

ANNUAL REPORT



AUGUST 2025 TO JULY 2026

Contents

.....	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. INSTITUTIONS	4
2.1. Geeta Ghat Recovery Shelter for Men (DUSIB Shelter No. 243)	4
2.2. Kabir Basti Shelter for Women (DUSIB Shelter No. 191)	4
2.3. Prem Daan (Missionaries of Charity)	4
2.4. Eduljee Framjee Allbless Niramay Niketan (EFANN)	5
3. COMMUNITY WORK	6
3.1. Mahape Community, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai	6
3.1.1. Conversation on Deaddiction through Plantation Day in Mahape	7
3.2. Seawoods Community, Navi Mumbai: Closure of Work	9
3.3. Tatanagar Community in CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai	9
3.4. Lal Bagh Jhuggi Community, Mansarovar Park, Delhi	9
3.5. Enabling Community Response	10
3.5.1. Motor Driving Training with Lal Bagh Community Clients	10
3.5. Comprehensive Childhood Programme	12
3.5.1. Important Visits	12
3.5.2. Working with Schools	13
3.5.3. Sports Activity Programme in Mahape	14
3.5.4. Parent Teacher Meetings	15
3.5.5. Summer Camp in Mahape	15
4. Engaging with the Systems	16
4.1. National Human Rights Commission of India	16
4.2. Member of the Supreme Court-Appointed Shelter Monitoring Committee for the Urban Homeless	17
4.3. Admissions through Child Welfare Committee (CWC)	17
4.4. Aadhaar Camps	18
4.5. Mental Health Support at Regional Mental Hospital, Thane	19
4.6. Documents and Entitlements	20
5. Alliances	20
5.1. National Alliance for Dignity and Inclusion (NADI)	20

5.2. City-Level Alliance.....	21
5.3. Rationing Kruti Samiti	21
6. Counselling	22
7. Night Out Programme	22
8. Research Programme	23
9. Team-Building Process.....	25
10. Youth Engagement Programme.....	26
11. Gratitude and Hope	28

1. INTRODUCTION

Homelessness in India is often seen as a personal failure rather than what it truly is: the result of deep and long-standing inequalities in society. People living without a home face many hardships each day, from the lack of a safe place to sleep, to poor access to food, healthcare, and sanitation. Yet, beyond these everyday struggles, homeless people in India also face a further danger: the risk of being arrested simply for the state of being homeless.

This risk comes from the law called the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 (BPBA). Though the law was written to address begging, in practice, it has often been used against people simply because they are homeless or destitute or look like as if they do not have any means of subsistence. People are arrested regardless of whether they were actually begging at the time of arrest or not. Under this law, a person can be arrested by the police, produced before a court, and sent to a certified institution called Beggars' Homes, based on little more than their appearance of poverty or the fact that they were found on the street. For many homeless people, simply being visible in public space, sitting, sleeping, or waiting, can be enough to bring them under the scope of this law. In this way, the BPBA does not only fail to protect homeless people. It actively criminalises them for a condition that is, in most cases, not of their own making, but the result of poverty, displacement, old age, disability, mental illness and the failure of the state to provide adequate support.

It is within this reality that the work of Sam-Haq Trust is situated. We believe that people living in homelessness and near-homelessness, and destitution deserve support, dignity, and a fair chance at a better life, not suspicion, punishment, or exclusion. Our work seeks to respond to the many different ways in which homelessness affects people's lives, from the loss of identity documents, to the breakdown of family ties, to the barriers children face in accessing education, to the fear and distance many of our clients, especially children, feel towards the very institutions meant to protect them.

Over the past year, from August 2025 to July 2026, our team has worked closely with communities across Mumbai and Delhi, walking alongside them through these challenges. This report is an account of that work: the programmes we have run, the partnerships we have built, and the small but meaningful changes we have witnessed along the way. It is also a reminder of how much still needs to be done, and a renewed commitment, on our part, to continue this work in the year ahead.

2. INSTITUTIONS

In both Mumbai and Delhi, we have collaborated with institutions to work on issues that are beyond the mandate of their work. In both Mumbai and Delhi, we have collaborated with institutions to work on issues that go beyond the mandate of their work. For example, we have worked on cases where a person's needs did not fit neatly into what that institution would normally handle, such as counselling, home tracing, family reintegration. By joining hands with these different institutions, we make sure that people get the services that they need and their needs are not ignored simply because their situation falls outside the mandate of the institution.

2.1. Geeta Ghat Recovery Shelter for Men (DUSIB Shelter No. 243)

Geeta Ghat is a government-registered male recovery shelter home located on the banks of the Yamuna River, near the Monastery Market area of Delhi, under the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) network. The shelter has a capacity of 150 residents and houses individuals recovering from various illnesses. It has six wards: Observation ward, Orthopaedic, Tuberculosis (Intensive), Tuberculosis (Continuous), Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis, and a general ward. Residents are largely migrants from neighbouring states.

