OneStage
Everyone deserves equal

The One Thing

In focus: Drone Didi

OneStage Quarterly, Fourth Edition

CEO's Note

Harnessing Technology for Lasting Impact.

Dear OneStage Community,

As we step into a new quarter, I am energized by how technology is unlocking deeper impact across every facet of our work. At OneStage, we have always believed that technology is not just a tool — it is a catalyst for meaningful change.

This quarter reaffirmed that belief through initiatives that blend innovation with inclusion. Our MGrant project management platform is driving sharper, real-time oversight of programs, leading to faster decisions and stronger accountability. Meanwhile, our Drone Technology Training Program is breaking barriers, nurturing a new generation of drone pilots with a focus on increasing female representation in STEM careers.

Across projects, technical advancements are becoming central pillars — from precision agriculture to environmental monitoring, ensuring that data-driven solutions guide our model for sustainable impact. The integration of AI and emerging technologies into our interventions is opening bold new possibilities for addressing complex social challenges.

None of this would be possible without the collective spirit of our team, partners, and community. Together, we are leveraging technology not just for efficiency, but for equity, empowerment, and lasting transformation.

This edition of *The One Thing* captures our commitment to "**Tech4Good**" — and offers a glimpse into the smarter, fairer future we are building together.

Warm regards,

Dr. Pratyush Kumar Panda,

CEO, OneStage

Sectoral Affairs: Highlights | January-March 2025

Q: How many women have been supported through One Stop Centres under Mission Shakti?

A: 10.61 Lakh women

Source: Redefining Women's Empowerment in India A Comprehensive Framework for Progress (February 1, 2025)

Q: What is the focus of NITI Aayog's recent report on higher education?

A: Expanding quality higher education through State Public Universities

Source: NITI Aayog report, "Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities," (February 14, 2025)

Q: What is the national employability rate in India as per the India Skills Report 2025?

A: 54.81%

Source: India Skill report 2025 (January 13, 2025)

Q: Which state leads the Fiscal Health Index 2025?

A: Odisha

Source: Fiscal Health Index 2025 – NITI Aayog (January 14, 2025)

Q: What percentage of seats in the lower house of India's Parliament are occupied by women?

A: 15%

Source: Why India's Women's Reservation Bill Is a Major Step Forward – Time (March 21, 2025)

Q: What is the doctor-to-patient ratio in rural India, and how does it compare to the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended standard?

A: In rural India, the doctor-to-patient ratio stands at approximately 1:11,082, which is significantly below the WHO's recommended ratio of 1:1,000.

Source: 26th annual flagship report "Women and Men in India 2024: Selected Indicators and Data" MOSPI

In focus
"Drone Didi"

OneStage is proud to spotlight a transformative initiative supported by **Corteva Agriscience** that aligns with the Government of India's **Namo Drone Didi** scheme. The **"Village Development Program – Skill Development Training of Women Farmers and Youth on Drone Piloting"** is equipping rural and semi-urban women with technical skills to thrive in India's growing drone industry.

Launched in partnership with **India Drone Academy** (a DGCA-authorized RPTO), the 40-day program combines hands-on training in drone piloting, repair, and maintenance with classroom instruction on safety protocols, regulations, and data analysis. The initiative aims to boost **female representation in STEM**, increase **employability**, and create **pathways to economic independence**.

So far, **100 women** have been trained across Telangana, many from low-income, science-educated backgrounds. The project not only addresses a skills gap — it champions gender equity in emerging tech. The next phase includes building job linkages and entreprenurial incubations.
By investing in women, drones, and data, we are fostering inclusive, tech-forward communities ready for the future.

Participants have reported increased confidence, technological fluency, and community recognition. Several trainees are now set to be engaged in precision farming, mapping, and surveillance tasks for local agribusinesses — proving that grassroots access to technology can have immediate, scalable impact.

Featured program: 1	Featured program: 2	Featured program: 3
Cancer Awareness, Prevention, Early Detection and care (CAPED)	**Right to Access Sustainable Menstruation (RASM)**	**Mobile Healthcare Units (MHUs)**

In India, healthcare access remains deeply unequal, especially for rural and underprivileged populations. With nearly 830 million people living in over 636,000 villages, a large section of the population continues to face persistent barriers to essential healthcare services. To address this disparity, targeted programs like Cancer Awareness, Prevention, Early Detection and Care (CAPED), Right to Access Sustainable Menstruation (RASM), and Mobile Healthcare Units (MHUs) are working to redesign healthcare delivery and ensure access for all.

