

Make-A-Wish[®]
INDIA



Tap to watch Aryan
unwrap his wish.

Every *Wish* Tells a Story

Annual Report

FY '25-26

*"I wish to have a mobile phone,
so I can still chat with my
friends!"*

Aryan, 13, Leukemia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aryan'.

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"I wish to meet Mr. Sunil Chhetri, because he's my football hero!"

Vivaan, 11, Juvenile Diabetes



Vivaan meets Sunil Chhetri!



Thirty years......and the road ahead

Message from our CEO

This time last year, during my **second** month at Make-A-Wish India, a child in Mumbai handed me a **card**. It was crayon on paper, a scribbled drawing, and two words: thank you. I hadn't done anything yet. I had barely started to understand the organization I had stepped into. But that card taught me something I've carried through every month since: this work doesn't announce itself. It accumulates, one child at a time.

This year, **Make-A-Wish India crossed 100,000 wishes**; a milestone that spans 30 years and the belief of thousands of people who made each one possible. In FY 2025-26 alone, we granted **6,212 wishes**. This was a year where we deliberately chose depth over speed, strengthening how we design, deliver, and follow through on each wish.

We slowed down to move forward with greater care. The fact that the numbers still grew tells us something important: quality and scale are not in opposition.



Dhruv Pandey,
Chief Executive Officer
Make-A-Wish India

None of this is ours alone. It belongs to our tiny but mighty wish children who are going through more than what most adults have to go through, and to the families who trusted us during the hardest chapter of their lives. To the donors who believed in this work long before they could see its full shape. To the doctors, volunteers, and partners who gave their time and attention. To the teams across our chapters who treated every wish, whether it involved a cricket field or a bicycle, with the same enthusiasm.

The year ahead asks us to go further. More children are waiting. We intend to reach them, faster and better.



Message from our Managing Trustee & Chairperson

Every wish matters. What might seem like a small wish can create a truly profound, **BIG** impact on the child facing critical illness, and on their entire family. **A wish gives hope. It gives healing.** We have seen that, over and over again, over the last thirty years.

A wish may begin with something small. A child wants to have something they have always dreamed of, meet someone they look up to, be someone they aspire or go somewhere they have always dreamt about. Sometimes it is simply having a day that feels normal again. But the effect is almost always much bigger than the wish itself. Families who have been carrying fear for months find a moment to exhale. Children who had withdrawn begin to look ahead again. Communities come together to make something beautiful happen.

And very often, that change in spirit helps them face treatment with renewed strength. Over the years, we have seen that Every wish, in its own way, restores hope. And hope, we have seen, is part of what makes healing possible.

As Make-A-Wish India crosses 100,000 wishes, I keep coming back to what that number really holds. **Each wish was one child, one family, one deeply personal moment of joy, strength, and hope. Every child, no matter their circumstances, deserves that.**

It has been a privilege to be trusted with something so intimate. For that trust, I am **deeply and genuinely grateful**. First and foremost, to the **Make-A-Wish India team**, who bring compassion, integrity, and deep respect for every child and every family they serve. And equally, to our **donors** who believe in the cause, **volunteers, medical partners, wish makers, the Make-A-Wish International family**, and our **Board**, who have stood with us year after year in this work. None of this would have been possible without you! To every child who let us be part of their wish, thank you. Where there is a wish, there is a way forward.



Paulomi Dhawan,
Managing Trustee & Chairperson,
Make-A-Wish India



"I wish to have a smartwatch, because collecting gadgets make me happy."

Aman, 11, Ewing Sarcoma



100,000+
total wishes granted
since 1995



6,212
wishes granted in
financial year' 2025-2026



30+ years
completed since inception



While the life saving medical therapy certainly adds years to their lives, it is without a doubt - the warm smiles & compassionate gestures of Make-a-Wish volunteers who strive to fulfil their wishes, is what adds immense joy to their lives! These moments of happiness serve as a powerful complement to medical care enhancing the overall quality of life for the children under our care."

Dr. Mamatha M Lala,
Pediatrician & Pediatric HIV Specialist



* 90%
of medical
professionals

believe that wishes
improve better
treatment
compliance

100,000 wishes means 100,000 children seen, heard, and met with care, but the true impact has always extended beyond that number.

Every wish touches parents, siblings, caregivers, doctors, and volunteers, all those who stand beside a child through treatment and carry their own invisible struggle along the way. Since 1995, each wish granted by Make-A-Wish India has begun with one child, but its meaning has never belonged to that child alone.



