increasing learner participation, thoughtful campaigning and a stronger sense of ownership each year.

Following a democratic election process, our newly elected Student Council took on leadership roles across the school, representing their peers and contributing to school life throughout the year.



Student Council 2025–26

- Heads of Student Council: Samara Rangnekar, Aarin Bhalekar
- Red House Captain: Aarush Palaniappan
- Blue House Captain: Aamarena Ghosh

Class Representatives

- Middle School Prep – Himanshi Gurnani
- NIOS 10A – Rudra Bat
- NIOS 10B – Sidhartha Sarkar
- High School Adaptive Programme (Junior) – Skandan Shreenivas
- High School Adaptive Programme (Senior) – Ahmad Azmi
- CPP Year 1 – Aaiyana Desai
- CPP Year 2 – Manaswini Bhat









THE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) continued to strengthen the sense of belonging that defines the Gateway community, creating meaningful opportunities for learners, families, alumni and staff to come together in celebration.

From a heartfelt Teachers' Day that recognised the dedication of our teachers, admin and support staff, to The Gateway Fiesta, a vibrant community celebration featuring learner-led stalls, games, performances, a fashion show, pet therapy and festive experiences, every initiative reflected the spirit of collaboration and togetherness that lies at the heart of Gateway.

More than organising events, the PTA plays an invaluable role in building a connected school community. We are deeply grateful for their generosity, commitment and continued partnership in enriching the Gateway experience for every learner and family.











KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THE GATEWAY INTERVENTION CENTRE

CELEBRATING 2 YEARS OF IMPACT!

Two years ago, **The Gateway Intervention Centre** was started with a simple vision: a warm, safe, supportive place where every child and family could get the care and guidance they need. In Feb 2025, that vision marked its second year, not just as a milestone, but as proof of a growing ecosystem of multidisciplinary care.

With a growing team of therapists, educators, and support staff, the centre extended its reach to support a rising number of children, adolescents, young adults, and families, each supported through individualised, evidence-based intervention.

2+
YEARS

160+
CLIENTS SERVED

27
THERAPISTS & EDUCATORS ONBOARD









Building the Foundations: Early Learning

This year marked the completion of the first year of the Early Intervention Programme, supporting children at risk of, or experiencing, developmental delays through individualised plans addressing sensory-motor, communication, social-emotional, and cognitive development while equipping caregivers with strategies for everyday routines.

Alongside it, the Early Childhood Programme took shape this year for learners with intensive support needs, building school-readiness skills through structured, evidence-informed support backed by growing internal staff capacity and increasingly systematic approaches to intervention. Looking ahead, we hope to grow the programme further to serve students with more intensive support needs.





Learning Beyond the Classroom: Summer School 2026

From 11th to 22nd May 2026, the centre hosted a two-week Summer School: a structured yet joyful mix of fitness, art, music, dance, culinary sessions, gardening, pottery, and social communication, alongside a community visit to build life skills and confidence. It reflected the centre's broader philosophy: development happens through everyday moments, not just therapy.





GATEWAY'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM

This year, **Gateway's professional development ecosystem** crossed a threshold. From training individual educators to a certified, globally recognised pipeline spanning certificate, diploma, and now a Master's degree.

A Global Standard for Inclusive Education

Gateway completed the first year of the Cambridge International Diploma in Teaching and Learning (CIDTL) with focus on Intervention and Remedial Education . Educators deepened skills in evidence-based literacy, numeracy, and assistive technology, with a mentorship model translating theory into practice through guided lesson planning and reflection.
The Professional Development Programme is an initiative to build a community of educators who share our vision of an inclusive society - one that ensures programmes for all students, including those with special needs, meet both standards of excellence and standards of equity. Designed for school leaders, teachers, clinicians, and therapists, the programme takes a structured, hands-on approach to enhancing professional skills and driving meaningful impact in education, through interactive workshops, expert-led discussions, and collaborative learning.