Our team has been working in the shelter since March 2025. We work on family tracing, reintegration with the residents of the shelter. This year, we have worked with 48 clients in total, and took follow up on 14 clients who had been earlier sent home through our intervention.

2.2. Kabir Basti Shelter for Women (DUSIB Shelter No. 191)

Kabir Basti is a government-registered shelter, located in Malka Ganj, near Subzi Mandi Police Station in Delhi, under the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) network. It is designated specifically as a shelter for women. Like other shelters in the DUSIB network, Kabir Basti is part of a wider system of night shelters (known as Rain Baseras) that DUSIB operates across Delhi in partnership with various agencies.

At this shelter we provided psycho-social support to twenty-four women and during this period, one woman was reintegrated with her family.

2.3. Prem Daan (Missionaries of Charity)

Prem Daan is an institution for vulnerable individuals. It is run by the Missionaries of Charity. It is located in Airoli, Navi Mumbai. It cares for women who have no one to look after them. Many of them have been abandoned by their families or have nowhere else to go. The sisters and staff look after their daily needs, such as food, medicine, and basic care.

Our team has been working with Prem Daan since January 2025. Over this period, we have been working closely with the residents to support them in different ways. We provide counselling to residents who need emotional support, helping them process the difficult circumstances that brought them to Prem Daan, such as illness, abandonment, or the loss of family ties. We also organise recreational activities for the residents, giving them a chance to engage in something enjoyable and take a break from the daily routine. These activities also help us build a relationship of trust with the residents over time.

Alongside this, we carry out home visits and home tracing for residents who may still have living family members. Many residents lose contact with their families over the years, sometimes due to illness or simply because the passage of time. Through home tracing, we try to locate these family members, and through home visits, we assess whether reintegration with the family is possible and in the best interest of the resident.

Where reintegration is possible, we support the resident and their family through this process, helping them reconnect and rebuild their relationship after their time of living apart. Family reintegration is a long and sensitive process, and we work carefully to make sure it happens in a way that is safe and supportive for the resident.

2.4. Eduljee Framjee Allbless Niramay Niketan (EFANN)

Eduljee Framjee Allbless Niramay Niketan in Trombay, Mumbai, is a charitable care centre. It is collaboratively run by the SSVP Central Council of Bombay and The Banyan, Chennai. It provides community care and residential care, support, and rehabilitation for individuals affected by mental health problems.

Our work with the institution is linked through The Banyan with whom we have a long-standing collaboration. With EFANN, our work happens on a two-way, referral-based model. This means that both organisations refer clients to each other, depending on what each client needs and what each organisation is best placed to provide.

During our work in community or on the streets, we sometimes come across persons who need residential care. In such cases, we refer them to EFANN. This allows such clients to receive institutional care and support.

In turn, EFANN refers residents to us for family tracing. In such cases, our team works to locate the family members of these residents, and where possible, supports the process of reconnecting them with their families.

This two-way arrangement allows both organisations to make better use of what each does best. It also means that clients are not limited to the services of a single organisation, but instead receive more complete support by drawing on the strengths of both. This approach strengthens the continuum of care by combining the unique expertise of both organisations keeping the clients at the core. It ensures that individuals

receive holistic, person-centred support, enabling access to the most appropriate services at different stages of their recovery and rehabilitation journey.

3. COMMUNITY WORK

Sam-Haq Trust works directly with communities living in difficult circumstances across Mumbai and Delhi. These include people living on the streets, in informal settlements, and on the verge of falling into destitution. Our work with each community is shaped by its own particular needs and challenges, but it is guided by a shared aim: to support people towards a life of dignity, stability, and opportunity.

Our approach is rooted in long-term, on-ground engagement rather than one-time interventions. Over time, our team builds trust and familiarity with each community, which allows us to understand not only their immediate needs, but also their deeper backgrounds.

Our work includes education support, livelihood support, health and mental health support, help with documents and entitlements, while engaging with people of all ages alike.

3.1. Mahape Community, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai

Mahape is one of the areas where our team has been working for a fair time now. Our work in Mahape has continued through this year, and it remains one of our active sites of engagement. Our work in Mahape began in January 2025.

The community in Mahape is made up of families and individuals living in difficult circumstances. Many of them face challenges related to housing, income, health, and access to basic services. Some of them also engage in occasional begging. Our team has built a relationship with this community over time, and we continue to work closely with them to understand their needs and support them in different ways.

Our work in Mahape covers many areas of support. Some of the main activities include the following.

