

A group of approximately ten women of various ages are posed in a field. They are holding large red plastic bowls filled with different types of produce and flowers. One woman holds a large green papaya, another holds a bowl of yellow marigolds, and others hold bowls of green chilies, green tomatoes, and more flowers. The women are dressed in traditional Indian attire, including sarees and blouses. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape with some trees.

The Timbaktu Collective **Annual Report**

2025 - 26

Message from the Executive Director

This year, we celebrated 35 years of the Timbaktu Collective, a significant milestone in the organization's journey. It was truly inspiring to see the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective take ownership of this celebration. Their active participation reminded me that the Collective is much more than an organization; it is a movement built over the years on trust, cooperation, and community leadership.

This was also an important year for me professionally, as I stepped into the role of Executive Director. I began this journey with confidence, while also recognizing the responsibility of leading an organization with such a rich history and deep-rooted values during a period of transition. Looking back, I see a year that has been both challenging and rewarding. We encountered situations that tested our resilience and called for greater collaboration. At the same time, these experiences reinforced my conviction that the Collective's greatest strength lies in its people, its values, and its ability to come together in times of change. This has been a year of learning, growth, and reaffirmation of the principles that have guided the Collective for the past 35 years.

One of the most encouraging achievements this year has been the continued growth of the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective. Jana Chaitanya Samakhya, the informal federation of these Cooperatives, demonstrated remarkable solidarity by supporting one another and working towards shared goals. Their growing ownership and confidence are a strong reflection of the journey that the Collective have undertaken over the years to build community-led institutions.

None of this year's achievements would have been possible without the encouragement and support of our former Executive Director, Co-founder and Secretary, Ms. Mary Vattamattam, Co-founder and Chairperson, Mr. C.K. Ganguly, Board Members, Steering Committee Members, Organizational Development consultants, donors, partners, and the dedicated team of the Timbaktu Collective. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you, as well as to our General Body, Government departments, fellow civil society organizations, friends, well-wishers, and above all, the communities and Cooperatives who continue to inspire our work every day.



As we look towards the coming year, we do so with renewed energy and optimism. We will continue to strengthen our existing initiatives while mainstreaming key concepts such as gender equality, agroecology, and circular local economy across the organization and the Cooperatives we have promoted. We are also committed to taking forward new initiatives, while deepening our engagement with the Cooperatives and supporting their continued journey towards greater self-reliance.

With gratitude and hope,

Sukanya Sakamuri

Executive Director

About Us

Founded in November 1990, the Timbaktu Collective is a grassroots non-profit organization working with marginalized communities in the drought-prone and ecologically fragile districts of Sri Sathya Sai and Ananthapuramu in Andhra Pradesh, India. As of 31st March 2026, the Collective's work extends across 347 villages in 14 mandals, with 48,741 families.

The Collective focuses on facilitating local leadership and has promoted member-owned organizations of marginalized people, which operate democratically and are formally registered under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995 (AP MACS Act). To date, nine Cooperatives have been established. As of 31st March 2026, the combined net worth of these Cooperatives stood at INR 86.81 crores.



Our Programmes



Chiguru (“tender leaf”)

Child welfare, alternative education, and engagement with youth.



Militha (“inclusion”)

Rehabilitation and livelihoods of persons with disabilities.



Swasakthi (“power of self”)

Alternate banking and legal aid.



Kalpavalli (“eternal source of abundance”)

Community-led natural regeneration and biodiversity conservation.



Chelimi (“spring head”)

Community management of water resources and natural farming.



Gramasiri (“wealth of a village”)

Livelihoods through rearing of small ruminants by agricultural labourers.



Dharani (“earth”)

Organic farming by smallholder farmers.



Livelihoods Development

Business development and promotion of Cooperative-owned livelihood activities.





Chiguru Programme

Chiguru, meaning ‘Tender Leaf,’ is the Collective’s work with children and youth. At the heart of Chiguru is a simple belief: every child and young person deserves a happy life, the freedom to learn, and space to grow. This belief shaped everything we did this year, how we planned, taught, and listened to children and young people.

The components of Chiguru are:

- **Prakruthi Badi (“Nature School”)**
An accredited residential primary school
- **Mogga (“Bud”)**
A federation of Children’s Sanghas
- **Nava Yuvatha (“New Youth”)**
A federation of Youth Sanghas
- **Children and Youth Resource Centres (CYRCs)**
- **Chinnari Nestham (Children’s Friend”)**
Children’s handbook



Over the past 32 years, the Nature School has given children from marginalized communities a safe, nurturing, and joyful learning space where children feel happy and creative while connecting with people and places around them. The academic year started with revisiting the vision, and curriculum of the school, supported by consultant Ms. Sayonika Sengupta, which set the tone and clarified priorities for the year. This year the school had 50 students, 26 boys and 24 girls. The 18 children who passed out of class 5 were honored at a graduation ceremony as part of the school day celebrated at the end of the year. All of them secured admission into residential or nearby government schools and received handholding support helping them settle into their new spaces comfortably. Three students secured 1st, 2nd, and 4th ranks in the Andhra Pradesh Model School (APMS), Chennethapalli Class 6 entrance exam.

With the aim of connecting classroom learning to real life, exposure visits were held for the children to museums, planetarium, book exhibitions, and the Lepakshi Temple, where they learned about the region's architectural heritage. Children received orientation on organic farming, ecosystems and biodiversity. They visited various Programmes of the Collective and had hands-on experience in different activities. After two months of training in Kho-Kho and Kabaddi, two sports tournaments were held, including relay and sack races. Parents / caregivers were active partners this year as they formed a Prakruthi Badi Sangham and conducted a few activity sessions for the children. A 9-member Parent Teacher Association was elected at the start of the academic year.

As part of the Collective's work with Mogga Children's Federation, this year 4,715 Children across 123 villages and 4 mandals were involved in activities like Sangha meetings, camps, celebration of events and academic support. In residential camps, they learned about ecology and theatre. They also developed a theatre production on child marriage and performed it in the villages.



February 2026 was celebrated as Science Month, with science woven into Sangha sessions, school lessons, and daily conversation. Five science events were held, including exhibitions at three Back to Basics centres (after school tutoring centres), with parents visiting to see what their children were learning and creating. The month closed with an exhibition at Chennethapalli CYRC, where 400 children from four mandals presented 160 experiments. Children with disabilities participated confidently alongside peers,

and students from local schools came to interact with the presenters. The Back 2 Basics initiative continued as an effective after-school platform for children in 5 remote villages, reaching 223 children this year, 115 girls and 108 boys. Through peer group learning and a focus on LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing) skills, the centres helped strengthen foundational concepts and kept children on track in academics.



This year, Chiguru renewed its commitment to work with youth more meaningfully along with the Nava Yuvatha Youth Federation and engaged with 708 youth in 40 Sanghas across 123 villages. Sports was an important medium for bringing young people together, building collaboration, leadership, and community. Two Sports Meets were held uniting youth from across the Collective's working area in collaboration with the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective. Encouraging girls' participation was a special focus this year.

Youth representatives also joined the Chinnari Nestham editorial process for the first time, reviewing, editing, and compiling articles alongside the Children's Federation, many having once written for it as children themselves. The Youth academic support reached 176 students across 6 institutions, strengthening foundational concepts, offering career guidance, and helping youth prepare for competitive exams and 10th class boards. Three CYRCs, in Chennekothapalli, Roddam, and Ramagiri mandals, offer children and youth a nurturing space for education, reading, art, and play. These centres were visited by more than 6,800 children and youth this year.

Chinnari Nestham Children's Handbook is a bi-monthly children's book in Telugu featuring contributions primarily from children, covering stories, riddles, paintings, general knowledge, reasoning, children's literature, ecology, and social and cultural themes. Fully run by Children's Federation members and headed by a 32-member elected editorial committee, it collected 7,200 articles across 6 editions this year, completing its 33rd edition as of March 2026. Highlights included Malli Mogga ("Jasmine Bud") a drama script against child marriage and re-enacted across Sanghas, an article on gender, sex and child rights with an accompanying poster, and science experiment features. Recent editions are available on the Collective's website.

At the close of the year, Chiguru has moved closer to its vision of holding space for children and youth across every aspect of its work. Recognizing the need for a dedicated youth policy, Chiguru is working towards creating more meaningful opportunities for young people. The coming year is being shaped collectively while new children and young people continue to be welcomed into the Collective. Across the villages, children and youth are learning, questioning, and growing.