Cancer Awareness, Prevention, Early Detection and Care (CAPED) is OneStage's response to the silent burden of cancer in underserved communities. This initiative works to demystify cancer, particularly in women, through sustained outreach, screenings, and referrals. The CAPED program, implemented by OneStage in collaboration with AstraZeneca, tackles the growing burden of non-communicable diseases—specifically cervical, breast, and oral cancers—among women in urban underprivileged communities.

This initiative works to demystify cancer, particularly in women, through sustained outreach, screenings, and referrals. It raises awareness, conducts screenings, and provides follow-up support to ensure early detection and care. In 2024–25, the program screened over 8,000 women across East, West, and South Delhi through 81 community camps. Women are educated on risk factors and symptoms, and screened for all three cancers. Despite challenges like delayed government approvals for ASHA worker training, the project adapts by ramping up community outreach. A patient navigation program ensures that screen-positive women receive timely diagnostic support and referrals to tertiary institutions such as LHMC and NICPR. Through these sustained efforts, CAPED not only improves early detection rates but also fosters community participation and ownership.

Complementing this is the **Right to Access Sustainable Menstruation (RASM)** program, which addresses menstrual health and hygiene in underserved regions. RASM breaks taboos, raises awareness about reproductive health, and promotes access to safe and sustainable menstrual products. It engages adolescent girls and women through workshops, community sessions, and school interventions. The program educates on using clean menstrual products, safe disposal methods, and nutrition during menstruation. By building awareness around menstrual hygiene and dismantling stigma, RASM enhances dignity, school retention, and health outcomes for young girls and women.

Young girls and women are introduced to reusable products such as cloth pads and menstrual cups, enabling long-term hygiene and environmental sustainability. To further deepen impact, RASM is embedding menstrual health into school curricula and working with parents and community leaders to normalize conversations around menstruation. Special attention is given to training adolescent health ambassadors who take the message forward in their peer groups, ensuring that information is accessible, relatable, and empowering. Additionally, the program aligns with government schemes to ensure that no girl drops out of school due to lack of menstrual hygiene products —a still-prevalent issue in many parts of India.

The Right to Access Sustainable Menstruation (RASM) initiative not only addresses the immediate need for menstrual hygiene but also promotes environmental consciousness and menstrual dignity. By introducing biodegradable and reusable menstrual products, RASM challenges the stigma around menstruation while reducing long-term waste. The program includes comprehensive workshops in schools and communities, where adolescents and women are educated on safe menstrual practices, product choices, and the importance of body autonomy. Through this approach, RASM fosters informed decision-making, enabling women and girls to manage their periods safely, sustainably, and with pride.

To bridge the rural healthcare gap, the **Mobile Healthcare Units (MHUs)** deliver primary healthcare directly to remote villages. Each MHU is staffed with an MBBS doctor and equipped with essential medicines and diagnostic tools. Operating 22 days a month, each MHU visits 2–3 villages daily, offering consultations, awareness sessions, basic treatments, and referrals.

The program reaches over 25,000 patients annually per unit and builds regular health-seeking behavior by repeating village visits on a weekly basis. Health talks on anemia, diabetes, maternal and child health, menstrual hygiene, and breast cancer build health literacy.

MHU teams collaborate closely with PHC staff, ASHA workers, and district health officials to ensure integration with the existing health system. A robust MIS system and structured monitoring—through route plans, monthly reports, and bi-weekly partner calls—ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Together, these featured programs demonstrate an innovative and flexible approach to healthcare delivery. By integrating awareness, diagnosis, treatment, and community participation, they move beyond traditional facility-based care and create pathways to health equity. They underscore the importance of decentralized, community-focused interventions in achieving universal health coverage and a healthier, more informed society.

In recent months, the MHU initiative has extended to include specialist consultations—such as gynecology, optometry, and oral health—based on localized needs. Health data collected during visits is integrated into a centralized MIS, allowing for real-time monitoring and improved coordination with district health officials. By institutionalizing these services and aligning with government health infrastructure, CPF ensures that rural populations are not only reached but are meaningfully included in India's healthcare journey.