- We run an education programme in the community. This programme aims to stop children from getting involved in begging. Many children in the community are at risk of begging on the streets due to extreme poverty and also because some of the parents occasionally beg in order to survive. So many children are out of school not because they or their parents do not value education, or do not want to enrol. But there are other reasons that stop children from going to school. For example, many children do not have the documents needed for school enrolment, such as a birth certificate or Aadhaar card.
Apart from being a pre-emptive measure, education for these children is more than just that. It gives them a chance to build a better life for themselves and their

families in future. It also gives them a sense of dignity. Because of this, our interventions work to remove the barriers, so that more children can stay in school and build a life with dignity.



We run two kinds of classes in the community. The first is support classes for children who already go to school. These classes help them keep up with their studies and do better in school. The second is classes for children who are not enrolled in school at all. These classes help such children learn basic skills and prepare them to join formal school in future.

This year, we have worked with a total of 87 children through these classes. 71 children have been attending our support classes while 16 out of school children also attend our classes.

As part of the education programme, we conduct regular home visits to meet parents of children who are part of our classes. We keep them updated of the progress the child is making and how they can contribute to the child's learning and growth.

3.1.1. Conversation on Deaddiction through Plantation Day in Mahape

On April 26, 2026, we organised Plantation Day in Mahape, in collaboration with a local organisation named Adivasi Pardhi Mahasangh, Navi Mumbai.

The aim behind this day was not simply about planting trees. Many members of the Mahape community struggle with dependency on one substance or another. We wanted to create a space to speak with the community about substance abuse and its effects.

However, we knew that if we invited people directly to a discussion on substance abuse, most people would come, except for the very people we most needed to reach, those who are themselves dependent on some substance. Such a direct invitation would likely make them feel singled out or judged, and they would probably stay away.

So, we planned Plantation Day instead. Tree plantation gave us a reason to bring the whole community together, without making anyone feel targeted or exposed. Both adults and children took part, digging the soil, planting saplings, and watering them. Once the community had gathered for this shared activity, we used the occasion to speak openly about substance abuse, its effects on health, economic and family life.



This approach allowed us to reach people we may not have been able to reach through a direct discussion on the topic. It also meant the conversation on substance abuse took place in a relaxed and non-threatening setting, alongside a positive, shared activity.

Apart from this, the day also gave us a chance to speak about the importance of a clean and green environment, and to raise awareness about the value of caring for trees and

plants in the area. Like other such efforts, Plantation Day also helped strengthen the trust between our team and the community, which supports our other work in Mahape as well.

3.2. Seawoods Community, Navi Mumbai: Closure of Work

Our work in Seawoods had to come to an end this year. This was because the people who lived under the bridge in Seawoods were removed from that place. The local authorities decided to turn the area into a physical activity place for public. Because of this change, the people who once lived there had to move away, and our work at that site could no longer continue. This was a difficult change for the community that had built its life in that space over time.

However, our work with these people has not stopped completely. We are still in touch with some of the clients from Seawoods. We now support them on a case-to-case basis, when we receive some distress call.

3.3. Tatanagar Community in CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai

After the closure of our work in Seawoods, we looked for a new community in Navi Mumbai. Following this search at several places between Vashi and Panvel, we decided to begin work in Tatanagar, Belapur. We started our work in this community in January 2026.

Tatanagar is home to families living in informal settlements, facing many of the same challenges, such as poor housing, limited access to documents, and gaps in education for children.

Since starting work in Tatanagar, we have carried out several activities with the community. We have worked on school enrolment for children, conducted support classes, helped families overcome the barriers that had kept many children out of school. We also held Aadhaar camps in the community.

3.4. Lal Bagh Jhuggi Community, Mansarovar Park, Delhi

We also work in the Lal Bagh jhuggi community, located in Mansarovar Park, Delhi. This is an informal settlement, home to about 350 families. Our team has been working in this community since January 2026. Over this period, we have built a steady presence among residents, working closely with children, young people, and families on a range of issues.

A significant part of our work in Lal Bagh is education. We run classes for children between the ages of 3 and 10 years, reaching a total of 55 children through this work. These classes are for all children in this age group, whether they are already enrolled in school or are currently out of school. We individually work on each child as per their need.

Beyond this younger age group, we also run separate support classes for older girls in the community. At present, 7 adolescent girls are being supported through these classes, as

they prepare to appear for their NIOS 10th standard examination. This support gives these girls a chance to continue their education and work towards an important milestone, even though circumstances may have interrupted their schooling earlier.

Alongside our education work, we also support the community on documents and entitlements. This involves helping residents obtain identity documents they may be missing, correcting existing records where needed, and helping them access government schemes and entitlements they are entitled to but may otherwise miss out.

We also work on school admissions, helping children from the community gain entry into local schools. This work often involves guiding families through the admission process and helping them overcome the practical barriers that can stand in the way of a child's enrolment.

