Pragati
AI for Impact

Supporting nonprofits to harness AI for impactful change

∞ Meta

THE/NUDGE INSTITUTE
10 YEARS OF

Pragati AI for Impact

Enabling nonprofits to leverage AI for social impact

Innovation grant ₹100 lakhs

Mentoring from sectoral experts and portfolio support

Ecosystem connects

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

Bootcamps and masterclasses

The cohort

adalat ai

farmers for forests

I-Stem

navgurukul

OPENLINKS FOUNDATION

RIGHTWALK FOUNDATION

Saarthi EDUCATION

TELEHEALTH Innovations Foundation

THE APPRENTICE PROJECT

2025: Pragati AI for Impact

Solving for India's pressing problems

Employability & Skilling

The current participation rate of apprentices in the Indian labour force remains low compared to developed economies[1]

Unaffordable quality programming education for learners in Tier 2 & 3 cities.

Only 23.8% of India's PWDs participate in the workforce, 57% lose jobs after disability onset, and just 1.4% receive vocational training.[2]

Education & Children

Only 33.7% of Grade 3 students across India can perform simple subtraction[3]

There is an urgent need to equip students with 21st century skills.[4]

There is a shortage of more than 10 lakh teachers in rural India. Teachers on average spend 81% of their time on non-academic activities.

Social Justice

India faces a judicial backlog of 50 million pending cases[5] which, at the current rate, would take 300 years to clear.

1. *'Unlocking Opportunities' UNDP, 2024*
2. *' Persons with Disabilities in India', National Statistical Office, 2018*
3. *'Annual State of Education Report', Pratham, 2024*
4. *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and UNICEF Report Annual Report, 2019*
5. *National Judicial Data Grid,*

2025: Pragati AI for Impact
Solving for India's pressing problems

Climate & Agriculture

Approximately 30% of India's land is considered degraded[6]- likely to impact over 500M people dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture and forestry for their livelihoods.

Health & Safety

In rural areas, the doctor-to-patient ratio is still very poor at around 1:11,082, showing a gap in rural healthcare access[7]

6. *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*
7. *Hon'ble Health Minister in the Indian Parliament, 2024*

Pragati Cohort bootcamp at The/Nudge, Bengaluru office — February 2025

Acting Chief Justice Manmohan of the High Court of Delhi stated, "As the Chief Justice, the biggest problem I face is the shortage of stenographers despite high demand from judges. Speech-to-text technology, especially for recording evidence by joint registrars and district judiciary, will free up a significant number of stenographers for other tasks..... This is the right application of technology, aligning perfectly with our needs. It will be a great game-changer."

adalat ai

Adalat AI is a legal-tech nonprofit leveraging AI and large language models (LLMs) to address chronic judicial delays and inefficiencies, transforming courtrooms into hubs of timely and equitable justice delivery.

Pilot Brief: A comprehensive Case Flow Management System that integrates AI tools into a centralised platform, designed specifically for courtrooms.

Use case

The platform offers real-time speech-to-text transcription in multiple Indian languages to address the acute shortage of stenographers. It automates court workflows for case management and document generation, and provides mobile and web based interfaces for judges, staff, and litigants. It includes LLM-based scanning tools that minimises reliance on physical paperwork by streamlining hearings and documentation.

Projected reach (2026)

- Cover 50% of India's courtrooms by early 2026
- Enable integration with official court servers and APIs
- Be mandated as part of the curriculum in judicial academies for training judicial officers in technology use
- Drive 30–50% user uptake of the Case Flow Management System module

Utkarsh Saxena
Co-Founder and CEO

Arghya Bhattacharya
Co-Founder and CTO

www.adalat.ai

Vithal Dhakad faced challenges due to low rainfall, which left his two acres of land fallow. Farmers for Forests assisted him in transitioning to agroforestry. Instead of growing wheat and onions, he now cultivates mangoes, lemons, bamboo, and Indian gooseberries. On average, farmers see a threefold increase in income after F4F's intervention.

farmers for forests

Farmers4Forests aims to combat deforestation, soil degradation, loss in tree cover and biodiversity, and uncertainty in farmers' livelihoods due to extreme weather events. It also tackles a lack of visibility and transparency in the nature based interventions space.

Pilot brief: AI and drone-based measurement of biodiversity, trees and carbon stocks that allows a significant amount of finance to be unlocked for farmers.

Use case

Robust AI tech-based stack that will allow evidence-based biomass calculation for agroforests and forests to generate high quality, trustworthy carbon credits.

Projected reach (2026)

- Access to initial capital for agroforestry projects and income from carbon credits for up to 50,000 additional farmers
- A comprehensive end-to-end solution for digital monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) for the carbon market

Krutika Ravishankar
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Arti Dhar
Co-Founder Head, Social Media and Communication

Jaspreet Kaur
Co-Founder and Advisor

Rishabh, who is blind, was able to access content in an accessible format through I-Stem's technology to connect with inclusive employers and mentors. He currently works at a top tech company in Bengaluru.