Every wish may be one statistic on paper. In practice, it is carefully held from beginning to end. **We design each wish around the child**, their comfort, their pace, and the people around them.

From small icebreakers and soothing activities to the final wish experience, **care is built into every detail**. For us, the milestone has never been only about how many wishes were granted, but how thoughtfully each one was held.

*Make-A-Wish, Wish Impact Study, 2022.

Medicine treats the illness.

EVERY *** 25** a child gets diagnosed with a critical illness worldwide.



*** 8 Lakh** children in India become eligible for a wish, every single year.

*** ~2%** of those eligible children in India are actually being reached.

The need is not marginal, it is **vast, urgent,** and still severely **underserved.**

*Make-A-Wish International Prevalence and Incidence Report, 2024.

A wish treats the child within.

*** 94.9%**

of children rated their happiness as **4 or 5, out of 5, after their wish.**

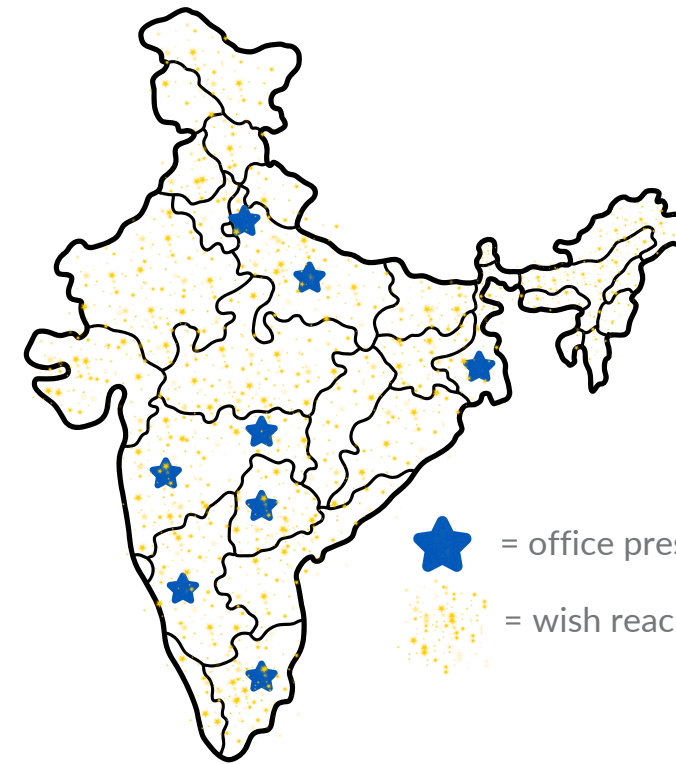
"I wish to get a bicycle so I can ride with my sister!"

Niharika, 10, Lymphoblastic Leukemia



*Make-A-Wish Internal Feedback Survey, 2025.

Wishes Across India



8 cities
120+ hospital partners

The little map shows two stories at once, where Make-A-Wish India is rooted, and how far that care reaches. Make-A-Wish India has a presence in **eight cities**, but the children whose lives we touch come from **all corners of the country**.

How wishes travel

A wish is never just one day. It moves through a quiet, intentional process designed around the child, their comfort, and the meaning behind what they have asked for.

Wish Referral

Children are referred through doctors, government hospitals, and trusted medical channels.

Wish Discovery

The team gets to understand the child's innermost wish through an exploratory process.

Wish Granting

The wish is fulfilled with warmth, dignity, and attention to what matters most to the child.