Militha Programme

Militha meaning “inclusion” is the Collective’s initiative to promote equal status and dignity for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The overarching vision of Militha is to ensure that persons with disabilities are integrated into society and empowered to lead independent, meaningful lives. The four pillars of Militha are awareness and inclusion, rights and entitlements, rehabilitation and financial stability and livelihood.



This year, Militha reached out to an additional 300 members, reaching a total of 2,006 members. Exposure visits and networking were a key focus this year, resulting in significant resource mobilization helping members build confidence and skills, and livelihood opportunities. INR 1.7 crore worth loans provided by Prathibha Cooperative also came handy for livelihood opportunities. 30 children with disabilities (CWDs) participated in the International Day of Yoga hosted by The National Institute for the Empowerment of PWDs (NIEPD), Secunderabad, interacting with over 3,000 CWDs, fostering confidence, and social inclusion.

Militha strengthened partnerships with state and national organizations to improve access to assistive devices. During the year, 36 devices valued at INR 12.50 lakh were provided, including 7 manual tricycles, 13 electric tricycles, and 16 wheelchairs, with support from Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Center for Person with Disabilities (CRC), and Association of People with Disabilities (APD). In addition, 51 members were shortlisted for powered wheelchairs through an assessment camp conducted by NeoMotion with support from the Mobis India Foundation, contributing to greater mobility and independence for persons with disabilities. Two out of seven youth trained by APD, and Mitti Café, Bangalore secured jobs at Mitti Café, one at Reliance Digital. Two are employed in the Militha soap making unit and two are still under training. Selected Team members and Directors also visited Blind People’s Association, Ahmedabad, and Om Banana Crafts Pvt. Ltd. Madurai. Many were travelling long

distances for the first time, and it was exciting for them to meet many others working in the field of disability.

Celebrations like International Day of PWDs and Louis Braille Day increased their visibility, confidence and dignity. They showcased their talents and achievements in these events and challenged stigmas. The 'inclusive clock' innovated by the Militha Team and showcased at the International Day of PWDs generated much interest as it addressed needs of persons with visual impairment while symbolizing accessibility and inclusion. 142 children with disabilities were enrolled into mainstream schools, with therapy support. To encourage higher education, financial assistance was provided to 9 youth. Militha encouraged inclusion in sports and provided cricket kits, encouraging youth with disabilities to pursue their dreams beyond academics.



Case Study:

Balaji's Journey of Resilience and Determination

Balaji is from a small farming family in Cherlopalli village, Ramagiri Mandal. He was born with a disability that severely limits use of his left hand. Despite this, he remained determined to pursue both his education and his passion for cricket. Through hard work and perseverance, he practiced playing the sport primarily with one hand while excelling academically. His dedication earned him admission to the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, where he did his B.Tech with 100% scholarship. In 2021, Balaji joined the sangha in his village, where he was encouraged, supported and inspired to continue pursuing his educational and sporting aspirations. His perseverance translated into significant achievements. He received multiple Man of the Match and Man of the Series awards in district level matches and was selected to the Andhra Pradesh South Zone Para Cricket Team. He also competed in para kabaddi, running, and swimming. Recognizing his potential, the Collective provided him with a complete cricket kit, enabling him to train consistently and prepare more effectively for competitions. Today, Balaji continues to work towards representing his state and country in para cricket. His journey highlights how resilience, combined with timely opportunities and community support, can empower persons with disabilities to overcome barriers and realise their full potential.

Recognizing the importance of accessible living, home adaptation support was provided to 10 families this year. The therapy provided was reinforced with comfortable and disability friendly living conditions with improved accessibility, restored privacy, enhanced safety, and reduced the caregiving burden on families. This also encouraged communities to consider accessibility in everyday spaces.



Militha continued three rehabilitation centers providing therapy and care to 36 children and youth with disabilities. In addition, 174 children and youth continued to receive home-based therapy by a dedicated three-member team including physiotherapist, special educator, and speech therapist. Assessments reveal that 80% of these children successfully met their developmental goals. This year, nine children became completely independent in their daily living as shown by the scores they gained in the functional independent measurement parameters. Youth with disabilities also accessed higher education through the Educational Fellowship, enabling them to pursue professional careers. Besides, 35 children attended a three-day residential camp, a first time for many of them. They participated in singing, sports, creative group tasks and recreational activities besides having joint sessions with Nature School children. The children demonstrated confidence, and high collaboration, opening doors to new learning and growth.





Caregiver workshops, legal aid camps, rehabilitation activities, and community celebrations strengthened awareness of disability rights and inclusion. 10 CWDs were identified in awareness sessions held at Anganwadi centers leading to early intervention and rehabilitation services, thus avoiding larger complications later. The Programme continued to address stigma and isolation by fostering belonging and changing community attitudes towards disability. Going forward, Militha wants to focus on articulating the concept of inclusion and developing a framework to mainstream it within the organization and the promoted Cooperatives.





Swasakthi Programme

Swasakthi meaning 'Power of Self', a flagship Programme of the Collective, aims at socio-economic empowerment of rural women through alternative financial institutions and sustainable livelihoods. As part of this initiative, the Collective has promoted Mahasakthi Federation, a network of four Mutually Aided Thrift and Credit Cooperatives registered under the Andhra Pradesh Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995 (AP MACS Act). On 31st March 2026, the membership of the Federation was 36,112, with a total net worth of INR 74.63 Crores.

Capacity building and leadership development of women was an important area of work that Swasakthi took up this year. Women's leadership has been nurtured at multiple levels, from leaders of Sanghas (women's groups) and Brundas (subgroups of Sanghas), Directors of member Cooperatives and Mahasakthi Federation, and leaders of Jana Sahakara Samakhya, the federation of all the Cooperatives. Cumulatively, 9,566 women hold these leadership positions. This year capacity building training was focused on Sangha leaders.

For the past ten years, P. Lakshmi Devi from Nalluru village, has been the leader of Veeranagamma Sangha under Ananthasakthi Cooperative. Under her leadership the Sangha membership grew to 36 members from the initial 11 members. Lakshmi Devi also facilitated the formation of seven additional Sanghas in her village.

"I studied only up to 7th standard. Ten years ago, when I became a Sangha leader, I was determined to learn. Every Leaders' meeting at Ananthasakthi taught me something new—how loans are calculated, how the interest rates are worked out, how repayment installments are worked out, the loan counselling process, and responsibility of leading Sanghas. Whatever I learned I shared with members of my Sangha. Today, whenever they have questions, they consult me because they trust me and they know that they can get correct guidance from me. The confidence I have today has come from the learning opportunities provided by the Cooperative and the Timbaktu Collective."

Reflecting on her journey, Lakshmi Devi is confident that her Sangham can continue effectively even without the presence of Cooperative staff or Director. Her contributions demonstrate how sustained capacity building and continuous learning can nurture strong grassroots women leaders.



Sensitizing women on gender equity is another important area of work this year. A total of 119 one-day workshops were conducted, engaging 2,801 women in conversations about patriarchal structures, identities, and the everyday gender roles and stereotypes that shape their lives. These trainings were facilitated by a group of women trainers who themselves underwent refresher training this year too. These training continued to create spaces where women could question, reflect on, and reclaim their narratives.

Increasing awareness for women and girls enabled the Cooperatives to act on domestic violence and other issues. This year, 32 awareness camps were conducted reaching 1,583 women. A dedicated Legal

Aid Committee was set up with each Cooperative. Active networking with local police officials has strengthened the follow-up process and support in case of gender-based violence. Besides, this year, efforts continued to facilitate additional learning for the women concerned through exposure visits and participation in key events. 78 women leaders from all four Cooperatives visited the Mahalir Association for Literacy Awareness and Rights (MALAR) in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

Swasakthi also conducted training for the staff of the women's Cooperatives in certain critical areas like emotional well-being, addressing interpersonal dynamics and management of stress, building resilience in the participants while equipping them to show up more effectively in both personal and professional lives. Besides, a two-day training on the Operational Manual of the Mahasakthi Federation was conducted for all the Directors, to help them manage day-to-day operations of the Cooperatives efficiently.

This year, International Women's Day was celebrated with the added recognition of this year as the 'International Year of Women Farmers'. The event brought together women who did cultural performances, spoke on topics ranging from women's health and agriculture to gender stereotypes and social challenges faced by them. It was a day of both celebration and affirmation of the ongoing struggles faced by women for equality.