3.5. Enabling Community Response

We place a strong emphasis on capacity building and enabling communities to respond to the larger limitations that limit their choices. This work goes beyond any one activity. It is about creating spaces where residents, especially those most restricted by existing norms, can begin to use their agency against these structures.

One such activity through which we pursued this aim was a motor driving training programme, organised in April 2026, for people from the Lal Bagh jhuggi community.

3.5.1. Motor Driving Training with Lal Bagh Community Clients

In April 2026, we organised a motor driving training programme for people from the Lal Bagh jhuggi community, Mansarovar Park, in Delhi. Ten people took part in this training.

This programme began with a particular concern in mind. Girls and women growing up in communities such as this one often face strong resistance and limits on the choices they can make in life. These limits usually come from patriarchal attitudes within families and the wider community, where girls are expected to stay close to home, and are discouraged from taking up work or skills that are seen as unsuitable for them. Driving is one such skill, often viewed in these communities as something meant only for men.

With this in mind, we saw the motor driving training as more than just a way to teach a new skill. We saw it as a small but meaningful way to challenge the patriarchal norms that limit girls in this community by the training, and encouraging them to take part alongside the boys and men from the community.

This was not easy to achieve. It took a great deal of effort on our part to convince the men of the families involved, including fathers, husbands, and brothers, to allow the girls to take part in the training. We held several rounds of discussion with each family, addressing their concerns and hesitations, before they finally agreed to let the girls attend.

In the end, only two girls were able to complete the full training. This happened for some of the same reasons we had set out to address in the first place, such as ongoing pressure from within their families and community, marriage concerns, and the difficulty of support for girls stepping outside expected roles. Even so, we see this as an important first step. The fact that these girls showed the interest and courage to take part, and that their families agreed, however hard that agreement was to reach, is a meaningful move towards the larger goal we are working for.



It also served a secondary purpose. Many people in the community do not have a skill that can help them in a steady income. Some of them find it hard to get regular work. Learning to drive can open up new job options for them, such as working as a driver for a company, a school, or app-based cab service. Driving is a skill that is always in demand, and it does not always need a high level of formal education. This makes it a good livelihood option for people who have not been able to finish school.

This training was arranged with a certified motor driving training school. Through this training, we helped people acquire a practical skill. This skill can help them earn a steady income. It can also make them feel more confident and independent. When people can

support themselves and their families, it also helps them feel a sense of dignity and purpose.

3.5. Comprehensive Childhood Programme

Under the Community Programme, one of the major parts is our Comprehensive Childhood Programme. The Comprehensive Childhood Programme works with children growing up in conditions of poverty, instability, and limited access to education and care. The programme brings together education support, emotional care, health linkages, and help with identity and government documents. We believe that a child's development cannot be addressed in separate parts, and that these different needs must be met together.

A central concern of this programme is the fear and distance many children in these communities feel towards the State and its institutions. Growing up on the margins, children often come to see the police, government offices, and other systems of authority as sources of threat rather than support, something to be avoided rather than approached. This fear is rarely without reason, but it can also stand in the way of children ever feeling like equal right-bearing citizens.

To address this, we make a deliberate effort to bring children face to face with these institutions, so that the State begins to feel approachable rather than distant or hostile.

We work not only with children themselves, but also with their families and schools, as a child's future is shaped by the wider environment around them. Through this sustained engagement, the programme seeks to build stable spaces where children can learn, feel safe, and imagine a future with dignity and real possibility.

3.5.1. Important Visits

As part of this Programme, we organised visits for children to police stations in Mumbai and Delhi. These visits are designed to help children build a positive and trusting relationship with the police, rather than seeing them as a source of fear.

On September 26, 2025, the Mumbai team took children from the Mahape community to Rabale Police Station. On 10 July 2026, the Delhi team visited Mansarovar Park Police Station with children from the Lal Bagh community. During these visits, children were shown around the police station and given a chance to speak with police personnel in a friendly and open setting. This helped them see the police as people who are there to help, rather than as figures to be afraid of.

On 18 July, Dr Justice B. R. Sarangi, a member of the National Human Rights Commission of India, visited the Lal Bagh community. He met with community members and spoke, in particular, with adolescent girls from the community.



These efforts are part of our larger work to reduce the fear and sense of disconnection that many community members, especially children, feel towards the systems that are meant to protect every citizen of India. This fear and distance did not appear on its own. It comes from a long history in which people from such backgrounds have often been left out of the country's progress, and have had very few positive experiences with these systems.

It is important to remove this fear, especially in children, because children who trust these systems are more likely to seek help when they are in need of it and to see themselves as equal citizens with the same rights and protection as everyone else. Growing up without this fear can also help them build confidence, hope, and a stronger sense of belonging in the society around them.