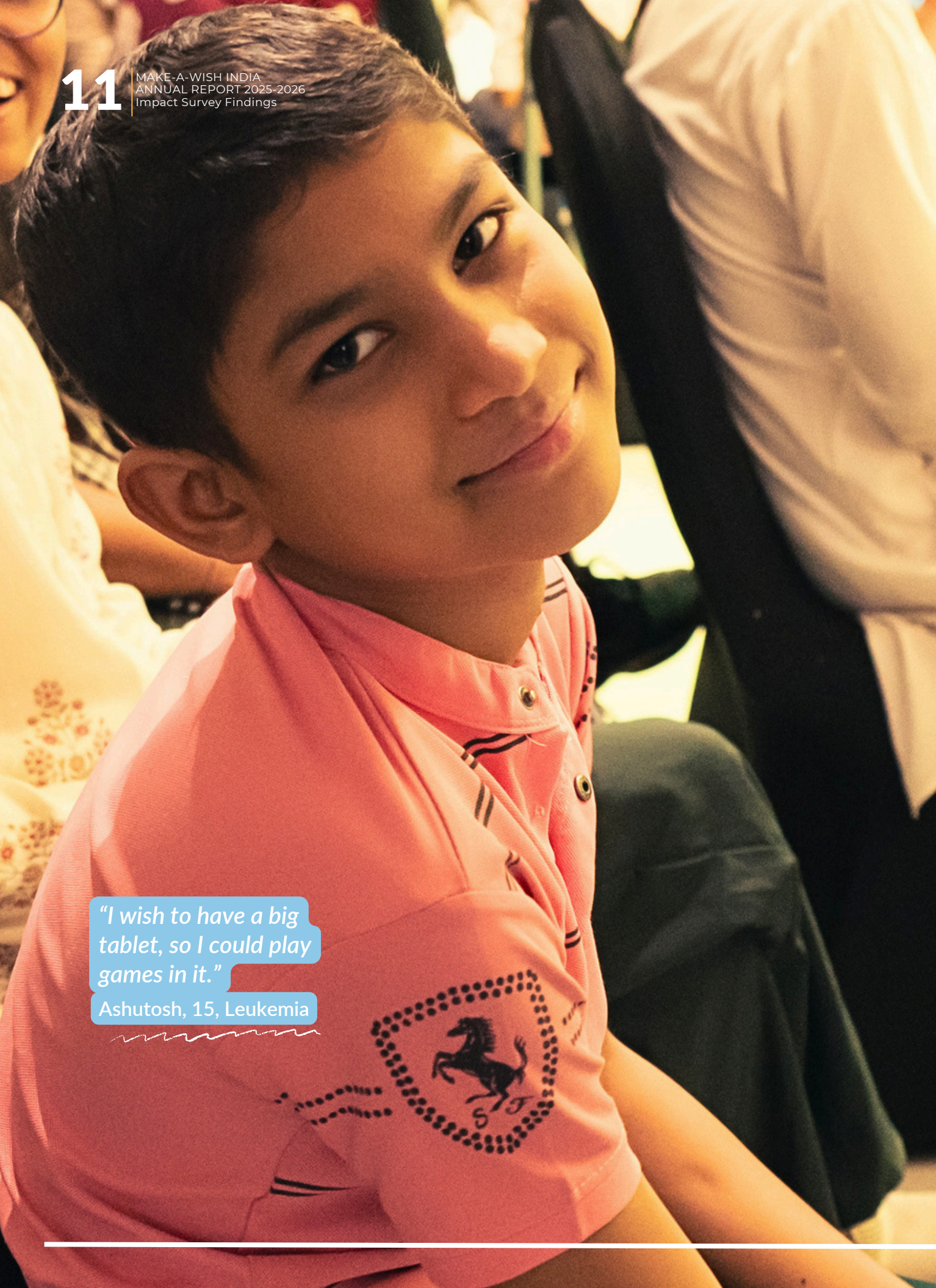
Wish Planning

The wish is carefully coordinated across people, partners, and practical details.

98%

of wish children and parents/ recommend the Wish Journey to other children and families in a similar situation.

*Make-A-Wish International, Global Theory of Change Research, 2024.



"I wish to have a big tablet, so I could play games in it."

Ashutosh, 15, Leukemia

One year of feedback from 1,177 unique wish children across 8 chapters shows what we have always believed: a wish is far more than a fleeting moment of joy. It lifts emotional well-being, strengthens families, and helps treat the child within!

95%

of wish children felt happy and excited after their wish.

90%

said they love remembering their wish, it still makes them smile.

*** 80%**

said their wish helped them forget about being sick.

*** 80%**

said their wish made them feel strong and brave.



Pranali meets Alia Bhatt.

“Your smile is beautiful, your dance and my god, those expressions! 10/10! Can’t wait to dance on Kesariya with you. You made my day today, thank you!”

– Alia to Pranali

(Tap above to see Pranali’s reaction!)

When Pranali met Alia!

Pranali’s wish was to meet the **iconic Bollywood actress, Alia Bhatt**. She has seen her on the big screen all her life, but she craved to speak to her, spend time with her, and hold on to a moment she could truly call **her own**.