Going forward, Swasakthi aims to support the Women's Cooperatives in further developing their policies and systems, and livelihood training for the women will be another important focus in the coming years. Swasakthi will work towards improving livelihood opportunities of the women with the larger objective of strengthening local circular economy at the village level. Further, training of trainers will be done to continue the gender training.





Kalpavalli Programme

The Timbaktu Collective initiated community-led eco-restoration of village commons in 1992–93 across a Tropical Savannah Grassland ecosystem. Today, these 3,500 contiguous acres are collectively protected and managed as the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area (KCCA), one of the largest community-led eco-restoration initiatives in India. The programme works closely with the Kalpavalli Tree Growers Cooperative and 11 Village Forest Protection Committees who actively oversee and protect the conservation area.

The Programme continued its long-standing commitment towards ecological restoration and livelihood security for communities living in the semi-arid regions of Sri Sathya Sai district. Through community-led conservation and sustainable resource management, the Programme seeks to reverse ecological degradation caused by deforestation, overgrazing, forest fires, and climate change, while strengthening livelihoods linked to natural resources and Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs).

Over the years, continuous conservation efforts combined with landscape management practices such as deforestation, regulated grazing, fire management, and soil and water conservation have transformed the once barren landscape into a thriving ecosystem. The KCCA now supports rich biodiversity of flora and fauna protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, including the Indian Grey Wolf, Leopard, Blackbuck and Sloth Bear.

As part of the monsoon restoration activities, 160 KG of seeds from 14 native species were dibbled across the conservation area through 23 seed dibbling camps involving 588 VSC members and community leaders. In addition, 84,780 seed balls representing 11 native species were prepared and dispersed across the landscape. These restoration efforts contributed significantly to biodiversity enhancement, forest regeneration, and ecological resilience while generating 195 person-days of local employment.

Given the ecological importance of the Savannah grassland ecosystem, fire prevention continued to remain a major focus area. Annual fire management activities helped protect nearly 2,500 acres of conservation land from forest fires, preserving fodder availability for livestock and wildlife. Overall, nearly 60% of the KCCA was safeguarded from fire damage during the year.

Scientific documentation of biodiversity within the Kalpavalli conservation landscape continued during the year. So far, 186 plant species belonging to 147 genera and 54 families have been identified, including several rare, endangered, medicinal, and native species. In addition, 43 animal species and 125 bird species have been recorded. Altogether, 400 species of flora and fauna have been documented, highlighting Kalpavalli's emergence as a significant biodiversity hotspot within the region. The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) conducted a study in KCCA to understand the drivers of grassland structure and function with the goal of predicting how anthropogenic and climatic changes might affect their functioning.

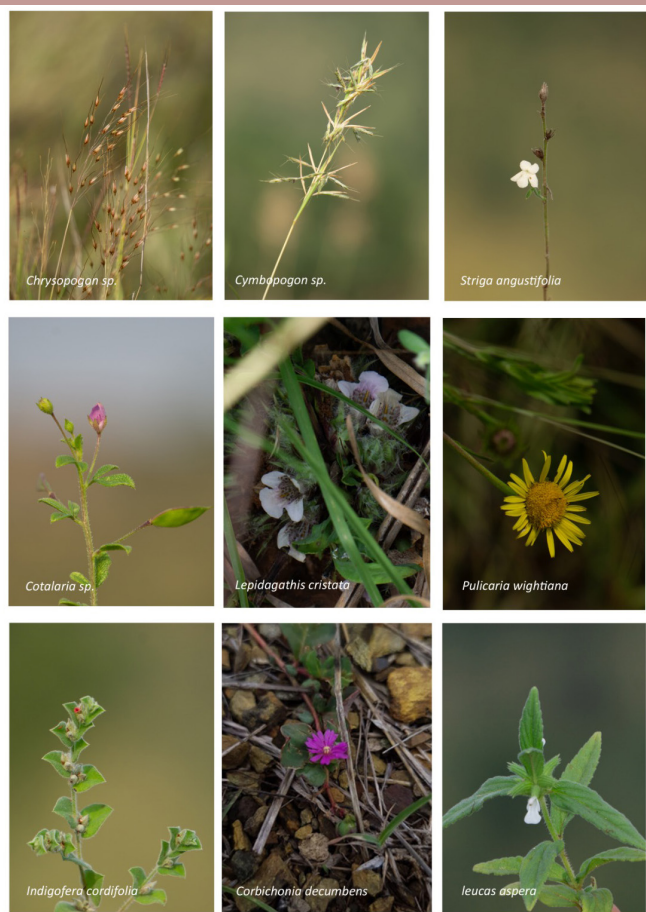
The Programme continued to nurture future conservation leaders through experiential environmental education sessions. A total of 97 workshops were conducted in village schools for children, youth, and VSC members on themes such as biodiversity, climate change, human–wildlife conflict, illegal wildlife trade, food chains, and snakebite prevention. These sessions reached 2,695 children, including 1,471 boys and 1,224 girls, helping build ecological awareness and conservation values among younger generations.

To further deepen children's connection with nature, three 'Kalpavalli Knowledge Hubs' were established in Subbarayunipalli, Polepalli and Kogira villages. These centres provide children access to environmental learning materials, seeds, medicinal plants, binoculars, and NTFP samples. Through the centres, 44 workshops were organized involving 828 children. Additionally, 74 children participated in the GBBC 2026 Bird Count program where they identified 20 bird species, which helped them in practically understanding ways to monitor biodiversity.



To strengthen learning and exposure, 33 members including Cooperative Directors, youth leaders, watchers, and Programme employees visited the Banni Grasslands in Bhuj District, Gujarat. During the exposure visit, participants interacted with the Banni Buffalo Breeders' Association and learned about grassland management, pastoral livelihoods, invasive species management, and conservation governance. The visit provided valuable insights into community-led grassland conservation efforts in another semi-arid ecosystem.

Going forward, the team will continue to work on obtaining legal recognition for KCCA and on including youth in conservation efforts.



Chelimi Programme

The Chelimi Programme aims to improve water conservation by aiding construction of efficient water holding infrastructure, renovation of existing water bodies and borewell, encouraging community management of these water resources. It supports farmers to adopt natural farming methods and shift to mixed cropping and growing climate resilient crops like millets. Under this Programme, the Collective works in 16 villages where most of the small holder farmers are dependent on rainfed agriculture.

Strong community institutions remained central to the programme's success throughout the year. Jana Chaithanya Samakhyas (JCSs) functioned actively across all 16 villages and provided a platform for collective planning, supervision of water conservation works, organisation of shramadan activities, and transparent distribution of agricultural inputs. Regular meetings and active community participation strengthened local ownership and improved accountability for programme activities.

Water conservation continued to be a key priority. During the year, 23 water bodies were restored through the renovation of three village tanks, desiltation of seven tanks, repair of supply channels in three tanks,

renovation of six check dams, and construction of five mini percolation tanks. Together, these interventions increased water storage capacity by more than 100,000 cubic metres, enhanced groundwater recharge, and improved irrigation support for agricultural land.

Tank desiltation generated multiple benefits for farmers. Nearly 37,000 tractor loads of nutrient-rich tank silt were transported to farmers' fields, benefiting 849 farmers across 1,808 acres. Farmers reported improved soil fertility, better moisture retention, and healthier crop growth. The programme also promoted equitable access to water through community-managed water-sharing systems. A total of 43 farmers accessed irrigation through nine shared borewells, enabling cultivation on 116 acres, including 44 acres of previously fallow

land. In addition, 137 farmers adopted micro-irrigation systems across 380 acres, improving water-use efficiency and reducing water losses in water-scarce areas.

Progress was made in strengthening the resilience of farming systems by ensuring crop security for 2,223 farmers across 2,289 hectares. Among them, 1,778 farmers cultivated 1,870 hectares under rainfed conditions, while 445 farmers with limited borewell water successfully cultivated crops on 419 hectares during the Kharif and Rabi seasons through improved water management practices. These achievements were made possible through integrated water conservation measures, efficient water use, and strong community participation.



Awareness programmes on natural farming reached 1,893 farmers, while 1,526 farmers adopted natural farming practices across nearly 3,050 acres. Farmers also received green manure seeds, neem cake, and neem oil to improve soil health and crop resilience. These interventions enhanced soil fertility, reduced pest incidence, and lowered dependence on external chemical inputs.