I-Stem

I-Stem seeks to help Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) find meaningful employment and live a dignified life, thereby contributing to the economy.

Pilot brief: Enhance the existing multimodal AI-powered accessibility solutions by integrating an AI-driven career coach, an inclusive tutor system, and a task completion agent to provide personalised career guidance, subject-specific learning support, accessible navigation and task completion on otherwise inaccessible websites and apps.

Use case

Leverage AI to offer tailored career discovery, inclusive education content, and automated assistance for navigating inaccessible digital systems, empowering PwDs with personalised support and improved access to opportunities.

Projected reach (2026)

- Provide access to the career discovery module to 1 lakh users through 80 nonprofits
- Partnerships with 5 state govts & the central govt
- Expanded access of the existing system to 50,000 learners

Kartik Sawhney
Co-Founder and CEO

Shakul Sonker
Co-Founder and COO

https://inclusivestem.org

Bhagyashree, a Navgurukul alum working at NatWest, overcame a challenging upbringing with an abusive father and a low-paid domestic worker mother. Now, she supports her mother, who has retired from demanding work, and her siblings' education. In just 2.5 years, Bhagyashree has earned over 15 times NavGurukul's investment in her and has a promising career ahead.

navgurukul

NavGurukul prepares students from marginalised communities for aspirational careers by bridging critical skills gaps through its residential as well as online programs, empowering them through transformative education, with a focus on uplifting underserved women in India's most remote regions.

Pilot brief: Personalised voice-based Learning Assistant for doubt resolution, interviews, and personalised feedback

Use case

AI voice assistant addresses learners' doubts in realtime, reducing annual tutoring costs from ₹15,000 to ₹9,000 per student. The voice assistant is integrated with an LMS that delivers educational content, manages learner progress, and supports course creation, assessment, and advanced proctoring.

Projected reach (by 2026)

- 7,500 learners (Direct Implementation with students pursuing higher education)
- 1,00,000 learners (With students in school through another MoU with NITI Aayog)

Abhishek Gupta
Co-Founder & CEO

Nidhi Anarkat
Co-Founder

Sandhya Dittakavi
Co-Founder and CEO (Zuvy)

www.navgurukul.org

Sheikh Mohammed, School Coordinator, Badgaon, shares "This tool offers excellent features for both teachers and students. For teachers, it provides guidance on how to teach students according to their grade levels, complete the syllabus, and create effective lesson plans. Additionally, it outlines various action steps in detail. Through this app, we can help enable positive outcomes for our students."

OPENLINKS FOUNDATION

Open Links Foundation aims to improve the quality of education by supporting and motivating teachers using technology and behavioural science.

Pilot brief: The existing Vinoba app will leverage AI and LLMs to support teachers in creating activity-based lesson plans, critical thinking content, and personalised learning materials, while also providing career counselling resources for students in rural areas through dynamic, human-like interactions.

Use case

The app helps teachers generate multi-level lesson plans, critical thinking exercises, and emotional skill-building content, along with AI-powered career counselling for students in remote regions, reducing barriers through contextual, multilingual support.

Projected reach (by 2026)

- The app will be available to community of 1,30,000+ teachers
- Feedback will be received from teachers in 11 districts
- 5,00,000+ students will be benefitted

Sanjay Dalmia
Founder and Managing Trustee

www.openlinksfoundation.org

Motivated by his father's struggles, Ishwas Pandey from Prayagraj completed ITI training but faced job rejections. With RightWalk's support, he secured a cashier position at City Kart, and now aims to become a senior manager. He credits RightWalk for reigniting his belief in his potential.

RIGHTWALK
— FOUNDATION —

RightWalk Foundation helps students in the apprenticeship ecosystem, who face challenges in registration, career guidance, and lack of streamlined opportunities, by simplifying their journey. It empowers youth through better access to skills, employment, and career growth.

Pilot brief: Chatur AI is an AI-driven platform focused on apprenticeship, internship, and career navigation for youth.

Use case

A WhatsApp first conversational AI bot offering multilingual support for seamless programme registration, skill and location-based apprenticeship matching, personalised career advice with curated learning resources, and an automated feedback system for iterative process refinement.

Projected reach (by 2026)

- 1,00,000 end users across 4 states will receive timely, personalised support to navigate skilling and apprenticeship opportunities.
- 70% reduction in per-apprentice recruitment cost will be achieved through automated communication and streamlined engagement.

Samina Bano
Founder and CEO

Shipra Srivastava
Co-Founder and Group Director

www.rightwalk.org

Suman, School Coordinator shares "Uploading images (on the app) seems to be very easy and happens very quickly. With this, our work will become easier, and we will be able to spend more time giving feedback to our students."

Saarthi
EDUCATION

Saarthi Education aims to ensure every child in India masters foundational numeracy by blending offline worksheets with tech-enabled customisation, timely feedback, and community volunteer support for continuous learning at home and in schools.