When the wish came true, **13-year-old Pranali** arrived with her mother, nervous, excited, and visibly overwhelmed in the sweetest way. Living with a condition that left her **immunocompromised**, moments outside treatment spaces were especially precious for her. Inside Alia’s vanity van, the two spent around fifteen warm minutes talking together. Pranali was shy, but full of little giggles, and Alia’s easy warmth helped the moment unfold naturally.

Her mother was just as delighted, watching Pranali enjoy every second. Before they parted, Alia signed a souvenir card and promised that when Pranali got better, the two of them would dance together to Kesariya.

That promise left Pranali **beaming**. What stayed behind was not only the thrill of meeting someone she adored, but the feeling of being welcomed so warmly into a moment she will remember for a very long time.

“Rohit Sharma is like the god to me!”

Adarsh, 12, Ventricular Septal Defect

Adarsh’s **greatest wish was to meet the cricket legend, Rohit Sharma**, the cricketer he admired most and proudly called his idol.

Even though he was no longer well enough to play cricket actively, Adarsh’s love for the game remained as strong as ever. So when he finally got to meet Rohit, it meant everything. The two spent close to **an hour together**, talking about cricket, the World Cup, and even Rohit’s future plans, which Adarsh was especially invested in.

Rohit was warm, generous, and fully present. He gave Adarsh advice on the pull shot, told him to get better soon, and promised that **once he recovered, they would practise shots together**.

Before saying goodbye, Rohit gifted him signed caps, leaving Adarsh overwhelmed with joy. For him, it was simple, **“This is the best day ever!”**



“I wish to meet Shah Rukh Khan, because we’re his biggest fans!”

Driyaan, 3, Leukemia & Aarohi, 10, Sickle Cell Anaemia



John finally building sandcastles!

John's Sandcastles!

John's wish was to **go to Goa**, feel the sand under his feet, and **build the sandcastles** he had been dreaming about.

A shy **5th-grade student** from Mumbai living with **Sickle Cell Anaemia**, John slowly opened up to the Make-A-Wish team, sharing his love for beaches. He had seen beaches in Mumbai before, but Goa felt different in his imagination, wider, brighter, and full of soft sand waiting to become castles.

His wish came true last year, beginning with his first ever flight. In Goa, he visited a spice garden, explored a fort and a church, and **finally reached Baga Beach!**

There, John got to play in the sand, built his castles, swam in the water, and let the day belong entirely to him. For John and his family, Goa was just what he needed. And like his shirt says, he loved it!



"It certainly looks fun..."

Aman, 14, Leukemia

That is how **Aman's book (A Man's Story)** begins, not with illness, but with the voice of a teenager still full of humor, memory, and mischief.

Diagnosed with **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia** at 14, Aman wished for something deeply personal: **to become an author**. Aman turned his journey into **A Man's Story**, a debut book about fear, resilience, family, friendship, and finding his way back to himself.

On 25 July, his wish came true at Crossword Bookstore, where he launched the book not just as a wish child, but as an author with a story only he could tell.

Tap here to grab your own copy:



Oraya's oven



Oraya's wish was not for something to own. She wanted to learn something: **how to bake the world's best cake.**

She was **thirteen, living with bone cancer**, and treatment had made ordinary things harder. Walking hurt. Stairs became difficult. Her world had begun to shrink around scans, surgery, chemotherapy, and recovery.

On her wish day, she stepped into **a real pastry kitchen** wearing a chef's coat and hat with her name on them. The team taught her recipes, guided her through techniques, and treated her not like someone fragile, but like someone capable.

That feeling stayed. Baking became comfort, then therapy, then **Oraya's Oven, a home bakery** built from the joy she first found that day.

"For once, I was not treated like a patient. I was treated like a proper chef!"

Oraya



"I made this wish 21 years ago, and I would choose it again and again."