The programme continued to invest in strengthening capacities through regular training and exposure visits for Community Resource Persons (CRPs), village leaders, and programme team. Capacity-building programmes on aquifer mapping, crop water budgeting, natural farming, integrated pest management, and digital data collection enhanced technical knowledge, strengthened community-led governance of water and agricultural resources.

As the programme enters its third year, it will continue to strengthen its existing interventions while placing greater emphasis on community ownership. The focus will remain on sustainable water management, promotion of natural farming and strengthening local institutions so that communities can manage and sustain these efforts.

Case Study: Reviving Kogira Tank

The historic Kogira Tank in Roddam Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai District, had not been desilted for nearly 20 years, resulting in reduced water storage capacity and declining soil fertility. Under the Chelimi Programme, the Jana Chaitanya Samakhya (JCS) mobilized farmers from four villages to restore the tank through a community-led Desiltation initiative.

A total of 388 farmers transported 18,437 tractor loads of nutrient-rich tank silt to 921 acres of farmland. The initiative increased the tank's water storage capacity while enriching agricultural soils with natural nutrients and organic matter. Farmers expect improved crop yields, reduced dependence on chemical fertilizers, and lower cultivation costs. Beyond the physical outcomes, the initiative strengthened community ownership and demonstrated how collective action can revive traditional water bodies and contribute to the building of natural farming in drought-prone regions.



Gramasiri Programme

The Gramasiri Programme was initiated to create alternative livelihood opportunities for agricultural labourers through the promotion of small ruminant rearing, particularly goats, sheep and cattle. Recognizing the important role of livestock in strengthening rural livelihoods and enhancing household incomes, the Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers Livelihood and Marketing Cooperative was established in 2010. The programme focuses on improving the livelihoods of landless and marginal households by building their capacities in sustainable livestock rearing through regular training, field-level support, and community-based extension services.

During the year, emphasis was placed on promoting ethnoveterinary healthcare practices as an affordable and sustainable approach to livestock management. A total of 792 members were trained in preventive livestock healthcare and the preparation and use of ethnoveterinary medicines. To strengthen community-based veterinary services, 35 ethnoveterinary trainers were provided with first-aid kits, enabling them to offer timely livestock healthcare support within their villages. As a result, 847 members, representing 41% of those reached through the programme, adopted ethnoveterinary medicines, reducing their dependence on costly veterinary services while improving access to preventive animal healthcare. The increased adoption of ethnoveterinary medicine contributed to measurable improvements in livestock health. The mortality of insured small ruminants declined during the year, with only 24 insured animals lost compared to 45 in the previous year.

The programme also invested in strengthening of the Gramasiri Cooperative promoted under the initiative through a range of capacity-building activities. The leadership capacities of Sangha leaders and Cooperative Directors improved considerably, with members participating more actively in governance and decision-making processes with greater confidence and ownership. The strengthened leadership has also enabled Sanghas to address and resolve operational issues independently at the village level, contributing to more responsive and self-reliant cooperative.



To further enhance knowledge, community members and programme team undertook an exposure visit to the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU). The visit provided valuable insights into scientific livestock management, fodder development, dairy farming, and poultry enterprises. Participants gained practical knowledge of improved fodder varieties, sustainable livestock production systems, and enterprise management practices, which they are expected to adapt within their own communities.

The Timbaktu Collective also played a crucial role in supporting a new livelihood initiative undertaken by the Gramasiri Cooperatives in poultry farming for egg production. During the year, four members established poultry units demonstrating better-than-expected results, creating promising opportunities for additional household income. Going forward, the programme will continue to strengthen and expand its existing interventions for agricultural labourers while further promoting sustainable live-stock based livelihoods and community-led veterinary services.



Dharani Programme

The Dharani Programme of the Timbaktu Collective promotes sustainable and climate-resilient farming among smallholder farmers. This initiative has promoted the Dharani Farming and Marketing Mutually Aided Co-operative Society Ltd (Dharani FaM Coop) which does procurement, processing, value addition, marketing, and extension services for members. The Collective has been supporting the institutional development of Dharani Cooperative, in addition to technical assistance for cultivating millets, groundnuts, lentils, vegetables, and other food crops by offering crop-specific Packages of Practices (PoP). It also facilitates organic certification, hosts peer-to-peer learning events and conducts regular training sessions.



The Dharani Programme worked with 2,626 farmers across 79 villages, supporting 13,801 acres under organic cultivation. During the year, 1,757 farmers cultivated 4,653 acres in Kharif and 1,118 farmers cultivated 2,332 acres in Rabi, strengthening the adoption of organic farming practices.

A major focus this year was the promotion of intensive organic vegetable cultivation, which significantly contributed to the enhancement of women's participation in agriculture. Through staggered crop planning, regular technical support, Farmers' Field Schools, access to quality seeds, community nurseries, Bio-Resource Centre inputs, and women-friendly tools, women farmers improved their skills in organic cultivation while reducing production costs and dependence on external inputs. Weekly vegetable harvests provided a reliable source of income to the women farmers and the revival of four traditional leafy greens contributed to agrobiodiversity conservation of the region.

The demonstration farm at the Collective's campus continued to serve as a practical learning centre, showcasing intensive organic and biodynamic vegetable cultivation and helping develop Package of Practices (PoPs) for 25 crops, which are now widely used in farmer training. Post-harvest management was strengthened with the construction of two additional drying platforms this year, bringing the total to seven. These platforms benefited 692 farmers, enabling the drying of 328 metric tonnes of grains and improved produce quality. As a PGS-India Regional Council, the Collective successfully completed inspections for registered Local Groups for Rabi and Kharif and facilitated organic certification through the issuance of Scope Certificates to the farmers.

Over two decades of sustained efforts, the programme has enabled smallholder farmers to reduce cultivation costs, produce their own organic inputs, adopt improved agroecological practices, and strengthen resilience to climate variability. The promotion of millet cultivation, supported by procurement, processing, value addition, and market linkages through the Dharani Cooperative, has further contributed to the enhancement of profitability and livelihood security.

The knowledge, systems, and social capital built through the programme have also enabled the Collective to extend natural farming practices to another 7,000 farmers through the Chelimi Programme, under the Rayalaseema Water Initiative, supported by the Azim Premji Foundation, accelerating the transition towards sustainable farming across the region.

This year, the Dharani Programme faced few challenges, including declining groundwater levels affecting irrigated agriculture, crop damage caused by wildlife such as wild boars, deer, and peacocks, low market prices for vegetables in local mandis, and increasingly erratic weather conditions. Despite these challenges, the programme enters the new year with renewed commitment to work towards addressing adverse farming conditions by combining farmers' traditional knowledge with regenerative and climate resilient agricultural practices and building farmers capacity to ensure sustainable livelihoods.



Case Study:

From Home Garden to Local Market Entrepreneur

J. Swarna, a member of the organic vegetable Sangha from Bucherla village, Roddam Mandal, has shown steady progress in her farming and marketing practices with the support of the Collective. Earlier, she cultivated only 4 to 5 vegetable varieties mainly for household consumption, one main crop for market supply and faced losses due to limited market access and surplus produce going to waste. Through continuous guidance and participation in training such as Intensive Vegetable Cultivation, Foundation Training, and exposure visits, she gradually expanded her cultivation to more than 13 vegetable varieties and began exploring local marketing opportunities.

Starting with small sales within her village, Swarna built the trust of consumers, which enabled her to scale up her efforts. She now uses an autorickshaw to sell vegetables across nearby villages and collects produce from other Sangha members, creating a market channel for the other farmers. Focusing on providing safe and healthy vegetables at regular market prices, she has developed a consistent local marketing system. Currently, she sells around 2 tonnes of vegetables per month, earning a net income of approximately INR 26,000. She has also begun producing her own seeds for five varieties of greens and four vegetables, contributing to improved self-reliance and sustainability at the production level.





Livelihoods Development

This initiative supports the livelihoods taken up by the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective. The objective of the initiative is to support the Cooperatives in gaining sustainable income opportunities and ensuring dignified livelihoods of marginalized communities. This initiative supports production units like Dharani FaM Coop Ltd. (Organic & Natural agricultural food products), Bhavani Chenetha Sangam (Natural dyes cotton handloom products) and Militha Jeevanopadula Sangam - MJS (Natural Body-care products). The 'Timbaktu Organic' product range includes millets, grains, pulses, groundnut and groundnut oil, semolina and flours, spices, honey, and vegetables. The 'Timbaktu Natural' product range includes biscuits, ready-to-mix powders, ready-to-cook, ready-to-eat items and pickles. The Kalpavalli Bush camp is run with the support of Linger and hosts visitors interested in ecology and conservation.