362
participants to date

Candidates from all over India, Dubai and Thailand

Raising the Bar: A Master's Pathway with USD

The Keshavlal V. Bodani Education Foundation formalised a collaboration with the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES): a Memorandum of Intent to co-create a global Master's programme in Special and Inclusive Education, the first of its kind in India. Curriculum development began this year. The inaugural cohort launches in January 2027.



Gateway School, University of San Diego join hands for inclusive education course

Express News Service
Mumbai, May 7

IN A first, teachers in India will soon be able to pursue a Master's degree in Special and Inclusive Education from the University of San Diego (USD) through an affordable online programme, thanks to the Keshavlal V Bodani Education Foundation, which runs The Gateway School of Mumbai, a lab school for children with learning challenges. The programme aims to equip teachers with skill-sets to differentiate instructions where there are struggling learners in the classrooms.

The Mumbai-based foundation has signed a Memorandum of Intent with the US-based University's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) to co-create this course and also to provide faculty support. It will follow the "train the trainers" approach, enabling educators to become ambassadors and co-teachers who can further disseminate inclusive practices within India.

Indira D Bodani, founder at Keshavlal V Bodani Education Foundation, said, "Educators will be trained to move beyond a "one-size-fits-all" approach and instead adopt strength-based, individualised teaching methods. With emphasis on understanding the child as a whole, the Gateway School of Mumbai has been working with the approach of holistic development for many years, which was appreciated by Maya Kalyanpur, a professor at the (USD) who connected us with the SOLES."

Dr Kimberly A Whitesmith, Dean of the SOLES at the University of San Diego, said, "A key focus of this curriculum is shifting mindsets around neurodiversity. Instead of viewing neurodivergent learners through a deficit lens focused on "fixing" students, the programme emphasises recognising each child's unique strengths and helping them develop holistically, along with training teachers in basic neuroscience, helping them understand how the brain functions during learning processes."

THE MAHATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
DR. S. S. RAO ROAD, PAREL, MUMBAI - 400 012.





Core Leadership at Keshavlal V. Bodani Education Foundation visits USA

Over the course of 10 days, the core team at the Keshavlal V. Bodani Education Foundation travelled across Atlanta, Georgia; San Diego, California; and New York and New Jersey, to study early childhood and transition programmes in the United States - reflecting the foundation's ongoing investment in growth and improvement, with insights from the visit now feeding directly into the existing programmes and the newly introduced Early Childhood Programme.

The trip brought the team into direct engagement with experts, educators, clinicians, and institutions redefining academic programmes and support for children with diverse developmental needs, including visits to the Centre of Autism and Behavioral Education Research Eden Autism, Manhattan Children's Center, Marcus Autism Center, Cooke School and Institute, and Robert Louis Stevenson School.

The team also met with vision therapy consultant and mentor Dr. Fran Reinstein, and Specialist Consultant in Feeding and Orofacial Myology, Jenifer Midilli, adding further depth to the experience. Reconnecting with mentors Toby Pulanco, Jossie O'Neil, and Ginny Nudell was especially meaningful, offering the chance to share the foundation's ongoing work and gain valuable perspective and guidance for the road ahead.

Across these visits, the team explored evidence-based practices in early intervention, autism intervention programmes, behavioural science, mental health support systems, and transition and employment programmes - alongside collaborative approaches that empower both children with disabilities and their families.

At the Keshavlal V. Bodani Education Foundation, we believe meaningful change begins when institutions come together to learn beyond borders, challenge perspectives, and continuously evolve. In that spirit, during their visit, the foundation formalised its collaboration with the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) through the signing of a Memorandum of Intent for a global Master's programme in Special & Inclusive Education.

This journey marks not just a visit, but the foundation's continued commitment to professional development, global collaboration, and building a more inclusive future for education in Mumbai.