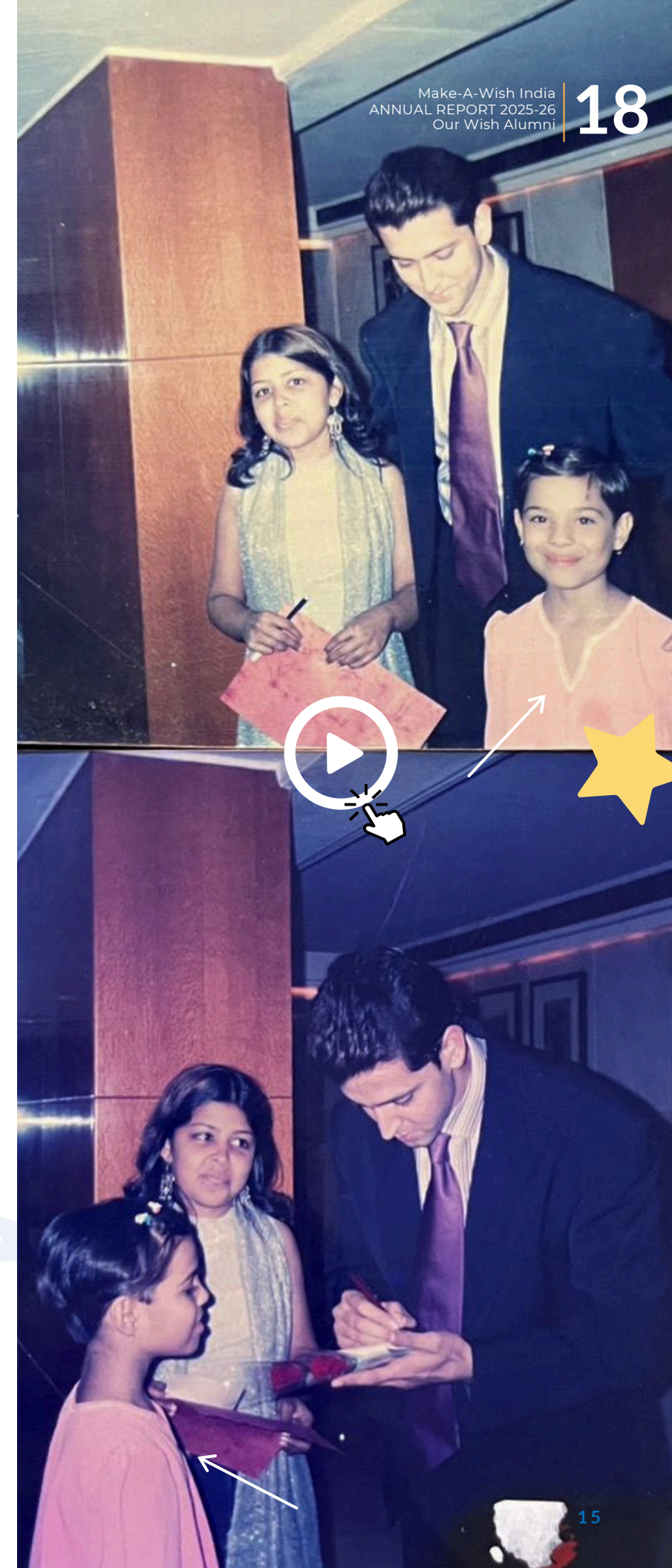
Somya Malik

At nine, Somya Malik was living with **Thalassemia Major**, with hospital visits and blood transfusions woven into her childhood.

Her wish was to **meet the famous Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan**, also Somya's favorite!

She still remembers speaking to him, standing beside him, and getting her card signed. In Somya's own words, that day shaped her confidence and inspired her to live life to the fullest.

Twenty-one years later, she still calls the wish a permanent part of her life. This year, Make-A-Wish India brought the story full circle. Tap to see!



1 Lakh

is the median annual family income of a wish child's family.

For families already stretched by treatment, travel, and everyday costs, a wish is not felt by one child alone. It becomes a shared source of happiness.

* **94.3%**

wish children said their wish made their family happy too.

*Make-A-Wish India Internal Feedback Survey, 2025.



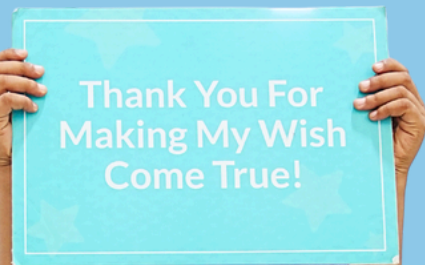
Kamil's mom!

"I wish to get a mobile phone so I could keep my family closer"

Kamil, 12, Leukemia

Thank you!

To our wonderful corporate partners
For standing with us, funding wishes, opening doors, and helping children
experience moments that stay with them long after the wish day.



"I wish to have a toy dinosaur, because I love dinosaurs!"