The team helped the livelihood initiatives in developing 16 new products this year, while also expanding the product range with six vegetables-based and three millet-based products. The Dharani Cooperative anchored sale of products from all units and in this year the cumulative sales was INR 8 crores. The sales were mostly through retail partners across multiple states and the two local shops.

The livelihoods team helped strengthen linkages with partners enabling farmers to receive a better price for their produce. They also worked on increasing awareness and consumption of organic food among consumers and supported the farmers in the sale of organic vegetables ensuring fair prices. The initiative promoted awareness on organic vegetables among consumers, encouraging healthier food choices. They helped with effective use of the surplus produce minimizing wastage and enhancing value. A total of 135 tonnes of vegetables and fruits were procured from member farmers, generating INR 27 lakhs sales.

The Bhavani Chenetha Sangam, an all women weaving initiative of the Mahasakthi Federation aims to strengthen the livelihoods of women. Bhavani makes handloom and handwoven clothes naturally dyed using turmeric, indigo, pomegranate rind, and Indian madder, etc. This year, building on the skills of the weavers, new shades like leafy green, nimbus, marigold, onion peel, etc. were introduced. The product range further expanded with new motif designs inspired by nature, including leaves, flowers, cats, and sparrows. Through this livelihood, the members have taken a step forward in preserving handloom weaving and natural dyeing while responding to evolving consumer preferences. The Livelihoods Team supported Bhavani in creating these designs and sales during the year was INR 12 lakhs. Another all-women initiative called Jeevani,

for tailored garments, initiated by Mahasakthi federation continued to be in the pilot phase with a few trainings provided in fine stitching.

'Timbaktu Herbals' produced by MJS focuses on the production and sale of chemical-free body care products, handcrafted by persons with disabilities. This includes 8 varieties of soaps and hair oils. This initiative not only promotes natural products but also provides sustainable income opportunities and dignified livelihoods for the members involved. The team supported MJS with exhibitions, stalls, and other outlets.

The team also helped the community to participate in 23 national and local stalls across various cities and districts. These platforms served as valuable opportunities for the producers to showcase a diverse range of products. Food demonstrations were also conducted at events like Bhoomi Habba, enabling consumers to experience the taste and get to know the health benefits of organic and millet-based products. As in the previous years, Ms. Manisha Kairaly, provided valuable consultancy services to the livelihoods development initiative to revive the local economy through ethical production and consumption. This year an assessment of the livelihoods was carried out, which analyzed the initiatives and identified opportunities for improvement in systems, policies, costing mechanisms, and strategies for viability.



Culturals

The Timbaktu Collective continued its commitment to reviving and preserving the rich folk-art traditions of rural Rayalaseema by promoting cultural expressions that are increasingly at risk of disappearing. Through these efforts, the Collective is not only safeguarding an invaluable cultural heritage but also creating opportunities for communities to reconnect with their shared history, strengthen their cultural identity, and pass on these traditions to future generations.

During the year, 500 community members (350 men and 150 women) from 21 villages were trained in traditional performing arts. The initiative revived Kollattam in 4 villages, Chakkala Bhajana in 12 villages, and Draupadi Vastrapaharanam in 5 villages, encouraging community participation and the transmission of these art forms to younger generations.



A major highlight of the year was the showcase of local folk arts during the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Timbaktu Collective, where seven folk-art forms, including Keelu Gurrulu, Kommu, Maragallu, Asadulu, and Javikini, were performed. The training also enabled community groups to independently organise 46 cultural programs across their villages, helping preserve local folk-art forms while strengthening community ownership, promoting intergenerational learning, and fostering cultural pride.

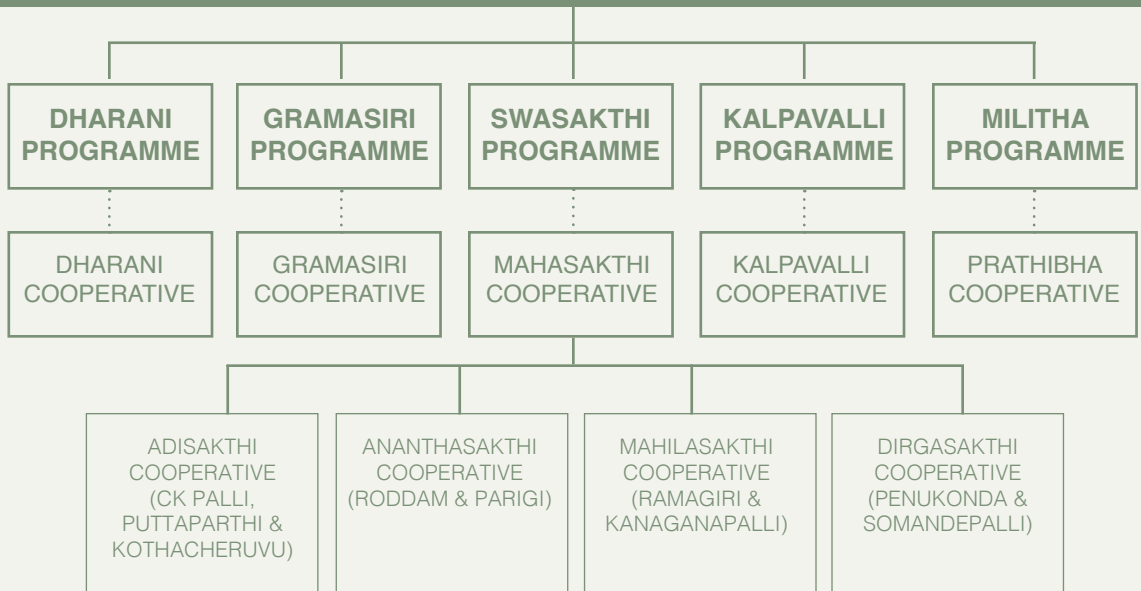
Celebrating 35 Years of the Timbaktu Collective



The Timbaktu Collective marked its 35th anniversary on 14th November 2025 with a vibrant community celebration at Chennekothapalli village, bringing together more than 3,500 community members, team members, Cooperative representatives, children, partners, and well-wishers. The event was inaugurated by the Collective's Founders, Governing Body members, representatives of Jana Chaithanya Samakhya, the Executive Director, and a child representative from the Mogga Children's Federation. Speakers reflected on the Collective's journey, community leadership, and future priorities. Stalls were set up by each Programme and Children's Day was observed through performances highlighting children's welfare. A special felicitation honoured 84 ex-Directors and Team members for their contributions to the Collective and its promoted Cooperatives. The celebrations also included a village procession with traditional folk performances, followed by an all-night cultural programme featuring community artists and renowned traditional performers in puppetry, Yakshaganam, theatre, and folk arts. The anniversary concluded with the National Anthem, celebrating 35 years of collective action, community participation, and shared commitment to sustainable and inclusive development.



About Cooperatives



The core strategy of the Collective has been to promote and empower people's organisations, especially Cooperatives, formally registered under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995, (AP MACS Act). So far, nine Cooperatives have been promoted. As on 31st March 2026, the net worth of these Cooperatives stood at INR 86.81 crores, an increase of INR 9.81 crores from the previous year. There are 120 Directors along with 4,585 leaders at the Sangha level for all nine Cooperatives.