Deepening Expertise: CABER & Clinical Partnerships

The Keshavlal V. Bodani Education Foundation, hosted four visitors from the Centre for Autism & Behavioral Education Research (CABER), University of Georgia, from 24 to 26 February: Joel Ringdahl (BCBA), Kevin Ayers (BCBA), Sandie Ringdahl (Pediatric Audiologist), and Ginevra Courtade (Professor of Special Education). During their visit, they observed classes across the school and engaged in regular debrief meetings with the team to share reflections and insights from their observations.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for professional exchange, dialogue, and collaborative learning, enriching our ongoing efforts to strengthen inclusive and evidence-based practices.

This was matched by ongoing monthly collaboration with Dr. Jagan Chilakamarri (child, adolescent & adult psychiatrist) and Dr. Anaita Hegde (Pediatric Neurologist), both Advisory Board members, who help the centre anticipate and respond to individual learner needs with medical and developmental insight.





Building the Pipeline: The Internship Programme

Interns supported therapy, academics, and co-curriculars under teacher mentors, building observation, communication, and foundational teaching skills.

34 interns → **5** stayed the full year → **3** returning next year → **2** hired by Gateway

The Toby Pulanco Fellowship for Aspiring Special Educators:

A 2-year pathway combining classroom immersion, coaching, and the Cambridge diploma.

7 Fellows enrolled → **7 of 7** earned the Cambridge Certification → **6** pursuing the Cambridge Diploma

Cambridge International Certificate

A wider cohort, including 7 Fellows, completed the certificate this year.

13 of 13 completed → **5** Distinction → **8** Pass

Extending Expertise Beyond the Classroom

Capacity-building extended into the Performing Arts, with **Dr. Sharmistha Saha** (IIT Bombay) providing dramaturgy support for Gateway's High School Showcase; a Tagore-inspired production touring beyond campus for the first time. Her mentorship on script, structure, and staging reflects a broader shift: specialized expertise now shaping every part of a student's experience, not just the classroom.

KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THE GATEWAY RESEARCH & OUTREACH CELL

GATEWAY'S GROWTH

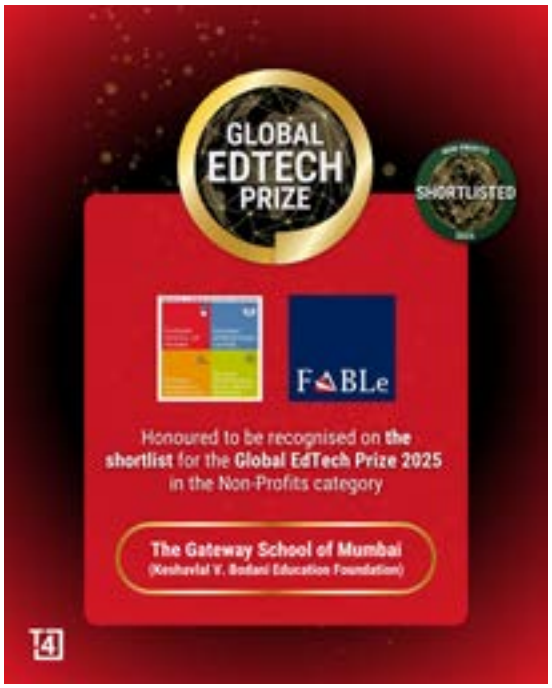
Gateway's growth as an educator doesn't stop at its own gates. Through the Research & Outreach Centre, these same innovations are extended to schools across India, starting with FABLe (Fluency Assessment and Benchmarking in Literacy Education), strengthening literacy through data, research and multilingual assessment, and creating impact far beyond our own learners.

Shortlisted for Global EdTech Prize

Top 30 Globally

Non-Profit Category

This year, **FABLe** was shortlisted among the Top 30 globally for the Global EdTech Prize in the Non-Profit category, recognising its contribution to advancing foundational literacy through innovative, evidence-based technology.