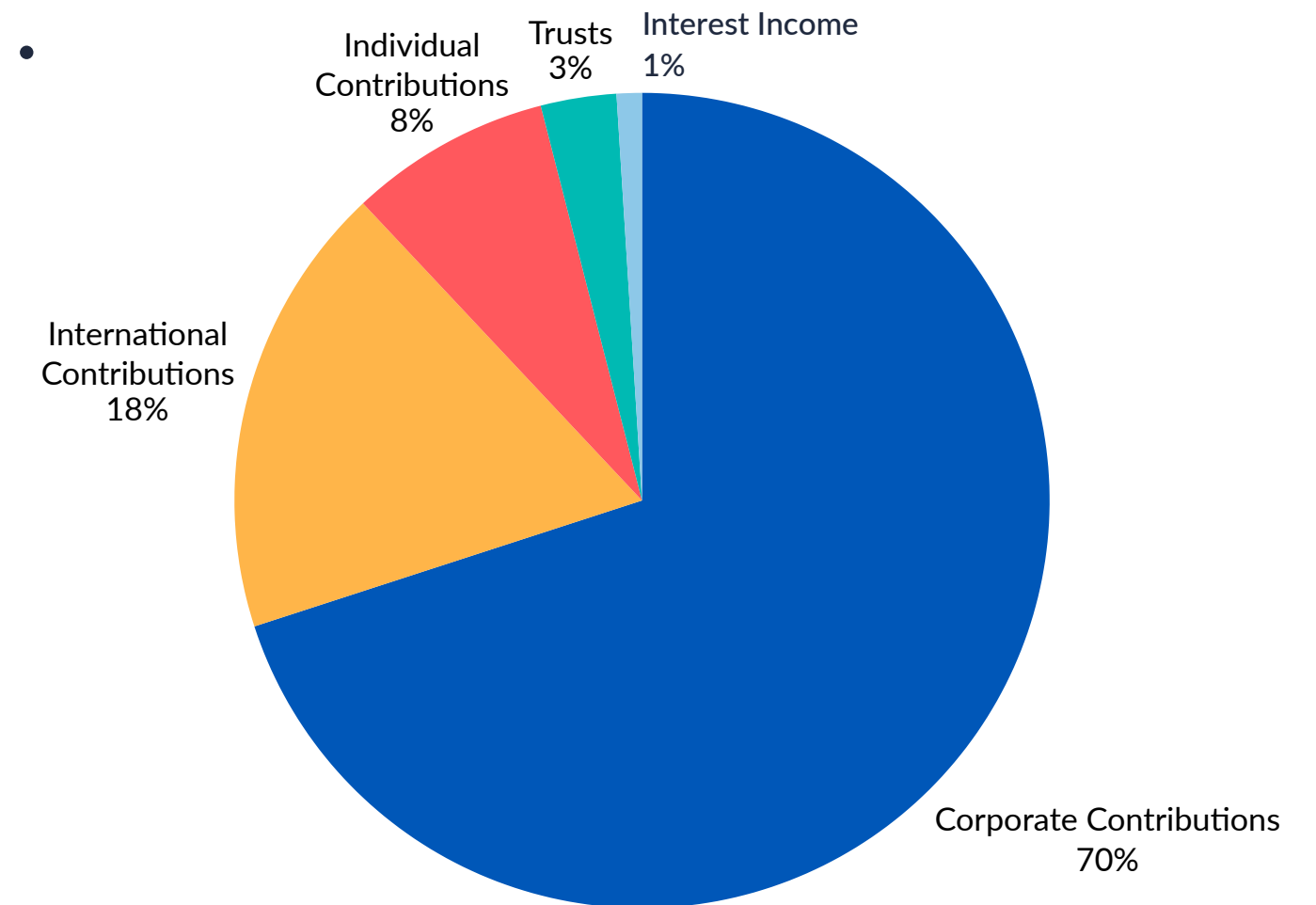
Samsar, 7, Leukemia


Our finances

Total Income: ₹7.52 Cr

Fund Distribution FY'25-26

- Corporate Contributions
- International Contributions
- Individual Contributions
- Trusts
- Interest





"I wish to have a battery-operated bike, because I love bikes!"
Aryan, 6, Leukemia, Mumbai

Every *Wish* Tells a Story

Today, Make-A-Wish India carries 100,000 such stories.

Partner with us, volunteer, or help grant the next wish.

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