Sl. No.	Cooperative/Federation	Members	Male	Female	Networth
1	Mahasakthi Federation	36,122	-	36,122	74.63
2	Prathibha Cooperative of People with Disabilities	2,006	1,213	793	3.98
3	Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers Cooperative	2,047	783	1,264	3.94
4	Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative	1,570	699	871	0.15
5	Dharani Farming & Marketing Cooperative	2,624	1,810	814	4.11
Total		44,369	4,505	39,864	86.81

Note:

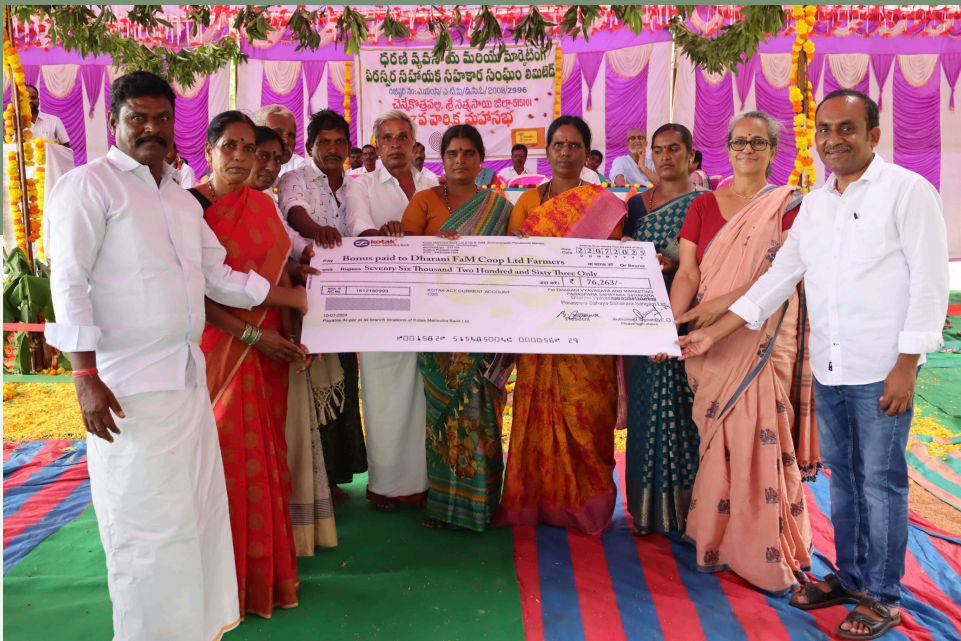
The net worth mentioned is in crores.

As of 31st March 2026, INR 86.81 crores is approximately USD 10.1 million, based on the exchange rate at the time (roughly Rs.85.5–86 per US dollar).

The total number of members/stakeholders does not consider overlaps in membership in different Cooperatives, which is estimated to be about 2,000 members.

Dharani Farming and Marketing Cooperative

Dharani Farming and Marketing Mutually Aided Cooperative Society Ltd (Dharani FaM Coop Ltd/Dharani) had a membership of 2,624 across 80 villages with 13,768 acres. Dharani holds the farmer members' contribution worth INR 2.58 crores and continues to go forward with a net worth of INR 4.1 crores, reflecting its sustained commitment to small holder farmers. This year Dharani successfully procured 802 tons of 24 types of produce from farmers ensuring fair and transparent transactions of INR 4.6 crores. The product portfolio was expanded with the introduction of four new products bringing the total number of Stop Keeping Units to 185. Dharani FaM Coop Ltd has achieved cumulative net sales of INR 8.01 crores across all units, aligning with the business plan. These revenues were generated through multiple sales channels, including 347 retail partners across 12 states and two shops run by Dharani. Dharani continues to be a proud member of International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements International (IFOAM) and Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI). The Primary Processing Centre which was sanctioned by the AP Food Processing Society to Dharani resumed civil construction in this year.



Mahasakthi Federation of Women's Cooperatives

Mahasakthi, the Federation of four women's Cooperatives; Adisakthi, Mahilasakthi, Durgasakthi and Ananthasakthi operates across nine mandals of Sri Sathya Sai District. On 31st March 2026, Mahasakthi had a total membership of 36,122 with 3,214 new members joining the Cooperatives this year, reflecting the growing interest among women in becoming part of the movement and highlighting the continued relevance and significance of Mahasakthi. This year, the Mahasakthi reached a net worth of INR 74.63 crores and disbursed loans worth INR 50.39 crores to 7,973 members, with the largest share for business ventures and the rest for agriculture, education, and household needs. Besides, the Cooperatives provided INR 26.77 lakhs of welfare assistance to 520 members in times of dire need including INR 95,763 specifically for girl child education, a quiet but meaningful investment for the next generation. This year Adisakthi constructed an additional floor to its office extending its services to more members. Besides, a new office for Ananthasakthi was established in Parigi Mandal. Mahasakthi Federation continued to anchor the Bhavani Chenetha Sangam, a weaving enterprise offering exquisite naturally dyed handwoven cotton products using frame and pit-loom under its brand name "Timbaktu Weaves".



Kalpavalli Tree Growers Cooperative

Established in 2008, the Kalpavalli Tree Growers Cooperative (Kalpavalli) is a federation of 11 Vana Samrakshana Committee (Forest Protection Committees / VSCs) in 11 villages in three mandals of the Collective's working area, that oversee and protect the Kalpavalli Conservation Area (KCCA). Kalpavalli continued to do commendable work on continuing to protect the conservation area which is now one of the largest community-led ecorestoration sites in India. KCCA supports the livelihoods of pastoral communities, small holder farmers and agricultural/landless labourers and shepherds who depend on grassland ecosystems. During the year, nearly 99,471 livestock grazed within KCCA, with availability of fodder and water even during harsh summer months. Community members also continued to collect fodder and thatch grass and engaged in NTFP-based livelihoods like sale of date palm fruits and date palm frond mats. This demonstrates the close interdependence between community wellbeing and ecosystem conservation.

The Kalpavalli Cooperative continued running the 'Timbaktu bush camp' as a center for conservation learning and exposure. During the year, the Cooperative hosted 28 visits involving 312 visitors including researchers, ecologists, environmentalists, bird watchers, trekkers and others. The camps offered activities such as bird watching, wildlife sightings, trekking, nature walks, and sessions on ecology and related themes. This continued partnership demonstrates how community-led conservation can successfully restore degraded landscapes while strengthening local livelihoods and grassroots leadership. Going forward, the Kalpavalli Cooperative aims to further strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts and work towards securing recognition for the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area.



Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers Cooperative

At the end of the financial year 2025-2026, the Gramasiri Cooperative had 2,047 members across 78 villages in 4 mandals reaching a net worth of INR 3.94 crores. This steady growth demonstrates the increasing importance of livestock-based livelihoods in the region and the confidence communities have in the support provided by the Gramasiri Cooperative. Members actively engaged in livestock allied activities. The members owned around 15,385 small ruminants. Gramasiri Cooperative provides short-term low-interest loans to its members for purchasing livestock, especially small ruminants. This year, Gramasiri issued loans worth INR 2.71 crores to 577 members to buy livestock. To ensure responsible use of these loans, members were accompanied by the Cooperative's Purchasing Committee, which played a critical role in promoting transparency and accountability in livestock purchases. The members rear the animals and sell them for a profit. The Cooperative also operates a microinsurance facility to safeguard the livestock of its members against unexpected losses. This year Gramasiri continued working on making Ethnovet medicines and mutton pickles as part of their attempt at developing collective enterprises. Gramasiri, in collaboration with the company 'Happy Hens', piloted small-scale poultry farms, creating promising opportunities for additional household income generation. These efforts significantly contributed to strengthening household livelihoods and improving resilience.



B Subashini from Reddivaripalli with her livestock.

Prathibha Cooperative of People with Disabilities

This financial year, Prathibha Cooperative's net worth increased by 42 lakhs, reaching a total of INR 3.98 crores. The Cooperative formed 33 new cross-disability groups, welcoming 288 new members. Under financial empowerment of members, Prathibha disbursed loans worth INR 1.69 crore to 445 members to support agriculture, livelihoods, healthcare, education and housing. Prathibha also continued to work on accessing related entitlements and schemes for People with Disabilities. Enhancing accessibility and independence, 27 members received assistive devices, 22 obtained disability certificates, and 231 secured travel concession passes this year. Pratinbha's production unit, the 'Militha Jeevanopadula Sangham' (MJS) supported 10 persons with disability who made artisanal soaps, hair oils, dishwashing liquids and candles.



Jana Chaitanya Samakhya (JCS)

The Jana Chaitanya Samakhya (JCS), an informal network of the nine Cooperatives as well as the Mogga Samakhya (federation of youth and children) continued as a fostering collaboration. This year JCS met 13 times and further evolved as an effective forum for collective action, knowledge sharing, and democratic community governance. It overviewed governance across the Cooperatives, took initiative in joint initiatives, facilitated inter Cooperative lending and worked on strengthening linkages with the Government departments. Regular meetings of JCS strengthened institutional convergence, improved information sharing, and reinforced the capacity of community leaders to collectively address local development challenges. The JCS played a significant role in mobilizing communities and coordinating major events like 35-year celebrations of the Collective, International Women's Day, World Environment Day, etc., demonstrating strong collective ownership and leadership. Presidents and CEOs of the Cooperatives, participated actively in these events, further strengthening partnerships, institutional solidarity, and the shared vision of community-led development.