3.5.2. Working with Schools

We work with schools near and within our communities to help children get admission. This collaboration also helps us keep track of the children we work with, as we stay in regular touch with the schools about their attendance and progress.

Working closely with schools also helps us build stronger ties with school authorities. This makes it easier for us to raise concerns, resolve problems, and support children when they face difficulties at school. Over time, these relationships have made our work in the community more effective.

As of now, we have built informal relationships with the following schools. These relationships help us in facilitating admissions for the children we work with and to take follow ups, in cases of some issues or problems with any child or their family, we can easily take up the issue with the school. The details of the school are as under:

- NMMC School No. 43, Adavali Bhutavali Gaon, Mahape, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai
- NMMC School No. 03, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai
- People's School, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai
- MCD Pratibha Vidyalaya (Girls), (School ID 1152193), Mansarovar Park, Shahdara, Delhi
- MCD Pratibha Vidyalaya (Boys), (School ID 1152194), Mansarovar Park, Shahdara, Delhi

We have been running our education programmes at two locations in Navi Mumbai and one in New Delhi. In all three locations we have worked to enrol children to schools. From Tatanagar, we enrolled 30 children to school, from Mahape, 21 children and from Mansarovar Park, 84 children.

3.5.3. Sports Activity Programme in Mahape

We believe that education is not the only need of childhood. There are other things, such as sports, play, recreation, and creative activities, which are also needed for a happy and healthy childhood. These activities help children grow not just in mentally as well as physically. They give children a chance to build friendships, learn teamwork, and simply enjoy being children.



Therefore, as part of the Comprehensive Childhood Programme, we run a sports activity programme in Mahape, in collaboration with NMMC School No. 41 in Mahape. Every evening, from Monday to Friday, our sports teacher trains the children in kho-kho and

langdi. These are traditional Indian games that help children build strength, agility, and a spirit of teamwork. The school takes part in competitions in these games at district and state level. Four children from our community have been selected for the school team through this programme. The sports activities take place on the ground of the school.

Occasionally, the sports teacher also engages the children in other games and activities, such as dodgeball and drop the handkerchief. These games add variety to the sessions and keep the children engaged and excited to take part.

Through this programme, children in Mahape get a regular space to play, be active, and enjoy, alongside their education and other support they receive from us.

3.5.4. Parent Teacher Meetings

We organise regular Parent Teacher Meetings (PTM) at schools, with the parents of the children we work with. These meetings give parents a chance to speak directly with teachers about their child's progress, attendance, and behaviour at school.

Through these meetings, we help parents understand what their child is learning and where they may need extra support. We also help build a stronger connection between parents and the school, especially in cases where parents may otherwise hesitate to approach teachers on their own.

Our team is present at these meetings to support both parents and teachers, and to follow up on any concerns raised. This helps us keep track of how each child is doing in school, and step in early if a child needs extra support with their studies or attendance.

3.5.5. Summer Camp in Mahape

In June, we organised a five-day summer camp (Baal Mahotsav) in Mahape. In this camp, 100 children took part in various kinds of sports and games competitions. We organised games such as drawing, mehndi, rangoli, clay modelling, running race, nimbu-chammach race, frog race, book balance, ball rolling, etc. At the end of the camp, we distributed medals and prizes to children who had secured 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ranks in each category. We also distributed prizes to all the participants, so that every child who took part felt valued for their effort.

The activities and the medals boosted the morale of the children, and gave them a sense of achievement and pride in themselves. They also felt happy and encouraged. The camp gave children a joyful break during their summer, while also helping them build confidence and a spirit of healthy competition.



4. Engaging with the Systems

We believe that lasting change for the communities we work with cannot come from direct support alone. It also requires engagement with the systems and institutions that shape their lives, such as government departments, law enforcement, and public institutions. Through sustained engagement with these systems, we work to make them more responsive, accountable, and accessible to the communities we work with.

This engagement takes many forms, from building relationships with local authorities and institutions to raising concerns with relevant bodies on behalf of those we work with. Over time, this work helps bridge the gap between marginalised communities and the systems meant to serve them, moving us closer to lasting, structural change.

4.1. National Human Rights Commission of India

We had long been in conversation with the NHRC before 24 February, 2026, when it invited us to take part in an open house discussion on ‘Rethinking Beggary: Bridging Gaps between Policy, Practice and Dignity.’ We also made a submission to the Commission about ‘Support for Persons in Beggary.’ The idea behind making a submission to the NHRC on the issue of beggary is to reach out to all the states through the agency as it has the whole country in its purview.

This document takes up the points of the need to repeal beggary prevention legislation, the need for measures so that children in begging, many of whom wish to study, can be enrolled in a school but are not able to because of absence of documents. Moreover, it

also talks about homeless persons that cannot be listed in government schemes because of procedural details/lack of documents.