Building Strong Foundations – Advancing Early Childhood Development (ECD) for Every Child

Recognising the Need for Early Childhood Development

A child's early years, from birth to age three, are truly extraordinary. During this critical period, a child's brain forms millions of neural connections each second, setting the foundation for how they think, feel, and engage with the world. However, many children in India miss out on essential stimulation, nutrition, and responsive care. Over 43% of children under five face the risk of falling behind, and this lack of support can have far-reaching consequences on their education, future earnings, and the well-being of entire communities.

To address this, the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Odisha, with support from the Van Leer Foundation and OneStage, launched the Prarambh: Sukhada Saishaba program under the Aama Kuni Pila scheme by Government of Odisha. This initiative is focused on nurturing young children in rural Odisha.

Prarambh: A Collaborative Effort for Holistic ECD in Odisha

Prarambh empowers caregivers, particularly mothers, by providing them with the knowledge and tools for responsive caregiving, creating safe learning environments, and promoting play-based learning. The program trains Anganwadi workers to be skilled facilitators, using culturally relevant materials to make learning joyful and accessible. It also encourages the involvement of fathers and the wider community, recognizing that child-rearing is a shared responsibility.

Honing CPF: Evolving as a Pillar of Monitoring, Evaluation, Impact Assessments, Due Diligence, and Compliance

The Collaborative Philanthropy Foundation (CPF), a Section 8 company, is steadily evolving into a cornerstone institution that strengthens the accountability and effectiveness of philanthropic efforts in India. With a mandate to foster transparency, trust, and capacity within the development sector, CPF plays a critical role in enabling more informed and responsible giving.

Emerging from the legacy of OneStage, CPF provides end-to-end services including monitoring, evaluation, due diligence, compliance checks, and impact assessments—equipping donors and partners with data-driven insights to make strategic decisions. By ensuring that philanthropic capital reaches credible, compliant, and high-impact organizations, CPF helps minimize risks and maximize social returns.

A key innovation has been the launch of the **'Give for Good'** platform—an interactive portal that connects donors with rigorously vetted grassroots organizations. This digital tool is designed to streamline giving while providing transparency into how each donation is used. In FY 2024–25 alone, CPF has completed diligence and compliance checks for 47 organizations across diverse sectors, contributing to a healthier philanthropic ecosystem.

CPF's model places equal emphasis on strengthening organizational capacities. From financial checks to program assessments, CPF supports partners in building resilience and readiness for scale. By combining strong governance frameworks with on-ground insights, CPF is shaping the future of strategic philanthropy—one that is rooted in trust, accountability, and lasting impact.

New Podcast: The One Thing EP- 4

How Do We Build a Culture of Giving with Dignity? with Anshu Gupta

In this episode, Anshu Gupta delves into the philosophy that drives Goonj — the belief that giving must not be about pity but about partnership. He shares how Goonj's "Cloth for Work" model empowers rural communities by enabling them to contribute labor towards their own development in exchange for urban surplus.

This shift—from charity to exchange—reframes aid as a dignified, community-led solution to systemic issues. Anshu underscores that true giving respects the aspirations of recipients and actively includes them in the process of change. He stresses the importance of language and perception in the development sector, urging donors and institutions to move away from top-down, need-based interventions to solutions rooted in respect and collaboration.

Anshu also shares personal stories and on-ground learnings that reveal the disconnect between urban donors and rural realities. He argues that bridging this gap requires more than resources—it demands empathy, listening, and humility. The episode challenges listeners to rethink their role in the development ecosystem, encouraging them to see giving not as a moral obligation but as an opportunity for collective transformation. As Goonj continues to innovate in how resources are shared and how communities are engaged, Anshu leaves us with a powerful message: dignity is not a luxury in development—it's the foundation.

This quarter, we are proud to share a heartfelt testimony from SRF Limited, one of our esteemed CSR partners, commending OneStage's commitment to impactful and efficient implementation. Their acknowledgment affirms the strength of our processes, the depth of our community engagement, and the quality of results delivered.

SRF Limited praised OneStage's ability to translate their strategic CSR vision into measurable outcomes. From our data-backed monitoring systems to seamless coordination with local stakeholders, their testimony highlights our agility and grounded presence as key drivers of success. Donor validation like this fuels our dedication to transparency, accountability, and long-term impact — and strengthens our resolve to be a trusted partner in catalyzing social change.

Onestagers at Ground Zero: Experiencing Impact Firsthand

At OneStage, our work is rooted in deep engagement with the communities we serve. Our diverse programs—from early childhood development to rural healthcare—are shaped by firsthand experiences, helping us grasp the realities, motivations, and mechanisms behind meaningful change. Ground-level insights not only inform our strategy but also strengthen our empathy, accountability, and impact.