Organisational Information

The Timbaktu Panchayati, a forum of full-time employees of the Collective and Cooperatives, meets on a bi-monthly basis. Here, the impact of the various initiatives of the Collective is shared, besides planning common events, taking part in cultural activities, attending learning/ team building sessions and electing members for various committees. This year, the Timbaktu Panchayati contributed its collective strength to celebrate 35 years of the Timbaktu Collective. The Timbaktu Panchayati also conducted health check-up and blood donation camps, and sessions on snakebite by the Kalapavalli team. It had learning sessions facilitated by the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) as well as sessions by Mr. C.K. Ganguly and Ms. Mary Vattamattam.



The Timbaktu Kalayeka Cooperative (Kalayeka) is a Cooperative by and for the employees of the Timbaktu Collective and its promoted Cooperatives with a net worth of INR 1.59 crores and 199 members as on 31st March 2026. Members do monthly savings with Kalayeka and take loans for various purposes. This year Kalayeka provided INR 1.47 Cr of credit to 76 members. Besides, members also donate 2% of their monthly salaries towards a 'Social Welfare Fund' (SWF) meant to support people in extremely vulnerable situations in the working area of the Collective. This year INR 2.7 lakh were spent under SWF supporting 106 persons/families. It is worth noting that in the last 15 years, Kalayeka has contributed INR 31.38 lakhs as SWF for 721 families. The Kalayeka also runs two kitchens, the Mahasabha kitchen and Chinthavanam kitchen catering to the Nature School, TC/Cooperative Programmes, and employees.



The Core Group, consisting of the Coordinators and Associates of various Programmes, CEOs of the Cooperatives as well as the members of the Steering Committee met monthly to plan, review, and collectively monitor Programme activities and expenditure, committees, common events, capacity building, trainings, workshops, melas, visits and visitors.



From top left to bottom right - B. Narasimhulu, P. Srikanth, M. Ramesh Kumar, C.K. Ganguly, Duhita G, Y. Ramanna, G. Mahesh, K. Yamini, K. Sannappaiah, K. Ramanjineyulu, Vibha S, M. Anand, D. Ganesh, V. Kavitha, S. Sukanya, H.K. Abdullah, S. Shreyaswini, Tirumala Devi S, Gowri S Kumar, P. Manogna, Goutham Krishna KU, G. Jayasree, I. Siva Prasanna Reddy, K. Ravi, B. Kanchana, C. Vaishnavi, P. Rameeja, C. Ramu, E. Sri Kavitha, Mohan N, Mayur AV, M. Blessy, A. Chiranjeevi, G. Ravali, B. Lavanya, Dominion B, and Poornima M.

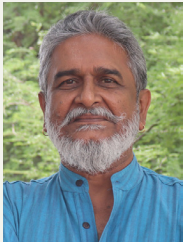
The Sruthi Working Group oversaw the Collective’s administrative and support functions, such as office and campus maintenance, travel and transport, procurement, asset management and capital expenditure, computer and IT support, etc. It also managed fundraising and donor communications, financial management and legal compliances, networking and documentation, human resource management, communications and Programme Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Steering Committee (SC), comprising the senior leadership of the Collective, met twice a month to review and implement internal policies, follow-up on fundraising efforts, monitor finances & legal compliances, and address human resource and operational issues.



From left to right - C.K. Ganguly (Director of Networking), Dr. G. Jayasree (Militha Programme Lead), P. Srikanth (Prakruthi Programme Lead), Vibha S. (Chiguru Programme Lead), M. Ramesh Kumar (Enterprise Lead), S. Sukanya (Executive Director), G. Mahesh (Organic Programme Lead), Duhita G. (HR & Admin Lead), and Gowri S Kumar (Swasakthi Programme Lead).

The Managing Committee (Board of Directors) met four times this year (103rd to 106th meeting) and deliberated on matters such as review of decisions made by the Steering Committee, compliance with policies and legal requirements, review of leadership transition, grants and donor relations, critical consultancies, conflict of interest, etc.



C. K. Ganguly



Garima Bhatia



Haritha Sarma



Mary Vattamattam



Mercy Kappen



Pradeep Esteves



R.V Jayapadma

The General Body consists of C. K. Ganguly - Chairperson, Mary Vattamattam - Secretary, Pradeep Esteves - Treasurer, John D'Souza - Member, Mercy Kappen - Member, Dr. Y. V. Malla Reddy - Member, Garima Bhatia - Member, R.V. Jayapadma - Member, Mathew John - Member, Haritha Sarma - Member, V. Manikandan - Member, and Poonam Natrajan - Member. The 35th General Body met on 30th August 2025.

Various **Committees** within the organization such as Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment - POSH, Ethics Committee, Child Protection Committee, Procurement Committee, Timbaktu Panchayati Advisory Committee, Women's Panchayati Committee, Men's Panchayati Committee, 35 Years Celebrations Committee, and Gardening and Farm Break Committees played an important role in the functioning of the Organization.

The Collective is closely associated with '**Timbaktu**', a 32-acre agro-forest habitat that emphasizes natural regeneration, Permaculture, sustainable living, and off-grid solar energy. Timbaktu houses Prakruthi Badi (Nature School), a primary school for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as the Collective's main Training Centre.



Supporters

We are deeply grateful to the institutions and individuals who supported our work during 2025–26.

Bread for the World (BftW) is a global development agency based in Germany. BftW supports the Collective's work with smallholder farmers, agricultural labourers, women, people with disabilities, livelihood development and ecology.

Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (KCF), a philanthropic trust founded by the Kadoorie family in Hong Kong, supports the Collective's work with children and youth, and children with disabilities. Recently significant support has been provided for organic vegetable cultivation.

GLS Future Foundation for Developments is part of GLS Treuhand, the German Trusteeship organisation that manages 300 entities, including GLS Bank. The Foundation supported the Collective's work with people with disabilities and leadership transition of the Collective.

ZUKUNFT INDIEN eV, based in Germany, focuses on enabling education, promoting entrepreneurship, and protecting the environment. They extended their support to the Nature School.

Azim Premji Foundation (APF) is a not-for-profit in India which works through grassroots action, institution-building, and strong partnerships with civil society organisations, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas. The Azim Premji Foundation supports the Collective's work with strengthening local institutions, water security, and promotion of Natural Farming.

Rainmatter Foundation - We are happy to have started our partnership with the Rainmatter Foundation this year. Rainmatter Foundation supports organizations working on climate action, building a healthier environment, and livelihoods. This partnership has enabled us to strengthen our existing initiatives while also launching new initiatives.

The Collective also received support from **SPA Education Foundation, ION Foundation, Asha for Education, Sudha Mahesh Grants, Dasra and Benevity. The Canara Bank** and individual supporters including **Mr. Anand Nair, Mr. Vikram Parekh, Sahadev Menon and Mr. Anubhav Anil Kumar.**

Networking & Visits

The Timbaktu Collective continued to strengthen its networks, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing efforts during this year. Mr. C.K. Ganguly continued to represent the Collective at IFOAM Organics International in the capacity of Vice President. He attended events like Organic Asia Congress Local Future celebrations and the Asian Biodynamic Conference. He participated in strategic discussions at IFOAM Organics headquarters, contributing to efforts to promote organic agriculture, strengthen farmer capacities, and expand sustainable organic markets.

Besides, Ms. Mary V. and Ms. Sukanya S. participated in a meeting with Brot für die Welt (BftW). Mr. C.K. Ganguly, Mr. I. Siva Prasanna Reddy, and Ms. Blessy represented the Collective at the Kisan Swaraj Sammelana in Mysore, engaging with organisations working on organic farming,



natural farming, sustainable agriculture, and seed sovereignty. Ms. Sukanya S. attended a conference on 'Teaching and Practice of Development in the Global South' at Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar and Mr. G Mahesh, along with the Organic Programme team, visited the Namazhvar Society to understand organic cultivation practices in the area. The visit also provided an opportunity for collaborative knowledge exchange, with both organisations sharing insights from their respective work over the years.

Ms. M. Blessy and Mr. Mayur A.V. attended the annual seed festival organised by Telangana Government's Council of Green Revolution (CGR). The visit provided insights into seed stall management, seed presentation, community engagement, and the market potential for traditional and indigenous seeds.