Area	Impact This Year
Learner Reach	**14,326** learners registered on the FABLe platform.
Institutional Reach	**88** schools and organisations adopted FABLe, while long-term partnerships were strengthened and new partner schools were onboarded.
Language Access	Expanded access through **three languages** - English, Hindi and Marathi.
Hindi Literacy Research	Completed the **first funded Hindi literacy study** in partnership with **Tata Trusts**, establishing Hindi literacy benchmarks and submitting the project report.
New Research	Launched a new literacy study with English-medium government schools in Mumbai, in collaboration with Muktangan Education Foundation, while continuing to strengthen multilingual literacy research in Marathi, in collaboration with Anjali Morris Foundation.
Accessibility	Introduced an **audio feature** to improve accessibility and learner engagement.
Sustainability & Growth	**Strengthened FABLe** as a sustainable literacy assessment and benchmarking platform through programme management, implementation support, partner engagement and continued investment in future growth.

The University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Collaboration

This year marked a defining milestone in Gateway's literacy journey with the formalisation of our collaboration with the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI). Bringing together UFLI's global expertise in structured literacy and Gateway's experience in inclusive education, this partnership is strengthening the research and design of Aksharon ki Pehli Udaan (APU) - a pioneering, evidence-based Hindi reading programme developed to address a critical gap in foundational literacy instruction.

During the year, APU evolved from a research initiative into a classroom-ready programme. A pilot conducted with Aseema at a municipal school in Mumbai provided valuable classroom insights, enabling the team to refine lesson design, instructional strategies, accessibility features and teaching resources. These learnings have shaped a stronger, more inclusive programme that is now ready for larger-scale implementation across partner schools in 2026-27.

More importantly, this collaboration signals a shift in Gateway's role from implementing evidence-based practices within our own school to co-creating knowledge that can strengthen literacy instruction across the country. By combining rigorous research, teacher training and freely accessible resources, APU has the potential to influence how Hindi reading is taught in diverse classrooms, enabling many more children (not just Gateway learners) to build strong foundations in literacy.

The Azim Premji Grant for Inclusive Education Study

This year, Gateway initiated Constructing Inclusive Education in the Indian Context: Listening to Voices on the Ground, a first-of-its-kind national study supported by the Azim Premji Foundation in collaboration with Ummeed Child Development Center, and under the mentorship of Prof. Maya Kalyanpur at the University of San Diego and Prof. Alfredo Artiles at Stanford University.

Conducted across government, middle-income and high-income schools, the study brings together the voices of educators, families, school leaders, support staff and learners to develop an inclusive education framework rooted in the Indian context. By documenting grassroots practices and lived experiences, the study aims to strengthen both policy and classroom practice, making inclusion more meaningful and actionable across the country.

Strengthening Research Capacity & Outreach

As Gateway's research ecosystem continues to grow, we strengthened partnerships with schools, universities and research institutions while expanding opportunities for interns and trainees to engage in field-based research. Through our Professional Development Programmes and Outreach initiatives, we continued to support schools through workshops, consultations and long-term mentoring, while deepening partnerships with organisations such as Aseema, Walchandnagar and Atallim. By combining literacy assessment data with ongoing educator support, we continue to translate research into meaningful classroom practice.

THANK YOU!

Volunteers:

Anti Gravity (Yudisthir & Karan Jaising)

Zahabiya and Sohel (Solli Concepts)

Aaditya and Konark (Project Mumbai)

Adithi Muralidhar (Scientific Officer, HBCSE)

Santosh Saraf

Shrikar Bhave

Namrata Rana

Sunil Singh

Sunny Dsouza

Kiran Bommakanti

Ketan Jariwala

Elizabeth Perieria

Megha Dhargalkar

Hitesh Rupani

Sanyat Shirke

Krish Rohira

Rishabh Nahar

Meher Pestonji

Bhavna Gupta

Dipna Daryanani

Mariam Munir

Disha Mandhyan

Meghana Joshi

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