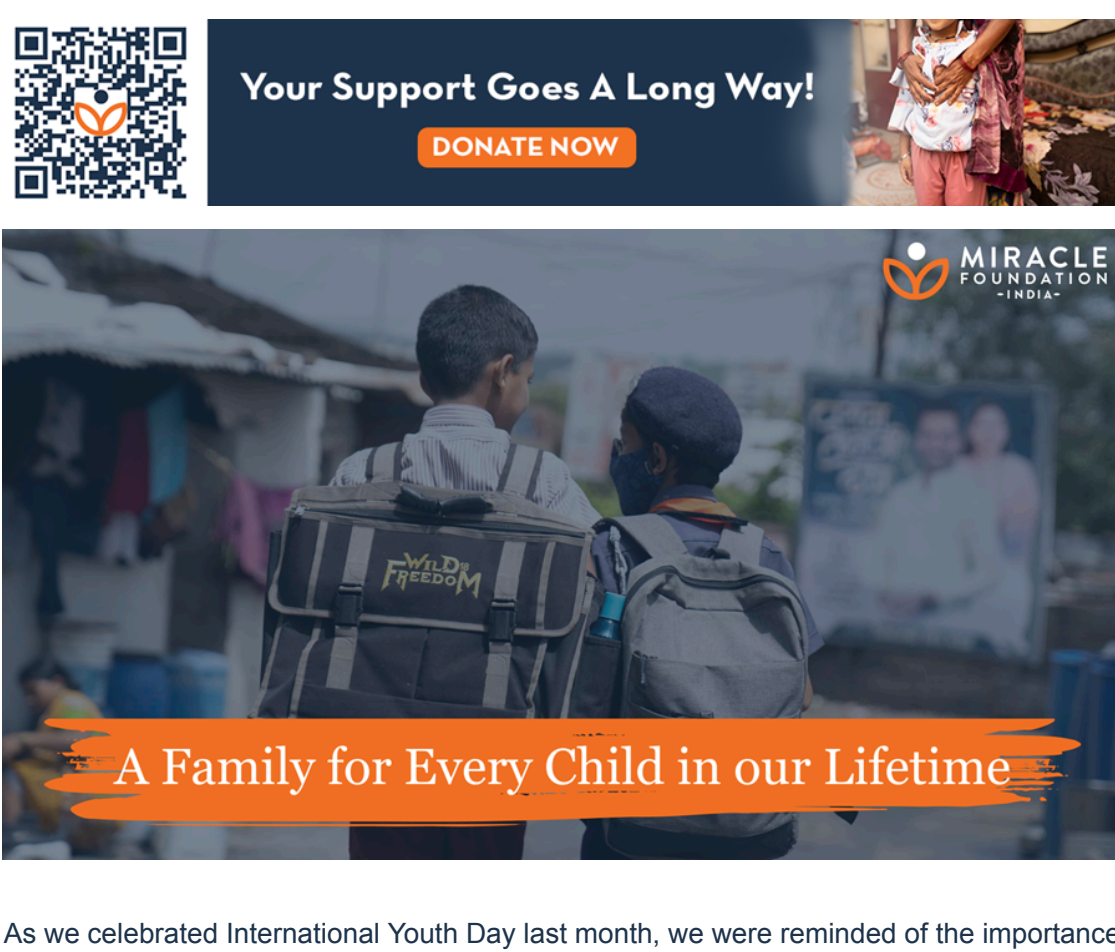




As we celebrated International Youth Day last month, we were reminded of the importance of creating meaningful spaces where young people can share their perspectives, take initiative and contribute to their communities.

We're also pleased to share our [Annual Report 2025-26](#), reflecting on a year of progress, learning and the many ways we are working together to help children grow up in safe, nurturing families. The report brings together stories and milestones from across our work, including the voices and experiences of children, young people, families and the social workforce.

In this month's update, we bring you a few of these stories, from a young woman who returned home after years in institutional care, to Youth Ambassadors taking on active roles, community workers strengthening local action, and conversations on building stronger child protection systems.

Thank you for being part of this work and for helping make these efforts possible.

Warm regards,
Kusum Mohapatra
CEO & Regional Director
Miracle Foundation India

Family Strengthening for Better Outcomes for Children



Reintegration, from a Child Care Institution (CCI) to family, is a years-long partnership between a child, a family, and the people supporting both, long before and long after the day a child actually goes home. Anisha's story (name changed) shows that approach in full: fourteen years apart from her family, a careful decade of work to make reintegration possible, and years more of home visits, entitlement support, and education assistance to make sure it held.

In a village in Telangana, Anisha's family, at one point, could not stay together. Her father, the household's primary earner, developed a chronic illness that made regular work impossible, and the burden of keeping the household afloat fell entirely on her mother, who took up daily wage labour. It wasn't enough to cover food, her father's care, and a child's needs. Like many families pushed past their breaking point, Anisha's parents made the difficult decision to place her in institutional care in 2008, not because they didn't want her, but because, for a time, they couldn't provide for her.