Ms. Vibha S, Ms. Poornima M, Mr. Y Rammanna and four members of the children's federation attended the 6th National Consultation of Children's Collectives (NCCC) held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

Mr. M. Ramesh Kumar, Mr. Mahesh G, and Ms. Vaishnavi C, along with the thirty honey gatherers, attended a workshop organized by the Tropical Institute of Ecological Sciences (TIES) in Kottayam, Kerala, to learn about honeybee conservation, sustainable honey collection, and value addition of honey products.



Special mentions - Government Officials

This year the Collective received tremendous support from the state government officials particularly:

1. Secretary to Government (Food Processing) I&C Department – Shri Chiranjiv Choudhary, IFS (Retd.)
2. District Magistrate & Collector – Shri A. Shyam Prasad, IAS
3. District Additional Magistrate & Joint Collector - Mantri Mourya Bharadwaj, I.A.S.
4. Superintendent of Police – Shri S. Satish Kumar, IPS
5. District Forest Officer – Shri Chakrapani
6. District Educational Officer – Shri Kristappa
7. District Cooperative Officer – Shri D Venkata Ramana
8. Project Director, DRDA (Sri Satya Sai) – Shri Narsayya Garu
9. Assistant Director for PWDs – Sri G Archana Garu
10. Superintending Engineer – Irrigation Department
11. Mandal Revenue Officers and Mandal Parishad Officers – Ramagiri, Roddam, C.K. Palli and Penukonda



Special mentions - Consultants

1. Mr. Haritha Sarma and Ms. Joy Srinivasan continued to play a key role in strengthening the organization's new leadership through ongoing organizational development support.
2. Ms. Manisha Kairaly contributed immensely to the efforts towards sustainability and viability of the enterprises run by the Cooperatives.
3. Ravi and Shrihari Chartered Accounts, and Mr. Tathagata Guha Roy conducted assessments of the Cooperative enterprises with a vision towards viability and sustainability.
4. Institutions such as ISABS, Visthar and APU were instrumental in contributing to the learning requirements of the Collective.

Visitors

As in the previous year, the Collective had the opportunity to host many visitors:

1. District Magistrate & Collector – Shri A. Shyam Prasad, IAS
2. Farmers from Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society (APMAS)
3. Members from The Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR)
4. Ms. Rei Makita, a PhD scholar and a social scientist (human geographer)
5. Members from the Sakhi Trust
6. Members from the Grasslands Trust and ATree
7. Employees of Teach For India (TFI)
8. Students from Rishi Valley School
9. Rural Integrated Development Society (RIDS)
10. Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
11. Employees from MALAR
12. Ms. Emilia Lewartowska, from Roskilde University
13. Students from Azim Premji University
14. Ms. Punam Behl, University of Reading
15. Employees from Rubaroo
16. Employees of the People's Organisation Rural Development (PORD)
17. Employees of Access Livelihood
18. Members of the Disability NGO's Alliance
19. Employees of The Shivaganga Kalanjia Jeevidam Honey Bee Producer Company Limited



Financials Statements 2025 - 2026

Receipts & Payments for FY 2025-26

Source of Funds	2025- 2026	Expenditure	2025 -2026
Particulars	Amount in lakhs	Particulars	Amount in lakhs
Opening Balance	24.86	Sustainability Agriculture & Marketing	221.54
		Ecology Conservation	268.72
Interest on Investments	9.16	Child Rights and Alternative Education	180.69
Other Income	0.12	Rights and Rehabilitation of PWDS	83.63
		Women's Empowerment	38.45
Foreign Contributions		Promotion of Rural Enterprises	96.64
Brot Fur Die Welt (Germany)	602.48	Livelihoods of Landless labourers	12.70
Sir Horace Kadoorie International Foundation (Honkong)	179.45	Training of Team Members	81.91
Sir Horace Kadoorie International Foundation (Bermuda)	128.89	Network meetings	8.18
GLS Future Foundation for Development (Germany)	40.10	Studies and Documentation	16.81
DASRA (U.S)	10.54	Administration	135.98
Zukunft Indian e.v. Germany	9.14	Capital Expenditure	7.14
Asha for Education, USA	7.80		
UK Online Giving Foundation	0.60	Fixed deposits made	635.55
		Advances paid	23.92
Domestic Contributions		Statutory dues paid	65.01
Azim Premiji Philanthropic Initiatives	184.89	Children's savings	1.24
Rainmatter Foundation	274.59		
ION Foundation	12.00		
SPA Education Foundation	9.00		
Individuals & Local Organisations	2.80		
Socratus Foundation	1.50		
Online Giving Foundation	0.29		
NIEPED	0.22		
Fixed deposits withdrawn	453.95		
Advances received/recovered	24.09		
Statutory dues collected	64.79		
Children's savings	0.15		
IT refund	1.73		
		Closing Balance	165.04
Total	2,043.15	Total	2,043.15

Income & Expenditure for FY 2025-26

Expenditure	Amount in lakhs	Income	Amount in lakhs
Programmes	1009.27	Specific Grants & Contribution	1464.26
Administration	135.98	Interest on S.B.A/cs and Deposits	12.59
Capital Cost	7.14	Other Income	0.13
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	324.59		
Total	1476.98	Total	1476.98

Balance Sheet on 31st March, 2026

Liabilities	Amount in lakhs	Assets	Amount in lakhs
Capital Fund	315.33	Fixed Assets at WDV	315.33
Other Funds	493.64	Investments	23.75
Current Liabilities	3.22	Current Assets	
		Cash and Bank	466.03
		TDS Receivables	1.23
		Accrued Interest	4.58
		Advance	1.27
Total	812.19	Total	812.19

Salaries of Timbaktu Collective’s Employees

Salaries in ₹	Male	Female	Total
Above 80000	1	1	2
71000 to 80000	3	1	4
61000 to 70000	1	2	3
51000 to 60000	1	0	1
41000 to 50000	5	6	11
31000 to 40000	12	5	17
21000 to 30000	39	13	52
16000 to 20000	10	4	14
Total	72	32	104

Awards & Recognition

Kalpavalli Programme of the Collective was selected as a finalist for the prestigious '**Elinor Ostrom Award** on Collective Governance of the Commons - 2023', under the Practitioners' category.

Mary Vattamattam received the '**Professor T S N Pillai leadership award**' (2022) organised by Loyola College of Social Sciences in Trivandrum, Kerala.

Mary Vattamattam received the **Organic Medal of Honor - Honorable Mention** (2021) at the Asia Organic Summit.

The Collective was awarded the **Covid Warrior Award** (2020) from the Sri Sathya Sai District Administration.

The Global Alliance for the Future of Food, in August 2020, recognised the Collective as one of **21 worldwide 'Beacons of Hope'** that were achieving sustainable, equitable, and secure food systems.

The Collective received the **Outstanding Practices in Agroecology** (2019) award from the World Future Council and TAGS2.

The Collective received the **Lush Spring Prize** (2017) from Lush Cosmetics, United Kingdom.

The Collective shared the **One World Award - GFold** (2014) with Hansalim, South Korea. The award was sponsored by Rapunzel Naturkost GmbH, Germany and IFOAM Organics International.

Mary Vattamattam and C.K. Ganguly were elected to the **Real Heroes** (2013) (Environment) award organised by the CNN-IBN television channel in partnership with Reliance Foundation.

Mary Vattamattam received the **Vanitha Woman of the Year Award** (2010) from the Malayala Manorama Group.

Mary Vattamattam and C.K. Ganguly were selected as **The Week magazine's Couple of the Year** (2005) and were featured as the cover story in its year-end special edition.

Mary Vattamattam was elected to the prestigious **Oxfam Fellowship award** (1994).

C.K. Ganguly was elected to the prestigious **Ashoka Fellowship** for social entrepreneurs (1993).

Mary Vattamattam and C.K. Ganguly were elected to the **Smile Fellowship** from IGSSS, Delhi (1991).



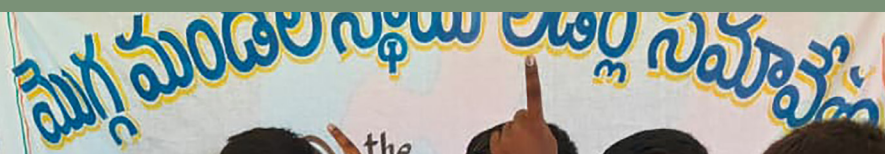
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