This quarter, 67% of OneStagers spent time at the grassroots—interacting with frontline workers, community leaders, and beneficiaries. These field immersions reaffirm our belief that real solutions emerge when we listen, learn, and co-create alongside communities.

Shaban's Diary: On Ground, In Action – A Journey of Learning and Leadership

My journey with OneStage over the past one and half years has been an inspiring experience, marked by diverse engagements and visible change on the ground.

It began with the Labour Employment Exchange Program Cell (LEEP Cell) a kind of PMU in Directorate of Labour, employment, and training Govt. Of Jharkhand where I was closely involved in organizing employment fairs, Rojgar Melas, counselling sessions, and mapping potential employers under aggregators of aggregator theme. Organizing 8 farmers' fairs, placing over 4,300 youth (56% women), and contributing to the successful design and adoption of the CM Sarthi Yojna by the Government of Jharkhand were proud milestones.

Moving forward, I contributed to the Rejuvenation of Water Bodies (RWB) projects of NITI AAYOG, where restoring community water resources strengthened rural livelihoods and resilience. Taking up innovative projects like installation of 355 solar street lights and high mast lights, silage management for 1866 women farmers, and drone pilot training for 100 women further diversified my experiences of direct implementation. Each project uniquely empowered communities—bringing safety and security, better fodder practices, and cutting-edge career opportunities, especially for rural women.

Written By: Md. Shaban, OneStage

Travel Diary: My Journey of witnessing change in Odisha

The Unseen Smiles

As I stepped into the quiet village of Deogarh, **Odisha**, the air was filled with the scent of damp earth, and the distant laughter of children echoed through the narrow, dusty lanes. This was a trial area for one of our project Parambh: Sukhad Shaishab by **OneStage - Registered as Charities Aid Foundation India**.

I had come to document the community—its people, its struggles, and its resilience. Curious eyes peeked from behind makeshift huts as I walked through, my camera hanging around my neck. A group of children gathered nearby, hesitant but eager, their clothes worn but their spirits bright. I smiled at them, gesturing for a picture.

To my surprise, they hesitated. A little girl, no older than six, clutched the hem of her faded dress and whispered,

"Nobody clicks photos of us... We are from the lower community."
Her words were soft, but they hit hard. For a moment, I was speechless.

How deeply had society ingrained this feeling in them—that they were unseen, unworthy of even a simple photograph? I looked at their faces, raw and unfiltered in their innocence. Their eyes held no resentment, just quiet acceptance of a reality they had learned too young.

Kneeling down to their level, I smiled and said, "But I see you. And I would love to take your photo."

Their hesitation melted into excitement as they huddled together, their eyes lighting up. I clicked one photo, then another. And as I turned the camera to show them their own reflections, laughter erupted. They pointed at the screen, giggling at their own captured joy, their hesitation now replaced with a newfound sense of belonging.

That moment was more than just a photograph. It was a reminder that everyone deserves to be seen, to be acknowledged, and to feel valued.

As I left, one of the boys ran after me, waving. "Will you show this photo to others?" he asked. I nodded. "The whole world will see how beautiful you are."

And as I walked away, I knew that in their hearts, they now believed it too.

Written By: Shristy Sharma, OneStage

Thought Leadership by OneStage

This quarter, OneStagers continued to shape key development conversations across diverse national platforms. Dr. Pratyush Kumar Panda, representing OneStage, was invited as a keynote speaker or moderator at several prestigious forums. His engagements included leading discussions at Project Concern International's session on *Breaking Gender Stereotypes*, moderating panels on collaborative CSR at the *CSR for Sustainability* conclave hosted by Trident in Bhubaneswar, and speaking at *Café Mandala* hosted by Atal Incubation Centre–CCMB in Hyderabad, where the focus was on driving social impact through innovation.

He also contributed to dialogues on ethical wealth distribution at the *Living My Promise* HNI meet and shared his perspectives on philanthropy and digital transformation at the *NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum 2025*, hosted by L&T Public Charitable Trust. Participation in ISDM's development leadership forums further allowed OneStage to amplify the voices from the ground. Through these platforms, the OneStage team advanced conversations on inclusive, accountable, and future-ready development, reinforcing the organization's role as a trusted thought leader in the sector.

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