For years, home was somewhere else. Anisha grew up at a CCI while her family worked towards stability. Regular assessments and contact with her parents helped keep the family connected. In 2022, after more than a decade, they were ready for reintegration.

That year, Anisha went home. But her story shows that reintegration is a process and not an event, one that continues long after the return. Making it last meant working on two fronts: rebuilding relationships and reinforcing what had broken the family up in the first place. The team made regular home visits, helping Anisha and her parents relearn how to live together and trust each other again. Alongside this, the family accessed entitlements they were owed but might have missed: food rations and a disability pension that eased pressure on her father.

Education was a third pillar. Help covering fees and transportation kept Anisha enrolled in college. She went on to complete a Master of Social Work. The resources are visible today. Anisha, now 22, works as a Family Counsellor at one of the Bharosha Centres, supporting other families through challenging circumstances. Her income has added stability at home; her mother still works, but the household no longer depends on one precarious wage. Her younger brother has completed college and is now looking for a job.

Anisha still visits her CCI, and in 2024 was selected as a Miracle Foundation India Youth Ambassador, carrying her own story into work that helps others through theirs.

Youth Ambassadors as Partners Driving Change Across Communities



Marking International Youth Day on August 12, 2026, Miracle Foundation India participated in a youth consultation organized by Bal Kalyan Sangh and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The event brought together Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand, Shri Santosh Gangwar; ILO Deputy Director, Shri Oktaviano Akhrisah Pasaribu; Smt. Prerna Dixit, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development; Shri Bijay Kumar Sinha, IAS, Director, Jharkhand State Child Protection Society; and Shri Jitendra Kumar Singh, IAS, Secretary, Department of Labour, along with youth representatives, child champions and civil society organizations.

Representing Miracle Foundation India, Youth Ambassador Simran from Pune shared her grassroots experience, including her work with Bal Panchayats, where children and young people can raise concerns, participate in decisions and connect with community and child protection mechanisms. Speaking on 'Youth as Partners in Sustainable Development – Building Inclusive, Child-Friendly and Future-Ready Communities,' she highlighted how Bal Panchayats, engagement with Ward Child Protection Committees and other stakeholders, and close collaboration with local systems can enable young people to play an active role in creating change in their communities.

Miracle Foundation India's Associate Director - Program (North Zone), Subroto Chatterjee, also contributed to the consultation, highlighting the importance of moving from "doing for youth" to "working with youth", while ensuring that young people are connected to existing child protection systems rather than expected to take on responsibilities that belong to adults and institutions.

This approach is reflected in the work of Miracle Foundation India's Youth Ambassadors across Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Telangana. During August, their activities included life skills and workplace-readiness sessions, transition guidance for care-experienced young people, Bal Panchayat and child protection activities, engagement with Child Care Institutions and communities, and capacity-building on the *Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015* and *Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012*. Together, these efforts show young people participating across different spaces, contributing their perspectives and being recognized for their contributions within their communities.

Celebrating Mahesh Lade



Beyond stronger child protection efforts are social workers who help bring families, communities and local systems together around children's needs. In Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, Mahesh Lade is helping make that connection work on the ground.

As a Block Coordinator with Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi, one of Miracle Foundation India's Care Collective partners, Mahesh works across ten villages, strengthening Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs) and helping communities understand how they can act to protect children and support families.

When Mahesh began working with communities in Korchi, he found that VCPCs had already been formed, but many members did not know they were part of the committee or did not understand their roles. He began working with members to build their understanding of child rights, child protection and the local systems they could approach and, importantly, helped them build the confidence to use them.

The change became visible in the way communities began responding to concerns themselves. In Temali village, VCPC members identified that 24 children were travelling 5-7 km to school every day, including through a forest area, without transport. Mahesh supported the members in taking the concern forward to the Gram Panchayat, which subsequently allocated funds through the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for transportation.

When two people in another community died from malaria, VCPC members again knew where to turn. They approached the Taluka Health Office, leading to health check-ups and preventive measures. Mahesh's role was not to solve these issues himself, but to help communities understand the systems available to them and take their concerns forward. His work has also helped connect families with existing government support. In Salhe and Zendeppar villages, Mahesh supported Gram Sabha processes that helped identify families requiring government schemes and emergency assistance. Engagement with Gram Panchayat representatives then helped families obtain essential documents and access eligible services and entitlements.

For Mahesh, this has changed how he sees his role in child protection. *"Through this work, I have realized that child protection is not the responsibility of one person or one department. When community members understand their role and know whom to approach, they can become part of the solution. Sometimes our role is not to solve a problem ourselves, but to connect the community with the right system and help them take the issue forward,"* states Mahesh.

Mahesh's experience shows that strengthening a community institution is not just about creating a committee. It is about giving members the knowledge and confidence to understand concerns, use the systems available to them and take action themselves.