4.2. Member of the Supreme Court-Appointed Shelter Monitoring Committee for the Urban Homeless

We are a member of the Supreme Court-appointed shelter monitoring committee for the urban homeless in the state of Bihar. Following directions from the Supreme Court, state-level committees were set up to monitor how well each state was providing shelter for its urban homeless population, and whether these shelters met the set standards.

As a member of the committee for Bihar, we take part in regular meetings, submissions from the state about the state of affairs, and we review the state's compliance with the Supreme Court's directions, and help raise gaps and concerns before the committee and the Court. This work connects our on-ground experience with communities to a wider process of legal and policy work, helping ensure that urban homeless population is not left out of the conversation on shelter, dignity, and basic rights.

4.3. Admissions through Child Welfare Committee (CWC)



As part of our work, we have built a collaboration with the CWC. We worked on the admission process of two children from Mahape community to a CWC shelter in Ulhasnagar and another private shelter named Divya Prabha in Ulhasnagar under the purview of CWC Ulhasnagar. Their father passed away a few years ago and their mother is unable to make ends meet, with four children. The children were not able to attend school as well. Therefore, she sought our help in admitting two of her children in CWC shelter.

4.4. Aadhaar Camps

As is well-known, a lot of people experiencing homelessness and near-homelessness find it difficult to get government identity and entitlement documents without supporting proof. In the communities where we work in Mumbai, we found that many residents, especially children, did not have an Aadhaar card. In some cases, this stopped a child from being admitted to school. In other cases, a parent's outdated Aadhaar details delayed the process of getting Aadhaar for the child further.

An effective way of addressing this gap meant UIDAI, a government agency, directly into the community, which is rarely a simple task. It usually calls for a long and often strenuous process of coordination behind the scenes, from identifying the right officer to approach, to following up repeatedly, to convincing officials of the need and feasibility of holding a camp within the community itself, rather than expecting residents to travel elsewhere. And to be able to get to talk to senior ranking officials, it takes social capital built on years and years of work, without which such arrangements are unlikely to be taken seriously or acted upon. This groundwork, though largely invisible in the final outcome, is often what makes a camp like this possible at all.



We organised a series of Aadhaar enrolment and update camps in May 2026, in collaboration with the UIDAI Regional Office, Mumbai. The camps were held on 10 and 17 May at Mahape, Ghansoli, and on 10, 11, and 17 May at Tatanagar, Belapur.

UIDAI provided the biometric machines and trained operators. Our team mobilised the community, identified those who needed the service most, and managed the logistics of each camp. Local community leaders and interns also supported the effort.

Two kinds of services were offered: new Aadhaar enrolment for children, and biometric updates or phone number update for residents whose old biometric records needed update as per rules, and mobile number updates for those needing a number linked to Aadhaar for OTP-based services.

An Aadhaar card decides whether a child can join a school, a family can get a ration card, or an elderly person can receive a pension. Hence, we organised the camp so that a maximum number of people could enrol and update their Aadhaar quickly. This table illustrates the reach of the camps.

Location	Date	New Enrolments	Updates	Total
Mahape, Ghansoli	10 May 2026	01	12	13
	17 May 2026	23	23	46
Tatanagar, Belapur	10 May 2026	05	21	26
	11 May 2026	05	10	15
	17 May 2026	07	15	22
TOTAL		41	81	122

4.5. Mental Health Support at Regional Mental Hospital, Thane

Through the years, we have also built relationships with the Regional Mental Hospital, Thane. When some clients from the community need psychiatric support, either because

of an earlier diagnosed mental health condition or because of distress arising from their circumstances. For such clients, we take them to the Regional Mental Hospital in Thane on an OPD basis, where they can be seen by a psychiatrist and receive the required treatment.

In cases where a client is prescribed for admission, we also help them with the process of admission to the hospital. This includes supporting them and their families through the paperwork and procedures involved, and staying in touch with the hospital during the period of treatment.

Through this work, we try to make sure that clients who need psychiatric care are not left without support simply because they do not know how to access it, or cannot manage the process on their own.

4.6. Documents and Entitlements

Many people in the communities we work with do not have basic government-issued documents, such as Aadhaar cards, birth certificates or health cards. Without these documents, they often cannot access government schemes, healthcare, education, or other services they are entitled to as citizens.

Through this programme, we help people apply for and obtain these documents. We also help them access entitlements such as welfare schemes and health benefits, which they may otherwise miss out due to lack of documentation.

This year, we worked on documents as per the following record:

Document Type	Mumbai	Delhi
Aadhaar Card*	23	22
Birth Certificate	13	0
Ayushman Card	07	0

* These numbers are separate from the Aadhaar cards that were made during the Aadhaar camps held in May 2026.