Pilot brief: Automated handwriting grading system that uses trained image recognition models to grade and analyse student work from handwritten worksheets and an adaptive learning engine to craft efficient and effective learning journeys for children to attain numeracy mastery.

Use case

The AI-driven Numeracy model automates handwritten worksheet grading and generates personalised worksheets, saving teachers time and improving learning outcomes. It works without devices or internet (at the student level), making it ideal for low-resource classrooms.

Projected reach (by 2026)

- Reach 30,000 students

Ankit Arora
Founder

At 52, frail and alone, Yamuna Bamhane fell ill with fever, cough, and body pain, unable to reach a hospital or afford care. Through Intelehealth's Arogya Sampada program, a health worker connected her with a doctor via telemedicine. Diagnosed with a respiratory infection, she received medicines at home—showing the urgent need for healthcare in vulnerable tribal communities.

TELEHEALTH
Innovations Foundation

Telehealth Innovations Foundation addresses last-mile access to quality healthcare in India by overcoming financial, geographic, and societal barriers, with a focus on improving healthcare access for women and reducing the 5.2 million annual medical errors in the country.

Pilot brief: Enhance its open-source telemedicine platform by deploying an AI-powered, voice-to-text-enabled clinical decision support system that provides multilingual patient history collection, clinical summaries, diagnoses and treatment pathways for improved healthcare whilst mitigating clinical errors.

Use case

Equip health workers and doctors with AI-powered tools to capture patient history via speech or text in local languages, generate clinical summaries with AI-driven diagnoses and treatment plans, and deliver them to providers and patients in their preferred language; enhancing accessibility and quality.

Projected reach (by 2026)

- 1,000 patient cases enabled with AI, servicing a catchment area over 15,000 patients. This will then be further scaled to millions of teleconsultations.

Dr. Neha Verma
Co-Founder and CEO

Dr. Soumyadipta Acharya
Co-Founder and Board President

www.intelehealth.org

Vinesh shares "I have been participating in TAP Buddy's Financial Literacy classes for the past 3–4 months. One of my favourite classes is on investing and saving, which TAP Buddy is teaching us very well. When I explain these concepts at home, my family listens, believes in them, and even begins to implement them. They encourage me to keep learning and say, 'teach us too,' which is beneficial for all of us."

THE APPRENTICE PROJECT

The Apprentice Project empowers underserved students in grades 4–12 by building 21st-century skills like creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and financial literacy through co-curricular activities such as coding, science, and arts.

Pilot brief: WhatsApp chatbot that leverages AI-powered Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) to provide underserved students with tailored, high-quality education, ensuring equitable access and effective skill development at scale.

Use case

The chatbot AI-driven platform adapts learning content, automates assessments through image analysis, and offers personalised feedback, enhancing student engagement and accelerating learning outcomes.

Projected reach (by 2026)

- 150,000 students from underserved communities benefit from personalised learning
- 50% improvement in engaged students using PAL services
- 1,000 teachers trained in AI-driven tools

Anand Gopakumar
Co-Founder and CEO

Prashant Kumar
Co-Founder

Monica Pesswani
Co-Founder and Chief Program Officer
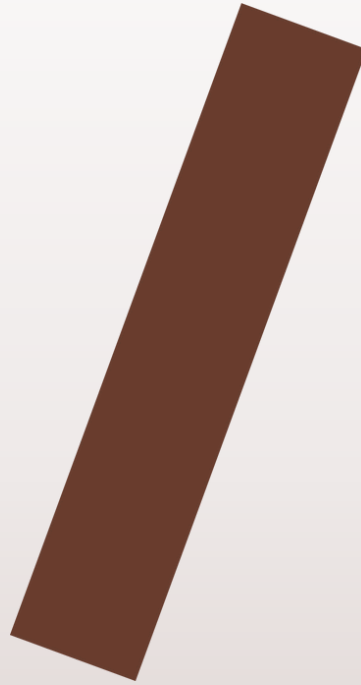
www.theapprenticeproject.org

Disclaimer

The contents of this cohort book are based on self-reported information by the Pragati Organizations and publicly available sources. While we have undertaken reasonable efforts to verify the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, The/Nudge Institute disclaims any responsibility for errors, omissions, or changes that may occur after the publication of this cohort book. Readers are encouraged to directly contact the respective entrepreneurs for any specific reference or verification needs.

Certain information included in this book has been obtained from publicly available sources. Despite efforts to use reliable data, The/Nudge Institute is not liable for any inaccuracies, discrepancies, or subsequent changes to each date after the books' publication.

The images used in this book were included after securing the necessary permissions from the respective organisations, who are the legal owners and/or copyright holders of the images. These organisations have represented that they have obtained the required consent from the individuals featured in the images.

It may be noted that some of the images are representational in nature and may not represent the exact program participant from the field.

poverty-free India, within our lifetime