Turning Field Experience into Stronger Child Protection Systems in Gujarat

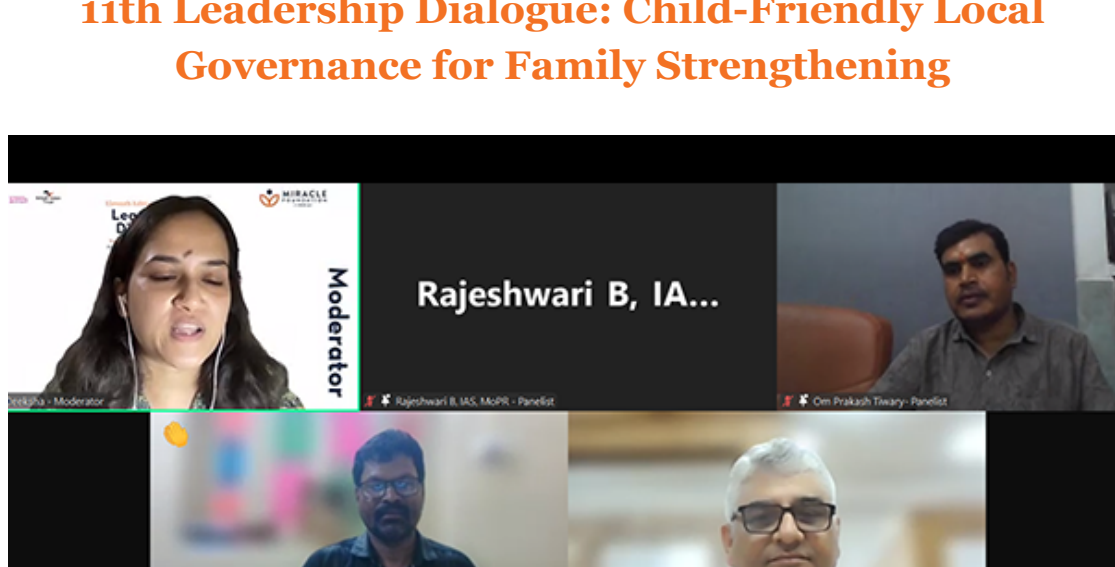


Miracle Foundation India recently had the opportunity to bring its work in Gujarat to a wider audience through [an in-depth discussion on Doordarshan Gyan](#). Our state team member, Jayesh Mundhava, joined the program alongside the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Chhota Udepur, sharing insights from the work underway to strengthen child protection across families and communities.

The conversation brought to life the importance of ensuring children grow up in safe and supportive family environments, while preventing unnecessary separation and entry into institutional care. Jayesh spoke about the role of Bal Panchayats in giving children a voice, the work of Village Child Welfare and Protection Committees at the community level, and the role of DCPU in responding to child protection concerns. He also shared how families can be connected with government schemes and services, and how different stakeholders can come together to support children and families.

The program provided an opportunity to bring learning from the field into a wider public conversation in Gujarat, highlighting how community-level action and local systems can work together to strengthen child protection.

11th Leadership Dialogue: Child-Friendly Local Governance for Family Strengthening



The 11th Leadership Dialogue, jointly organized by Miracle Foundation India and the British Asian Trust on August 6, 2026, brought a state-level perspective to how Mission Vatsalya can translate into stronger support for children and families at the community level. With a focus on Jharkhand, the dialogue examined the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies and community structures in identifying concerns early, strengthening convergence and building pathways of support for families. Bringing together a total of 184 participants, comprising government representatives, practitioners and civil society organizations, the discussion explored how local institutions can turn policy into meaningful action that helps prevent unnecessary separation and enables children to remain safely within their families and communities.

The panel featured Smt. Rajeshwari B. IAS, Director, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Government of Jharkhand; Mr. Pankaj Pandey, National Programme Officer, Transform Rural India Foundation, placed with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India; Mr. Chintya Kujur, Mukhya, Koro Chhatrapur Panchayat, Jharkhand; and Mr. Om Prakash, District Program Manager, Bal Kalyan Sangh, Jharkhand. The dialogue was moderated by Dr. Deepika, Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj, NIRDPR, Hyderabad. The entire recording can be viewed [here](#).

State Consultations on Completion of 10 years of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

With the ongoing review of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) by Juvenile Justice Committees of the High Court, Miracle Foundation India team participated in the state-level annual stakeholders consultation on the completion of ten years of the JJ Act and shared their insights and inputs in the states of Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Miracle Foundation India also got the opportunity to facilitate/steer the discussion attended by the CSOs across the country, organized by India Alternative Care Network (IACN).

Resource Links

- [AVPN Global Conference 2026](#)
- [Celebrating the Melbourne Congress: A Letter From The Congress Chairs: Transforming approaches to safety and healing](#)
- [Gujarat Records 547 Child Adoptions In FY 2025-26, Second Highest In India: CARA](#)
- [DoDM: India's Defining Annual Convening For The Management Of Social Change](#)

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