5. Alliances

5.1. National Alliance for Dignity and Inclusion (NADI)

NADI is a collective initiated by Sam-Haq Trust. It brings together like-minded organisations from across the country. The broad objectives of NADI centre on collaboration, youth engagement, and community awareness. The alliance aims to unite like-minded individuals and organisations to mutually support each other's efforts and enhance their collective relevance, while simultaneously driving social change through targeted initiatives. This includes sensitising the youth to the principles of social justice through dedicated engagement programs and educating wider communities about contemporary social issues through focused, impactful campaigns.

At present, ten organisations from eight states are part of this alliance. The collective seeks to strengthen responses not only to homelessness but a range of marginalities by enabling coordinated support, especially in cases where individuals need assistance across different states or regions. One of its important objectives is to ensure timely rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals into family, society and economy. Member organisations also contribute to strengthening each other's capacities by sharing knowledge, institutional experience and specialised expertise.

During this period, we held two meetings of the Alliance. The first meeting was held in Varanasi from 5 to 6 July 2025 while the second meeting was held in Bhedaghat, Jabalpur from 17 to 19 May 2026.

5.2. City-Level Alliance

In addition to the national Alliance, we also initiated a local collective in Mumbai to unite groups focused on homelessness across the city and its surrounding areas. This collaborative network currently comprises six organizations. Its primary focus is coordinated efforts towards better rehabilitation work for the homeless in Mumbai and nearby regions by helping groups share resources, align their strategies, and tackle difficult cases more efficiently. Collectively, these local and national networks strive to establish united systems of care that exceed the limits of any single agency. Through shared cooperation and solidarity, these partnerships seek to create more reliable, dignified pathways that help people transition away from extreme poverty toward stable, fulfilling lives.

5.3. Rationing Kruti Samiti

Sam-Haq Trust is a core member of the Rationing Kruti Samiti (RKS), a coalition based in Mumbai that works on the right to food and access to the Public Distribution System (PDS). RKS brings together organisations to assert people's right to food, and works as a consumer movement aimed at reforming the ration distribution system at every level.

We became part of the Samiti to raise issues of rationing faced by the homeless population, and to bring this population into the fold of its wider discussions on the PDS. Homeless people often face particular barriers in accessing rations, such as the lack of a permanent address or supporting documents, which are usually left out of mainstream conversations on food security. Through our place in RKS, we try to make sure these concerns are not overlooked, and that the specific needs of homeless people are heard alongside those of other groups within the coalition.

Being part of this wider network allows us to connect our on-ground work with a larger, collective effort to improve the rationing system. It also allows us to work towards a system that is fair and transparent, and one that truly reaches those who need it most, including people who are too often left at the margins of such systems.

6. Counselling

We provide psychosocial support and counselling support to individuals and families in the communities and institutions we work with. Many people we work with face difficult circumstances, such as poverty, illness or family conflict. These situations can affect their mental health and wellbeing. Through counselling and psychosocial support, we help them cope with these challenges.

Our counselling sessions are carried out on a one-to-one basis, as well as with families, depending on the needs of each case. We also refer individuals to mental health institutions when medical and psychiatric support is needed, such as in cases of severe mental health conditions.



This year, we provided counselling and psychosocial support as per the following table:

Location	Counselling	Psycho-social Support
Prem Daan (institution in Mumbai)	31 clients; 244 sessions 1 staff; 7 sessions	0
Mahape, Ghansoli (community in Mumbai)	27 clients; 155 sessions	28 children; 186 sessions
Tatanagar, Belapur (community in Mumbai)	12 clients; 32 sessions	0
Kabir Basti Women Recovery Shelter (Delhi)	0	24 clients

7. Night Out Programme

To work effectively with people experiencing homelessness, it is important to understand what their daily lives are really like, especially how unsafe and uncertain their situation can be. Nights are one of the most difficult times for people living on the streets. It is also the time when people most need help and support. The Night Out Programme is designed

to reach out to individuals living on the streets during these hours and help someone who is in extreme distress. During this year we conducted a total of 19 night in Mumbai and Delhi.



8. Research Programme

Research at Sam-Haq Trust works as a bridge between our field interventions and policy engagement. It helps us turn what we learn on the ground into evidence that can inform both our own work and wider policy discussions and inputs.

This year, we carried out data collection for a livelihood study, where we interviewed 250 people in Delhi and Mumbai each, making a total of 500. The Introduction and Methodology chapter for this study have now been written so far.

Under our research unit, we also wrote two volumes of case studies, with thirty case studies in each volume. The first volume is based on thirty participants from the I Exist study, which we carried out last year. The second volume is based on our various interventions across Delhi and Mumbai.

On 25 November 2025, we held a one-day seminar at Yuva Centre, Kharghar, titled 'Dialogue on Homelessness and Destitution: Law, Issues and Possibility.' This seminar was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Dalit Studies, Hyderabad, and the Rosa

Luxemburg Foundation, South Asia. One of the key outcomes of this seminar was the need identified for a study on how extreme climate conditions affect homeless persons.



Building on this outcome, we organised an inception workshop on this proposed study, with the same collaborators. This workshop was held on 29 January 2026 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The workshop brought together representatives from the academia, from civil society organisations, and from the National Human Rights Commission of India, to discuss the design and direction of the study.



The study was planned as a mixed-method study, combining numbers-based data with people's lived experiences, and to be carried out in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kolkata,

and Chennai, with a total sample of 500 people, along with focus group discussions in each city.

An advisory board for the study was also proposed, and Dr Indu Prakash Singh and Dr Amita Joseph agreed to serve as advisors.

9. Team-Building Process

We hold regular team sessions where we discuss policies and schemes related to our work. These sessions help our team stay informed about the schemes that may benefit the communities we work with, and give everyone a chance to raise questions or share updates from their own areas of work.

Apart from these work-related discussions, we also use these sessions to share our personal experiences of living in the city. Many of us face our own struggles living and working in a city like Mumbai or Delhi. Sharing these experiences openly helps us understand each other better as a team. It also helps us see how our own daily struggles often shape the way we understand and respond to the struggles faced by the communities we work with. This creates a stronger sense of empathy within the team, which we believe reflects in the quality of our work in the field.



Alongside these regular sessions, we also go for a team-building trip out of station. This trip gives the team a chance to step away from the daily pressures of fieldwork and spend time together in a more relaxed setting. During this time, we discuss our work plan for the year ahead, and look back at the work we have completed so far. We also use this time simply to rest and bond as a team, away from our usual routine. Over time, we have found that these trips help strengthen the working relationships within the team, which in turn supports better collaboration in our day-to-day work.

10. Youth Engagement Programme

The Youth Engagement Programme is an important part of our work at Sam-Haq. Its aim is to help young people understand and take an active interest in not only in issues such as homelessness, destitution, but also in the wider questions of social justice in India.

Through this programme, we work with fieldwork students, interns, and volunteers. Their time with us combines direct field exposure with background knowledge on the issues we work on, including the laws that affect people experiencing homelessness and destitution. This involves spending time in the communities and institutions where we work and understand our work firsthand.

At the end of their time with us, students take part in a reflective session, where they share what they learnt and give us feedback on our work as well. Through this programme, we hope to help young people build empathy, see people experiencing destitution as individuals with dignity and rights, and grow into thoughtful, socially aware adults.

This year, we hosted a total of eleven students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, and Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Bandra, Mumbai.





During our regular community engagement in the Lal Bagh jhuggi community, Mansarovar Park, we observed several issues affecting adolescent girls. These included limited awareness of education, health, and hygiene, restricted access to information about government schemes, and the absence of a safe space where girls could freely share their concerns and experiences. Many girls were hesitant to speak about their problems, due to social barriers, low confidence, and limited exposure to the world beyond their immediate surroundings. These gaps pointed to the need for a structured space that could offer not just information, but also emotional support, peer interaction, and room for personal growth. To address this, we started the Samaanata Adolescent Girls Group, a community-based platform aimed at empowering adolescent girls and supporting their all-round development.

We also started a youth group of adolescent girls and boys in the Tatanagar community, extending this space for peer support and personal growth to young people in this community as well.

11. Gratitude and Hope

This report captures the many strands of work that Sam-Haq Trust has carried forward this year, from our presence in institutions such as Geeta Ghat and Prem Daan, to our work in communities like Mahape, Tatanagar, and Lal Bagh, to our engagement with systems such as UIDAI, the NHRC, and the CWC. Behind each of these sections lies a great deal of patient, sustained work, often carried out quietly, over months and months, without any guarantee of a visible outcome.

If there is one thread that runs through all of this work, it is our belief that people living in homelessness and destitution are not a problem to be managed, but citizens with the same claim to dignity and protection as anyone else. Whether it is a child overcoming the fear of police, a woman finding her way back to her family after years apart, or a child finally holding an Aadhaar card in their hand, each of these moments reflects a small but real step towards a more just and inclusive society.

None of this work would be possible without the trust the communities have placed in us, often after years of being let down by our systems. It would also not be possible without the Azim Premji Foundation and the trust they put in us, our partner institutions and collaborators, and the many interns, volunteers, and well-wishers who have given their time and energy to this work over the year.

As we look ahead, we remain aware of how much more remains to be done. The barriers faced by the communities we work with are deep and usually structural, and they will not be undone quickly or easily. But we remain committed to this long-term work, one step at a time.